

In this connection I want to emphasize the importance of advance consultation. It seems to me that the sensible way of doing business is to notify the United States whenever possible of our intentions in advance of our taking major decisions on matters affecting United States interests and where appropriate to provide an opportunity for advance consultations. Naturally, we would expect the United States authorities to treat us in the same way whenever they are about to take action which would affect our interests. This practice corresponds to the more mature and complex stage that our relationship has now reached. It would help to diminish fears and misunderstandings on both sides. In short, it is an important way of keeping our relations with the United States in a healthy condition.

I would like to discuss briefly one outstanding issue between Canada and the United States which shows how our new relationship should be managed. It concerns a project of particular interest to this province - the Garrison Diversion Unit.

It involves, as you know, a huge complex of canals, dams and reservoirs designed to irrigate some quarter of a million acres in North Dakota with water from the Missouri River system. The problem for Canada arises from the fact that as envisaged at present the return flows from the irrigation project will drain primarily into the Souris River flowing northward into Canada and also into the Red River. The potential consequences of this are serious. We would be faced with increased flooding and with the prospect of large-scale pollution that would cause damage to health and property in Canada. Because of this Canada has raised objections to the project on the basis of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909 which provides that neither country will pollute waters flowing into the other to the injury of health or property.

Since 1969, the Governments of Canada and the United States as well as the Governments of Manitoba and North Dakota have exchanged information and held numerous discussions on the issue. We have particularly welcomed working closely with the Government of Manitoba on this subject and have appreciated the continuing support and participation of the Manitoba authorities in our dealings with the United States. I think that this issue provides an excellent illustration of federal-provincial co-operation in dealing with an international problem.