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(No. 11) – A Century of "Progress" in Combating Animal Abuse

Humane Information Services, Inc.

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This is the first of a series of articles dealing with progress, or lack of it, in solving humane problems, and the reasons for frequently unsatisfactory performance by the humane movement. These articles will appear in successive issues of Reports to Humanitarians. This article deals with abuses of animals by individuals. In the next article, to appear in the June issue, we will examine the operation of animal shelters and pounds and the prevention of over-breeding of cats and dogs.

A CENTURY OF "PROGRESS" IN COMBATING ANIMAL ABUSE

The humane movement in the United States is approximately a hundred years old. During those years, hundreds of millions of dollars have been received by humane societies as contributions, dues and payments for services. There now are at least four societies each with annual incomes of over one million dollars. The number of societies has grown until it now approaches a thousand. They have physical assets worth many millions of dollars, and financial endowments running probably well over a hundred million. Although duplicating memberships make it impossible to estimate the number of separate individuals who are members of these organizations, it undoubtedly runs into hundreds of thousands.

That record of growth and financial affluence in itself represents a real accomplishment, since we cannot expect the humane movement to help the animals very much without money, facilities and members.

Humanitarians, however, are only indirectly interested in the growth in numbers and assets of societies. What they are concerned with is the welfare of animals. Has it improved along with the affluence of the humane movement? Are animals distinctly better off now, after a century of humane activity, than they were at the beginning?

In other words, has this "century of progress" represented progress for the animals, or merely for the humane societies?

Stopping Cruelties by Individuals

The humane movement was founded upon the need for preventing or punishing individual instances of cruelty to animals. In the days before the internal combustion engine, instances of animal abuse were encountered almost daily by anyone traversing the streets and highways. Most humanitarians are familiar with Henry Bergh's forays against abuse of horses pulling streetcars. The writer well remembers his mother, who was a militant defender of animals, rushing out of the house to upbraid drivers of beaten or emaciated horses drawing delivery vehicles. It made her feel better, although it didn't do the animals much if any good. The driver would simply take his temper out on the horse when a better opportunity was offered.

In the early days of the humane movement some societies actively engaged in cruelty prosecutions, and had "inspectors" whose sole duty was to follow up on suspected cases. Some do now, especially in Great Britain and elsewhere, such as in Canada, where the British influence on humane societies still is in evidence. However, the disappearance of horse-drawn vehicles has greatly decreased the out-in-the-open cases of animal neglect and abuse, although out-of-sight instances no doubt have multiplied with the increase in population. The emotionally-disturbed sadists still are with us, perhaps even in proportionately greater numbers reflecting the greater stresses of modern living. But many, perhaps most, local humane societies seem to have lost their militant spirit and zeal to uncover and prosecute such cases. This phase of humane work certainly has not kept pace with increased needs.

An example of this is to be found in the State of Florida, which has laws, passed many decades ago, prohibiting cruelty to animals, animal poisoning, and keeping animals without sufficient food and water or under other inhumane conditions. A law also provides for the arrest without warrant, by any authorized officer, of anyone violating certain of these statutes, and for the appointment of authorized agents of humane societies for the purpose of arresting and prosecuting any violator of the anti-cruelty statutes.

REPORT TO HUMANITARIANS

No. 11 - March, 1970

EDITORS:

Dr. Frederick L. Thomsen
Miss Emily F. Gleockler

Humane Information Services
Incorporated

A NON-PROFIT SOCIETY FURNISHING INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS FOR USE IN PROGRAMS FOR THE HUMANE TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

4521 - 4th Street South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33705



Just One of Many Individual Cruelty Cases

How would you like to drink milk from this cow? The cow's calf is said to have drowned in the mire. The small farmer who "cared for" these animals also had a job and "didn't have time to keep the barn clean". A judge ordered him to spend his nights in jail for two weeks, but levied no fine. If it had been a child so abused, one can imagine the sentence! Such cases illustrate the need for much more attention to individual cruelty cases by local humane societies.

