

*Government Orders*

six years will be able to do the job. We are going to have to do something more in that area too.

**Mr. George S. Baker (Gander—Grand Falls):** Mr. Speaker, I have just a few words concerning this legislation and I give them after listening to the hon. member for Davenport.

The bill before the House is entitled an act respecting the protection of certain species of wild animals and plants. Then it says the act of Parliament which will come from this legislation will be called the Wild Animal and Plant Protection Act.

That is fine. If we could take the name of the legislation at its word it is an excellent piece of legislation, but we cannot. This does not cover what people would think it would cover if they read the title of the legislation, as the member for Davenport pointed out.

What does it cover? It covers all animals and plants listed under fauna in the appendix to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora signed on March 3, 1973 in Washington, D.C.

The legislation limits the protection of endangered species. It gives the government the power to enforce a law only on an endangered species listed in the appendix to the convention. In other words, it would enable an enforcement officer to go into somebody's house without a warrant, as is listed under section 487 of the Criminal Code, only if the enforcement officer believes that in that dwelling or in that truck or car there is a portion of an endangered species and only if it is listed in the appendix to the convention.

In other words, there are three species of seals listed in appendix III of the convention. But the Pine Martin is not listed. That is an endangered species in the province of Newfoundland. If portions of those three particular seals listed in appendix III to the convention are to be found on somebody's property then the enforcement officer has the power under the act, but if an endangered species in Canada is in somebody's possession it does not give the enforcement officer the same authority.

The legislation, as the member for Davenport has pointed out, is an opportunity for the Government of Canada to spread the net even further. It gives it the

opportunity to be able to cover the endangered species. The animals are listed under fauna in the convention. It gives the government the opportunity to do what the Canadian Wildlife Service has wanted it to do for years. This is the vehicle. If the government saw fit, all it would have to do is go to Bill C-209 which is before this Chamber in the name of the hon. member for Davenport and incorporate it into this legislation. Then it would have a complete piece of legislation, not just a partial piece of legislation that to the objective viewer would seem rather limited and restricted in its character and certainly not as serving the wishes the Canadian Wildlife Service as I see them and as we should be serving those wishes.

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** I will be brief, Mr. Speaker. I too want to voice my support for this bill and the work that the member for Davenport has done on it.

I want to refer in my remarks specifically to a scientific American journal of September 1989 entitled "Managing the Planet Earth". In this particular journal there is an article on threats to bio-diversity. As I was reading this a few months ago I noticed a paragraph which I think is extremely relevant to the bill we are discussing today. I would like to read directly from it:

Wild plant and animal species also represent vast reservoirs of such potentially valuable products as fibres and petroleum substitutes. One example is the "babassu palm".

Then it goes on to explain that and says:

Another striking example is the rosy periwinkle.

People sometimes wonder why we are so adamant in trying to preserve these wild plants. It continues:

—rosy periwinkle is otherwise known as *Catharanthus roseus*, an inconspicuous little plant that originated in Madagascar. It yields two alkaloids, vinblastine and vincristine, that are extremely effective against Hodgkin's disease and acute lymphocytic leukemia. The income from these two substances alone exceeds \$100 million a year.

On it goes. There is also a Thomas Eisner at Cornell University who has suggested, in addition to the compilation of biological inventories, that:

—programs should be established to promote chemical prospecting around the world as part of the search for new products. The U.S. National Cancer Institute has begun to do just that: their natural products branch is currently screening some 10,000 substances a year for activity against cancer cells and the AIDS virus.