

# THINGS BE ?

## Ronnie Lee

This disease had been accidentally found to be fatal to humans and so was, presumably, considered to have a weapon potential.

\*Velvet monkeys, Rhesus monkeys, and Guinea pigs were injected with blood and tissue taken from other infected animals.

\*The animals developed a fever lasting six days - "during this period the animals ate and drank very little, lost weight and remained hunched up and immobile in their cages", in the monkeys "the febrile stage continued until immediately before death which occurred six to nine days after infection".

\*Those animals surviving the illness were killed with ether or injection of nebulin into the heart.

\*Pathological study revealed the spleen of the guinea pig was "sometimes three times its normal size" and "brains were congested".

Yes, the only thing this book lacks is a chapter on the art of burglary and sabotage.

### AT WAR WITH ANIMAL CREATION

Vivisection, for all its horrors, is only one of the many ways in which the human tyrant exploits the animal creation... We have been at war with the other creatures of this earth ever since the first human hunter galloped with spear into the primitive forest. Human imperialism has everywhere enslaved, oppressed, murdered and mutilated the animal peoples. All around us lie the slave camps we have built for our fellow creatures, factory farms and vivisection laboratories, Dachaus and Buchenwalds for the conquered species. We slaughter animals for our food, force them to perform silly tricks for our delectation, gun them down and stick hooks in them in the name of sport. We have torn up the wild places where once they made their homes. The million-year Reich of the master-species continues.

Speciesism is more deeply entrenched within us even than racism, and that is deep enough. Even the words of so-called revolutionaries are laden with it - male chauvinist and fascist "pigs", Chinese "gorillas". Much more insulting to pigs and gorillas than to male chauvinists, fascists, and Chinese generals. The "heavy" left march in London with spikes to stick in police horses. No doubt their workers' state will continue to have its vivisection labs... "to increase Man's power over nature". They can stuff their kind of revolution.

### PRIORITIES

#### ARE WHAT YOU ARE GOOD AT

Last December, David Gullin wrote in Freedom (December 14, 1974): "But, if the other creatures on earth cannot look to individuals to free them from their enslavement, who will help them? Who indeed? Yet, sadly, most libertarians tend to treat those who work to end animal exploitation as 'having their priorities wrong' This is a speciesist attitude and

a parallel can be drawn with the attitude of racists who contend that nothing should be done to aid black people while whites anywhere are deprived. The task before us is to free all beings. To end all forms of tyranny and exploitation. To build a society based on love and sharing and reverence for life instead of hate and greed, violence and butchery. There are many, many areas of struggle. Priorities are what you're good at! Unless the revolution is also for the rabbits at Huntingdon and the monkeys of Porton, then it is nothing.

### ACTION IS NEEDED

The animal welfare movement has been run for far too long by wealthy ladies in hats and retired army majors. It has been far too compromising, and too afraid to offend the Establishment and the forces of "law and order", its failure to use direct action when necessary has been deplorable. But the radical young are slowly beginning to interest themselves in the struggle for animal liberation, and therein lies hope.

### ANIMAL REBELLION

Sometimes I dream of animal rebellion. Mass uprisings against human oppression. Vast hordes of creatures tearing down the slaughterhouses, opening zoo-prisons. Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* and the beginning of Orwell's *Animal Farm* come true-to-life. Alas it cannot be. We are so easily able to exploit animals because they lack the ability to rebel in numbers. They cannot organise. Those of us who care must win their freedom - by changing our own lives, so that we rely as little as possible on animal exploitation, and then vigorously encouraging others to do the same. Richard Ryder quotes the words of Oxford philosophy lecturer Peter Singer: "If we have learned anything from the liberation movements, we should have learned how difficult it is to be aware of the ways in which we discriminate until they are forcefully pointed out to us". Action is needed to free non-human beings. To make human chauvinists realise, regret, and seek to change their tyrannical position. Militant action limited only by reverence for life and hatred of violence. Compassion's patience is now exhausted. Gradually the action groups are springing up. The days of the butcher may well be numbered.

"In 1906 the International Anti-Vivisection Council, with the consent of Battersea Council, erected a statue of a dog in Battersea Park with the following inscription appended: "In memory of the Brown Terrier Dog done to death in the laboratories of University College in February 1902 after having endured vivisection extending over more than two months and having been handed over from one vivisector to another till death came to his release. Also in memory of the 232 dogs vivisected in the same place during the year 1902. Men and women of England: How long shall these things be?"

Not long, my friends, not long.



Photo: Ian Mitchell