Photograph courtesy
Defenders of Animals, Inc.
Pewaukee, Wisconsin

But individual humanitarians attempting to obtain action in cases of suspected cruelty or neglect all too often have encountered only walls of indifference. Frequently they call us to complain that local people will not do anything. Peace officers and prosecuting officials, busy with what they consider to be more important work, usually display resentment rather than cooperation. And, alas, managers and officers of local humane societies all too often look with disfavor upon calls from animal lovers to do something about some suspected cruelty case. They are prone to refer to the individuals making such calls as "trouble makers". They are afraid that vigorous action on their part will be interpreted by public officials, the press and ordinary citizens as evidence of "kookiness", and will result in tarnishing their public image. They don't want to "rock the boat". Moreover, they have limited personnel busy on routine work, and to follow up on such cases of individual cruelty or neglect would interrupt the shelter's peaceful routine and cause extra expense. There is fear, also, of legal entanglements and damage suits. Some local societies in Florida do engage vigorously in field work of this kind, but as in other states most societies are content with continuing to take in and adopt out or "put to sleep" the unwanted dogs and cats.

And nowhere in the United States that we know of do local humane societies conduct the regular, routine inspections of farms, packing houses, livestock auctions, dog kennels, zoos, pet shops and other establishments keeping or using animals which is commonplace in Great Britain and some other countries. In some parts of Canada, for example, practically every farm and animal-using establishment is visited annually, or somewhat less frequently if known to have good conditions. Suggestions are made for needed improvements in conditions affecting the animals' welfare, and usually heeded without formal prosecution because the offender knows the community is behind the society's efforts to prevent animal suffering.

In some future issue of these Reports to Humanitarians we will cover this whole subject of individual anti-cruelty work in de-

tail. We will show the kind of laws that most states already have and new ones which are needed, the steps necessary in obtaining enforcement of these laws, the way in which humane societies in some states can have "inspectors" officially appointed, the kinds of activities and methods of operation which have proved to be most effective, the considerations of legal liability, such as liability insurance and avoidance of false arrest claims with which societies must be familiar, the relation between effective police work of this kind and the maintenance of good public relations, and in general the different ways in which local humane societies can deal most effectively with these problems of individual cruelty to and neglect of animals. If any society believes it now is doing very effective work in this field, or has any suggestions to offer, we would appreciate hearing from it.

For the purposes of this analysis of humane progress, however, we believe that enough has been said to document the statement that this phase of humane work has been neglected in the United States, and has not kept pace with either needs or the growth of the humane movement.

Proposed Model State Law

A subcommittee of the United States Animal Health Association has drafted a proposed model state law designed to plug the loopholes in the federal Public Law 89-544, the so-called petnapping act. It would serve a purpose in relation to the federal law in somewhat the same way that state humane slaughter laws supplement and reinforce the federal humane slaughter act.

This objective is worthy, and the subcommittee did a good job in avoiding suggested provisions which would have been very objectionable, and in making the proposed state law quite comprehensive in many respects. Full information will be included in a future Report.

The purpose of this item is to flag down humane organizations in any states that might be contemplating having the proposed model law introduced in the legislature this year. We have discovered that the model law apparently contains a very important legal flaw that should be corrected before introduction. We do not have the space to describe this defect in this issue, and in any event wish to first obtain an opinion from our vice president and legal counsel, Mr. John D. Fite. Any humane society needing an immediate answer to this question may contact us by letter or phone

Hearings Needed

The very earliest time at which hearings on the Rogers-Javits bill in the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce can be expected is late spring or early summer. Senator Yarborough of Texas, chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, might be persuaded to hold earlier Senate hearings on the bill if many humanitarians from Texas asked him. The House Agriculture Committee might hold hearings on the Whitehurst bill, or the Senate Commerce Committee on the Young bill, before anything is done on the Rogers-Javits bill. In that event, humanitarians sponsoring the Rogers-Javits bill probably will present evidence that neither of the new bills would do what is needed, and attempt to persuade the Committee to adopt features of the Rogers-Javits bill.

The situation has been greatly muddled by the introduction of these new bills. One danger is that Congress may have become so disgusted with the bickering and cross-manuevering in the humane movement that it will take the bit in its teeth and pass something on its own initiative which will be intended to satisfy the bulk of animal lovers who are not informed on such matters, without actually accomplishing what the Rogers-Javits bill is designed to achieve.

PROGRESS ON EUTHANASIA

During the past three months Humane Information Services has devoted a major part of its activity to a study of methods of euthanasia. This is a continuing project that will require several years for completion.

As this project progresses it becomes increasingly evident that tremendous numbers of dogs and cats are being destroyed in animal shelters and pounds in ways which are not only inhumane, but sometimes downright cruel. We are more than ever convinced that this long-neglected phase of humane work constitutes the most important single project that could be undertaken in behalf of the animals.

Many investigations of different segments of the problem have been made. These specific studies are helpful, but do not furnish answers to the over-all problem of what methods of euthanasia are most humane and efficient for different species and environments. Some of these answers have been suggested by symposia of veterinarians and humanitarians. These symposia can be no better than the available basic information upon which they are based, which is deficient in both coverage and average quality.

