

Garrison Diversion

procedure has not yet been tested in the field to determine the validity of the data used in this plan. Canada still believes that the United States must continue to fully respect the spirit of the migratory birds treaty they signed with Canada in 1916.

In addition to the three major concerns which I have just described, the Canadian Government has called the attention of the United States to other technical problems which we would like to have solved in the near future through the consultation process. These issues deal with the question of how to design and build the Lonetree Reservoir to prevent fish eggs, larvae and viruses to filter through the banks and the bottom of the reservoir and join the rivers flowing into Hudson Bay, the possibility that irrigating the lands along the McClusky Canal will result in the transfer of biotas between basins, the need to preserve the present sluice gates of the New Pockford Canal until the Lonetree Reservoir becomes completely operational, the design of the segments of the New Pockford Canal which cross tributaries of the Sheyenne River, the additional information required about the Warwick-McVile irrigation zone, and the fact that the Oakes Canal and the Taayer Reservoir are located very near the watershed of the Wild Rice River, which flows into the Red River.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by saying that the Government is determined to ensure that in any work of what is commonly called Phase I of the Garrison Project all possible precautions will be taken to eliminate the possible transfer of human organisms from one basin to the other and its effects on Manitoba lakes and rivers. We hope that the problems—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Hon. Member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Tousignant) on a point of order.

[English]

Mr. Tousignant: Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the House that the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie) at the beginning of his remarks made some allegations that the Government does not care. He is not even here to listen to the answer.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order please! That is not a point of order.

[English]

Mr. Lee Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some thoughts with Members of the House this afternoon and in doing so express the concern of many Manitobans about the Garrison Diversion a project which has been in the works for many years. We are particularly concerned in the Province of Manitoba about the recently announced first phase.

● (1630)

As all Hon. Members of the House know, the Government of the United States recently announced plans to proceed with the \$5.82 million Lonetree Reservoir. Unfortunately, that decision was made without sufficient safety precautions having

been taken. We in the Province of Manitoba are concerned about this development for a variety of reasons. First, we have been and continue to be concerned about the problem of the quality of water which comes into the Province of Manitoba, particularly in my constituency of Brandon-Souris, from the State of North Dakota within the Souris River system.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. I apologize to the Hon. Member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Clark), but according to the Standing Orders only one Member may be on his or her feet at the same time. I plead with Hon. Members to lower the tone of their conversations.

Mr. Clark (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, your intervention indicates that you understand this is a very serious problem in the Province of Manitoba. We appreciate your concern. As I was saying, we have been concerned for a long time about the quality of the water. Also we are very concerned that sufficient safety measures were not taken into consideration, and about the possibility of seepage and fishermen using the water system in North Dakota and quite innocently transferring foreign species into the Canadian water system. As well we are concerned about the fact that when the first phase was announced, it seemed to come as a surprise to the Government of Canada. As was suggested recently in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the Canadian Government might not have been surprised if it had taken every available opportunity to have observers on site.

Mr. McKenzie: The New Democratic Party was invited to send scientists and it declined to do so.

Mr. Clark (Brandon-Souris): I hear my hon. colleague. He is quite correct. Prior to entering the Chamber this afternoon, I heard the debate which was taking place. Differences of opinion were being expressed as to the roles of various Manitoba Governments in this case. It is important for all Hon. Members to understand that the concern about the Garrison is something which transcends Party differences. We may disagree on how best to implement the concerns, but it is very important to realize that this is a non-partisan matter about which all the people of Manitoba are very concerned. Therefore, we urge action by all concerned Governments. We believe that this is the time for energetic leadership by both Governments. They should take every available opportunity to ensure that they are as fully conversant with developments as they can possibly be.

Our concern is even greater as a result of recent revelations in the American press. It appears that falsified information was used by some Americans with respect to the environmental impact of the proposed development. Therefore I am very much in sympathy with the amendment introduced by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie). It is important that the House register its concern and do everything it possibly can to ensure that such falsified information has not been made available to Canada so that the sense of security of some Canadians is not based upon false premises.