

*Government Orders*

The time for this legislation has come. Concern about illegal trade in wildlife is growing. For example, the subject of the World Wildlife Fund's 1991 fall fund raising campaign was illegal trade in black bear gall bladders. I would like to quote briefly from the literature:

The World Wildlife Fund wants to make sure that this new threat to Canadian wildlife is confronted right now, before it gets entirely out of hand. Canada urgently needs clear legislation. And we must have strong enforcement.

I should perhaps mention that Canada has already taken early action with respect to the black bear situation by unilaterally listing the species on Appendix III of the CITES agreement. But this alone is not enough. As the World Wildlife Fund notes, clear legislation and strong enforcement are also needed.

Bill C-42 will be of great benefit to wild and endangered animals and plants in Canada and around the world. Its purpose is not to stop all trade in wild animals and plants. Rather it will protect endangered species from trade related overexploitation, prohibit trade in illegal wildlife and regulate ongoing trade in non-endangered wild species in order to prevent poached wildlife from entering the legal trade.

Perhaps I could explain the provisions in some detail. For example, one of the major objectives of Bill C-42 is conservation of the world's endangered wildlife through the elimination of illegal international trade in wild plants and animals.

WAPPA will make it illegal for a person to import into Canada any wild animal or plant which that person knows to have been taken, possessed, distributed or transported in contravention of the laws of any foreign state. Thus the act will ensure that a person cannot escape prosecution for the violation of another country's wildlife protection laws simply by leaving that country and hiding out in Canada. Canada will not be a haven for those who poach and smuggle wild animals and plants in other countries.

WAPPA will replace the Game Export Act and regulations made under the Export and Import Permits Act through which the CITES convention on endangered species is implemented in Canada. Each of these acts controls international or interprovincial transport of wildlife through the use of a permit system. These permit systems must and will be maintained under the new legislation. To avoid unnecessary paperwork for

importers and exporters where foreign, provincial or territorial permits fulfil the objectives of the act, through regulations these will be accepted instead of a federal permit.

Under the act federal permits will be required for the import and transport within Canada of wild animals and plants where this is necessary to prevent the introduction into the wild of potentially harmful wildlife. A list of species of concern will be developed in consultation with the provinces, territories and interested parties, and designated in regulation. The federal government is constitutionally responsible for matters relating to international trade and interprovincial transport. This is the reason for the requirement for a federal permit. However, upon agreement, administrative responsibility for the issuance of some permits will be transferred to the provinces. Individual provinces and territories will therefore determine what wildlife may be brought into their respective jurisdictions from other parts of Canada.

The Hon. Bud Wildman, minister of natural resources for the province of Ontario, recently wrote expressing his support for the legislation:

—the revision of the *Game Export Act* in CITES related legislation. The steps taken by your government indicate that Ontario's concern for the conservation of wildlife and plants have been adequately addressed in the proposed Wild Animal and Plant Protection Act—The conservation and welfare of Ontario's ecosystems are high priorities for the provincial government. Accordingly, I am offering my full co-operation and preparation of the supportive legislation.

Domestically WAPPA will work to conserve Canadian wildlife within our borders by controlling the interprovincial transport and export of wild animals and plants. The act will prohibit trade in wild species subject to provincial and territorial conservation laws in various ways. If a provincial or territorial permit is required for the removal of wildlife under the act interprovincial transport cannot occur until that permit has been obtained. The new legislation also prohibits interprovincial transport if removal from a province or territory is simply prohibited or if a person knows that the wildlife has been taken, possessed, distributed or transported in violation of any provincial or territorial law.

One of the most important sections of the new act is the one that deals with the possession of wild animals or plants which are being or, have been traded in contravention of the act. This section also addresses possession of endangered species for the purpose of sale or distribution. This provision is essential in order to fight illegal