The most authoritative of these symposia, at least of those reported in the United States, is the report prepared by the ad hoc Panel on Euthanasia created by the Council on Research of the American Veterinary Medical Association, made possible by a grant from the Mary Mitchell Humane Fund of Boston, Massachusetts. Copies of the report were sent to all humane organizations, and it has served a good purpose, although we note that its findings seem to be ignored by many societies. For example, the report states that the explosive decompression method carries the "possibility that animals may suffer excruciating pain for a short time", yet this method is used and defended without important qualification by some leading societies. This Panel of the AVMA recommended that further research be conducted to find answers to many questions and unsolved problems.

Recently, the AVMA has constituted another Panel on Euthanasia, chaired by Dr. C. Roger Smith of the College of Veterinary Medicine of Ohio State University. Members of the Panel include surgeons, medical doctors, psychologists, pathologists and veterinarians. Apparently the objective of this Panel is to bring the findings of the first Panel into line with research conducted subsequently.

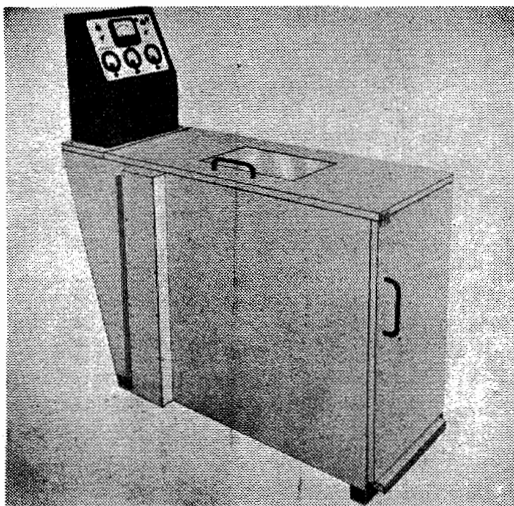
Library Research Needed

As an indication of the extent of work which has been done in this field, Humane Information Services has compiled a bibliography of 76 technical and semi-technical papers and journal articles relating to euthanasia. Copies of many of these have been obtained and read, but merely to assimilate and coordinate all of this material would be

a full-time library research job extending over several months. On a part-time basis, it can take a year. Thorough library research is essential in order to furnish leads to additional problems and potential agents and methods, and to make additional contributions supplementary and complementary rather than duplicative.

Observation of Methods Now Used

The second step in a thorough approach to this problem is to visit establishments where all of the devices and methods now in use can be found. For example, several years ago the Electrothanasator, a British invention, was hailed by the Humane Society of the United States as a very promising solution of the problem of euthanizing adult dogs. A number were purchased for use in this country, but most of these are no longer in use. Difficulties encountered included frequent breakdowns, the difficulty of obtaining parts, and the tendency of the dogs to dislodge the electrodes placed on their ears. But the latter trouble is said to have been overcome by a new collar designed by a veterinarian in Canada, where quite a number of the devices are in satisfactory use. With so many variations in the way different methods of euthanasia are used, this second step of visiting many current installations is essential.



The Electrothanasator, a box in which the dog is secured, electrodes placed on the ears. A one-second stunning current passes through the brain from ear to ear, producing instant unconsciousness. Immediately afterward the current passes for two seconds from each ear through the heart to a hind electrode, and the animal is dead. This method, giving the quickest and possibly the most humane euthanasia of all, has practical operating drawbacks which should be possible to modify (see text).

Photograph courtesy
The Humane Society of the United States

Determining Pain Perception

The third step is a reconciliation of the available fragmentary information on how to recognize the presence or absence of pain in an animal being euthanized, to determine when unconsciousness really sets in, and when death occurs.

One well-known and conscientiously-managed humane society shelter is using a certain drug for "euthanasia", because it appears to be very humane. Actually, this drug only immobilizes the animal, like curare, the use of which in medical laboratories has long been severely criticized by humanitarians. The brain of the immobilized dog remains alert and the heart continues to pulsate after respirations have ceased. A recent newspaper article describes the danger in using this drug in heart surgery, saying that if improperly used it could cause death "too horrible to describe". Yet, because so little has been done to furnish humane societies with information on how to, and how not to, distinguish pain perception in euthanasia, this potentially very cruel method now is being used by one of the better societies, in the belief that it is humane.

