

MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATIONS BY EACH OF

(a) CANADIAN ARCTIC GAS PIPELINE LIMITED FOR A  
RIGHT-OF-WAY THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS  
CROWN LANDS WITHIN THE YUKON TERRITORY AND  
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, and

(b) FOOTHILLS PIPE LINES LTD. FOR A RIGHT-OF-WAY  
THAT MIGHT BE GRANTED ACROSS CROWN LANDS  
WITHIN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF A PROPOSED MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE

and

IN THE MATTER OF THE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND ECONOMIC IMPACT REGIONALLY OF THE CONSTRUCTION,  
OPERATION AND SUBSEQUENT ABANDONMENT OF THE ABOVE  
PROPOSED PIPELINE

(Before the Honourable Mr. Justice Berger, Commissioner)

**AKLAVIK, N.W.T.,  
April 3, 1975.**

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

**Volume 2**

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APPEARANCES

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Mr. Darryl Carter	for Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Limited;
Mr. Alan Hollingsworth	for Foothills Pipelines Ltd.;
Mr. Glen W. Bell Mr. Gerry Sutton	for Northwest Territories, Indian Brotherhood and Metis Association of the Northwest Territories;
Mr. John U. Bayly	Canada and the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement.
Mr. Ron Veale	for Council for Yukon Indians.

INDEX OF WITNESSES

Page

Freddie GREENLAND	68
Lazarus SITTICHINLI	69
Lawrence NORBERT	72
Rosie Jane STEWART	77
Tom ELANIK	78
Billie STOOR	79, 114
Ruth FURLONG	81
Jack REYNOLDS	82
Jim SITTICHINLI	83, 110
Fred JOE	93
Danny GORDON (II)	97
Dora MALAGANA	104
Donald GREENLAND	107
Mrs. Sarah STEWART	117
George EDWARDS	119
Sam AREY	121
Mrs. Annie C. GORDON	122
Elijah OOKPIK	126
Wilf BEAN	131
Peter THRASHER	135
Abe OOKPIK	139
Andrew ATCHUK	145
Don MacWATT	147

1 AKLAVIK, N.W.T.,

2 April 3, 1975.

3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT.)

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,

5 ladies and gentlemen, I will call our gathering to  
6 order this afternoon and invite those of you who are  
7 seated on the sides near the back, if you wish, to  
8 bring your chairs towards the front, and there is some  
9 other chairs over here. You are certainly welcome to  
10 sit up here or over there, if you wish. It is quite all  
11 right with me.

12 Well, I think we are ready to  
13 go this afternoon, so I will just say that anyone who  
14 has not had an opportunity to speak may do so this  
15 afternoon, or this evening, or anyone who spoke  
16 yesterday, who wants to say something that he forgot to  
17 say yesterday, may do so this afternoon or this  
18 evening, so go right ahead.

19 FREDDIE GREENLAND sworn:

20 Mr. Justice Berger, at the  
21 Meti and non-status and Treaty Indians General Assembly  
22 held at Fort Good Hope last summer, we passed a  
23 resolution saying land claim before any development in  
24 the Northwest Territories to the Federal Government.  
25 The Federal Government ignored and by-passed the  
26 people's wishes. There are more exploration work going  
27 on by oil companies now. We, the Native people of the  
28 Northwest Territories, still stand by the resolution  
29 "Land claims before any development takes place."

30 The three proposed pipeline

1 routes that have been circulating now, whatever way, if  
2 ever approved will destroy our way of life, the living  
3 we make from hunting, fishing and trapping, in other  
4 words, destroy our land forever.

5 If the pipeline is ever  
6 approved to be built, our Native people, I am sure,  
7 will not have any jobs. If any, very few, will be maybe  
8 cutting willows. The white people from out south, the  
9 unions, will be building the pipeline, and I do not  
10 see any future for the Northern people from this  
11 development.

12 The pollution will pollute  
13 our water, killing the fish, whales, muskrat, beaver  
14 and all water inhabitants. These we will never bring  
15 back once this happens. To give you one example, take a  
16 look at the southern part of Canada, all is polluted,  
17 all the great lakes, rivers, etcetera. Too late to do  
18 anything about it. Let us not make the same mistake, we  
19 are the last frontier in Canada, and with the help of  
20 God, we want to keep it as it is. This is all I have  
21 to say at this time.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
23 Mr. Greenland.

24 LAZARUS SITTICHINLI resumed:  
25 (SUSIE HUSKY, Interpreter)

26 Yesterday, when I first spoke  
27 to you, I didn't really know what to say, but since  
28 then I have come up with a few ideas, and I would like  
29 to speak to you on a few things today. I know this land  
30 very well, even from way back when times were very

1 | hard, and when my parents were living. I know a lot  
2 | about this land. I also know about the people in Old  
3 | Crow, and all the people that work in that area. I  
4 | know about the people that used to live about Leclair  
5 | House and further south there. In those days he didn't  
6 | know anything about the Government, and everyone helped  
7 | one another. When anybody went out hunting, they always  
8 | gave the poor meat, and whatever we got we shared among  
9 | one another.

10 | Then I grew up, and it was  
11 | only after that that the R.C.M. Police came into this  
12 | country. The only reason they came into the country is  
13 | because our Minister sent for them from Herschel  
14 | Island. In those days there were a lot of whaling ships  
15 | at Herschel Island, and people from the whaling ships  
16 | were drinking whiskey and fighting amongst one another,  
17 | and that is the only reason they were sent for. Those  
18 | days and times were very hard, they were very hard,  
19 | even the police had no ways or means of travelling the  
20 | only way to travel to McPherson from Herschel Island  
21 | was by boat.

22 | Shortly afterwards I moved to  
23 | Aklavik. In those days there were only -- he has used a word  
24 | that means Delta Eskimo -- and there is not many of them  
25 | left today. Shortly afterwards there were Slavey coming from  
26 | down the river, and more Alaskan Eskimos coming from Alaska.  
27 | The Alaskan Eskimos arrived just recently, and in my time I  
28 | have seen five different races coming into this Aklavik area,  
29 | and that is why we have so many different languages amongst  
30 | ourselves.

1 | Now, I would like to speak on  
2 | the pipeline. I understand that the pipeline will be  
3 | built from Blow River through to the foothills and on  
4 | to Fort McPherson. I know that around the foothills we  
5 | have hunted and trapped all our lives, and this has  
6 | gone on for generations now. I heard about two days ago  
7 | they decided to change their plans and put the pipeline  
8 | in via Shallow Bay, and I would like to say that people  
9 | around in that area, they have been living off that  
10 | land in that area as well, and I really don't know what  
11 | they are saying.

12 | I would like to say that when  
13 | they first discovered oil in the Norman Wells area,  
14 | nobody said nothing, nobody knew what they were doing,  
15 | and they just wanted that land in that area. And the  
16 | same thing goes for Yellowknife. A few years later when  
17 | they found gold, nobody said nothing and watched them  
18 | and they destroyed the land in that area, and the  
19 | Indian people didn't say anything to them, and they did  
20 | what they wanted, and then later on they put in the  
21 | Yukon border, which we didn't really know anything  
22 | about as well, and they promised us we could hunt and  
23 | trap anywhere we wanted, that no white man would go in  
24 | that area, but we still don't really know what is going  
25 | on. I also heard then that the white men were working  
26 | in the Yukon area and on the border-line, even though  
27 | they were not allowed to go in that area.

28 | I know this country very  
29 | well, as far into the Yukon as one can go.

30 | Later on, when the war started,

1 | they started a highway via Blow River, and so the  
2 | people came over. At that time they told us they were  
3 | going to build some stations and they came over. I  
4 | guess while they were doing that, they were looking  
5 | over the land, and looking around, and then some white  
6 | people came into the country and they went towards  
7 | Kittigazuit and they said that they were building  
8 | stations, and I guess they were searching around the  
9 | coastal area, and now there is talk of a pipeline  
10 | being built. We, the older generation, disapprove very  
11 | strongly and are against the pipeline, for the simple  
12 | reason that it will destroy the future, destroy our  
13 | land, and the future of our children. They will get  
14 | nothing out of it. And that's all I have to say. This  
15 | is why I would like our land claim settled first. This  
16 | is all I have to say about the pipeline. Thank you  
17 | very much.

18 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
19 | sir.

20 | LAWRENCE NORBERT sworn:  
21 | My name is Lawrence Norbert,  
22 | I come from Arctic Red River. I am nervous at the  
23 | present moment. And I work for the Indian Brotherhood  
24 | and Metis Association. And I want t-o talk about the  
25 | pipeline and the land claims.

26 | I work for two years at CBC  
27 | at Inuvik as a V.T.R. operator, and I have also been an  
28 | instructor. I am a Grade 12 graduate, and I also refer  
29 | to myself as a hostel graduate, I spend about 12 years  
30 | in the hostel system, employed in the Territories. I



1 | have been in the hostels at Inuvik, Yellowknife, and  
2 | Fort Smith. It seems to me that ever since day one in  
3 | the hostel, I have been taught to write, taught to  
4 | think like a white person instead of an Indian. .1  
5 | remember my first day in the hostel, coming from Arctic  
6 | Red, I didn't know what was going on. I just remember  
7 | leaving one morning, my parents putting me on a plane,  
8 | and arriving at the hostel in Inuvik. There my clothes  
9 | were taken away from me, my hair was sort of shaved  
10 | off, a very short haircut, and I was told to take, a  
11 | shower, and at that time of night to go to sleep. I  
12 | didn't know what was going on. I was very small. I was  
13 | wondering why I was sent to a hostel, why I was not  
14 | staying home and having my education close to my  
15 | parents. I was very lonely, and I am pretty sure I  
16 | wasn't the only one. I was crying that night, and I  
17 | also heard other boys crying in the dormitory.

