

Letters to the editor

Uddar Terror

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my opposition to the use of Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH or rBST) in Canada. rBGH is a genetically engineered hormone which essentially causes cows to remain in the high production phase of early lactation for much longer than is natural. Among the 40+ side effects on cows are recurrent udder infections, birth defects, breeding problems, lameness, internal bleeding and premature death. An eightfold increase in the level of the insulin-like hormone IGF-1 has been identified in rBGH-milk. IGF-1 has been clearly linked to the production of cancer cells.

The Canadian government's current tactics of indecision and inaction are unacceptable in light of the enormous amount of protests from consumers, farmers and advocacy groups. Conservative estimates give at least 500,000 letters, calls and signatures of protest, approximately 350 advocacy groups have informed the government of their opposition to the hormone and 40% of Canadians surveyed say they are extremely worried about the use of rBGH. Farmers know that Canada already has a surplus of milk and that rBGH does not provide any kind of nutritional advantage. If approved, the nature of our processing system will not allow consumers access to naturally produced milk. rBGH makes no sense at all -- except to its multi-national developers.

Governments are elected to serve the people, not to cave into the high-powered lobbying of such corporate giants as Monsanto and Eli-Lilly. When our government does not listen to the concerns of its electorate, I believe Canadians must back their protests with consumer action. Consumer action was very effective in the fight for dolphin-free tuna. The same strategy can work in the fight against rBGH if Canadians apply a strong co-operative effort. I am asking for your support to pressure the Canadian government to follow the lead of Australia and New Zealand and ban rBGH. A national boycott of domestic milk products is urged for the week of Nov. 17-23 as a demonstration of consumer determination to stop the hormone. I believe it will be far easier to fight for a ban on rBGH than it would be to fight for its removal should it be approved. If the government refuses to take Canadians seriously, they have only themselves to blame.

Thank you for your time,

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Zhirinovsky--"The Russian Hitler"?

The latest antics of this Russian politician remind us of the eerie similarity between Zhirinovsky and the late Nazi leader. Both men came out of obscurity. Both wrote of an unhappy, troubled childhood. Hitler was anti-Semitic, so is Zhirinovsky. Hitler came to power through the democratic process -- barring a successful assassination attempt, the overwhelming likelihood is that Zhirinovsky will win the December, 1996 Russian presidential elections.

Indeed, the situation in Russia today is reminiscent of conditions in Weimar Germany prior to Hitler coming to power -- chaos, disillusionment, and despair. These are the conditions ripe for a dictatorship. Hitler had an electrifying effect on the German people, unmatched by any other

politician. The same can be said of Zhirinovsky among Russians. Before and after Hitler came to power, the International Press ridiculed him as a clown and a madman. The International Press today tend to dismiss Zhirinovsky as "the clown prince", a "political jester", "buffoon", etc -- much as they reacted to Hitler. This will prove to be a great mistake. Zhirinovsky is a man of destiny. His rise and fall ("upon the mountains of Israel") are foretold in the Biblical book of Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39. He is described as "Gog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal" NKJV (now Russia, Moscow, and Tubolsk). Vladimir Wolfovich Zhirinovsky -- the man who would be "Gog"!

K. V Barrett



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