Many reflex actions occur in an animal being euthanized, after it is unconscious. For example, the sphincter muscles relax, resulting in autonomic defecation and other excretion. This may give the impression, when the animal is examined after death, that it has gone through a very harrowing experience, when actually it may not have experienced any pain. Similarly, convulsions may occur either before or after loss of consciousness.

It is extremely difficult, even for a trained observer, to distinguish between specific symptoms and general appearances indicating pain before unconsciousness and the reflex actions occurring after all pain perception has ceased. Also, there is a tendency toward anthropomorphic interpretations of syndromes, even by professionals. It is claimed, for instance, that men who have been subjected to the abrupt reduction of ambient air pressure in aircraft accidents, and in experimental chambers in Air Force experiments, blacked out without experiencing pain; hence animals euthanized in similar chambers experience no pain. But this writer, who has a badly punctured eardrum, experiences severe pain, and sometimes hearing loss for a long period, from changes in air pressure on commercial planes which do not noticeably affect others. Who is to say that a dog is like the writer or like the plane stewardess who laughs and says, "You'll get over it in a few minutes after we land"?

Although insufficient data are available to give conclusive answers to the many questions relating to pain perception in euthanasia, there have been a number of studies containing valuable information which we are sure have gone unnoticed or unheeded by most of those concerned with euthanasia of animals. Thus, this is the very important third step of the total study.

Invention and Testing of Equipment

The fourth step is to synthesize the various findings of the first three steps into theoretical conceptions of the agents, devices and methods for euthanasia considered to be best suited to the different species, ages, health and temperaments of animals, and the considerations of efficiency and operating costs which also must be taken into account. It is not sufficient merely to come out with the conclusion that a particular agent, such as carbon dioxide, is humane. Whether it is or not depends not only upon the general characteristics of the agent or method, but also in large measure upon the way in which it is applied and the kind of equipment available.

For example, preliminary investigations were conducted in December by Humane Information Services, officers of the Connecticut and New Jersey Branches of the Humane Society of the United States, and a field representative of the International Society for the Protection of Animals, in cooperation with Messrs. Ralph Space and Charles Low, mink ranchers in New Jersey and Massachusetts. These tests were designed to determine the suitability of CO₂ in killing domestically-raised mink. They showed the value of cooperation among humane societies in such matters, with each society contributing its respective talents and resources without regard for organizational credits or rivalries. Humane Information Services wishes to thank Messrs. John Roos, Charles Clausen, A. Lloyd Davis and John Walsh for their fine cooperation in this work, which was conducted under trying weather and other conditions.

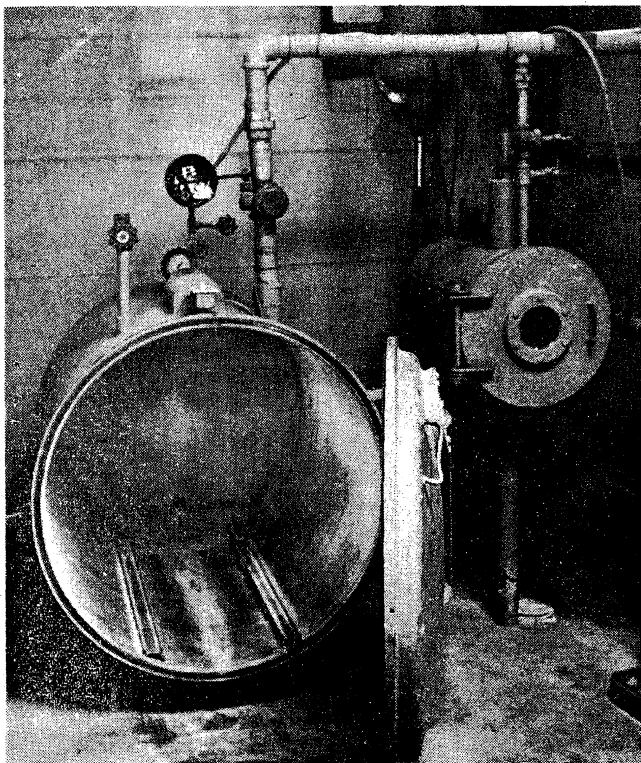
These tests gave evidence confirming that carbon dioxide is well suited to the euthanasia of mink from a humane standpoint, but showed that mink are so hardy as to require a long period in a high gas concentration before death occurs. Mink left in the gas for 15 minutes or more quickly recovered and seemed to be none the worse for their experience. This means that this method would not be adopted by mink ranchers unless some completely new type of equipment can be constructed, wherein the length of time required for death can be offset by increasing the number of mink that can be killed by one charge of the gas. This means that a new start must be made in designing and constructing suitable equipment, and the tests conducted all over again.