18 | I went through Grade 12 in those  
19 | years, taking sort of a programme like Social, Studies and  
20 | things like that. I didn't take anything about the history of  
21 | the Delta people or the Northwest Territories other than a  
22 | couple of paragraphs in the school textbooks. I never got to  
23 | know the culture of  
24 | my parents or their way of life. Throughout the summer  
25 | months, when I came home, it seems like every summer I  
26 | started to get to feel more alienated towards my parents I  
27 | didn't know them very well. It seemed like it was the other  
28 | way around too, they didn't know me. I was gone about ten  
29 | months of the year, for every two months I was home for the  
30 | summer, that was all I had too, two

1 months out of every year.

2 I remember when I was going down to  
3 Northern Alberta to the Technology, I was telling this to a  
4 couple of persons in my apartment there, and they couldn't  
5 believe that, they couldn't believe that I was taken away  
6 from my parents at such an early age, five or six years. They  
7 just couldn't understand why that was happening.

8 After I graduated from  
9 school, I worked around the CBC, and it seemed like  
10 every time I came home, I didn't know my parents, and  
11 as I travelled around the different communities, I  
12 didn't know the people, I couldn't speak or understand  
13 Loucheux, which is my mother's tongue, and sometimes  
14 the old people would call me an idiot, that is Loucheux  
15 for a white man.

16 It may seem funny to some  
17 people, but inside it hurts very deeply inside, when  
18 your own people start calling you what you are not.

19 Ever since I been on this job  
20 I started with experience becoming healthy once again.  
21 I have had a lot of tea, a lot of bannock, caribou  
22 meat, dry meat, dry fish, and in the past couple of  
23 months I started to feel my teeth starting to get  
24 strong, my body starting to get strong, and I have  
25 looked at all the food that I have been eating in the  
26 past year, mostly canned food and stuff like that, it  
27 isn't to the benefit of the native people, my people.

28 The old people are quite con-  
29 cerned about the younger generation. I am pretty sure  
30 a lot of young people, like my age, I guess maybe they

1 are quite lonely too, quite frustrated at the education  
2 system that is robbing them of their culture and their  
3 language.

4 I have been depressed a  
5 couple of times myself, and a person gets depressed  
6 when he has lost faith, and faith in his culture, when  
7 he doesn't even have a culture. Maybe his  
8 interpretation is, -- sometimes, when they do get  
9 depressed, they start drinking, and I have gone through  
10 experience like that too.

11 What I am saying, I am pretty  
12 sure the older people, that they are trying to say  
13 "Help us, help us regain our language and our culture  
14 and pride of being children of Indian and Inuit  
15 ancestry. I am pretty sure they have brought up this  
16 subject before, but it seems like I am a product of the  
17 white system myself. I have experienced the loneliness  
18 of being away from home, away from my parents, the  
19 alienation of persons like myself towards the people.  
20 Sometimes I get bitter against the educational system  
21 that is employed in the North for stealing the  
22 language the language of my people, and stealing my  
23 culture, and worst of all, stealing of my pride and joy  
24 of being an Indian, and to me that is sort of cultural  
25 genocide, and I am pretty sure there is very little  
26 disagreement on that fact.

27 I believe, if we have a land  
28 claim, if we do get a land claim settlement, this is  
29 the way we can sort of build up on our culture again,  
30 we can start building our own schools, train our own

1 | people to be doctors and nurses and teachers, law  
2 | enforcement personnel, politicians, and who knows, they  
3 | might even by the Prime Minister, those who want to be  
4 | doctors and nurses, for those who want it. But I would  
5 | still like to say for those who don't want it, that  
6 | there can still be a way that they can trap and hunt  
7 | and fish.

8 |   With the land claim, they can  
9 | give us a chance, the young people, to go out there and  
10 | experience the way of their fathers, and their  
11 | forefathers, with the thoughts and the freedom and the  
12 | joy of being close to the earth and living on the land.

13 |   Those are all dreams, but I  
14 | do recall Robert Tennyson said, "I dream dreams, I  
15 | never worry", why not?

16 |   Another thing that can be  
17 | brought out is things like the people in the North have  
18 | been depressed quite a long time. All we can tell  
19 | the Government that they have been depressed,  
20 | particularly in the educational field. A crucial factor  
21 | in the struggle, or assimilation of language, on the  
22 | part of the school is to receive instruction in  
23 | minority groups in the Native tongue. As we all know,  
24 | education is the key to political success and political  
25 | awareness. We believe that with the land claim, if we  
26 | do get it, we believe that the people in the North can  
27 | become more politically aware.

28 |   If the pipeline does come  
29 | through, and I hope it doesn't, we can see that more  
30 | people will be coming in, therefore the native people

1 | in the North will lose their political control that  
2 | they have at the moment, and once that happens, the  
3 | more white people coming in, the more white education  
4 | they want for their children, and therefore their vote  
5 | will outnumber the votes of the native people and the  
6 | concerns of the native people.

7 |                               So, I hope, Mr. Berger, that  
8 | something like this can be written up in your final  
9 | report and we do have a land claim settlement.

10 |                              THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
11 | Mr. Norbert. Later on, if there is anything you have  
12 | forgotten to say that you still want ,to say, you may  
13 | have a chance to speak again.

14 |                              (WITNESS ASIDE)

15 |                              ROSIE JANE STEWART, sworn:  
16 | I would like to speak to you.

17 |                              THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I  
18 | want to hear from you, go ahead, please.

19 |                              A Long ago we used to live  
20 | good, and we never had heard anything about the  
21 | pipeline. Now we don't want the pipeline, it ruins the  
22 | Delta and the creeks and rivers, not only that, and the  
23 | animals.

24 |                              The kids in school have their  
25 | -- the kids are in school, they stay there until May,  
26 | they don't trap after they are out. They go out with  
27 | their parents in June, that is the only time they are  
28 | with their parents.

29 |                              We really like our country.  
30 | Maybe we can't -- maybe we can't never drink the water

1 | if they make the pollution. I don't know much about it.  
2 | I don't know much about that pollution but -that's all  
3 | I have to say.

4 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
5 | very much.

6 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

7 | TOM ELANIK, sworn:

8 | (PETER THRASHER, Interpreter)

9 | Tom Elanik will speak now. We  
10 | have lived in this land for a long time. When we  
11 | were young, there was hardly any caribou in this land,  
12 | but since we have been children, grown up, there seems  
13 | to be more caribou coming to this area. In my opinion  
14 | if they put the pipeline behind Aklavik in the  
15 | foothills, the people will suffer from no caribou. The  
16 | Indian people and the Eskimo people in this land have  
17 | depended on the muskrat a great deal for food because  
18 | we don't have the money to buy too much other than the  
19 | muskrat.

20 | In my opinion, if they build  
21 | the pipeline behind this area, all the people in  
22 | Aklavik will be suffering from hunger. In my opinion I  
23 | think if they put the pipeline through this area, the  
24 | caribou will not be around anymore. I have been  
25 | thinking about it for a long time, and. I think that it  
26 | is well known now, as we are aware, when they set off  
27 | explosives in this area, the fish and the muskrat  
28 | suffer and die. I have known this for some time that  
29 | explosions in the water have done damage to the fishes  
30 | and the muskrat, and since they have been exploring

1 | this area, we have not seen as many muskrats as it used  
2 | to be before, and fishes too.

3 |   For many years I have lived  
4 | in this country and I have seen the muskrat cycle come  
5 | up, and everyone has seen it, all the trappers that  
6 | live in this country, and I have also seen them  
7 | decrease, but not to the point that they are today. I  
8 | blame the explosions out, in the lakes. And they do  
9 | damage to the land. And I think it is because of  
10 | this that they have not increased since for a long  
11 | time.

12 |   Thank you very much. This is  
13 | the last I speak.

14 |   THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
15 | very much, sir.

16 |   (WITNESS ASIDE)

17 |   BILLIE STOOR sworn:

18 |   Mr. Berger, my name is Billie  
19 | Stoor and I am Secretary-Treasurer for the hamlet. My  
20 | topic will be about a land use application we received  
21 | today from a company wanting to take gravel out of  
22 | Willow River.

23 |   THE COMMISSIONER: I am sorry,  
24 | take your time, I didn't quite hear you.

25 |   A     We received a land use  
26 | application from Northwest Lands and Forests, and they  
27 | would like, the Company would like to take gravel out  
28 | of the Willow River area, and they asked for Council's  
29 | comments, by April 2nd, that was yesterday, and we only  
30 | received the application today.

1                   The applications, when they  
2 are made, go to Fort Smith, and from the time they  
3 leave Fort Smith, they go to Inuvik, and then they are  
4 forwarded to us for comments, if we have any, and it is  
5 supposed to be done in three weeks, but a lot of times  
6 they are late. And their application was received  
7 today, and they wanted our comments by yesterday, so  
8 they could start today. In the past we have always had  
9 time for Council, and that's all I have to say,

10                   THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
11 very much. I wonder if you could let me see that and I  
12 will give it to the Secretary of the Inquiry and she  
13 can photostat it and then we will let you have it back.  
14 I am sure the Council wants it for its own records. Is  
15 that all right?

16                   A       Yes,

17                   THE COMMISSIONER: I wonder  
18 if you would mind showing me  
19 on the map where Willow River is, can we find it on  
20 one of those maps? Thank you very much.

21                   That will be photostated and  
22 the photostat marked as an exhibit.

23 (APPLICATION TO REMOVE GRAVEL FROM WILLOW RIVER MARKED  
24 EXHIBIT C-1)                   (WITNESS ASIDE)

25                   THE COMMISSIONER: I think we  
26 will take a short break now for a cup of coffee, or a  
27 cup of tea, and then start again in a few minutes.

28 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 3:15 P.M.)

29 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 3:50 P.M.)

30                   THE CHAIRMAN: I will call our



1 meeting to order again, ladies and gentlemen, and there  
2 are some chairs up here, if anybody wants to move over  
3 here on this side, they will feel free to take any  
4 chair in the place.

