

EXPERT ASSISTANCE

The HSUS is pleased to announce that former U. S. senator John Melcher of Montana will be assisting us as a legislative consultant on critical issues. Sen. Melcher, a veterinarian and a strong proponent of animal protection, was the author of a 1985 Animal Welfare Act amendment which states that anyone subject to the Act must provide for the psychological well-being of primates and a 1988 National Institutes of Health (NIH) appropriations amendment prohibiting 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 continue to benefit from the political skills of former U. S. senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts. Sen. Tsongas will continue as a consultant to The HSUS on laboratory-animal issues.

EMERGENCY ACTION NEEDED

On February 16, 1989, a coalition of animal-welfare and conservation organizations, led by The HSUS, submitted a petition to the U.S. Department of the Interior to list the African elephant as an endangered species. Twenty years ago, there were millions of African elephants. As recently as 1981, there were estimated to be 1,200,000 elephants in Africa, which dwindled to less than 800,000 in 1987 (see the Spring 1988 *HSUS News*). Recent reports place the current number at just under 400,000. Unless the ivory



Dr. Susan Lieberman, of The HSUS, and former senator John Melcher testify to have the African elephant declared endangered.

trade is ended, the African elephant may become virtually extinct in from five to ten years.

The vast majority of all ivory on the world market, including the ivory the United States imports, is from poached elephants. The United States should set an example that the rest of the world will quickly follow. While the recently passed Elephant Conservation Act of 1988 bans the importation of ivory from certain countries, additional action by the Interior Department is also needed. Should the secretary of the interior list the elephant as an endangered species immediately, it will prohibit all commercial trade in ivory in the United States.

Please write Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan, Jr., at: Department of Interior, 18th and C Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20240, and ask him to take emergency action to list the African elephant as an endangered species. Also, urge your legislators to send letters to Secretary Lujan seeking emergency action on the petition.

MORATORIUM NEEDS SUPPORT

The HSUS will again be backing legislation in 1989 to impose a moratorium on the patenting 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



Rep. Toby Roth

Courts Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Robert Kastenmeier of Wisconsin, and the House of Representatives passed a substitute bill introduced by Rep. Kastenmeier. That bill might have discouraged extensive genetic engineering of farm animals because it exempted farmers from patent royalties on the offspring of these animals, but, predictably, even this simple bill was opposed by the biotechnology industry. Since it was controversial, the Senate Judiciary Patents Subcommittee refused to consider it in the last days of Congress.

The HSUS is a member of a coalition of animal-protection groups, farm groups, environmental groups, public-interest groups, and religious leaders that agree that animal patenting is a controversial issue. We believe a moratorium should be imposed while the ethical, animal-suffering, environmental, and economic ramifications of patenting are thoroughly studied and laws and regulations established to appropriately deal with these problems. Please let your federal legislators know that you are concerned that animal-welfare regulations do not cover rats, mice, and farm animals, the very animals which will be the most extensive subjects of genetic engineering. In your letter, ask legislators to support a moratorium so that this issue can be studied before more patents are issued.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

While the One-hundred-and-first Congress is in its early stages, efforts are already underway to legislate on a variety of animal issues. Rep. Toby Roth of Wisconsin

has introduced H.R. 425, which would amend the Animal Welfare Act to enable the attorney general to obtain an injunction or temporary restraining order against a dealer, carrier, exhibitor or intermediate handler of stolen animals, or a person who places any animal in serious danger, pending the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) being able to take action in the matter. The bill, endorsed by the USDA, has thirty-six cosponsors. Please write to your members of Congress and ask them to join the growing list of cosponsors of the bill.

A bill focusing on the wildlife refuge system, H.R. 89, has been introduced by Rep. Charles Bennett of Florida and would help protect endangered species in national forests, refuges, and the park system by increasing the maximum fine that could be imposed for violations of posted speed limits in those facilities.

Rep. Bennett has also introduced H.R. 84, the Veal Calf Protection Act, which would prohibit unnecessary physical restrictions on crated veal calves and is similar to the 1987 bill he introduced. Both bills prohibit raising or transporting of calves in crates that prevent sufficient movement. H.R. 84 more specifically prescribes minimum space in an enclosure, imposes a civil penalty of up to \$3,000 for violations, and provides violators the right to appeal the decision. Since strong opposition is expected from farmers, please write your congressperson and senators and ask them to cosponsor and support H.R. 84.

Rep. Robert Dornan of California has reintroduced legislation which would ban the use of live lures such as rabbits and other small mammals in the case of dog racing or training for dog racing. H.R. 578 has twelve co-

sponsors and has been referred to the House Agriculture Committee.

MMPA UPDATE

An amendment to the Marine Mammal Protection Act, sponsored last fall by Massachusetts Rep. Gerry Studds, would have expanded U.S. ability to impose economic sanctions on any country that violates international fishery conservation agreements and

dent to embargo Japan's wide range of exports to the United States, including Japanese cars, computers, electronics, and other products.

Although the Marine Mammal Protection Act amendments signed into law by the president on Nov. 23, 1988, do not include the Studds Amendment, Congress did expand the Pelly provisions somewhat by including all aquaculture products (pearls, seaweed, etc.) along with the fish that the president can already em-



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

provided the clout needed to force compliance with the worldwide whaling moratorium.

The Studds Amendment would have strengthened the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act, which enables the president to embargo only fish from countries that continue to hunt whales or violate driftnet regulations or other marine conservation treaties. Rep. Studds's proposal would have expanded embargo authority beyond fish to any and all product exports from offending countries. The amendment would have enabled the presi-

dent to embargo Japan's wide range of exports to the United States, including Japanese cars, computers, electronics, and other products.

Recently in this Congress, Rep. Don Young of Alaska introduced H.R. 132, which would give the president authority to embargo any products of nations found to be subverting international fishery conservation agreements. The bill already has fourteen cosponsors. Please write to your members of Congress to support this. It is the environmental community's "big stick," ensuring international compliance with marine mammal protection laws.

TAX REFORM LOOMS

Looming on the horizon is a fight to reform the Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT), which could have a direct negative impact on activities of animal shelters and charitable animal hospitals. Currently, a humane society's income from providing veterinarian services (with the exception of such procedures as grooming) to the public for free or at a cost plus 10 percent rate is not subject to the UBIT tax. The House Ways and Means Subcommittee, encouraged by members of the veterinarian community, wants to revamp the law so that it exempts 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 have broader ramifications, subjecting shelters and charitable animal hospitals to state and local taxes. Furthermore, it could undermine donors' ability to receive federal tax deductions for donations of money 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 seriously undermine shelters' and charitable animal hospitals' ability to serve the community and it should be opposed. ■

Any member of the Senate may be reached c/o the U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. Any representative may be reached c/o the House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.