

*Garrison Diversion*

for External Affairs. The purpose of that meeting was to give the Administration an opportunity to provide technical data concerning the Garrison project and to allow Canadian representatives to raise other matters and concerns. A first list of technical problems drawn up by the Canadian representatives and submitted to the State Department by the Canadian Embassy in Washington before the meeting made it possible to delineate the issues involved and the discussions that followed.

Mr. Speaker, despite a very useful exchange of information, Canada has not yet received any answer to some of its major concerns about the impact of the project on the flow of water into the Hudson Bay's basin and Canada. Such was the conclusion reached by the officials who attended the federal-provincial meeting held early in September, when the Deputy Minister and officers from the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources met in Ottawa with representatives of Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans and External Affairs.

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Consequently, the Canadian government has decided to officially submit to the State Department a final list of technical issues of concern for Canada in connection with the Garrison project. Through that list which accompanied the note delivered by the Canadian government during the first week of October, Canada is asking that technical alterations be made to the works provided under Phase I. By doing so, Canada is complying with the recommendations made in the 1977 report of the International Joint Commission which provides for consultations between Canada and the United States until an agreement is reached so that any piece of work the construction of which has been approved will not affect streams flowing into Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to tell the House about the technical problems which Canada tries to solve through such consultations. I would like to mention more especially the McClusky fish screen, the drainage of municipal and industrial wastes at the Lonetree dam and reservoir and the plan to minimize the impact on wildlife.

Canada is concerned because the Bureau of Reclamation has mentioned in the final schedule to the statement on impacts filed with the Environmental Protection Agency in July 1983 that the construction of the McClusky fish screen is no longer considered. The construction of such a screen was provided in the 1979 statement on the environmental impact, but the final statement mentions that the area now to be developed does not affect any Canadian interests and suggests instead that the water running through the Garrison project be filtered at several locations downstream the Lonetree reservoir.

When a fish screen is built on the channel, the fish, their eggs the larvae and all other biota in the Missouri River could flow directly into the Lonetree reservoir situated in the Hudson Bay drainage basin a few metres away from the Cheyenne River. As the Hon. Members know, the Cheyenne river flows into the Red River which is part of the Hudson Bay drainage

basin. The fish and other biota in the Missouri River would not only be found in Lonetree Reservoir but also in the entire system: head races, inner reservoirs, irrigation areas, and retaining channels, thus greatly increasing the danger of biota transfers from the Missouri River drainage basin to the Hudson Bay basin.

The International Joint Commission had based its assessment that the construction of the Lonetree Reservoir was acceptable not only on the establishment of a closed system, but also on the installation of a fish screen in the McClusky Canal. Canada strongly supported the recommendation of the International Joint Commission to the effect that fishing on the Lonetree Reservoir be prohibited. On the other hand, Canada does not believe that this position could be strictly enforced. It has therefore concluded that the fish screen in the McClusky Canal had to be set up during Phase I to act as a first barrier against fish and fish eggs and lessen the dangers of transfers between the basins. Canada has noted similar findings by the Environment Protection Agency in its detailed environmental impact study.

Mr. Speaker, while supporting the setting up of a fish screen, and in spite of recent improvements in the design and use of fish screens, Canada must agree with the International Joint Commission that the McClusky fish screen, just like any other mechanical device, could not entirely and for all times prevent transfer of foreign biota between the drainage basins. On the other hand, Canada would oppose any plan to stock the Lonetree Reservoir with fish to check the effectiveness of the fish screen, in order to minimize the dangers of biota transfer between the basins resulting from fishing activities.

Canada is concerned also with the possible use for municipal and industrial purposes of unfiltered water and the dangers of possible biota transfers from the Missouri River hydrographic basin into the Hudson Bay drainage basin. Canadian experts have indicated that the bolted obturator, which is being planned to close the down-stream end of the municipal and industrial overfall, could easily be opened. In times of drought, the temptation would certainly increase to open the overfall; so Canada has asked that the plans be modified to provide for a more permanent obturator such as a reinforced concrete sluice-gate.

Third, Canada has advised the United States that it would like to open consultations on the 1982 plan for lessening the impact on wildlife, as described in the final supplement to the environment impact study by the Bureau of Reclamation. Although this plan is supposedly based on the creation, preservation and restoration of wetlands and wildlife habitats, as well as related pastures and woodlands, it does not provide for the replacement "acre by acre" of the marshlands which the officials of the international dual commission had recommended. The representatives of the Canadian Wildlife Service who reviewed and evaluated the alleviation plan have pointed out that the modelization process of the habitat assessment