5 VOICE: Mr. Berger, here is a  
6 written statement by Mrs. Ruth Furlong. She is ner-  
7 vous and she can't read it, and she asked me to read  
8 it, and with your permission, I will proceed.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Go right  
10 ahead -- this is your written statement, is it, Mrs.  
11 Furlong? Fine, thank you. Go ahead and read it.

12 VOICE: I am really against  
13 the pipeline and I would not like to see it. I am not  
14 saying this for myself but for my own children and my  
15 grandchildren. I hope you do something for us to stop  
16 the pipeline being put through. What will the people of  
17 the North get out of it? Nothing. I ask you once again  
18 to help us, the people who own the land. Signed "Mrs.  
19 Ruth Furlong".

20 (STATEMENT OF MRS. RUTH FURLONG MARKED EXHIBIT C-2.)

21 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

22 JACK REYNOLDS, sworn:

23 Mr. Berger, my name is Jack  
24 Reynolds. I am from Arctic Red River. I have been in  
25 school, 1930, that was just about eight years I go to  
26 school, and then I got out and started with my dad as  
27 a trapper, trapping and hunting, from the time I was  
28 nine years old I started. Then a little later on,  
29 then I go around on my own, and then after work. When  
30 I was old enough, I was all alone doing my trapping and

1 | my hunting, and I enjoy it too, I enjoy it by myself  
2 | all alone sometimes. From Arctic Red River we moved  
3 | down to Aklavik in 1940 and we stayed around the Delta  
4 | from there, where I do a little trapping, and I have  
5 | been all around here anyway. I know this to be a good  
6 | trapping country, and pretty good fishing along the  
7 | river, but now, it is now like the old people say,  
8 | different altogether, as some younger people say that  
9 | too, that soon -- and I worked for the Imperial four  
10 | years, started in 1970, and that was five miles east  
11 | of Tuck at the time I was working there as cab  
12 | attendant.

13 | THE COMMISSIONER: Did you say  
14 | cab attendant?

15 | A Yes, and they struck oil  
16 | when I was working there. Everybody was happy and  
17 | yelling around, oil strike and all that, and they told  
18 | me it is going to be the biggest job coming up.  
19 | Everybody is going to have a job. They even told me  
20 | that it is going to be a city just like Edmonton,  
21 | that's right. They told me that, but now what I hear is  
22 | now that oil is going to go through the pipelines  
23 | running down to the United States.

24 | Well, now, for what I say,  
25 | they are just telling us lies, that's all. Now  
26 | therefore what they say about the pipeline, that  
27 | people, younger people and all that is going to get a  
28 | job, and all this and that, a lot of people don't  
29 | believe it now, a lot of them, and I don't believe it  
30 | either. It

1 is going to ruin our trapping grounds, hunting grounds,  
2 and that is going to be for I don't know how long.

3 We think of our families and  
4 the next generation that is coming up. We would like to  
5 have this ground, just this land, just the way it is.  
6 And a lot of people I know thinks like that too.

7 We don't know for the future  
8 what is coming. If there is no jobs and no way of  
9 people making a living, I am pretty sure we will be  
10 going back to fishing and hunting and trapping, and  
11 that is our life, for my part anyway.

12 Like this new generation,  
13 well they go to school and all that, stuff like that, I  
14 don't see many of them having a job, or a steady job,  
15 or things like that at all, so therefore we better  
16 think about the future about this land that we are  
17 talking about. I think that most of the people are  
18 telling the truth, and I believe whatever they say too.

19 That is all I have got to  
20 say.

21 (WITNESS ASIDE)

22 MR. SITTICHINLI sworn:

23 THE COMMISSIONER: Go right  
24 ahead.

25 A Mr. Commissioner, ladies  
26 and gentlemen, I am very glad to have this opportunity  
27 to have a few words here in my hometown. I don't  
28 think I should introduce myself because I am in my home  
29 town now. I have lived here for 30 years, and in  
30 that way I don't think I should introduce myself, but

1 I see a lot of new faces, what should I do.

2 Well, there is my brother  
3 Lazarus, he speaks quite often. He is 84 years old now,  
4 with me I am 67 years younger.

5 Go ahead, you smile, Mr.  
6 Commissioner, because the more you smile, I don't get  
7 nervous.

8 Well, we were twelve in the  
9 family, and he is the third oldest. I am the youngest,  
10 I am the spoilt one.

11 I remember the time I was  
12 born, my mother and dad, they wanted me to be a good  
13 boy, so they picked out a name out of the good book,  
14 Jacob, but I didn't turn out so good, so they called  
15 me Jim. My dad's name was Edward, and since I have a  
16 Loucheux name, Sittichinli, and it sounded very pretty,  
17 so it's that way I got a wife today, 41 years ago, so  
18 that is beginning to wear off for the last 10 years, so  
19 I am known better as Jim Edwards today.

20 I have told you how old I am,  
21 67 years young, and I have been living in this, my  
22 country, for all my years, and all I want is about 1,5  
23 minutes here with you this afternoon, and I think my  
24 boss here will check my time for me, he always does.

25 I have been with the Inquiry  
26 ever since you have come to Yellowknife, and I have  
27 tried to understand all what has been said, but for an  
28 old guy like me, it is very very hard to follow, but  
29 100% of what I understand, and what they say, because I  
30 am one of the translators in Yellowknife, and all my

1 people hear what I say, and especially in my hometown  
2 here, I have to be really careful of what I would say  
3 to you at this time.

4 Now, I am not like the  
5 doctors on this pipeline, or the engineers, or the  
6 geologists, who have worked on this pipeline for the  
7 last, I understand ever since 1969. We don't know too  
8 much about it all this time until we see there is a  
9 pipeline, proposed pipeline on the map. Only then did  
10 we understand, and by that time they've got in with the  
11 pipeline project, so therefore most of my older people  
12 think the pipeline is the Berger Pipeline, but we are  
13 beginning to understand it better now. It is the Arctic  
14 Gas Pipeline.

15 Now, another thing too, as I  
16 would say I have been in the Inquiry ever since it  
17 started until now. I am beginning to understand a  
18 little bit of it, because as an old-timer, this project  
19 of this sort never happened in our part of Canada all  
20 our lives.

21 I don't know how many of our  
22 people gathered here at this time is in the Government,  
23 but I don't like to say too much against the  
24 Government, because I signed treaty with them in 1920,  
25 that is 55 years ago. They have been giving me \$5.00 a  
26 year for 365 days, and I have been living very very  
27 happy on that \$5.00 a year.

28 Now, all these 55 years, what  
29 I got from the Government was \$275.00, I wonder what  
30 it would amount to the people here now, but still I

1 | was happy on that.

2 |                               Now, here on the pipeline  
3 | project, we hear of a million dollars, we hear of a  
4 | million dollars being spent, and still coming up.

5 |                               Well, this will help a lot of  
6 | people in the North because we know what \$5.00 means a  
7 | year, but with a million dollars, we think it will mean  
8 | more. So in that way, especially with our young people,  
9 | it might help them, to give up what would be good for  
10 | the generation, the young people coming.

11 |                              Already, since I come to  
12 | Aklavik here, a few days now, after the Inquiry has  
13 | been held in Yellowknife, I ran into some of the  
14 | younger people, and they said, "What is this Inquiry  
15 | about? The pipeline is coming through anyway. What is  
16 | this Inquiry going to do anyway?"

17 |                              Well, I am just beginning to  
18 | wonder myself, because of what I hear, what is it going  
19 | to do with us.

20 |                              Now, it will bring a lot of  
21 | work, I understand, if the pipeline will ever come  
22 | through. Well, I guess it is not the Berger Pipeline,  
23 | it's Arctic Gas'. It will bring a lot of money, and I  
24 | hear from some business people that they are in favour  
25 | with the pipeline, this is because of the money that is  
26 | involved in it.

27 |                              Well, I think it will take a  
28 | long time before this will come through, because it  
29 | isn't too long ago when we started the Inquiry. Since  
30 | then I have seen on the map of the changes that have

1 | been put on the map. Now, I understand from the  
2 | Inquiry in Yellowknife that this has been going on for  
3 | five years now to make this one line. Since then  
4 | there have been many changes made, and I believe it  
5 | will take another five years, but in the meantime I  
6 | think there will be lots of changes made. I would like  
7 | my people to understand that, since they tell me this  
8 | part.

9 | Now, the people have been  
10 | talking and I have been listening, and there is few -  
11 | there are older people especially that are not in  
12 | favour with this pipeline. They disagree with it  
13 | because it is going to damage the land that they have  
14 | been living on for many many years.

15 | Now, at the time of the  
16 | treaty, as I mentioned before, 55 years ago, it was  
17 | mostly with the Government, they said "As long as the  
18 | river runs, as long as the sun goes up and down, and as  
19 | long as you see that black mountain up there, well, you  
20 | are entitled to your land."

21 | The river is still running.  
22 | The sun still goes up and down, and the black mountain  
23 | is still up there, but today it seems that the way our  
24 | people understand, the Government is giving up our  
25 | land. It is giving to the Seismic people and the other  
26 | people coming up here, selling us our land, The  
27 | Government is not keeping its word, at least as some of  
28 | us see it.

29 | Now, there has been lots of  
30 | damage done already to this part of the northland, and





1 | to.

2 |                   A     Well, you know, the  
3 | important month of the year for our northern country,  
4 | they left out July, they didn't have July in, they  
5 | didn't have November and December in.

6 |                   THE COMMISSIONER: I remember  
7 | this.

8 |                   A     You remember it now,  
9 | thank you very much, Mr. Commissioner.

