T he HSUS is pleased to an­
nounce that former U. S. Sen. John Melcher of Montana will be assisting us as a legislative consultant on critical issues. Sen. Melcher, a veter­
ian and a strong proponent of animal protection, was the author of a 1985 Animal Wel­
fare Act amendment which states that anyone subject to the Act must provide for veter­
neral care in accordance with the humane well-being of primates and a 1985 National Institutes of Health (NIH) ap­
propriations amendment pro­
hibiting NIH grant recipients from using chimpanzees taken from the wild. It is a boost for animal-protection efforts to have this talented and dedicated senator working with us.

During this congressional session, The HSUS will con­
tinue to benefit from the polit­
cal skills of former U. S. Sen. Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts. Sen. Tsongas will continue as a consultant to The HSUS in the field of legislative consultant on critical issues.

EMERGENCY ACTION NEEDED

On February 16, 1989, a coalition of animal-protection, farm, environment, public-interest groups, and religious leaders that agree that animal testing is a controversial issue. We believe a moratorium should be imposed while the ethical, animal-suffering, environ­
mental, and economic ramifications of animal testing are thoroughly studied and laws and regula­
tions established to appropri­
ately deal with these problems. Please let your federal legisla­
tors know that you are com­
mitted to ending the moratorium so that this issue can be studied before more patents are issued.

Court Session, by Rep. Robert Kastenmeier of Wisconsin, has introduced H.R. 425, which would amend the Animal Wel­
fare Act to enable a large animal exhibitor to obtain an injunction or temporary restraining order against any person who places any animal in seri­
ous danger, pending the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) being able to take ac­
tion in the matter. The bill, en­
dorsed by the USDA, has thirty­
six cosponsors and would give to your members of Congress and ask them to join the growing list of cosponsors of the bill.

Moratorium Needs Support

The HSUS will again be back­
ing legislation in 1989 to impose a moratorium on the testing of genetically altered animals. Although the moratorium­
bills introduced by Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon and Representative Charlie Rose of North Carolina in the One­
Hundredth Congress did not pass, extensive hearings were held in the House Judiciary Committee, chaired by Rep. Robert Kasten­
meier of Wisconsin, to discuss the need for a moratorium on the testing of genetically altered animals.

In addition, the Humane Society News has written to Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr., at: Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washing­
ton, D.C. 20240, and ask him to take emergency action to list the African elephant as an endan­
gered species. Also, urge your legislators to send letters to Secretary Lujan seeking emer­
gency action on the petition.

Legislative Roundup

While the One-hundred­
and-first Congress in its early stages, efforts are already underway to legislate on a variety of animal issues. Rep. Toby Roth of Wisconsin provided the clout needed to force compliance with the world­
wide whaling moratorium. The Studds Amendment would have strengthened the Pelly Amendment to the Fisher­
neral Protection Act, which allows the president to embargo any coun­
pries that violate international fishery and wildlife conservation agreements.

MMPA Update

A n amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act, sponsored last fall by Rep. Gerry Studds, would have expanded U. S. ability to impose economic sanctions on any country that fails to conserve marine mammals from the harmful effects of driftnet fishing. Rep. Studds's proposal would have expanded embargos author­
ized by the Pelly Amendment in 1986 and would have included economic sanctions.

Economic sanctions against countries that violate international fishery conservation agreements would help protect marine mam­
imals, from the harmful effects of driftnet fishing.

Tax Reform Looms

ooming on the horizon is a fight to reform the Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT), which has created a direct nega­
tive impact on activities of animal shelters and charitable animal organizations. Currently, the human society's income from providing veterinary services (with the exception of such pro­
cedures as grooming) to a life animal would be subject to a 10 percent rate that is not subject to the UBIT tax. The House Ways and Means Committee, en­
couraged by members of the veterinary community, wants to repeal the tax so that it ex­
empts only emergency medical care, sterilization, and public­
health measures, such as anti­
rabies shots, from UBIT taxes. Hence, a portion of clinical operations could be subject to the UBIT taxes.

Reform of the UBIT tax could also allow for other ramifications, including allowing account­
charitable animal hospitals to state and local taxes. Furthermore, the income could undermine donators' abil­
ity to receive federal tax deduct­
able contributions for gifts to and goods to animal shelters.

The HSUS and the Michigan Humane Society have been leading the fight to block changes in UBIT. It is important that you write your legislators to stress that any reform of the UBIT law could undermine existing federal tax deduct­
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