The preliminary investigations made in this study to date point very strongly to the probability that few, if any, of the devices now commonly used for euthanasia of different animals will be found to be most suitable, especially from a humane standpoint. What is needed is not some more leaflets or slide presentations explaining or defending present methods, but a thorough-going study which will lead to the development of new types of equipment which will be both humane and efficient.

This development work will require not

only time, but also real inventiveness and mechanical ability. Mistakes will be made, and progress achieved only after much trial and error.

Once suitable equipment has been designed and built for euthanasia of any kind of animal, it must be thoroughly tested under practical operating conditions.



The "Euthanair", or explosive decompression machine. The smaller version to the right is for cats, puppies and kittens (see text).

Photograph courtesy
St. Petersburg Times

Putting Findings Into Use

Once the most humane and efficient methods of euthanasia to meet different needs have been determined, the problem arises of how to get them adopted.

First, the necessary equipment must be available commercially for a reasonable cost. All too often, home-made chambers turn out to be lacking in some of the features necessary to make them humane. For example, carbon monoxide, properly used, is said to produce a painless death. But misused, as it so often is, in home-made contraptions, it can be a torture chamber. We would like to quote from a description of one such device used in "a small animal shelter", contained in a letter received from one of our members:

"Between 400 and 500 dogs are destroyed monthly. At best the dogs and cats are killed in a steel drum attached to an automobile exhaust pipe. Of course, the drum, being made of steel, gets burning hot. (They have been asked to) run water over it, but apparently this is too much bother . . . Also, this steel drum is too small for very large dogs . . . and is not used, in which case each dog is held up on its hind legs by one man who has a nylon noose around the dog's neck twisted choking tight . . . A second man . . . beats the dog to death."

It is highly desirable, therefore, that the equipment and methods experimentally found to be the best be manufactured to precise specifications and made available at reasonable cost to humane societies, public pounds, commercial firms, and individuals such as mink ranchers. To the extent possible, this equipment should be adaptable to different needs, by the addition or subtraction of various optional features.

Once the equipment is available commercially, or in the absence of such availability in the form of exact plans and specifications for construction by users, comes the task of getting it into maximum use.

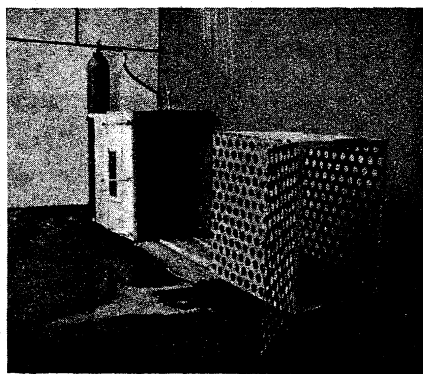
Even with presently available methods, little has been done by national humane societies to bring real pressure to bear upon local societies and public pounds to use the most humane methods and to see that the equipment is properly operated. Local societies are quite touchy on this subject, and frequently resent any interference. This touchiness has been aggravated by many instances in which emotional but uninformed humanitarians have raised a big fuss about the method of euthanasia being used, frequently without regard for the difference between real suffering and the unpleasant post-unconsciousness reflex actions previously described. Every shelter manager and

board of directors dreads this kind of upheaval, and consequently tends to keep the euthanasia operations hidden from members. In fact, suggested plans and operating policies for animal shelters issued by national societies may specifically refer to the need, based upon "aesthetic" considerations, for separate euthanasia rooms not open to the public.

And we know of one case in which unsatisfactory euthanasia equipment was unearthed by a field survey conducted by a national society, but no real effort was made to force a change. Later, a tremendous scandal, with all of the dirty linen being washed in the local press and on TV, arose because this condition had been allowed to continue.

Humane Information Services fully appreciates the many important considerations of local autonomy of member societies and affiliates, and of easily hurt feelings and aroused emotions, which motivate such a "hands off" policy by national societies. But the suffering of millions of animals must come before considerations of membership relations and the flow of dues and contributions.

So, when definitive information about euthanasia as well as tested equipment become available, the humane movement should undertake an aggressive program to see that these methods and equipment are put to wide use, not just by a few advanced local societies operating model shelters.



A box constructed in Spain, in which carbon dioxide is used to produce unconsciousness, followed by chloroform to effect a quick death. This equipment has disadvantages, but is much superior to the use of strychnine or cyanide poisoning, now generally used in Spain according to Mr. Colin Platt, field officer of the International Society for the Protection of Animals, London.