10 |                   So this is what puzzled me,  
11 | and I understand that the lawyers, who are supposed to  
12 | help us on this programme, may want to call me at the  
13 | Inquiry. And, Mr. Commissioner, I would like to see the  
14 | door wide open, because the way they ask questions, I  
15 | would rather run out, and if the door was shut, I  
16 | couldn't get out. Anyway, that is what puzzles me. I  
17 | understand the way the engineer said it will be mostly  
18 | a winter project on the laying of the pipeline, and  
19 | that digging of the pipeline, and they are going to use  
20 | blasting in many places. Now, we know what the blasting  
21 | does from the time that they have been doing it for  
22 | many years in our land here. I have been down to the  
23 | coast for eight years now, and I have travelled on the  
24 | blasting land many times. The ptarmigan seems to like  
25 | to feed on the blasting land, so I go out hunting  
26 | ptarmigan, and I see where they blast, it forms a  
27 | little lake every place, this is because of the  
28 | permafrost. They take the whole dirt off and it forms a  
29 | little lake. We all know if it is a winter project, it  
30 | is not a very good project.

1 Now, the pipeline is not  
2 going to go on the high spots, is the way I understand.  
3 There will be a downhill someplace, and wherever there  
4 is a downhill, and if they ever run the pipeline along  
5 the downhill places, there is a lot of water will get  
6 to that pipeline. I see on their project, or on the  
7 diagram, they got a nice hole dug down for the pipeline  
8 and there is a nice mound on top of it, which will keep  
9 the dirt up.

10 Now, in this part of this  
11 northland here, many times we get a storm, sometimes  
12 the storm will last for ten days to two weeks, and it  
13 is a snowstorm and it drifts. Now, if they have a  
14 ditch dug up for maybe 50 or 100 feet, that will just  
15 fill in. When they dig that out, they are going to  
16 mix snow with what dirt they have got up, and when  
17 they put that back in, by that time the dirt will be  
18 all frozen and it is hard for that dirt to pack down,  
19 and it won't pack down. Now, later on, that dirt will  
20 pack down.

21 I know, Mr. Commissioner, I  
22 have been working here many years in Aklavik for the  
23 Mission. I help to bury many people, and especially in  
24 the winter, and the next year that must be sunk, it is  
25 a way down.

26 No matter how you cover it  
27 up, this will happen, and the same thing with the  
28 pipeline. Now, the reason I did mention the  
29 engineers and doctors left the three important months  
30 of the year. The month of July we have the sun up for

1 B.C. twenty-four hours a day. There is no end to it.  
2 In that time lots of thaw come, especially if it does  
3 rain, lots of thaw come, only then it soaks in.  
4 Sometimes it freezes during the winter in this  
5 northland here, sometimes the spring storms, lots of  
6 rain, and it gets the ground wet, and then frost  
7 comes. The frost, the ground freezes two inches from  
8 the top, sometimes four inches, and I know this as an  
9 old  
10 trapper, many times I set traps, 1st of November, I  
11 don't have to dig down too far because on the coast-  
12 line we don't use top cover, we dig our traps in the  
13 ground, and lots of times I cut down four inches,  
14 there is the frost. I put my traps in and cover, it  
15 up and that is the way it is. And that frozen two  
16 inches, the heat stays down and starts working down,  
17 and again in the northland, we use pits, ice house we  
18 call it down here for our refrigerator. We don't have  
19 electric refrigerator, we use our ground for  
20 refrigerator. We put all our meat, all our fish down in  
21 the earth in the summer. It freezes one night, very  
22 cold in the summer, but once the ground freezes in  
23 November and December, the ground holds the heat and  
24 it goes clown. If you leave your meat down there in  
25 December, you got all your meat or fish is bad, all  
26 thawed out. You have to heave it out by that time, so I  
27 see all this.

28 Now, with this pipeline down  
29 here in the northland, when fall time comes, the  
30 ground freezes, and then the heat still stays down

1 there, and if it happened to be a wet fall, with lots  
2 of rain, sometimes it does with lots of rain, the water  
3 will sit into this where they got the hole dug, the  
4 hole in the motherland, the motherland is harder than  
5 the fill, so therefore it is going, the water is going  
6 to sift into that hole and start freezing. I see the  
7 diagram up in Yellowknife, and that is what happens,  
8 and I hope my good lawyers, if they are listening in,  
9 will bring that up sometime.

10 Now, if you have listened for  
11 the last few days, Mr. Commissioner, about these older  
12 people especially, of what this pipeline will mean to  
13 their country, they all say that it would damage their  
14 land, not for the old people now, but for our younger  
15 generations. I think that goes, I am not young any  
16 more, so after listening to their evidence, I hope it  
17 will mean something to your visit at this time.

18 Now, I understand that for  
19 five years now this pipeline has been drawn. Since I  
20 have been in the Inquiry, I have seen there has been  
21 lots of changes made. I think it will take another  
22 five years. So this is what I have to say at this  
23 time because of my hometown here in Aklavik, so thank  
24 you very much, Mr. Commissioner. I hope I didn't take  
25 too much of your time. I hope this will help you in  
26 your Inquiry.

27 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
28 very much. I wouldn't worry about any of those lawyers  
29 wanting to cross-examine you.

30 (WITNESS ASIDE)

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FRED JOE sworn:

EXAMINED BY MR. BAYLY:

Q Fred, would you tell Judge Berger your name and a little bit about yourself and where you live, and what you do for a living?

A My name is Fred Joe, I live here in Aklavik, sometimes I go to work in the summertime on the Dempster Highway.

Q Can you tell us a little bit about the Dempster Highway, what sort of work you are doing on it, when you were working there last summer?

A I was working putting in a road from Arctic Red River down to Inuvik.

Q And when you went down this road, can you tell us whether you remember anything happened that you wanted to tell Judge Berger about?

A Yes, I wanted to tell Judge Berger about the Rengleng River.

THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me, I missed that, Mr. Bayly.

MR. BAYLY: Would you repeat that?

A I wanted to tell Judge Berger about putting the culverts in the Rengleng River. The culverts they put in, they collapsed. When we got there, they were filling it up, quite a bit more ground was to go around it.

1 Q You have just shown the  
2 Judge a picture of the culvert with gravel on top, is  
3 that a picture you took, or somebody took?

4 A I took them myself. Here  
5 is another one here just before the collapse. You can  
6 have this one too. They put some gravel on it, and  
7 here is what happened, the culvert collapsed. That was  
8 in the month of September. This one here, I have got  
9 another one here, they call them a fish culvert with  
10 water running up the hill, and the culvert collapsed.

11 Q You say these were  
12 culverts at a river crossing, and could you tell the  
13 Judge the name of that river?

14 A The river was called  
15 Rengleng River, and those culverts from somewhere,  
16 Edmonton, I guess they were, and the engineer was  
17 supposed to be -- and the gravel, to work with it, and  
18 that's what happened.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Whereabouts  
20 on the highway was this crossing again, and what was  
21 the name of the river?

22 A Rengleng River.

23 MR. BAYLY: Mr. Joe is  
24 prepared to show you on the map.

25 THE COMMISSIONER: Would you  
26 do that?

27 MR. BAYLY: Q: Fred, could  
28 you tell the Judge if the engineer said anything about  
29 the culvert when they were putting it in that you  
30 remember?

1 A Yes, he said they can't  
2 go down or anything,

3 THE COMMISSIONER: He said  
4 what?

5 A He said they've got them  
6 so they can't go down, and then they started putting  
7 gravel on it, and they got down outside the culvert,

8 Q Was there more than one  
9 engineer, or is this another  
10 man, is this a special engineer from outside?

11 A There were about six of  
12 them, I don't know their names, one of the engineers  
13 who was working on it, he was one of the engineers too,

14 Q Fred, how big were these  
15 culverts you are talking about?

16 A The big ones, they were,  
17 I think, 28 x 38, the big ones, and I think the smaller  
18 ones was 16 feet.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Do you mind  
20 if we keep these photographs?

21 A Yes, you can keep them  
22 and then you can get them copied and send the pictures  
23 back,

24 THE COMMISSIONER: We will do  
25 our best,

26 A That's the only one I  
27 got.

28 THE COMMISSIONER: I will tell  
29 you what, we will have them marked as an exhibit and do  
30 the best we can to send copies back to you.

1 A That is fine.

2 MR. BAYLY: Q Fred, you say  
3 you were working on the highway for several summers.  
4 Did you notice any animals around the highway?

5 A Yes, there was moose I  
6 seen on the highway, and they wouldn't cross the  
7 highway, on the ridge, and before that they went  
8 across. They just go to the road and then they turn  
9 back, on both sides of the road. The same with the  
10 caribou, I seen the caribou there too.

11 Q You are saying that they  
12 would cross the cut line but wouldn't cross the road  
13 after it was built up. Did you see the animals at that  
14 time or did you just see their tracks sometimes?

15 A Well, I seen some  
16 animals sometimes, and quite a few times I seen their  
17 tracks, because they had been on the highway every day.

18 Q Now, Fred, you live in  
19 Aklavik, and can you tell us something about your  
20 family and what you do to feed them?

21 A Well, the only. time I  
22 work is in the summertime, summer job for these  
23 engineers, for this outfit. In the wintertime I draw  
24 Unemployment Insurance and I hunt, and sometimes I get  
25 help from the Government, we get our public drawing. I  
26 didn't make any hunt at all this winter.

27 Q Could you tell the  
28 Judge, Fred, about any experiences you have had with  
29 Seismic lines?

30 A Well, I have e seen



1 Seismic lines around the Delta here, out in the bush  
2 where I hunt, and the cut line cut right through  
3 outside of my door where we live, I don't know --

4 Q Did anyone speak to you  
5 before they put the cut line outside your door?

6 A No, I didn't like it,  
7 but all I seen was that cut line.

8 Q Fred, you say you have  
9 ten children of your own. Do those children go to  
10 school and could you tell us something about that?

11 A Yes, they are going to  
12 school here in Aklavik, and I got two outside in the  
13 high school, and the other boy is working at Inuvik  
14 too. He had graduation last year and I got another  
15 boy, he is in the R.C.M.P.

