

Reference a number of areas of potential concern in the project, including effects on water quality and water quantity and the possible interbasin transfer of harmful fish and other biota.

"As you are also aware, the Commission's final report, provided to Governments in September 1977, concluded that construction and operation of the Garrison Diversion project as envisaged when the study began would cause significant injury to health and property in Canada as a result of adverse impacts on water quality and adverse and irreversible impacts on some of the more important biological resources in Manitoba. It also noted adverse impacts on Manitoba waterfowl resources, as well as other problems. The Commission recommended inter alia that those portions of the project which could affect waters flowing into Canada not be built at this time in view of the severe and irreversible damage which would be caused by biota and disease transfer.

"The State Department has expressed an interest in receiving Canadian comments on the draft revised Garrison plan. Canadian federal and Manitoba officials have examined the draft plan in the context of its potential transboundary effects, and in particular of the report of the International Joint Commission, which we consider to be the primary basis for evaluating the impacts on Canada of any such revision. We have noted that the draft plan relates to the review of the proposed project being undertaken by the Administration in compliance with the stipulation entered into and approved by the U.S. Federal District Court in May 1977 which stayed the suit of the Audubon Society against the Department of the Interior. As such it does not appear specifically to consider the transboundary effects of the project which were detailed by the International Joint Commission. Therefore, as currently drafted, it does not address substantive Canadian concerns.

"We have further concluded that the information provided in these documents is not sufficient to allow a precise determination of the effects of the draft plan on Canada. At this time, therefore, we are able to offer only general comments. It would seem that the reduction of lands to be irrigated within the Hudson Bay drainage basin and, in particular, the elimination of the Souris Loop from the project should reduce some of the project's potential adverse impacts on Canada in areas such as water quality and flood potential. It would appear, however, that portions of the draft plan could still be expected to result in significant adverse impact on Canada. For example, the continued inclusion of irrigated lands in the Red River drainage system carries with it the continued possibility of adverse water quality effects. Similarly, while the proposed mitigation plan of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, if implemented, could reduce waterfowl losses in Manitoba, it would not eliminate them.