

Mr. Speaker, at the outset I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member for Selkirk-Interlake (Mr. Sargeant) on his persistence and his concern about this very important matter. I can assure him that this matter is not only a concern to him and his constituents but it is a concern to all Canadians. It has been a great irritant between Canada and the United States for a number of years.

I welcome this opportunity to respond to the Hon. Member's statement on an appropriate strategy for managing the longstanding garrison issue. The Hon. Member is advising the Government in his motion before the House to consider the advisability of taking necessary measures to ensure that no damage is caused to the Manitoba environment by the construction of Garrison project features. His recommendation in particular is that the Government continue current diplomatic action, offer legal and technical assistance to anti-Garrison citizen groups and, should these measures fail, that the Government bring the United States of America to trial at the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

I might point out to Hon. Members that this motion is substantially the same as that introduced by the Hon. Member on February 9, 1981, and debated again in the House on November 2, 1983. However, while the motion is substantially the same, the Garrison Diversion Unit we are facing in 1984 is substantially different from that which was envisaged in 1981, or so I have been advised. In response to persistent representations by the Canadian Government based on the conclusions of the International Joint Commission's 1977 report, in 1982 the United States undertook a major redesign of the full 250,000 acre project into two phases in order to proceed with the construction of only one phase, which would not affect waters flowing into Canada, while deferring indefinitely construction of phase II, which would affect waters flowing into our country. Further project revisions and technical modifications have been introduced by the United States Bureau

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