



Australian Council of Egg Producers

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November 18, 1983

TO: A.C.E.P. DELEGATES:

On November 16, 1983, Senator Don Chipp successfully moved a motion in the House to establish a Senate Select Committee on Animal Welfare. Broadly the Committee will inquire into animal welfare in Australia with particular reference to -

Interstate and Overseas Commerce in
Animals

Wildlife Protection and Harvesting

Animal Experimentation

Codes of Practice of Animal Husbandry
for all Species

Use of Animals in Sport

The inquiry is different to Senator Chipp's original motion (last Parliament) in that there will only be one committee and not two. The Committee specifically is set up to consider animal welfare and the composition of the committee is now only four members.

The committee will comprise -

Two Government Senators, one of which will
be Chairman

One Opposition Senator

One Democrat Senator

The Australian Democrat member was to have been Don Chipp but with his appointment to the Crimes Committee this may be changed. Senator Channey will be nominating the opposition Senator while Senator Button will nominate the two Government Senators.

While the committee may meet before Christmas to consider its general approach, it will not be until March 1984 that the committee will be in full swing.

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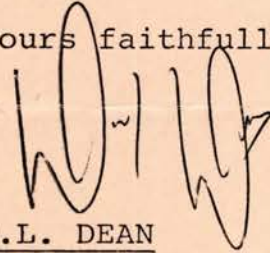
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In a related move Senator Chipp will address an Animal Welfare Group in Sydney next Saturday, November 26.

It is now considered opportune to circulate our press release on Codes of Practices. A copy of the release is attached and will be handled by P.P.R.

I will keep you advised of further developments.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D.L. DEAN', written in a cursive style.

D.L. DEAN

Executive Officer

c.c.: U.F. & S. Wool and Meat
Section
C.E.M.A.A.

EGG PRODUCERS GIVEN 12 MONTHS TO COMPLY WITH CODE

The Australian Council of Egg Producers has told all egg farmers that they must conform to the recently released industry code of practice for bird welfare by December 1984.

The president of ACEP, Mr. Warren Starick, warned today that if producers did not work within the guidelines of the code by that date, they would not be supported by his organisation if criticised by animal welfare groups.

"The code took several months to research, draft and publish," he said.

"It has an input from government departments and industry experts.

"ACEP believes that the code provides basic guidelines for good welfare.

"If producers cannot attain the standards and work according to the code, then they should not be in the industry."

Mr. Starick said there were 2,400 Australian egg producers.

He believed most producers would have no problems working with the code.

However, like all industries there were some operators who were not working in their own long term best interests.

"No one would dispute the fact that animal welfare is becoming an important issue to several community groups," Mr. Starick said.

"Most egg producers are very concerned about the condition of their hens.

"The minority which is not, has 12 months to upgrade its facilities or leave the industry.

"The code of practice has been distributed to all egg producers.

"Several government departments, welfare groups and the National Farmers Federation have commended ACEP for issuing the code.

"I think it is wrong that all egg producers should be criticised for their welfare practices, purely because a very small minority is not towing the line.

"The code is intended as a guide for all people responsible for the welfare and husbandry of the domestic fowl."

Mr. Starick said the 12 page publication recommended standards for accommodation, food and water, health, inspections and hatchery management.

It covered the three egg producing systems of deep liter, cage layer and free range.