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Coalition to Abolish the Draize/LD50 Tests

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A Strategy of Compassion

Henry Spira

Coalition to Abolish the Draize/LD50 Tests

While welcoming the escalating interest and discussion concerning the LD50 and Draize campaigns as spotlighted in "Making Compassion the Fashion" (*Cover*, December 1985), I believe that AGENDA'S call for further ultimatums to the cosmetics industry may well be counterproductive. It seems to me that when an industry or corporation is responsive, we want them to continue to be responsive and use their responsiveness as an example for others. Why spend your energies hitting people who are working with you on common goals?

The cosmetics industry uses less than one percent of animals used in product testing. But it was the cosmetics industry that opened up the whole field of non-animal toxicology through the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing and Revlon's project for developing alternatives at Rockefeller University. These efforts have spread to major research facilities around the world. In fact, the cosmetics industry and such household product leaders as Procter & Gamble have surely been responsible, through their impact on other industries, for rescuing more animals from pain and suffering than the cosmetics industry itself uses. And this industry continues its internal surveillance and research to phase out animal testing.

Why not go after other industries which use many more animals and that have not been responsive to animal concerns? These include the pharmaceutical and basic chemical industries, public education systems, and agriculture, which is still responsible for the suffering of four billion animals per year. While ultimatums to the responsive cosmetics industry could prove counterproductive to expanding negotiations, adequate and fresh energies in these so far neglected areas could be pivotal to the creation of new victories. Let's apply our energies where they can really make a difference.

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