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MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., September 29 --- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, Democrat of Minnesota, today was honored by the nation's humanitarians for his "outstanding captainship in gaining approval and final enactment" of humane slaughter legislation in the 1958 session of Congress.

The author of the first humane slaughter bill introduced in Congress three years ago, Mr. Humphrey this year guided to enactment in the Senate a House bill sponsored by Representative W. R. Poage, Democrat of Texas.

At a luncheon here today, Mr. Humphrey was presented with a bronze plaque by Thomas C. Justice, vice president of the American Humane Association, which represents 500 animal protective organizations of the United States with a membership of more than 1 million.

The ceremony marked completion of the first step in a two-phase program of the American Humane Association, according to Mr. Justice.

With the campaign for passage of a Federal law ending in success, the 81-year-old federation is launching a drive for enactment of similar legislation at the State level, as part of the AHA goal of 100 percent humane slaughter of all food animals.

This year, as the bill approached the critical point of passage, the congressional leaders of the humane slaughter bill were aided by an unprecedented avalanche of mail in support of the measure.

Some congressmen reported that mail on this subject exceeded that on any other single issue of the session.

The law becomes effective in 1960 and will require humane slaughtering practices by all meat packers who sell to the government. An estimated 130 million food animals are slaughtered in the United States each year and the new law is expected to insure a more humane death for about 117 million of these animals.

R. T. Phillips, American Humane Association executive director, described "humane slaughter as beneficial to everyone, from the producer to the meat-buying public."

It means, he said "rendering animals insensible to pain before they are shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast or cut. It's the sensible way of conducting business because it speeds production, reduces wasteful bruises and is safer for the worker."

The AHA awards "seals of approval" to packers who meet rigid standards of handling, stunning and slaughtering. Twenty-two firms, including seven of the nation's largest, have qualified for approval in the slaughter of one or more species of livestock and new awards are being made regularly, Mr. Phillips said.

Last week in Washington, the AHA presented a similar citation to Mr. Poage.

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