Photograph from
Pregon en defensa de los animales
Barcelona

Humane Information Services Active

In addition to arranging and participating in the tests of methods used in killing mink which have been described in these Reports, and a large amount of library research, Humane Information Services has devoted much time and effort in attempting to obtain the cooperation of private business firms and other agencies in conducting various phases of the total project.

The department of veterinary science of a leading university has agreed to carry on both intensive and extensive work in this field, if funds can be found, and has accepted with practically no change the Research Plan prepared by Humane Information Services. Application for funds has been made.

This matter of funding is the principal obstacle to realization of the objectives of this project. Our suggestion, in Report to Humanitarians No. 9, that contributions be made to a special euthanasia project fund, fell on deaf ears. The amounts so far received -- and gratefully -- do not even cover the expenses of the preliminary mink tests. Many humanitarians apparently cannot see the need for giving to help solve a problem which appears highly technical, no matter how important it is. They respond generously to the need for giving immediate aid to particular animals. The efforts of some local humane society to rescue a single cat from a tall tree, properly exploited on TV and in the press, literally can bring in more contributions from a single community than we expect to receive for this tremendously important project which could result in alleviating the intense suffering of millions of animals. Won't you be one of the exceptional contributors who recognize the great need for this kind of work?

New Laboratory Animal Bills in Congress

Whitehurst Bill, H.R. 13957

A new bill to expand the presently very inadequate coverage of laboratories and animals by Public Law 89-544, the so-called Petnapping Act, and to extend its regulation of the housing and care of the animals throughout their stay in the laboratories, has been introduced by Congressman Whitehurst of Virginia, and referred to the Agriculture Committee. Although this amendment would strengthen the Act, it would remain strictly a "housekeeping" measure, and would do nothing to affect the use of animals in experiments and tests.

The Whitehurst bill also appears to extend the scope of P.L. 89-544 to roadside zoos, circuses, county and state fairs, horse shows, dog and cat shows, and pet shops. But these provisions would apply only to establishments engaged in interstate commerce.

Young Bill, S. 3221

Another bill has been introduced by Senator Young of Ohio, and referred to the Senate Commerce Committee. This is identical in some respects to the old Clark-Cleveland bill. The Young bill amends P.L. 89-544 by transferring responsibility for administration of the Act from the Secretary of Agriculture to the Secretary of HEW (where it was placed in the Clark-Cleveland bill formerly promoted by the same humanitarians who now denounce the Rogers-Javits bill because it gives administrative responsibility to HEW!). The Young bill is weak on enforcement, and in its present form seems to have little or no chance of passage.

Neither Bill as Effective as Rogers-Javits Bill

Taken together, the Whitehurst and Young bills, if passed, would not accomplish as much for the animals as would the Rogers-Javits bill alone. Neither, for instance, would promote replacement of animals in laboratories. The Whitehurst bill would do nothing to reduce animal suffering during experiments and tests.

Whitehurst Bill a Possible Later Alternative

In our Report to Humanitarians No. 6, for December, 1968 (pages 10-11), we reviewed the possible alternatives to the Rogers-Javits bill, in case the humane movement should decide to give up the fight for that bill and go for some lesser accomplishment. One alternative described was an amendment of P.L. 89-544 containing essentially the same provisions as the presently introduced Whitehurst bill. This possibility, however, was advanced as an alternative only if it were decided that passage of the Rogers-Javits bill in the 91st Congress (now in session) would be impossible. The decision actually made was to continue the effort to pass the Rogers-Javits bill. For a time, it appeared that the chances of passage by the present Congress were greatly improved. The continuing frantic efforts of opponents of the bill to prevent passage, culminating in the introduction of the red herring represented by the Whitehurst bill, has changed the picture somewhat.

Hearings Needed

The very earliest time at which hearings on the Rogers-Javits bill in the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce can be expected is late spring or early summer. Senator Yarborough of Texas, chairman of the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, might be persuaded to hold earlier Senate hearings on the bill if many humanitarians from Texas asked him. The House Agriculture Committee might hold hearings on the Whitehurst bill, or the Senate Commerce Committee on the Young bill, before anything is done on the Rogers-Javits bill. In that event, humanitarians sponsoring the Rogers-Javits bill probably will present evidence that neither of the new bills would do what is needed, and attempt to persuade the Committee to adopt features of the Rogers-Javits bill.

