

*Garrison Diversion*

on the recommendations of the 1977 report by the International Joint Commission. The Commission's main recommendation was that construction of those parts of the Garrison Diversion project that might affect waters flowing into Canada should be put on hold for the time being.

The Government has taken advantage of every opportunity to ensure that the concerns of Canadians and more specifically of Manitobans are fully understood and considered by the U.S. Congress and Administration, with respect to the design and construction of works under the Garrison Diversion project.

Recent developments, including an increase by Congress in appropriations for the so-called Phase I and the contract awarded for construction of the Lonetree dam and reservoir, have been followed very closely by the Governments of Canada and Manitoba, with a view to being ready to intervene at senior political levels in order to protect Canadian interests.

Very recently, after the Lonetree contract was awarded, the Government expressed its concern about the impact of the timing of the contract award on the current consultation process. We still consider consultation with the United States as the most effective way to respond to Canadian concern about aspects of the Garrison project that might have a disastrous effect on waters flowing into Canada.

Mr. Speaker, on October 3 of this year, the Canadian Government, in a memorandum to the State Department, specifically deplored the fact that the contract for construction of the Lonetree dam, the main work of the Garrison project's water distribution network, was awarded on August 24, 1983, before consultations scheduled by the International Joint Commission were finalized and agreement was reached by both Governments. This Government was particularly critical of the U.S. step because it was taken after a meeting of representatives of both Governments in Ottawa on July 20 of this year to discuss technical aspects of Canadian concerns about some of the project works, on the basis of plans and technical specifications that had been submitted to the Canadian side. At the meeting, a substantial amount of useful information was exchanged and resulted in a fruitful discussion that seemed to prepare the ground for a high level consultative meeting equally productive that both Governments intended to have in September. In the memorandum it sent to the State Department, this Government mentioned that realistically, the September consultations could not have given positive results if they had more or less coincided with the Administration's announcement that a contract had been awarded for construction on the main work of the Garrison project, the very part of the project that was still the subject of intense consultations.

The Government of Canada reminded the State Department that in principle, it saw no reason to object to projects aimed at promoting the economic development of certain regions of the United States, as the Garrison Diversion project was, and that it could understand and fully appreciate the

American Administration's standing commitment to the people of North Dakota to replace farmland used to build flood control works. Nevertheless, the Government also felt it should point out that certain parts of the plan as authorized by Congress were likely to have a disastrous effect on waters flowing into Canada, as had been the conclusion of the International Joint Commission in its 1977 report to both Governments.

Mr. Speaker, as long as the plan authorized by Congress is maintained, the Government of Canada can only assume it is still possible that the Garrison project will be funded by Congress up to completion, and this includes what is designated as Phase II. This situation will go on fueling the serious concerns which Canadians have with certain aspects of Phase I and the whole of Phase II. On the other hand, the Canadian Government did inform the United States that it appreciated the general assurances given on various occasions by the Administration, as well as the qualification tied to the last estimates approved to this date by Congress for the 1984 fiscal year that no monies earmarked under the current commitments of Congress shall be used for the completion of sections of the Garrison diversion project in North Dakota that could pollute, introduce foreign biota into or unduly increase or decrease the volume of water flowing into Canada. However, the Government fully recognizes that, in order to efficiently protect Canadian interests and prevent pollution of Manitoba waters by foreign biota originating from a diversion of waters from the Missouri River basin, it must make sure that the general guarantees given by the United States at the ministerial level will translate into technical assurances and guarantees included in the specifications for the Garrison project.

For this reason, the Government is currently attempting to co-operate with officials from the American State Department and Department of the Interior in order to monitor, clarify and resolve specific issues of a technical nature raised by the Canadian representatives after a scrutiny of the Garrison project specifications. In the course of that scrutiny, the Canadian officials' major concern has been to evaluate to what extent the specifications involved the hazard of transferring biota, larvae and fish from the Missouri River basin into the Hudson Bay basin. Other questions have been identified in connection with wildlife management plans, especially as far as migrating birds are concerned.

As I have already said, an important bilateral meeting of experts was held in Ottawa on July 20, 1983, which was attended by representatives of the Water Board and the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife of the state of North Dakota, the "Garrison Conservancy District", the Bureau of Reclamation in Bismark, Denver, Billings and Washington, and of the State Department on the American side, and on the Canadian side by representatives of the Department of Natural Resources of Manitoba, Environment Canada, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and also the Secretary of State