

PRIME MINISTER

There were two Backbench Committees which I attended last night and which might be of interest.

1. The Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association addressed some six Members of the Health and Social Services Committee, and recommended compulsory premia paid into an independent health fund, and the funding of autonomous hospitals on the basis of work done. The premia would be related to ability to pay.

Beyond this, they had not thought their proposals through and were harried by the Backbenchers over the details.

2. Alan Clark addressed some 18 Members of the Trade and Industry Committee on the question of labelling of furs from Canada.

He kept to the agreed line strictly and said that the proposal to label furs met those who were calling for a complete ban on the import of furs half way, but that the whole idea had had to be scrapped as a result of legal opinion which stated that it was outside the Trade Descriptions Act which was drawn up for the benefit of consumers, rather than animals. He said that if the order had gone through, it would have been challenged in the Court and defeated.

His position was welcomed by Tony Nelson, who is part of the Anglo-Canadian All-Party Group, and who considered that the Order would have created a most dangerous precedent.

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Alan Clark came under pressure from Eldon Griffiths (who heads the attached Early Day Motion) and Iain Mills, who considered that the political requirement to do something about leghold traps would not go away.

It was notable that there was very little interest in the subject under discussion, and that most of the Members present at the beginning of the meeting had left long before it ended.



ARCHIE HAMILTON

29.6.88

978 LABELLING OF FURS ORDER

Sir Eldon Griffiths
 Dr John Gilbert
 Mr John Cartwright
 Mrs Margaret Ewing
 Mr Robin Corbett
 Mr Terry Davis

★ 93

Mr Peter Temple-Morris

That this House, noting the intention of the Department of Trade and Industry to introduce a labelling Order to cover the furs of animals caught in leghold traps, a device made illegal in the United Kingdom following the report of the 1951 Scott Henderson Committee, which describes it as a diabolical instrument which causes an incalculable amount of suffering, congratulates the Minister for Trade on taking this valuable step, which will allow the consumer to exercise freedom of choice as to whether or not to purchase garments the production of which will have involved extreme cruelty to animals; and calls upon Her Majesty's Government to include in the Order the furs of badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, cross fox, ermine, fisher, gray fox, lynx, marten, muskrat, opossum, otter, racoon, red fox and wolf, all of which are frequently caught in leghold traps.'

As Amendments to Sir Eldon Griffiths's proposed Motion (Labelling of Furs Order):

Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody
 Mr John Cummings
 Mr Geoffrey Robinson
 Mr David Lambie

★ 4

Line 2, leave out from 'traps' to end and add 'without consultation with the people directly economically involved such as the Inuit, Metis, Dene and other native groups of North America, is disturbed that a campaign has been deliberately set up to mislead the British public to believe that the "diabolical instrument" in the Scott Henderson Report is still in use; notes further that information has been given to the Minister for Trade on the virtual elimination of the steel toothed trap commonly known in the United Kingdom as the gin trap; is astonished that Her Majesty's Government has not produced scientific research upon which the claims of cruelty to animals can be justified; is deeply concerned that the Trade Descriptions Act might be misused to convey misleading information which will neither inform nor protect the consumer but will restrict trade; calls upon Her Majesty's Government to take a lead in the standardisation of worldwide trapping techniques to ensure that animals both in the United Kingdom and elsewhere are culled in accordance with properly managed programmes of conservation and animal protection and to support the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources resolution of sustainable development and harvesting of renewable resources by indigenous peoples throughout the world.'

Clare Short
 Mr David Tredinnick

★ 2

Line 7, leave out from 'animals' to end and add 'but requests the Minister for Trade to exempt from the requirements of the Order furs which are harvested by the native people of Canada, whose traditional way of life would be gravely damaged by the operation of the Order.'

Mr Ron Davies
 Mr Frank Cook
 Mr David Hinchliffe
 Mr Harry Barnes
 Dr John Marek
 Mr Martin Redmond

★ 50

Line 10, after 'fox' insert 'sable, skunk, white fox'.

★ The figure following this symbol gives the total number of names of Members appended, including those names added in this edition of the Notices of Questions and Motions.

955 *SCIENCE BROADCASTING BY BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION*

Dr Jeremy Bray
Mr Paddy Ashdown
Mr Tam Dalyell
Sir Ian Lloyd
Sir Trevor Skeet
Sir Gerard Vaughan

★ 63

Mr Ken Livingstone

That this House appreciates the quality of science broadcasting by the British Broadcasting Corporation; welcomes the broadcast by British Broadcasting Corporation Television of the Dimbleby Lecture by Sir George Porter, the president of the Royal Society; shares the concern he expressed about the resources available for basic scientific research in Britain, in particular for individual scientists; and encourages the British Broadcasting Corporation to give continuing attention to the debate on science policy in its wider current affairs and political programmes, because without a general political consciousness of the role of science and technology in modern society it is unlikely that Britain will pursue the balanced science policy needed.

As an Amendment to Dr Jeremy Bray's proposed Motion (Science Broadcasting by British Broadcasting Corporation):

Mr Frank Cook
Mr Bill Michie

★ 2

Line 1, after first 'the', insert 'superior'.

Hospital consultants & specialists Ass

Funding on basis of work done

Separate Ind Health Fund. - Premium related to i/c
Nat - corp.

Local hospital autonomy. 6 MPs

A. Clarke

18 MPs 1 Peer

Continuous correspondence from people concerned about
leg-hold trap.

? complete ban

Meet requests $\frac{1}{2}$ way.

Banned by legal opinion - not Trade Description Act
as it is into of animals - not contents.

Will be challenged in court & defeated

Nelson - most dangerous precedent welcomes decision

F. Griffiths - too much politics is just to expect it to go
away. Raising hopes & dashing them

Make such changes as are needed.

Majority of House signed EPOV.

I. McVie - Only telling people how animals were caught
find innovative solution to problem