16 Q Can you tell us anything  
17 about the way your children feel about going away to  
18 school in Inuvik and staying in the hostels there?

19 A They get homesick all  
20 right, but I got one girl drop out of school. She  
21 doesn't get along with the supervisor. She is in her  
22 Grade 12 and drop off and then go home. She stay  
23 home.

24 That's all I got to say.

25 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
26 very much, sir,

27 (WITNESS ASIDE)

28 DANNY GORDON sworn:

29 Mr. Commissioner, I would  
30 like to voice some of my opinions regarding the

1 pipeline route, the pipeline, and the caribou migrating  
2 pattern, and perhaps the seals in the sea, and fur  
3 bearing animals.

4 My name is Danny Gordon and  
5 people in Aklavik know me as Danny II, because there  
6 are two Danny Gordons in town. I was born in Alaska and  
7 we came to Aklavik in the year 1947. We have lived  
8 here ever since. I have a family, my wife is from  
9 Aklavik, and my family raised here in Aklavik.

10 I believe there are still  
11 people living in the Delta that aren't too familiar  
12 with the pipeline route, even where it is coming from,  
13 and some of them don't even know the type of gas that  
14 will be coming through, if it comes through. When we  
15 first heard about the pipeline coming through the  
16 mountains, there were people coming to me and told me  
17 that the pipeline should come through, that they would  
18 put some valves on the pipeline so that the people can  
19 go there with their Skidoos and fill up. Then I heard  
20 before that this gas was going to be natural gas,  
21 which is air, and they would not be able to use it.  
22 I believe today that there are some people that don't  
23 understand these matters. They figure that this type  
24 of gas that is coming from Alaska is the type of gas  
25 they buy in town. I also believe there are people in  
26 Aklavik, in the Delta, that don't understand really  
27 where the pipeline is coming from. This pipeline is  
28 coming from, I believe, Prudhoe Bay where the gas and  
29 oil is found, and it is coming in the Flats down the  
30 coast from Alaska, the Yukon, and finally through the

1 Northwest Territories. D. Gordon

2 To me, my main concern about  
3 the pipeline is the effect it might have on the  
4 migrating caribou through this pipeline route, and I  
5 believe that some of us are conscious of this and some  
6 of us aren't.

7 I was born on Barter Island,  
8 we came to Aklavik by dog team. I am quite familiar  
9 with that country up at Barter Island, and up there  
10 farther west I don't know that much about. I have been  
11 back in that country quite a few times, taking my  
12 holidays, especially during the summer, and I believe  
13 it is one of the best countries that a person can take  
14 and live and enjoy the freedom, the good things that he  
15 has here for people of this country, and I believe that  
16 the caribou that migrate from Alaska, they come from  
17 Alaska, they migrate through this route that this  
18 pipeline will be laid on. As we can see on the map, it  
19 isn't too far inland, because it is a flat country from  
20 Alaska all the way to Fort McPherson. I believe this is  
21 probably the reason why the oil companies are  
22 considering using this route, because it is easy and it  
23 is flat. The only thing that they really have to worry  
24 about is crossing the creeks and the rivers, but my  
25 main concern is probably the Natives and people in the  
26 Delta, maybe perhaps in the Yukon Territory, that  
27 these caribou, they migrate through this route, and  
28 it is also their spawning ground, and if this pipeline  
29 is to be built, and if it is to come through this way,  
30 I believe it will have a great effect on the caribou.

1 I do a lot of hunting, and I  
2 love hunting, and it is part of my life. Whenever I  
3 have a chance to go out and hunt caribou, moose, and I  
4 don't do that much fishing, but I like fishing when I  
5 can. When I think maybe three to four years, especially  
6 in the summer, when we hunt down below, around Shingle  
7 Point, Blow River, Whitefish Station, Kiokol Lake,  
8 Coal Mine Lake, and further up, Fish River,  
9 Ooyaradjuk, that's our hunting grounds during the  
10 summer, which we use boats to get down there with.

11 When I hunt, I usually observe, I  
12 notice the change in habits of the things that are around me,  
13 the caribou, the fish. The last four years there have been a  
14 lot of activity in that country around Blow River and the  
15 flats down below where we hunt in the summer. Thinking back  
16 some four years, there weren't as many aeroplane and  
17 helicopters down in that area, and the caribou, they come  
18 down through the flats, and people used to get them without  
19 having to walk far back inland. You go down there right  
20 after breakup during the summer when the migration is there,  
21 they come down to the flats, and people shoot them, and they  
22 don't have to pack the meat, it is there and it is close.  
23 But talking to different people and noticing it myself, the  
24 last three to four years there has been a lot of activity,  
25 and the caribou still migrate through there, and camping on  
26 weekends, you see the caribou up in the hills, they want to  
27 come down, but the planes going by always chase them back  
28 inland, and for the last couple of years there has been too  
29 many people from Aklavik who have taken caribou like they  
30 used to right off the river, and this is due to the

1 activity, planes going back and forth, the Dew Line, and  
2 helicopters, and oil activities. Just a little thing can  
3 hold the caribou back from coming clown to the flats. I am  
4 just wondering what more it will be when they begin to build  
5 this pipeline right through that area, when the caribou are  
6 migrating.

7 Also, on this route from  
8 Alaska, they have to cross the creeks and also the  
9 rivers along this route, and in this route there are  
10 fish that spawn yearly from the coast, up inland, to  
11 winter in the mountains. I wonder if, when they went  
12 through these creeks, these rivers, if there should be  
13 oil spill damage, or a leak of gas into that creek  
14 while the fish are migrating. No doubt if this  
15 would happen, there would be some impact on these fish,  
16 and these fish that are down the coast, that spawn up  
17 these creeks, they come to spawn up Fish River and Rat  
18 River, and people do go down below to Fish River to  
19 fish, the Arctic Char are spawning, and they spawn up  
20 through Fish River to Fish Hole, which we go to during  
21 the winter with Skidoos, and these oil companies, if  
22 the route is to be taken through this land, I believe  
23 will damage, and I believe it will hurt the fish as  
24 well as the caribou. Also they migrate up the Peel  
25 River, and people in Aklavik, they catch the Arctic  
26 Char right off the river out here, and the same fish  
27 that spawn up these creeks down below, Firth River,  
28 Babiche River, are the same fish that come to the  
29 Delta, and they also have, in Big Eddy, they call it  
30 the Black Mountain, up the river from here, which









1 your camp is?

2 A Down by, they call that  
3 place Lena Creek, it was just off this that we saw this  
4 slick.

5 Q Tell us about some of  
6 the creeks you told us near the Seismic line and what  
7 happened to them?

8 A One of the ones I  
9 observed, some of the creeks were clogged with all the  
10 dirt that was pushed in there with the bulldozer, then  
11 when the water come, it didn't fill up those lakes, and  
12 this is the only way that the muskrats can get out of  
13 their hibernation, when the lakes get filled with  
14 water, and sometimes when these lakes are plugged or  
15 trapping the passage , the muskrat, they don't get  
16 out, so I didn't see any muskrat then.

17 Q Do you have anything  
18 else you want to say?

19 A One last thing I want to  
20 say is that when they are talking about this  
21 development of the pipeline, I still wonder how much  
22 benefit we will get from it for those of us who don't  
23 know much about it, don't know what it is all about,  
24 and furthermore, what will our grandchildren and great  
25 grandchildren depend on n when all the things that will  
26 go when they take the gas out, it is empty, and what  
27 will we do then, we have got to have some way to live  
28 for our generations. Thank you.

29 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
30 very much.

1 (WITNESS ASIDE)  
2 THE COMMISSIONER: I have been  
3 advised that a man who can't come to the hearing today  
4 wants to speak to me at his home. His name is Donald  
5 Greenland, and I understand he is ill. I am willing to  
6 visit him in his home. If that is to be done, I will  
7 take Susie Husky with me as Interpreter, and the  
8 Official Reporter, Mr. Bemister, and the Secretary of  
9 the Inquiry, and maybe if the Press wants to choose one  
10 among them to accompany us, we will go to Mr.  
11 Greenland's house to see how big it is, and whether we  
12 can all get in. This is a Public Inquiry, so if I do go  
13 to Mr. Greenland's house, and I think I ought to, I  
14 have to take the Official Reporter with me so that  
15 everything Mr. Greenland says will be on the record,  
16 just as everything that everyone says at Yellowknife at  
17 the Formal Hearings, and at this Hearing here at  
18 Aklavik, in this Community Hearing, is on the record,  
19 and that is why, if I am going to go there, I have to  
20 take some of these people along with me, so I hope Mr.  
21 Greenland knows what he is in for.

22 At any rate, I think that I  
23 will go along to Mr. Greenland's house now. We might  
24 adjourn until 8:00 o'clock this evening, if that is all  
25 right, and we will hear anyone else who wishes to speak  
26 at 8:00 o'clock this evening here in the school,  
27 Mr. Carter, I think I should  
28 offer you the opportunity of coming along to Mr.  
29 Greenland's house too, and because you are here  
30 representing Arctic Gas, I think we will have to rely

1 on you to protect the interest of Foothills,

2 MR. CARTER: Thank you very  
3 much, Mr. Commissioner.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: So I will  
5 get my little expedition together now, and we will go  
6 along with Susie Husky to Mr. Greenland's place, and if  
7 it looks like there won't be room for all of us, we  
8 will have to maybe draw lots when we get there.

9 I think I am the only one  
10 that is sure of getting into his house, so I will see  
11 you at 8:00 o'clock tonight.

12 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO 8:00 P.M., APRIL 3, 1975.)

13 (HEARING RESUMED AT THE HOME OF DONALD GREENLAND AT  
14 AKLAVIK, N.W.T.)

