

Adjournment Debate

● (2225)

It goes on and on. Not only have reporters and the Northwest Territories wildlife service director Kuwaitis implied that there are no Kuwaitis in Canada, they have not taken the time, as I have, to check into this. Perhaps these reporters who have run so quickly with their pens to write things about this story should contact David Miller of the *Toronto Star* who, on October 11, pointed out that Nick Novakowski of the Canadian wildlife service said that Kuwaitis have been in the Northwest Territories for a month working with the Inuit, ever since the territorial government issued 50 permits to trap falcons.

That is not just one source, Mr. Speaker. I refer those same reporters to the *Montreal Gazette* of Tuesday, October 13, which confirmed precisely the same information.

If members on the government side do not believe that Kuwaitis are involved in this hunt, perhaps Mr. MacDonald or the Inuit association should get in touch with the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts). Mr. Novakowski is an employee of the federal government. He is on the public record as indicating that Kuwaitis are involved. I would encourage members opposite to ask the Minister of the Environment to rise in this House and say that Mr. Novakowski's statement is not correct.

It seems clear, Mr. Speaker, that there is, first, a totally inadequate population information base on the gyrfalcon, not only in the Northwest Territories but in Canada as a whole, and the export of birds at this time is scientifically unsound and is a biological travesty for Canada and, second, connections between the gyr export and Prime Minister's office needs some very serious clarification. The Prime Minister's answer to my question on October 20 was really quite unrevealing and perhaps was misleading. I am sure he would not want that left on the record. The Prime Minister indicated that he would inquire into this whole situation, that is, the involvement of Mr. MacDonald in the permit and export of these gyrfalcon. This is an important question and I hope the response that I receive tonight will be something that I can give to all the organizations that have been in touch with me and to the reporters who have raised questions about the information I used.

Mr. Norman Kelly (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Skeena has indicated that he is not satisfied with the response to his questions in the House the other day.

In helping him understand the issue he has raised, perhaps a little history would be useful. The Government of Canada is a signatory to the 1973 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. By that convention, certain species, which are declared by countries to be endangered, are listed in Appendix I and may not be traded in international commerce.

For a number of years, all falcons were listed in Appendix I. However, last March, at the general meeting of the parties in

New Delhi, India, the parties agreed that the North American populations of the gyrfalcon would be downgraded to Appendix II, which permits their movement in commerce under the appropriate permits, of course, and provided the birds were banded in an approved fashion. Changes in the regulations of the Import and Export Permits Act have now been developed which will allow the commercial export from Canada of gyrfalcons taken legally from the wild or bred in captivity.

Now, moving closer to the heart of the matter, an Inuit Association headquartered in Cambridge Bay, approached the government of the Northwest Territories with a plan to trap gyrfalcons in the central Arctic. The executive committee of the NWT approved the capture of a maximum of 50 gyrfalcons in what was to have been an experimental harvest.

The idea behind the trapping and export of gyrfalcons was to generate revenue for both the Inuit Association and for the government of the Northwest Territories to permit further study of gyrfalcon populations in the Northwest Territories. I am sure the hon. member opposite would agree that that is a reasonable and desirable goal. The executive committee of the Northwest Territories, in a responsible way, imposed the following conditions on the harvest: first, there had to be a confirmed order for each of the falcons taken; second, only young-of-the-year birds were to be trapped; third, falcons retained by the Inuit association to assist in the harvest were to be approved by the chief of the Northwest Territories wildlife service and the trapping operation was to be monitored by the Northwest Territories wildlife service officers; fourth, all birds trapped were to be banded in an approved fashion and held individually in a temporary housing facility until their movement from the Northwest Territories was arranged; fifth, four Inuit men were to be trained in the trapping and handling of falcons and four Inuit women were to be hired to care for the birds at the temporary housing facility; sixth, the Inuit association would be charged an export permit fee of \$5,000 per bird captured; and seventh, export from Canada would not be permitted until the appropriate regulations under the Import and Export Permits Act were properly in place.

The trapping was to have taken place during the first ten days of October. Participating in the trapping operations were Inuit from the Inuit association—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please.

Mr. Kelly: —and two professional falconers from British Columbia supervised officials of the Northwest Territories wildlife service.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please.

Mr. Kelly: No falconers from Kuwait were present—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. It is regrettable that the Chair has to cut off the hon. member in this fashion but that is the way the Standing Orders read and that is the way they have to be applied at this hour of the night. Perhaps I can indicate for the record that departments