

two years of life.

Unlike the sheep and cattle which graze over much of Australia, the kangaroo does not destroy its own habitat. During the drought they regulate their own numbers by cessation of breeding and migration to more favorable areas.

But like the dolphin, the whale, the tiger and other highly distinctive members of the animal kingdom, the kangaroo has been taken for granted and frivolously slaughtered to make athletic shoes, needless artifacts, and pet foods.

Once abundant in Australia, the kangaroo has been killed on such a scale in recent years that it is now threatened with extinction. Unless they are placed on the endangered species list promptly, there will be little hope of saving these delightful creatures from total destruction.

As a result of this crisis, E. Gough Whitlam, Australia's Prime Minister, has announced that his government would temporarily ban the export of kangaroo products.

The Department of the Interior should place the kangaroo on The United States Government List of Endangered Fish and Wildlife. Complimenting the Australian action, this American move would serve to abolish the principal economic incentive for slaughter of the kangaroo, and would prod Australia to give further protection to the kangaroo and save the species from further slaughter, suffering and eventual extinction.

Inevitably, however, there are interests in both countries which wish to keep the kangaroo trade flourishing even though the dollar volume is small and there are many substitutes available. It is important that Australia and the United States not yield to these pressures.

The willingness to save these gentle, amiable, almost defenseless creatures is important not only in keeping the kangaroos alive but also in keeping human beings human; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Rogers C. B. Morton, Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior, be urged to place the kangaroo on the United States Government List of Endangered Fish and Wildlife in order to halt the needless slaughter of the dwindling numbers of Australian kangaroos; and be it further