

FUR RETAILERS INFORMATION COUNCIL

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October, 1988

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Flamingo Fur Company~~

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~~James Sullivan
Jindo Furs~~

~~Mylon Wang
Alaskan Fur Company~~

~~Richard Parsons
Executive Director~~

Dear Chief:

Working closely with the U.S. Department of Justice, the Fur Retailers Information Council has developed a directory of some 200 animal rights and animal welfare organizations operating in North America which provides office addresses, names of officers and spokespersons, and a diary of incidents.

We are also developing a database of enforcement information to show connections between individuals and groups involved in illegal activity.

There has been an escalation of terrorist activity against furriers in recent months -- windows shot out, twice with customers in the store; paint splashed on storefronts, bomb scares and death threats, and anti-Semitic slogans painted on windows. Thus the Council's commitment in assisting law enforcement agencies in bringing this violence to an end.

This data is available from the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. This Directory is also available from our Council, at no charge to law enforcement agencies.

Highlights from our files:

Animal Liberation Front, founded in Great Britain in 1976 as a spin-off of the Band of Mercy. Methods are direct action: (a) rescue animals from places where they are suffering and (b) destroy or damage property used to cause suffering to animals, in order to cause financial loss to animal exploiters.

ALF Handbook provided by U.S. Department of Justice provides detailed instruction on building a firebomb, breaking into research laboratories, and using etching acid and auto battery acid.

Two ALF activists were jailed this year in England for fire-bombing three fur stores, sentenced to up to four years. Scotland Yard has identified their organization as an international underground terrorist group active in the U.K., France, Canada and the United States. California's attorney general says the group is one of the most dangerous terrorist organizations in the U.S.

Shapiro-20518

THE ANIMAL RIGHTS PROTEST INDUSTRY

There Is Big Money In Animal Rights!

The animal rights protest industry, one of the fastest-growing extremist cults in North America, is amassing a small fortune from contributors who believe that their donations will help find new homes for a box-full of kittens, or ensure sanitary conditions at pet stores.

Actually, much of these millions of dollars pays for programs which range from paying legal fees for arsonists to promotion of vegetarianism.

Their guru Peter Singer expounds that all animals from shrimp to mankind have nervous systems that prove they have a sense of destiny and should be given equal rights. Author Cleveland Amory, a major spokesperson for the extremists, has observed that if his son contracted Diabetes and required insulin (which comes from a lamb), he could not approve its use.

Ingrid Newkirk, Director of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) which last summer attracted nearly 30,000 to a vegetarian rock concert on the Washington, D.C. Mall, says that there is no difference between humans and animals. She explains: "A rat is a pig is a dog is a boy." (A representative of PETA was charged July 6 with felony theft in connection with the disappearance of 180 beavers, valued at \$100,000, which were taken from a Montana fur farm.)

Trans-Species Unlimited, a national organization based in Pennsylvania, simply observes that "the animal rights movement is a power struggle, a societal conflict between oppressors and oppressed" . . . "a struggle for the total liberation of planet Earth and its inhabitants."

Successfully courting free publicity via acts of violence, animal rights extremists have boasted that such groups have caused \$5.6 million in damages to research laboratories in California.

Virtually all animalist groups are funded by contributions, bequests and endowments from the misinformed — although an increasing number are finding financial reservoirs in community animal shelter groups with large endowments. The Internal Revenue Service reports:

American Humane Society:	1985 Revenue	\$ 1.4 million
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty:	1986 Revenue	\$13.3 million *
Associated Humane Societies:	1986 Revenue	\$ 2.5 million
Friends of Animals:	1986 Revenue	\$ 3.5 million
Greenpeace, USA:	1987 Revenue	\$11.5 million
Humane Society of U.S.:	1986 Revenue	\$10.5 million *
People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA):	1986 Revenue	\$ 2.7 million

* Both of these non-profit organizations reported profits of \$2.5 million in 1986.

The Pennsylvania SPCA reported a \$12.6 million net worth in 1986, and the New England Anti-Vivisection Society a net worth of \$8 million.

Shelter groups, devoted to finding homes for strays and working towards more humane treatment of farm and

domestic animals, are easy prey for the well-funded animal rights protest industry. The existing board of directors is quickly overthrown, a new "purpose statement" is adopted, and funds are allocated accordingly.

Of course, all extremist activities are not violent. Some are merely designed to win media attention, such as spray-painting McDonald's Restaurants with "McDeath." One national organization, reporting a \$4.3 million increase in net worth from 1983 to 1986, calls for a ban on bacon and eggs, labeling the dish, "Breakfast of Cruelty." One of its officers (one of eight earning more than \$50,000 annually) writes that dogs should be vegetarians, and thus would stop biting people.

Another organization urges contributions for a "Legal Defense Fund" to provide legal fees for the more radical elements of the movement.

This is no peaceful cult! It uses harassment, violence and propaganda aimed at school children, calling for "a radical transformation of human consciousness" and explaining that "damaging the enemy financially is fair game."

In recent months, fur store owners have received death threats, had store windows shot out, and had merchandise shredded. Furriers, fearing for the well-being of employees, have cancelled charity fashion shows and television appearances. Many have been slurred by anti-Semitic epithets painted on storefronts.

Several groups have bombarded school systems with attractive and colorful literature, urging children to write to encyclopedia publishers and members of Congress with messages of stopping the "exploitation" of animals for food, clothing, entertainment and research. Bumper stickers are distributed reading, "Meat Is Dead!"

To draw attention to their theme, which in turn attracts hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax-free contributions, such activists have torched a cattle feed barn and a frozen chicken warehouse in California, and splashed red paint on numerous fur stores.

Recognizing that the activists are seeking high visibility and may resort to unlawful tactics in their attempt, the U.S. Department of Justice has cautioned furriers to avoid confrontation. Newspapers have been discouraged from providing free publicity that could result in "copy-cat crimes."

Currently there are more than 200 animal rights/welfare organizations operating in North America. They boast of a total membership in the millions, although some 50 activists orchestrate their attention-getting activity and fund-raising maneuvers.

9/1/88

Fur Retailers Information Council
655 15th Street, NW Suite 320
Washington, DC 20005

Shapiro-20519



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Liaison Services

Director

Washington, D.C. 20530

May 20, 1987

Dear

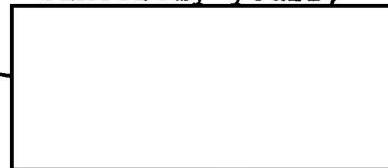
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Thank you for your letter of May 11, 1987 following up on our telephone conversation during which you raised concerns about recent attacks on our nation's fur industry. I appreciate your bringing this issue to my attention.

I encourage you to send to me any evidence you have indicating criminal activity committed by animal rights activists and I will immediately turn it over to the appropriate persons at the FBI for proper investigation. I am happy to be of assistance to the Fur Retailers Information Council.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Mr.
Public Relations Council
Fur Retailers Information Council
101 West 30th Street
Room 300
New York, New York 10001

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OFFICE
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

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