15 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Green-  
16 land, we want to talk to you today about the pipeline  
17 and for you to tell us things that are on your mind.  
18 Miss Hutchinson is the Secretary, and she will swear  
19 you on the Bible, is that all right?

20 MR. GREENLAND: Okay with me  
21 because I'm not going to lie.

22 DONALD GREENLAND sworn:

23 (SUSIE HUSKY, Interpreter)

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Carry on,  
25 sir. You just go ahead and tell me what you want.

26 THE INTERPRETER: I just told  
27 him I was here to interpret for him, or he could speak  
28 English, that is fine.

29 A When we first started to  
30 bring up our children, there was hardly any white

1 people in this land, and we had a good life. And now  
2 there is all sorts of white people around, and there  
3 is talk about the people taking our land. We don't want  
4 to give up our land, and it seems to be more people who  
5 are the same. We seem to be too stupid to do anything.  
6 It appears to me that in the future we will get nothing  
7 out of this, and I am worried about the future of my  
8 grandchildren, what will .happen to them? So today he  
9 said, when the white man comes to talk, we don't know  
10 what to say, because we have very little education, and  
11 we very seldom have that much to do with them, so we  
12 don't really know what to say when we have meeting with  
13 white people. He doesn't understand why there is so  
14 many here today, because he doesn't know on whose side,  
15 who is helping who.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, don't  
17 worry about that, Mr. Greenland, I am here to listen to  
18 what You have got to say, These other people will not  
19 interrupt. One of them is a representative of the  
20 Indian Brotherhood; one of them is a representative of  
21 Arctic Gas, that is the pipeline people. I just want to  
22 make sure they hear whatever anybody wanted to say. You  
23 feel free to speak and tell me what you wish.

24 A I want to thank you for  
25 coming here today, and I hope you will listen to what I  
26 have to say, to help us. And he said it is too many  
27 times in the east people came to talk to us and I am  
28 worried about the future of my grandchildren and the  
29 future of their children. I want to thank you for  
30 giving me a chance to speak, for coming here. I don't

1 know what is going on about this pipeline, I don't know  
2 where it is going to be built, or what they are going  
3 to do with it, and I don't know what will happen in the  
4 future because of it.

5 I want to say that I am  
6 against the pipeline. I understand they are going to  
7 build a gas pipeline as well, and I am against it. We  
8 are very poor and the white people are looking after  
9 us, and that is how we are getting along, and it is  
10 just that I don't have enough information about the  
11 pipeline, and I don't know too much about what is going  
12 on. I just want to make it clear I am not against the  
13 pipeline.

14 I just want to say thank you  
15 for coming here, and I want to say that if they build  
16 the pipeline, I just want to say thank you to you.

17 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
18 very much, Mr. Greenland. Everything you say will be  
19 considered along with what everyone else said. Thank  
20 you, Mrs. Greenland, for your hospitality, allowing us  
21 to come into your home today.

22 I think we should get out of  
23 your living room and let you get on with supper, and  
24 we will maybe see you again. Thank you.

25 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED.)

26

27

28

29 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 8:30 P.M. PURSUANT TO  
30 ADJOURNMENT.)

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and  
2 gentlemen, I will call our gathering to order this  
3 evening and urge those, who are seated at the side, who  
4 want to move right up, to take some of these tables or  
5 seats up here. You are certainly welcome.

6 Well, anybody who wishes to  
7 speak this evening may go right ahead and do so,  
8 whether you wish to speak from where you are seated, or  
9 whether you wish to come forward -- I think that Mr.  
10 Sittichinli is going to start off this evening. He is  
11 sitting here with the microphone in his hand, and I  
12 think I know what it means. Anyone who wants to  
13 carry on and speak after Mr. Sittichinli certainly may  
14 do so.

15 Carry on, sir.

16 JIM SITTICHINLI, resumed:

17 A Thank you, Mr.  
18 Commissioner. Ladies and gentlemen, as I began my talk  
19 to-day for the Commissioner here, I was told that I  
20 couldn't read my writing, so I found out that is  
21 true, because I have left off a couple of little  
22 points that I want to bring into this Inquiry. My  
23 friends know because one of the big questions about  
24 the Dew Line asked yesterday.

25 Now, as I said, I have lived  
26 in this Northland for many years and I know all that  
27 happened during the Dew Line start in this Northland.  
28 There was many people employed at the beginning of the  
29 project, and it lasted for a few years. When they done  
30 what was supposed to be done on the modules, and also

1 | the airport, and after they done the building and put  
2 | in the airport, well, there was no employment for our  
3 | Native people. There is quite a few of them in the  
4 | north now, and they have never one native person to  
5 | work, and that is how it is today. There is not too  
6 | many that are working on the Dew Line, This I want to  
7 | say because it was asked last night by one of my  
8 | friends the lawyers.

9 | Now, another thing that I  
10 | missed this afternoon, things that I heard in  
11 | Yellowknife on this Inquiry, about how the pipeline  
12 | were to cross the river, especially by that proposed  
13 | pipeline that was supposed to go up by the foothills  
14 | and across below Fort McPherson and below Arctic Red  
15 | River, but now I see on the map there it has been  
16 | changed to Shallow Bay. I know all that country pretty  
17 | well, because I have been living in this northland all  
18 | my life, and at the time when I seen the pipeline  
19 | crossing the river below Fort McPherson and below  
20 | Arctic Red River, I thought how it would be during  
21 | break up and freeze up because at the two times of the  
22 | year we have a lot of trouble with the river.

23 | Now I see on the map here it  
24 | is going across Shallow Bay. There again I know what  
25 | happens during freeze up and also break up. Now that  
26 | Shallow Bay is part of the Arctic Ocean, it works  
27 | about the same as what we call Kugmallit Bay where  
28 | I have been living for eight years now close to  
29 | Tuktoyaktuk. Well, this Shallow Bay works about the  
30 | same as how the water works in Kugmallit Bay. Some-

1 times we get very high tides, especially during when we  
2 are going to have west winds. Now, sometimes when the  
3 west wind comes, it doesn't just blow for a little  
4 while, it blows for a week to ten days, and that is  
5 the time we get very high tides, and this generally  
6 happens during break up.

7 Now, last year it was around  
8 Christmas-time we had very high tide down in Kugmallit  
9 Bay and the ice piled up very high around the edge of  
10 the Bay. I understand that it happened on Shallow Bay  
11 too, so this is something that this pipeline outfit  
12 doesn't understand too much about.

13 I understand that they took  
14 the place where they are going to cross the pipeline  
15 and that they checked it during the summer when it was  
16 very nice weather, so it seems to me that it could be a  
17 nice weather pipeline, but this is something that  
18 should be done either late in the fall or early in the  
19 spring, because that is part of the Mackenzie, sir, and  
20 the ice still is pretty heavy in the spring around that  
21 time.

22 Now, another thing that I  
23 would like to mention about, because of the eight year  
24 in Tuktoyaktuk, I know how the Seismic works, they are  
25 doing a lot of damage to our part of the country down  
26 there, the same as they are doing around here.

27 Eight years ago, when I first  
28 landed there, it doesn't take too much work to get all  
29 the things you want for the winter. You don't have to  
30 work too hard and get all the fish. Now, for the last



1 two or three years hardly any fish. We work harder,  
2 still no fish. This is because of the traffic, there is  
3 more boats work there every summer, and they work out  
4 into the ocean, and this is killing off our fish. It  
5 does the same way in one year. Three years ago, when  
6 the Seismic people started working in our bay quite  
7 early and that year we got only one whale in  
8 Tuktoyaktuk, and then we talked about it, and so now  
9 they are getting into that part where they used to  
10 work, and then later on in the year, after we go out  
11 and get our whale, so the last two years it has been  
12 very good, but if we didn't say anything about it, this  
13 would still be going on. There used to be a lot of  
14 seals down in that part of that country, and the seals  
15 doesn't come early in the summer, they come on sometime  
16 in August, start going into the Bay there.

17 Now, for the last three  
18 years, because of the traffic, I believe that the seal  
19 isn't coming into the Bay because of the work they are  
20 doing out in the ocean.

21 Now, all this we know, but,  
22 again, as I said before, although we do say a lot of  
23 things at times, like last fall some boys went out  
24 sealing and they saw some dead fish, and they brought  
25 in some dead fish from around Tokor Point to report  
26 what the Seismic were doing. Now, we never heard any  
27 more about it, I don't know whether it has been  
28 reported or not.

29 I believe that I would like  
30 to bring before the Inquiry here, and also my good

1 friends the lawyers here, and I think it's about time  
2 we recessed, Mr. Commissioner, and I don't want to take  
3 too much of your time, because I think I am saying too  
4 much. Thank you.

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Not at  
6 all, thank you, Mr. Sittichinli.

7 (WITNESS ASIDE)

8 BILLIE STOOR resumed:

9 Good evening, Mr. Berger. I  
10 would like to say a few more words and continue from  
11 yesterday.

12 In Fort Good Hope last summer  
13 250 delegates voted on a stand that no development be-  
14 fore land settlement. Today my people still say "No  
15 development before land settlement".

16 The pipeline route is on land  
17 my people use, land that they hunt and trap on.  
18 Caribou is our main source of food. We cannot survive  
19 on the white man's beef. Why, too damn expensive.  
20 Caribou are a nervous animal and shy away from noise,  
21 he pipeline will take three to five years to complete.  
22 Caribou will not keep on the pipeline route or near it  
23 because of the amount of noise that will come from the  
24 pipeline. They will move to another area, and will  
25 completely eat out the moss and lichen. Caribou food  
26 does not grow yearly, as most plants do, and caribou  
27 must eat, so they will move farther away from the  
28 original feeding grounds.

29 Mr. Berger, my people will  
30 have to live on pork chops and tell stories about the

1 | caribou when they were plentiful. Mr. Berger, my people  
2 | are not educated enough to hold permanent jobs like the  
3 | white man, and we must depend on the land for food and  
4 | survival.

