

projected manpower shortages in the industry's manufacturing sector. Under the agreement, the commission and the association will co-operate on various manpower aspects such as planning, training and affirmative action and also on carrying out programs.

The projected institute is only one of many recommendations made by the industry with a view to relieving manpower shortages, and the minister is expected to submit recommendations to the cabinet in this regard.

[English]

WILDLIFE—EXPORT OF FALCONS TO MIDDLE EAST

Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena): My question tonight arises from a question I put to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on October 20. It is reported at page 11,968 of *Hansard*. My first questions was:

Has the Prime Minister at any time asked his staff to arrange for the export of either peregrines or gyrfalcons to the Middle East?

The answer, Mr. Speaker, is clearly yes, although you will note that the Prime Minister said, as reported on that page of *Hansard*, "no". I am hopeful that tonight I will receive some clarification, because I am confident that the Prime Minister would not want to mislead the House on that point.

● (2220)

When I named Mr. Jim MacDonald, who was a member of the staff of the Prime Minister, I made it very clear that he was "recently of his personal staff". The Prime Minister came back with the following very quick comment:

It seems to me that the hon. member is making at least two mistakes. First, Jim MacDonald is not in my office.

I never intended the Prime Minister to understand that he was. Anyone who checks *Hansard* will see that that is not what I said. It is at least a strange coincidence that of 24-odd million Canadians the Prime Minister's previous head of communications is involved in what I have described as the "gyrfalcon wildlife scandal."

An interesting thing occurred approximately ten days ago. I had a conversation with Mr. MacDonald, and approximately two days later he came up with a completely different story. At the same time I had conversations with a number of reporters. Certainly he demonstrated how well-heelled he is in the art of media manipulation and of shading the truth. I said in my question that it was a wildlife scandal. Of course it is. There is absolutely no baseline population information available on gyrfalcons in the north.

I should like to quote from two well-known Canadian sources. First, the co-ordinator of wildlife research for Canada with Environment Canada, Mr. Nick Novakowski, who said:

it was a political decision made by the territories. We're not happy about it, but the gyrfalcon is not yet on the endangered species list and thus does not have federal protection.

He went on to say:

The problem is, however, that we do not know how many there are in the north.

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Another person who should know a great deal about this subject is Mr. Ron Gaf, a wildlife service officer with the Northwest Territories government. It is reported:

Ron Gaf, a territories biologist who accompanied the Inuit, said little is known about the gyrfalcon population.

Mr. Gaf went on to say:

The only numbers we have are sightings by wildlife service officers monitoring peregrines.

As if that was not serious enough, let me return to Mr. MacDonald for a moment. Obviously he was a key player in this affair. I should like to demonstrate how the media has been manipulated in this situation. As reported in *The Globe and Mail* on October 21 in an article by Charlotte Montgomery entitled, "Former PM Aide Denies Role in Gyrfalcon Affair," Mr. MacDonald said that he assisted the Inuit organization with an export proposal which resulted in 50 trapping and 50 export permits being issued to the Inuit by the territorial government. The article continued:

He said he then helped to pre-sell 50 birds to Middle East buyers.

It went on to include a direct quote of Mr. MacDonald:

I really just put together the project.

From where did the headline come? The entire article is about his involvement, that he set up the project, that he made the sales to the Middle East, and he admits putting the whole thing together. But the headline indicated that he was not involved. I find this kind of reporting to be a very serious concern. It is a completely erroneous headline for a newspaper to carry about a very serious environmental issue.

This is where we really get to know something about this fellow, Jim MacDonald. As reported in the same article, he said:

—gyrfalcons are a very common bird—

I have given quotations of Mr. Novakowski, the co-ordinator of wildlife research for Environment Canada, and of a biologist in the Northwest Territories, but here we have a guy who was in communications in the office of the Prime Minister saying that it was a very common bird. In my view it demonstrates the kind of unscientific and really dishonest attitude which has seriously tainted the issue.

Mr. MacDonald went on to indicate that the birds were worth from \$5,000 to \$12,000 apiece. This has been disputed by every legitimate falconer with whom I have spoken, and many other sources. In fact, Hugh Monaghan, a Northwest Territories wildlife services officer said that for each bird taken under those permits, \$5,000 would go to the government of the Northwest Territories. Mr. MacDonald is saying that some of these birds are caught in the Arctic and are brought down for sale, and that all the money is going to the Northwest Territories government. What about the Inuit? Are they to get nothing? As a matter of fact, the vice-president of the Canadian Wildlife Federation indicated publicly that perhaps those birds are worth \$50,000 or more each.