

APPENDIX

CHICAGO WATER DIVERSION—EXCHANGE OF AIDE MEMOIRES

On a number of occasions in the past, the Canadian government has expressed its objections to proposals envisaging increased diversions of water from lake Michigan at Chicago. Once again, and at the invitation of the government of the United States through the United States embassy's aide memoire of February 9, 1959, the government of Canada is anxious to make known its views on legislative proposals now before congress such as Bill H.R.1, which are intended to authorize an increased diversion of water from the great lakes basin into the Illinois waterway.

While recognizing that the use of lake Michigan waters is a matter within the jurisdiction of the United States of America, it is the considered opinion of the Canadian government that any authorization for an additional diversion would be incompatible with the arrangements for the St. Lawrence seaway and power development, and with the Niagara treaty of 1950, and would be prejudicial to navigation and power development which these mutual arrangements were designed to improve and facilitate.

The point has been made repeatedly by Canada that every withdrawal of water from the basin means less depth available for shipping in harbours and in channels. Additional withdrawals would have adverse effects on the hydro electric generation potential on both sides of the border at Niagara Falls and in the international section of the St. Lawrence river, as well as in the province of Quebec, and would inflict hardship on communities and industries on both sides of the border.

The government of Canada therefore protests against the implementation of proposals contained in H.R.1.

Ottawa, February 20, 1959.

AIDE MEMOIRE

The Canadian government has on various occasions in the past furnished the Department of State with the Canadian views on proposed United States legislation aimed at increasing the diversion from lake Michigan into the Illinois waterway. The most recent comments of this nature were contained in an aide memoire received on January 6, 1958, from the Canadian embassy in Washington.

Once again this year, as in recent years, a considerable volume of legislation looking to increased diversion from lake Michigan at Chicago has been introduced in the 86th congress. Some of this legislation is similar to former legislation with regard to which Canadian views have previously been expressed. A number of other pending bills, however, such as H.R.1, a copy of which is enclosed, call for a one-year additional diversion period to be made as part of a three-year study of the effect on lake Michigan and on the Illinois waterway of such an increased diversion.

Congressional hearings on this legislation are scheduled to begin in the near future. During the course of these hearings it is anticipated that the Department of State will be asked to submit a statement as to the present Canadian views. It is hoped, therefore, that the Canadian government will be able to transmit to the embassy at an early date its views with respect to that proposed legislation which would authorize an additional 1,000 cubic feet of water per second to be diverted from lake Michigan into the Illinois waterway, for a period of one year as part of a three-year study.

Embassy of the United States of America,
Ottawa, February 9, 1959.