5 |   Mr. Berger, my Native  
6 | brothers were not always treated equally as Canadians.  
7 | As an example, over twenty years ago they were not  
8 | allowed to socialize or drink alcohol. Some of my  
9 | brothers paid money to become a white man, a non-  
10 | status Indian, or that ugly word "half-breed". Today we  
11 | are still treated as blacks,

12 |   Mr. Berger, before the  
13 | pipeline is built, I would like to see my people  
14 | control their land, control their mineral resources,  
15 | and control the amount of development. In other words,  
16 | we want a land settlement before development, and we  
17 | don't want the oil companies or the Government of  
18 | Canada to decide what is best for Indians.

19 |   Mr. Berger, I see development  
20 | as destruction of the Indian Nation, and a blessing for  
21 | the Government and oil companies, and the United States  
22 | of America.

23 |   Mr. Berger, I see roads  
24 | following development. I see my people and your people  
25 | dying in the winter from development. Mr. Berger, I see  
26 | prostitutes, thieves, gamblers, following the camps of  
27 | the pipeline. I see my people, and husbands of my  
28 | sisters, being victims of these people.

29 |   Mr. Berger, I now direct my  
30 | speech to the people of Southern Canada, the Members of

1 | Parliament, and my Indian brothers in the Provinces.  
2 | My brothers and sisters, I ask you to pressure our  
3 | Government, our Members of Parliament, to give the  
4 | Native people of the N.W.T. a land settlement where  
5 | they can control development. We have helped a lot of  
6 | other countries, let us now help one another, and  
7 | stand together like we did for our brave soldiers in  
8 | World War II.

9 | Thank you, Mr. Berger.

10 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

11 | MRS. SARAH STEWART sworn:

12 | I would like to say a few  
13 | words on the land settlement to the Berger Inquiry  
14 | here. I have been hearing about this meeting for quite  
15 | awhile. My husband died and then I moved to Inuvik. I  
16 | got a job and support my family. I work as a teacher.  
17 | I was talking to my son one time and he has a hard time  
18 | understanding his own language, they have lost their  
19 | language. They don't speak their own language. They  
20 | don't speak to their parents in their own language, and  
21 | if they don't very long, the language is going to be  
22 | lost.

23 | Right now we are all trying  
24 | to get together, we are trying to work together for  
25 | this land of ours. We want our children to keep their  
26 | land.

27 | I went to a meeting at Fort  
28 | Good Hope and you didn't hear any of those girls talk-  
29 | ing English from Fort Good Hope, all we talked is  
30 | Loucheux. They talk their own language. They speak

1 different in English. They talk straight Loucheux. They  
2 talk their own language. They don't speak English to  
3 one another, and I think that is the way it should be  
4 down here.

5 Now, I would like to go back.  
6 My dad used to fish in the springtime for ratting, and  
7 then we lived for about two months in town, and then go  
8 back into the bush. My dad used to do his fishing, and  
9 we had all kinds of dried fish. We bring it into town  
10 and sell that, and they buy their grub with that, and  
11 then he's gone fishing, he keeps on fishing, and he  
12 never stops working.

13 Today isn't like that. They  
14 start building schools and people are put into the  
15 schools, and they are taught, they are only in the  
16 bush for three months. This is really without being  
17 part with their parents, they are put in hostels,  
18 otherwise their parents would lose their Family  
19 Allowance, so they stay in the hostel, and then later  
20 on we get a little bit brave, and we started having  
21 that, then they moved to town, and the children are  
22 sent back, they don't stay in the bush anymore, and  
23 they have lost their language. They talk to their  
24 parents in English, and their parents learn the  
25 language from them, so they talk to their parents in  
26 English. In my home we still talk the Loucheux  
27 language. Since we talk to our children in English,  
28 the way they have been teaching them, we would hope we  
29 had our own. We are not getting no help from the  
30 Government. We, the Native people, were not given help.

1 All at once I decided to make  
2 my own living and I was thinking to move to Aklavik and  
3 they took everything away from Aklavik, left it right  
4 down to 300 people, we didn't even have an hour, they  
5 took everything out of the houses. They put somebody  
6 else there. After eight years, they done that. We liked  
7 to live at Aklavik because it is good fishing ground,  
8 good hunting ground. We have everything we need in  
9 Aklavik. So once they found they couldn't lick Aklavik,  
10 they put it back, then we got our food back, we got our  
11 administration back, we got our hospital, our nursing  
12 station, they even put up a house for all the people so  
13 we didn't have to go away from Aklavik. And so I have  
14 asked all the people, I don't see why we have to give  
15 up.

16 The people are scared to  
17 speak up. I have been listening for the last two days  
18 and I finally made up my mind to speak my mind, and I  
19 want the others to get up and speak because I don't  
20 know, maybe it will be another day or tomorrow for us  
21 to talk, but we should talk up to Judge Berger, as he  
22 knows how we will get our land settlement. I think  
23 that's all I can say for now.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
25 very much.

26 (WITNESS ASIDE)

27

28

29

30

GEORGE EDWARDS sworn:  
(Peter Thrasher, Interpreter)

1 My name is George Edwards, I  
2 go out hunting --

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me.  
4 Take your time, we have lots of time, maybe if you  
5 speak a little bit louder and just take your time, just  
6 relax, and you can tell me what you want to say.

7 A I been hunting, collect-  
8 ing horns. We picked up these horns, and we sell it  
9 for \$1.00 a pound, and while I was hunting I seen a  
10 caribou with wire, and I got it here, and I want to  
11 show you, caribou horns. I brought this in to show  
12 you what I seen.

13 Q Where was the wire?

14 A Wrapped around the horns  
15 when I shot it, and I brought it back home.

16 I wasn't going to bring it.  
17 There was another hunter there, he told me to bring it  
18 down and show it to the Game Warden, and later on I  
19 thought I would show you.

20 Another thing I would like to  
21 bring up, like the wire is laying around. When the  
22 Seismic comes around and blasts holes, they leave wire  
23 They say they clean it up, but it isn't. There is  
24 lots of blasting wire laying around. And then they  
25 damaged the lakes. One time I used to trap, there is  
26 no rats, and then the creeks, the fish, there is no  
27 fish. They dam up the creeks, they don't clean it  
28 after they cross. That is why we would like to talk  
29 about our land.

30 Then another thing about this

1 pipeline that I would like to bring up, what will  
2 happen after the pipeline comes through? I mean the  
3 ground after they put the pipe in. They say it is four  
4 feet under and four feet wide. After they put that pipe  
5 through anything, when you touch the land, or you dig a  
6 hole, that is disturbed soil, it will never by itself  
7 come back, it is going to form a creek, and once it  
8 forms a creek it is going to continue to grow.

9 Another thing, the noise that  
10 the pipe is going to make, that is going to keep  
11 animals away, annoying the animals, and we make our  
12 living from animals, the caribou, the fish, the seals.

13 There's lots of things about the  
14 Government, there is big Hovercraft that comes down. When it  
15 goes over the water, you can hear it before you see it. And  
16 when whales hear noises, they always sink out, that's why we  
17 try to keep quiet, we never make any noise until after we get  
18 our kill. That's one thing, and on this pipeline with fires,  
19 when we get forest fires, they say it may be gas or say  
20 fumes, my understanding it is a fume anyway, if anything  
21 that you put on fire it explodes, and there has got to be  
22 leaking someplace sometimes because the earth always shifts.  
23 In the summertime it goes down, and in the wintertime it  
24 goes up. After all this land is free, what is going to  
25 happen, there is going to be no jobs for the  
26 peoples, and it is only Southerners is going to have jobs.  
27 Now they take lots of people from here, and from outside, but  
28 after this, after they get finished, they come back here,  
29 they got no job, no nothing. If they want job we go down to  
30 labourer. Well, that is going to be the same thing when this



1 | pipeline comes through. That is why we want a settlement  
2 | before anything comes through. That's all I have to say.

3 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
4 | very much.

5 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

6 | SAM AREY, sworn:

7 | (PETER THRASHER, Interpreter)

8 | That pipeline that the people  
9 | are talking about, I say that it should not go behind  
10 | Aklavik. From the time I could remember, the caribou  
11 | came through there in the fall time and the springtime.  
12 | Along the coastline they travel further inland. It has  
13 | always been my observation, when there is a large herd  
14 | of caribou travelling, if the first few, who are the  
15 | leaders, turn in some direction, the others will  
16 | follow, the herd. Ever since I was told by the Elders  
17 | of my time, don't try to make noise or frighten the  
18 | first herd leaders of the herd, because they are the  
19 | ones very easy to scare away and very easy to turn. It  
20 | has always been noticed by the people if you disturb  
21 | the first leaders of the herd, the caribou, no matter  
22 | how large a herd it is, they will, if the leaders of  
23 | the herd turn any direction, all of the caribou that  
24 | is coming behind will always follow, no matter what  
25 | direction the leaders turn. I will stop talking about  
26 | the caribou.

27 | I came in this Delta around  
28 | 1938 and if I remember rightly, there was many many  
29 | muskrats in this Delta, and in my experience, probably  
30 | within seven years, you might have two lean years, but

1 | there was still muskrat, five years are more than  
2 | abundant time of the muskrat population within the  
3 | Mackenzie Delta.

4 |                               The last time I seen a large  
5 | population of muskrats in the Mackenzie Delta was the  
6 | year 1968, and since then I have never seen any  
7 | population growth, yet that same year, probably in the  
8 | early part of 1969, Seismic crews came in and started  
9 | working in the Delta, and every since that time there's  
10 | never been a population growth whatsoever. I have never  
11 | seen any more population growth of muskrats since that  
12 | time. That's all I have to say.

13 |                               THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
14 | sir, thank you very much.

