

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Shackling and Hoisting Must End!

Jewish leaders urged to endorse new equipment

For several years, The Humane Society of the United States has been working in concert with the Council for Livestock Protection to develop an alternative system to shackling and hoisting conscious small animals, a practice still in existence throughout the United States in plants performing ritual (kosher) slaughter. The article by Dr. Temple Grandin in the last issue of the *HSUS News* ("Improving Kosher Slaughter," Spring 1989) describes our success in developing such a system, which is now being utilized in a slaughtering plant in New York State.

This success means that it is no longer necessary to shackle or hoist *either* large or small animals *while conscious* in order to convey them to the point of actual slaughter. This also means that continuing to shackle and hoist conscious animals prior to slaughter can no longer be defended or excused on the basis that no alternative systems exist. Finally, this means that the cruel practice of shackling and hoisting conscious animals, whether large or small, can now—indeed, must now—come to an end!

Through the Council for Livestock Protection, The HSUS and a few other groups and individuals have worked unceasingly to develop the alternative system described by Dr. Grandin in order to help end this

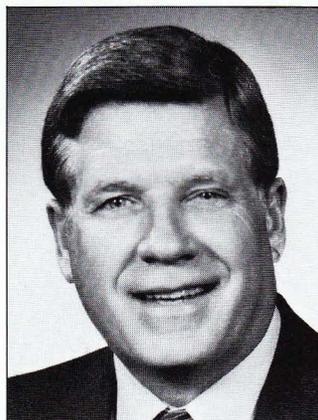
practice. We have invested tens of thousands of dollars and thousands of hours in bringing this task to fruition, and we have done so with virtually no assistance whatsoever from any organized segment of the Jewish community, religious or otherwise.

The HSUS now calls upon the various Jewish leaders with whom we and the Council for Livestock Protection have been holding a dialogue during the past several months to endorse this system formally and publicly and to encourage its use in all plants currently performing ritual slaughter. We invite leaders of the Moslem community, likewise, to endorse this system and support and encourage its use.

It will, of course, take time for the various plants currently performing ritual slaughter to install and utilize this equipment. But it need only take a matter of weeks for representatives of the Jewish community to endorse enthusiastically this alternative and repudiate the practice of continuing to shackle and hoist conscious animals.

I am most hopeful that the response we are calling for will be forthcoming within a short time, for I am confident that those Jewish leaders with whom we

have been in contact during the past several months share both our concern and desire to end this practice. ■



John A. Hoyt, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Hoyt".