

local people as to the detrimental effects this project will have on Canadians, Canadian waters, and Canadians' ability to earn their livelihoods on into the future as they have in the past. On this issue there can be no compromise. There is reference in the motion before us to taking the American government to court. I certainly would think that it would be something of a last resort. If that is what we have to do, then we have lost our case.

The only way that Canada is going to be saved from the harmful effects of the Garrison diversion project is if the water is not diverted. There is no engineering solution that will let water come without some of the problems coming with it. Until there is such a time, and I doubt very much there will be a satisfactory engineering solution, there is really no compromise as far as Canada is concerned in this matter. We have concerns with pollution of water, we have salinity problems which will come down Canadian rivers.

I have spoken to city officials in the town of Portage la Prairie, a city of about 15,000 people, and they estimate they would have to spend as high as \$3 million on a water treatment plant to keep their water at the standards that it is now if water is transferred from North Dakota into the Assiniboine River. Those are the areas of concern local people have. There is really no solution in terms of the fishing industry in Manitoba as there is for cleaning up the water by spending millions of dollars.

Once the water is diverted, with it comes the foreign species of fish, the fish diseases, and the ensuing problems. Then it will be too late to reverse the situation. You cannot say to the fish, "Hey, you fish, go back to North Dakota. You are not wanted here." That is an impossibility, and we all know that. Our concern is very legitimate and it gets to be more disconcerting all the time as we see this project getting closer and closer to completion by the fact that there has been additional money spent on it.

It is clearly a federal government responsibility. The previous government speaker mentioned the government is seriously concerned. I should hope ministers would be more than seriously concerned. As a federal government, they should be letting the government of the United States know in as strong as possible diplomatic language that we cannot, under any circumstances, accept water from the United States.

The previous speaker also mentioned they would like to have the provinces involved in preparations for any meetings. That is very nice, but I think the federal government should clearly show some responsibility in taking the lead and seeing that they are not only involved in preparations but that the federal government go ahead and do what has to be done in terms of letting the Americans know what our real feelings are about this.

I have raised this question in the House several times before. One of the suggestions made was to take an all-party delegation from this House to the United States at the appropriate time. I have spoken to the minister of external affairs and he says that he does not know whether this is the appropriate time. We know now that Mr. Watt is the new Secretary of the

### *Garrison Diversion*

Interior. It seems to me that now is the time we should be approaching Americans to see, as the new administration gets set up in Washington, that they know of our concerns on this side of the border and what our feelings are. It is deplorable that the federal government has not taken any more of a lead in letting the Americans know up until this time what our position is. I say that because, upon reading the local papers, I notice a lot of concern that the federal government does not know what is our position.

We hear a lot of concern about the east coast fisheries treaty. Nobody is saying that is not an area of concern; it certainly is. But if the fish treaty is not settled this year or next year, the fish will still be there. The point with this Garrison problem is that once the diversion is complete we will have the American foreign species of fish in our water systems forever. I would like to see more emphasis put on this matter by the federal government. It is clearly a federal responsibility because it crosses an international boundary.

One of the things pointed out to me was that both the senators from North Dakota are on the appropriations committee, and that is very significant. There could possibly be two votes for any future appropriations for Garrison. Again, I must emphasize that this is not a partisan issue, and I am glad to see it raised in the House. I am not so sure the previous NDP government of Manitoba did as much as it could have in terms of letting the Americans and our federal government know that as the construction of the dam proceeded problems would be caused. I have heard criticisms of the present government of Manitoba as a result.

I am familiar with some of the things the provincial government is doing in Manitoba. It has done things that I would have sooner seen the federal government do. For instance, the premier of Manitoba has sent telegrams to several American elected and appointed officials pointing out Manitoba's objections to the Garrison project. I am sure that would have been better done by the federal government. Because of a vacuum at the federal government level, the provincial government has had to step in and we have seen citizens' groups step in. Had the federal government been doing its job, we would not have heard the concerns expressed by local citizens and by provincial, municipal and urban governments in Manitoba.

I do not wish to speak at great length on this bill. Many of us from Manitoba have shown a great deal of interest in this matter in the past number of years. I should simply like to close by saying it is high time the federal government showed some leadership in this affair, did more than express its serious concern, and offer to involve the province and its local people in it.

I think it is time they took the lead and saw to it that everything was set up, so that people, all levels of government and all parties in this House were involved in letting the Americans know that it is the appropriate time before the new American administration gets too far along in its life. We in Manitoba cannot, under any terms, accept water from the Missouri basin being transferred into the Hudson Bay basin.