The situation has been greatly muddled by the introduction of these new bills. One danger is that Congress may have become so disgusted with the bickering and cross-manoeuvring in the humane movement that it will take the bit in its teeth and pass something on its own initiative which will be intended to satisfy the bulk of animal lovers who are not informed on such matters, without actually accomplishing what the Rogers-Javits bill is designed to achieve.

Our Officers' Corner

Brainwashed Humanitarians

One of our most valued members objected to our use of the headline "Brainwashed Humanitarians" over an explanation of a totally unfounded criticism of the Rogers-Javits bill. She agrees with what we said, but thought the headline would be resented by people who had innocently fallen for the fabrication, since it implied they were gullible.

This member is right. Humane Information Services will never hesitate to "tell it like it is", regardless of who may be offended. But any criticism or rebuttal of criticism should be constructive and impersonal, and not impugn either the motives or the intelligence of those who hold the views to which objection is taken. If we have violated this rule at any time it was a mistake on our part. So, if any of our readers resented the headline in question, we apologize. You were not "brainwashed" -- just laboring under a misapprehension resulting from exposure to incorrect information!

That Small Type

Looks like all we're doing today is apologizing! But we really don't mind admitting error. Everybody prides himself on having some fine quality, and our secret ego-builder is the belief that we have an open mind and are not easily offended by constructive criticism. We ain't mad at nobody!

We still cling to the belief that humanitarians should be willing to inconvenience themselves a little in order to better prepare themselves to help the animals. Many of them read as many column inches of newspaper and magazine articles every day as are contained in one of our quarterly Reports. Our readers have enthusiastically confirmed our belief in their willingness to read comprehensive, in-depth reports on important humane problems and alternative solutions.

But that small type on pages 2 and 3 of our last Report is something else, again! We received at least a half dozen letters saying it was too small to read.

Well, our officers are no spring chickens, but they can read it without difficulty. No doubt that is because they have lived simple, wholesome and moral lives! But hereafter we will try our level best not to reduce the size of type in order to accommodate the thoroughness of our discussions. Old Doc will simply have to curb his verbosity!

Change in "News About Animals"

We have just run off a third large printing of "News About Animals". This should take care of your orders until summer or fall, when we will issue an entirely new edition. Because part of the article on laboratory legislation contained on page 2 of the first edition probably will become out of date before we run out of copies again, we substituted a different article dealing with preservation of the environment and wildlife, which is reproduced on this page. Since the "News" is intended for new readers who know little or nothing about humane legislation, this more general article probably is more appropriate, anyway.

The response of our members in distributing the "News" has been heartening. Please keep it up. One member suggests beauty shops as one of the best places to leave copies. So send in your first or renewal order now -- enclosing one-half cent per copy to help pay postage (stamps will do if your order is small). This is the cheapest and easiest way for our members to promote humane education.

Please Read About Euthanasia

On page 2 of this Report is a comprehensive review of what needs to be done about euthanasia. This is a disagreeable subject, avoided by many, which is why conditions are so bad in many places where animals are destroyed. Nevertheless, we urge you to read this article, as a duty to the animals.

Frederick L. Thomsen
Frederick L. Thomsen
President

We Need More Names

Some members who send names and addresses of people to receive our Reports seem to think they must send a corresponding number of dollars for associate memberships. Although we need and are mighty glad to receive these extra contributions, please do not hesitate to send names because you cannot afford to pay for their memberships. Our only requirement is that the new names represent people you have reason to believe may become interested in helping animals by reading our Reports. Don't send names taken from telephone books, or of people who have expressed antagonism or indifference to humane principles, hoping they will become "educated". They will not read the Reports, so all that will be accomplished is to add to our expenses! The best sources of names are the lists of directors and members of local humane societies. Officers of those societies need not fear that putting these people on our mailing list may result in losing contributions to the local society; on the contrary, when people become better informed about humane problems they are likely to give more generously to local as well as national societies.

No Connection With HSUS

Because our views on a number of important humane problems are similar to those of the Humane Society of the United States, because the president of Humane Information Services once was an active director of HSUS, and because we find it possible to cooperate easily with the HSUS in conducting some programs of mutual interest, a few of our members still seem to have the idea that we are affiliated with the HSUS in some way. That is not so. We are entirely separate national humane organizations which happen to believe that humanitarians should work together as far as possible.

But we do not agree with the HSUS about many things, mainly concerning the priori-

ties attaching to different kinds of humane work, the most effective ways of attaining some humane goals, and the kind of information which should be given to members. We never will hesitate to express such differences publicly as well as privately, even though we admire the undoubtedly sincere concern for animal welfare which motivates the HSUS, and the reasonable way in which it approaches our common problems.

