

greater threat to Canadian waters than any other US landfill uncovered to date." The chemical brew contains substances known to cause cancer, mutations and birth defects. According to a statement released by the US government, these chemicals have already leaked into the Niagara Falls (NY) water treatment system which supplies water to 86,000 Americans (*Globe and Mail*, January 25).

The S-Area is one of four major chemical dumps polluting the Niagara River. The *Globe and Mail* (January 25) explained that the cleanup of the S-Area is tied up in a lawsuit by the US and New York State governments against the Occidental Chemical Corp. (formerly Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp. of Niagara Falls, NY), its related companies, and the City of Niagara Falls, NY. Between 1947 and 1975 Hooker dumped the chemicals into porous rock less than 200 meters from the river to create the S-Area dump.

On January 25, Joe Reid again questioned the Environment Minister about his position in light of his statements the day before, and about the December 7 statement that the S-Area leakage did not pose a threat to drinking-water. Mr. Roberts told the House that Canada would continue diplomatic representations in the US; deal with the International Joint Commission and the Niagara Toxics Committee; and increase spending in several related departments to examine the problem for Canada. Jim Fulton (NDP, Skeena) also challenged the government's approach. "Will the Minister tell the House whether or not he has received one shred of evidence from the US administration that they intend to spend one dollar in the coming year on cleaning up S-Site, or are we once again doing all kinds of scientific work on behalf of a bankrupt administration in the United States?" he asked. Mr. Roberts responded that he thought that the US government was taking the issue very seriously.

Another recommendation made by Mr. Fulton was for the government to send an official delegation to the US and "tell Congress how we feel about being poisoned." Mr. Fulton repeated this request January 27 during a lengthy debate on the protection of the environment. He had moved: "That this House condemn the Government for its failure to adequately protect the Canadian environment from toxic and hazardous waste and for its subservience to the vested interests of the chemical and industrial waste producers and, in particular to expedite the cleanup of the Great Lakes." Mr. Fulton also argued that the United States was not living up to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1978.

The same day, Ontario Environment Minister Keith Norton said in an interview that Ontario would attempt to seek US permission to intervene in the US lawsuit against Occidental Chemical Corp., to press its views about how the dump could be cleaned up, unless federal officials get assurances within a week from the US about Canadian concerns (*Globe and Mail*, January 28). Girve Fretz (P.C., Erie) asked Mr. Roberts in the House on January 31 if the government had received such assurances. Mr. Roberts had not, but said he was a little bit confused about the Ontario statement referred to, because the negotiations underway were a court-ordered process in the US, not a negotiation between Canadian and US governments. He said that he hoped Ontario would get in touch with other

interested groups, to see whether the actions would be considered useful.

### Garrison Diversion Project

US funds to continue construction of the Garrison Diversion Unit in North Dakota were refused by the House of Representatives in mid-December, but approved a week later by both Houses of Congress. The House's denial of four million dollars for the project was briefly hailed as a victory for Canada. The Garrison project, already one fifth completed, is an elaborate plan to irrigate North Dakota farmland by joining two incompatible water systems: the Missouri River drainage basin, and the Hudson Bay basin, through the Red River. Opponents have said that predatory Missouri River fish would enter the Red and Souris rivers and swim into Manitoba, damaging that province's fishing commercial industry, and that Manitoba's drinking water would become polluted. Canada had lobbied vigorously against the project, arguing that it violates the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. On December 14, the House of Representatives voted 252-152 against the continuation of funds. It was the first time in the project's seventeen year history that Congress had registered a negative vote for Garrison funds (*The Citizen*, December 16; *MacLean's Magazine*, December 27; *Globe and Mail*, December 21).

The resolution restoring the funds was passed December 20 as one of the compromises made by a House-Senate committee to achieve agreement on an omnibus government resolution. The resolution as passed included a clause preventing the money from being used on features of the project that could affect Canadian waters. The *Globe and Mail* reported December 21 that despite the clause, Canadian officials were worried that it would be harder to stop the project after more money was committed to it. About \$160 million had so far been spent on the project.

The next day in the House of Commons, MPs gave unanimous consent of a motion moved by Jack Murta (PC, Lisgar): "That this House reaffirm its commitment to oppose the construction of the Garrison Diversion Unit as originally authorized, and direct our ambassador in Washington to convey to the United States Government our dismay and disappointment that this project is still proceeding."

In answer to later questions in the House from Dan McKenzie (PC, Winnipeg-Assiniboine), External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen said that the stipulation in the resolution preventing the money's being used in ways affecting Canada had been the aim of the Canadian government, although the government would have been happier if there had been no reappropriation of funds.

### Acid Rain

Some of the funds for acid rain research slashed in December by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were restored in January after protests by researchers, some Congressmen and environmental groups. The 1983 financing for an on-going acid rain research project designed to measure the cost and effectiveness of pollution control on coal-burning generating plants had been cut from \$650,000 to \$150,000. An official at the Canadian Embassy saw the restoration of \$400,000 as an indication that US public perception of the problem had