

# ***Demands for Animal Rights Heard Now***

**P**RESIDENTS from David Dwight Eisenhower to James Earl Carter have had problems trying to satisfy demands for human rights. Some of them were too extreme even for vote-conscious politicians to assimilate.

The administration of Ronald Reagan will be enlivened by a campaign to give beasts a sort of equality with human beings.

An Ohio judge ruled in 1977 that pigeons do not have constitutional rights to roost wherever they please, but look for a rash of lawsuits claiming that domestic animals as well as endangered species ought to have rights that most people never thought about before.

"Companion animals have a right to be reared in homes where they are wanted and loved," says the Humane Society of the United States. "Wild animals have a right to be free from pursuit and torment, and to have their habitats preserved to as great an extent as possible. Food animals have a right to be raised in conditions that permit an expression of their natural instincts as

well as painless death."

That seemingly innocuous declaration could result in extensive changes in our way of living, in what we eat and what food costs if demands being made under the animal rights umbrella were fulfilled.

Laboratory uses of animals to test drugs, cosmetics and foods to help determine their possible effects on human beings would be greatly curtailed and possibly prohibited.

The Humane Society insists that it is cruel to subject cats, dogs, birds, rats, mice and moneys and rabbits to big doses of radiation and chemical solutions or food additives.

The Institute for Study of Animal Protection, Washington, D.C., is attacking "factory farming." Most of our poultry and eggs and 60 percent of our hogs are produced under confined conditions because productivity is higher and cost per unit lower.

The director of the institute says such animals are unhappy and that they have a basic right to comfortably stand up, lie down, turn around, stretch and groom — enjoy

privileges of wide open spaces.

Other animal rights extremists would prohibit use of growth promoters in animal agriculture, stop slaughter of animals "in presence of their peers," and impose a tax on meat and animal products to be used in subsidizing production of crops for a meatless society.

Most people would agree that some practices should be stopped, such as drugging of race horses, dog fighting, caging of small animals in inadequate roadsize zoo facilities, and cruelty to pets.

However, thinly veiled devices that would eliminate meat as human food and ploys to give animals preference rights over human beings on public and private lands may not prove to be popular.

Extreme environmentalists capitalized upon public sympathy for conservation in the 1960s to obtain excessively restrictive laws. Now animal rightists are appealing to the people's natural love for animals in order to promote vegetarianism.

Animal rights should not take precedence over human well-being.

# Animals Need Voice

TO THE EDITOR:

Referring to Mr. Deering's column in your Tuesday, Jan. 20, newspaper, "Demands for Animal Rights Heard Now," I offer in rebuttal the following quotation from John Aspinall's book, "The Best of Friends":

"According to Ericson and Wollin in their book, 'The Deep and the Past,' man's accession was a genetic fluke, an accident, the culmination of a series of highly improbable coincidences. The professor adds that if man had not been a wrangling, libidinous scoundrel, he would never have made his way to his present evolutionary pinnacle. Absolute power has corrupted absolutely. It seems that this power has been acquired by a species incapable of wielding it with justice and generosity."

By unequivocally desanctifying our environment and the gifts nature has bestowed on us, it has become possible for modern society to systematically destroy itself.

I am eternally grateful for Dr. Michael Fox, Roger Caras, Cleveland Amory, and many more individuals and organizations that are speaking out in behalf of the animals that cannot speak for themselves. And I hope that, for the future of *Homo sapiens*, their voices are heard over and above that of Ferdie Deering.

**Marge Nice, City**

Mr. Deering:

I agree wholeheartedly. It's tragic that some insensitive two-legged animals with loud mouths and big guns can speak, while the four-legged ones can only try to flee, whimper and perish. Perhaps if there IS such a thing as reincarnation, you will get to return as a four-legged lab specimen foreexperiment or a pregnant doe on the run. We can hope.

*Marge Nice*

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