But friends, when you send us a dollar with the explanation that it cannot be more because you are sending twenty-five dollars to the HSUS, we must hasten to remind you again that we are not a branch or affiliate of HSUS. Humane Information Services would starve to death if everyone expected us to be elated over receipt of news that a substantial donation had been made to another organization in lieu of one to us! Doc's money helps a lot, but it won't keep the wolf from our door forever. Anyway, I know you will forgive this little reminder. Doc tries to hold down pleas for funds in our Reports, but he doesn't have to continually look at the balance in our check book as I do!

Encyclopedia Received

In response to our appeal in Report No. 10, we received a number of offers of encyclopedias. One with the latest copyright date (and, incidentally, in practically new condition) was donated by Mr. and Mrs. S. H. J. Womack, of Rockville, Maryland, who also arranged with friends (Mr. and Mrs. A. Edmund Johnson) who were to visit St. Petersburg, to transport the heavy volumes directly to our office. Already the encyclopedia has been put to good use. We are grateful to all who helped and offered to help.

Emily F. Gleockler
Emily F. Gleockler
Executive Secretary

Gas Masks for Everybody in 1990?

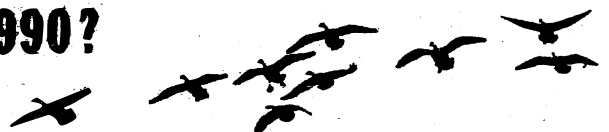
Only a few years ago the only ones clamoring for action to protect the environment against the destructive encroachments of people were the humanitarians and conservationists. For years they had been calling attention to the rapid loss of nature's heritage, to the wanton destruction of wildlife and the heedless conversion of so many beautiful natural resources to the sordid uses of man.

But their pleas mostly fell on deaf ears; men -- and women -- were more interested in using than in preserving nature's assets. When people referred to "crimes against nature" they usually meant a narrowly-defined criminal offense rather than the destruction of our natural environment.

Now, suddenly, everyone has become acutely aware of this problem, and of the need for immediate and drastic preventive and curative action. This great escalation of interest in the preservation of nature's gifts to man is not, alas, attributable to any noticeable growth in aesthetic appreciation or concern for the welfare of animals or the beauties of nature. Rather, it stems from the impact of dire predictions that the very existence of human life on earth is threatened by a population explosion which is spreading people over everything, and by a resulting pollution of the environment which seriously endangers man as well as plant and animal life.

Within a generation, at the present rate, the world will triple its population. Even space on which to stand and lie is becoming scarce in many parts of the world. But the principal threat to the environment comes from man's efforts to meet the mounting pressure on limited food supplies by converting more land to cultivation and the use of contaminating fertilizers and pesticides, and the provision of increasing energy needs through use of fossil fuels.

If we attempt to postpone world famine by greater use of fertilizers and pesti-



cides, Dr. Sterling Bunnell is reported as saying, we are apt to wreck the biosphere with chemical pollution and bring death to all living things. And fossil fuel power -- coal and oil -- used directly or in the production of electric power already is polluting the atmosphere to the point of constituting an immediate health menace of major proportions. As the population and need for power expand, if we attempt to replace fossil fuel with nuclear power we merely exchange hydrocarbon pollution for the equally dangerous and more insidious biologically active radioisotopes. One scientist predicts that if the present pollution rate continues people in the United States by 1990 will have to wear special breathing masks or die.

This pollution not only affects the air we breathe, but potentially the very existence of the land on which some of us stand. The blanket of pollution ranging into the upper atmosphere may very well so screen the earth's surface as to cause tremendous changes in ocean levels because of melting ice. Any scientist with an eye to the headlines can conjure up all manner of other horrible prospects; the real cause for alarm is that all of these possibilities have a basis in solid fact. But there always is a bright side, as indicated by a man who heard a scientist predict that life on earth might end in 35 years: "Boy, you had me worried. For a moment, I thought you said 3 to 5 years!"

So, now the welfare of man has come to be tied closely to the welfare of all kinds of wildlife formerly considered of interest only to bird watchers and Boy Scouts. Only the ignorant refer disdainfully, as did the director of the Dade County Port Authority when fighting for retention of plans for the Everglades Jetport, to wildlife as "yellow-bellied sap-suckers". It behooves all of us, for self-preservation if for no better reason, to be interested in conservation and the preservation of wildlife.