

U.K. chief rabbi rips animal rights as Nazi

by Mark Burdman

Lord Jakobovits, the chief rabbi of Great Britain, has delivered a blistering attack on the animal rights movement, warning that its actions are reminiscent of the "perversity" that ruled under the Nazis.

Jakobovits, one of Britain's most influential personalities, was speaking during a July 13 House of Lords debate on a new bill concerning "slaughter of animals," which, if passed, would impose tighter controls on the slaughter methods used by both Jews and Muslims. He stated: "Jews need hardly be lectured on the prevention of cruelty to animals. They introduced the whole concept, long before any other civilization or faith or creed. To inflict any suffering on animals is a religious offense to Jews." However, he insisted, Jews had never deemed animal welfare to be more important than human welfare.

He then stated: "There is something strangely inconsistent in the campaign against the Jewish method of slaughter and the allegation of cruelty. One of the first pieces of legislation introduced by the Nazis in Germany in 1933 was the prohibition of the Jewish method of slaughter, because the Nazis said they cared deeply about animals. That did not prevent them from gassing and incinerating human beings by the million, in history's supreme orgy of inhumanity. Lately, this perversity has begun to blemish society in our own country. Supporters of animal liberation—as they call themselves—out of concern for animal welfare, now lay bombs to kill human researchers seeking to bring healing to suffering humans by means of carefully controlled experiments on anaesthetized animals."

This is the second important attack by a Jewish leader in Europe against the animal rights movement. According to a report in West Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* July 3, Orthodox Rabbi Shmuel Trigano gave a speech in Alsace, France, in which he pointed to the dangers to Judaism represented by "the green ideology" and by the "animal protection" campaigns patronized by actress Brigitte Bardot and her friends. Such "attacks on the content of the Jewish religion and culture," he warned, are much more worrisome than "incidents of anti-Semitism" like the much-publicized desecration of the cemetery in Carpentras, France in early May of this year.

The new 'March on Rome'

The animal rights movement has launched an all-points assault on the tenets of the "religions of the Book," Christian-

ity, Judaism, and Islam. Most egregious, leading "animal rights" groups and operatives from the United States, Great Britain, West Germany, and other countries are spending July making what they call a "pilgrimage to Rome," to petition Pope John Paul II to issue a papal statement on "the souls of animals."

The "Walk to Rome," recalling the famous March on Rome of Benito Mussolini in 1922, is being organized by John Stockwell of Berkeley, California. The decision to hold the event had been taken at a March 9-11, 1989 "Summit conference for animals," which Stockwell organized. In late June-early July, there were preparatory events on the theme, "On the souls of animals," in Colchester, U.K., and Oberwolfach, Germany. The staging ground for the event in Germany is the Göttingen office of the "Mobilization for Animals" group. Support for the pilgrimage has come from the International Society for Animal Rights, Inc.; U.S. Prof. Tom Regan, president, Culture and Animals Foundation; Rev. Andrew Linzey, Center for the Study of Theology, University of Essex, England, and chief "theologian" of the animal rights movement; two representatives of the Unitarian Universalists from the U.S.; Kim Stallwood, director, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) of the U.S.; Charlotte Garbe, a Green Party member of the West German Parliament; and Ilja Weiss, an official of the Hesse state government in West Germany in charge of "animal protection." Weiss has recently authored an article denouncing the eating of meat as "criminal."

Attacks on 'moral anthropocentrism'

Coincident with the March on Rome, the London *Independent* on July 17 published a review of a new book, *Political Theory and Animal Rights*, one of whose co-editors is Rev. Andrew Linzey. Reviewer Rodney Aitchley quotes Prof. Tom Regan, that an intellectual revolution is required, based on the proposition that "traditional moral anthropocentrism is dead." Aitchley welcomes the attack of Linzey et al. on the concept of "dominion," in the Book of Genesis, by which man is given by God responsibility for "every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Aitchley concludes: "This book raises some pertinent doubts which might help achieve the necessary change of mind."

Indeed, this attack on "anthropocentrism" and on the fundamental tenet of the Judeo-Christian tradition that man is made in the living image of God, is the real issue, not concern for the welfare and "souls" of animals. The animal rights lunatics are supported, and in fact controlled, from a much higher level, typified by Prince Philip of the U.K., international president of the World Wide Fund for Nature. Vicious attacks on "anthropocentrism" are contained in reports recently put out by the Geneva-based World Council of Churches and by the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the umbrella association for Calvinist or Calvinist-leaning churches worldwide.