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The EMIL GREINER Co. 29-26 N. Mooro St. Dopl. 427, M.Y. 13, N.Y. including all protista and bacteria which are not primarily or facultatively photosynthetic? Surely our senators will not endorse the statements of a mammologist acquaintance of mine: "If it isn't warm, it's dead," or, in his more extreme moments, "If it doesn't have red blood, it's a plant."

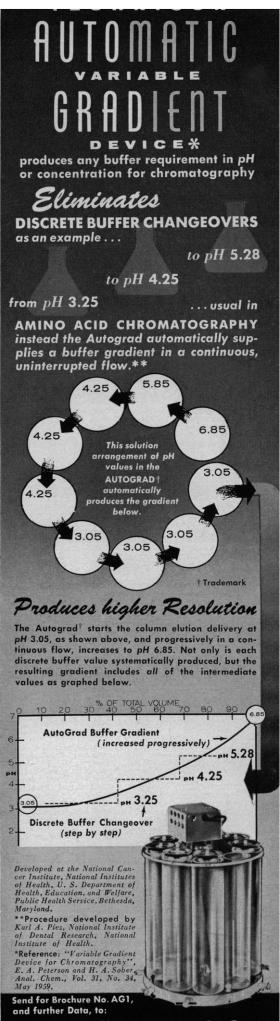
In a democratic society, it does not seem an unreasonable analogy to suggest that all organisms (or at least nonphotosynthetic and/or nonparasitic organisms, though such exceptions might hint of an occupational elite) are created equal. If the criterion for inclusion under the bill is to be a phylogenetic one, it would seem somewhat arbitrary to propose protection up to and including tenth cousins, three times removed, and imply that tenth cousins, four times removed, are beyond the pale, and that eleventh cousins are of course unworthy.

I am confident that herpetologists and ichthyologists, entomologists and protozoologists would strongly protest any regulation which would not afford the full measure of governmental safeguards to the organisms of their interest. Such a slight would imply that these animals are, because of their immediate ancestry, unworthy of the full concern and protection of the government. I myself would emphatically oppose any such derogatory implication about the crustacea, which are my current interest. Such prejudgment, based on uncontrollable accidents of birth and ancestry, seems contrary to the American spirit of recognition of individual abilities and character.

As a further extension of this bill, it seems wholly logical that if a housewife (whose husband is at least partially dependent on federal money) plans to trap an intruding mouse (Mus musculus), her premises and the proposed trapping device should be inspected and certified for compliance, and that she be then licensed as an authorized animal experimenter. Then, of course, the Secretary of Animal Health, Education, and Welfare would have to review the proposal in detail. Likewise, any insecticide should receive the seal of approval from the SPCA-or its governmental equivalent-as the certified, least painful means of attaining the desired goal. Undoubtedly, properly motivated congressmen will see the myriad other logical, and thus necessary, extensions of the Cooper bill: animal husbandry, commercial fisheries, hunting and fishing as sports, to mention only a few of the more obvious. J. T. ENRIGHT

3256 Luna Avenue, San Diego, California

The Cooper bill (S. 3570) is concerned with "live vertebrate animals used for scientific experiments."—Ed.



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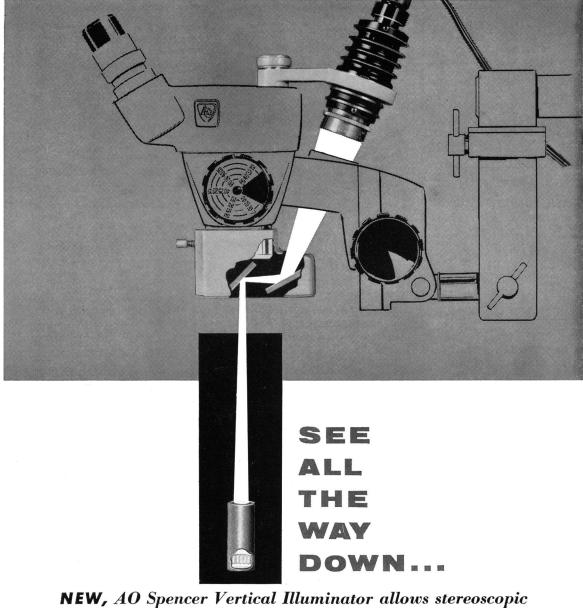


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