

Centre speaks he will close the debate. Prior to calling the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre I had indicated that I would defer a point of order to be raised by the Minister without Portfolio. Perhaps I should do that now.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get into the debate. All I want to say is that I did make representations several times to the Prime Minister. I believe that I am entitled to do so, just as any member can make private representations to any minister. In my particular case, because I cannot raise a question in the House, I thought this was the best thing for me to do, and I have done exactly what I should in respect to my responsibility to the people of my province.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I shall be brief, and I hope that when the motion has been passed it will be the words of the motion which will speak for the House of Commons on this issue today. I recognize, as has been demonstrated by the speeches which have been made, that this is an issue on which there can be a good deal of political infighting, efforts to claim credit, and all of that. Much of what has been said this morning is true. But my feeling and my motive in putting down the motion was that now that the point has been reached where the Prime Minister is going to discuss the matter with President Carter and is going to request the deferral of any further work on the Lonetree reservoir, we should express our pleasure and let the Prime Minister know that, for all the bickering that there is back here in the House of Commons, we support his efforts in Washington in presenting Canadian interests with respect to the whole Garrison project.

References have been made to all of those who have taken part. I am going to refer to a couple, obviously to put their names on the record but also for the purpose of underlining what the hon. member for Lisgar has just said, namely, that this issue has been around with us for a long while. I would remind members of the House who were here prior to 1974 that the former member for Assiniboia, Mr. William Knight, and the former member for Selkirk, Mr. Douglas Rowland, along with others of us were raising questions and speaking about this matter in the House on "late shows" in the twenty-ninth parliament. So the issue has been around a long while, and I want to give credit to all of those who have raised this issue in one way or another. I also give credit to the International Joint Commission for the study it has done thus far and for the preliminary position which that body has taken. It is really tremendous to get an international body with equal representation from both sides of the border to produce the kind of preliminary observation it has made.

So, Mr. Speaker, now that the Prime Minister is going to Washington, and now we know what he is going to do, even if we learned it through the publication by Mr. Huband of Manitoba of a telegram that he received from the Prime Minister, the thing for us to do is to say to Washington, to say to President Carter, to say to the Americans, that we are behind the Prime Minister in his request that work on the Lone Tree reservoir be deferred; and beyond that, we are with

him in the efforts that we trust he will make on behalf of Canada to protect Canadian waters against pollution by the Garrison project.

It has been a long, hard struggle, Mr. Speaker. I have been as disappointed as my friends to the right in the kind of answers that we have had from the government. But as of today the word is that the Prime Minister is going to raise the issue, and I hope that the House will say unanimously that we are behind him in doing so.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. It has been moved by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands:

That this House welcomes the announcement that the Prime Minister will discuss with President Carter, during his forthcoming visit to Washington, the Garrison diversion project in North Dakota, and further that this House unanimously endorses the stand the Prime Minister has said he will take to the effect that work on the Lone Tree reservoir be deferred, pending a review of the whole project and of this country's concern over its effects on Canadian waters, particularly in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, which is being made by the International Joint Commission.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Speaker:** I should indicate, in respect of the procedural difficulty which we faced, that it would seem that positions on both sides of the question were adequately guarded by argument, and far from being in a position to set aside or disregard those arguments, they are very much in my mind. I think we ought first to have a discussion of the matter to see whether there is a solution which would meet the approval of all parties. In any case, if the matter remains in conflict, I would certainly invite discussion which would give an opportunity to all members who want to participate to have a proper preparation period.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, if that is the suggestion it is certainly agreeable to us.

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## ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

### QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

**Mr. Ross Milne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 205, 581, 1,011, 1,138, 1,139, 1,193 and 1,495.