

I am writing to protest the proposed enactment of this bill.

I agree that the animals named in the bill need to be protected, but this bill is much too broad in scope.

It would suddenly criminalize a large number of people who have done nothing except to possess an old piano, cane, violin bow, or guitar that was made probably more than eighty years ago.

Modern plastic substitutes for ivory have been in use for many years, and are preferable for these old uses because of their uniform quality and ready supply.

Instituting criminal penalties for the possession of old ivory will not save one elephant; it will only anger people who would support a more narrowly-drawn piece of legislation. The bill as written would lead to absurd situations, such as the arrest of elderly people who are discovered to have a treasured old Steinway piano in their home. It will lead to the confiscation and destruction of beautiful guitars from the 1920s that represent the height of American craftsmanship.

The specter of the "ivory police" entering people's homes to look for suspected ivory possession should frighten anyone who is concerned by the use of police forces for matters that could be solved by less intrusive means.

As an example, picture an elderly Beatrice Auerbach (of G. Fox's store) being led from her home in handcuffs for the possession of an ivory-mounted cane!

Legislation is needed to prevent the extinction of these beautiful animals, but surely a better bill can be crafted that will exempt private owners of old ivory as it does museums.

Peter Craig
New Britain, CT