15 |                               (WITNESS ASIDE)

16 |                               MRS. ANNIE C. GORDON sworn:

17 |                               I am Annie Gordon. There is  
18 | another Annie Gordon, so I am Annie C. Gordon. And I  
19 | want to thank you, Judge Berger, for coming to Aklavik  
20 | because it is good for the people to have the chance to  
21 | talk.

22 |                               At this time of the year, the  
23 | people go out trapping muskrats, and in May and June  
24 | the people go out to their spring camps. Some stay  
25 | until June 15th and some come back early. At this  
26 | time when they are out, they hunt muskrats. It's a  
27 | good thing, it is a good living, it is good living out  
28 | there. Every year we go out with the children. We  
29 | always say that we are going to stay in town for the  
30 | spring, but when spring comes we always end up going

1 out. We take the whole family out, and sometimes we  
2 take other children to enjoy it with our family. It's  
3 fun out there. Sometimes we take the whole family out  
4 on a hunt, just to go out for fun, and they enjoy  
5 doing it. The country is so nice in e the spring, it's  
6 so quiet. It's hard work when the hunters come back,  
7 when you're skinning muskrats. But I enjoy doing that  
8 kind of work, and it's fun when you go out and shoot  
9 muskrats all night.

10 After spring there is  
11 whaling, at the end of the ratting season. At the end  
12 of June, and in July, they go whaling. I don't go out  
13 whaling much but I like going out on the weekends. In  
14 August I go fishing and take some of my family down. I  
15 set camp, take fish nets, and fish, and make dry fish.  
16 I do this for our food in the winter. Danny comes down  
17 once in awhile to take the fish and put them in the  
18 freezer. During that time too, when there is nothing to  
19 do, I go and pick berries. Some people stay out in the  
20 camp with us. Sometimes there is a big camp on Fish  
21 River. It's nice and quiet, even though there are  
22 people who come to fish. I take the children back to  
23 Aklavik before school starts. Where we pick berries  
24 down by Fish River and close by there, they are  
25 planning to put the pipeline on, if they don't change  
26 it to Shallow Bay. If those vehicles and machines start  
27 go- ing over the land, there will be no more berries  
28 left. There will be so much traffic in the winter, and  
29 when the next season comes, I think there won't be any  
30 berries left where they do their work. The land won't

1 | grow like it used to before, and it is going to ruin  
2 | our land for berries.

3 |   On the Seismic trails you  
4 | don't see any berries growing any more. I believe, if  
5 | they start on the winter road in the Richardson  
6 | Mountains, this is what is going to happen to the  
7 | land. It is not only me that go out for berries, there  
8 | are a lot of them that go out every year. I think most  
9 | people don't like the idea of the oil companies putting  
10 | the pipeline on the foothills. If they did put it down  
11 | on Shallow Bay, most people won't like it too, because  
12 | of the whales. They might scare the whales away with  
13 | the noise. I am thinking of the compression stations  
14 | and the noise they make. With the compression stations,  
15 | it won't be peaceful any more when you go out on the  
16 | land. It is good to go out where it is quiet, you get  
17 | tired of staying in town.

18 |   About the 800 men camp that  
19 | will be close to Aklavik, and the camp on the foothills  
20 | to where there is a winter road, how are the companies  
21 | going to keep these men from coming to town? How are  
22 | they going to control them from coming in and getting  
23 | mixed up with our young people? There are so many  
24 | teenage girls here, and I believe the population of  
25 | Aklavik is going to increase. Probably some of the  
26 | families are going to break up because we have a lot  
27 | of liquor coming in all the time. How are they going to  
28 | control this?

29 |   Right now we think it is  
30 | nothing just talking about the pipeline and people.

1 | When the pipeline comes, we will be sorry after it's  
2 | too late that we didn't get up and say anything when we  
3 | had a chance. Most of the time we are asked to say  
4 | something in a meeting, we don't bother. When anything  
5 | happens afterwards, we are sorry we kept quiet. And  
6 | about these wires, the Seismic blasting is done by  
7 | wire. We have the camp and there is a Seismic road  
8 | nearby, and when you go on there, you can find wire,  
9 | blue wires just like that wire, and you can pick them  
10 | up, you can pick up sometimes a whole bunch off an  
11 | area. You'll see an area and people find it in the  
12 | bush, And I would like to talk about the camp. We have  
13 | a camp and there is a creek there, I don't know how  
14 | long it was, they blocked it up that year and the fish  
15 | died, and the fish have a hard time trying to go  
16 | through there, and I hope the oil companies will do a  
17 | better job than that the next time. That's all I have  
18 | to say.

19 | I would just like to show  
20 | you a photograph we took when we went out to Leland  
21 | Valley about 35 miles - 30 miles from here. One day we  
22 | took a walk up on the sidehill. I heard the story that  
23 | the oil companies they don't go over the rat houses  
24 | and so we found this one, and I brought my camera out  
25 | and I took it.

26 | THE COMMISSIONER: Come over  
27 | here, maybe you can explain this to me.

28 | A Well, you see, the rat  
29 | house is like a dirt pile, sometimes you can barely  
30 | see, sometimes you see. If you are really looking for

1 | it, you can see it. And. someone said they don't run  
2 | over rat houses, and this is how I found the pushup  
3 | and the oil truck went by there.

4 | THE COMMISSIONER: Can we keep  
5 | this photograph?

6 | A Yes.

7 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
8 | Mrs. Gordon. The photograph will be marked as an  
9 | exhibit. And, Mrs. Gordon, you had some written notes,  
10 | maybe you could give those to the Official Reporter  
11 | because it's possible he may not have heard every word  
12 | you said and we would appreciate this.

13 | (STATEMENT OF MRS. ANNIE C. GORDON MARKED EXHIBIT C- 3)  
14 | (PHOTOGRAPH MARKED EXHIBIT C-4.)

15 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

16 | ELIJAH OOKPIK sworn:

17 | THE COMMISSIONER: Go ahead.

18 | A Yes, ladies and gentlemen.

19 | I was listening to what you were saying about the  
20 | pipeline. The pipeline is going to come here and  
21 | maybe the people are thinking about it, but the cari-  
22 | bou don't know nothing about it, the caribou have never  
23 | heard anything like that before. They hear the water  
24 | running in the springtime and they hear the water  
25 | running in the fall time, and then sometimes. a lot of  
26 | rain in this country. I know myself if caribou are  
27 | five miles away and there is no wind, dead calm, you  
28 | can't go near them just on account of the noise. If you  
29 | happen to step on fresh snow and they are five miles  
30 | away, laying down on the ground, then they hear you and

1 | they are gone. You can't shoot them. And we have got to  
2 | wait for three days to catch up to them, That is going  
3 | to happen to the pipeline. Another thing when the  
4 | pipeline is going to happen, then it's going to be  
5 | noisy, they can't cross the pipeline because it is too  
6 | noisy and they will be cut off a lot of feeding. Stop  
7 | the feeding, you got to feed in certain places in the  
8 | winter and every year. Some years they feed in some  
9 | places and other years they feed other places in the  
10 | wintertime, and then in the summertime another place,  
11 | and that's the way they grow a crop for the caribou,  
12 | and what is going to happen to that. When the pipeline  
13 | is here maybe they will end up with lots of money but  
14 | what's going to happen later on. The people down south  
15 | in Saskatchewan, down in Alberta, they got Indian  
16 | Reservations down there, that's what's going to happen  
17 | here.

18 |   I live down south for years.  
19 | I had to buy a licence for my own deer, that's the  
20 | trouble, I'd sooner live here. I can go out and get  
21 | myself one duck and have a supper, a caribou, or a  
22 | salmon, I can't do it down there. I pay \$5.00 for a  
23 | ticket for moose and \$3.50 for a deer, and 5 bucks for  
24 | shooting a duck, that's going to happen here. It won't  
25 | be like it used to be.

26 |   Right now we are free, that's  
27 | going to happen. You watch, in a few days that's  
28 | going to happen. It's a new generation, it isn't like  
29 | it used to be. The new generation here is different.  
30 | They got more education, there's more trouble, they are

1 | not like we are right now. We don't know nothing.  
2 | That's what's going to happen if they don't watch out,  
3 | you will end up with nothing. Like the Government  
4 | say, you will get everything after awhile, and you will  
5 | get nothing after awhile too. You can't even buy a  
6 | log in this country any more. If you want to build a  
7 | house down there, we can't go in the bush in Aklavik  
8 | right here like we used to fifteen years ago, they used  
9 | to haul logs across the river, you can't do that now,  
10 | you have got to go to the Government, you have got to  
11 | have a paper to do it. Before that, we used to build  
12 | a house across the river like nothing, nobody bothered  
13 | us. That's it. You start living like everybody else  
14 | lives, make up your mind that's it. Our way of life is  
15 | going away like the muskrats. Every time they go or  
16 | the Seismic and there is a bunch of caribou down there  
17 | and you go down and get a caribou, or you go to get  
18 | a muskrat, some people take them in the summertime,  
19 | there is no muskrat. You go to fish and there is no  
20 | fish. That's it, there's nothing. In the water I  
21 | guess a lot of things happened, but here it is  
22 | different, I tell you, and things you got to learn from  
23 | my experience. I can't do like I used to, I can't walk  
24 | down the street. It's like in Germany or Russia  
25 | because the life we lived in Aklavik twenty years ago,  
26 | we put our tents down by the airport here, and lived  
27 | there for weeks. This we can't do any more because  
28 | the R.C.M.P. will arrest you. You can go across the  
29 | river and put up your tent and feed your dog like you  
30 | used to. Up in the north you can hunt without papers.







1 | to our seats.

2 | WILF BEAN sworn:

3 | My name is Wilf Bean and I am  
4 | working for the Territorial Government, and that is why  
5 | I want to follow all the conditions necessary to be  
6 | forgiven for whatever I. have o say here.

7 | I first came north in 1958 as  
8 | an Area Administrator, which was then the Department of  
9 | Indian Affairs of the Federal Government, Cambridge  
10 | Bay. Since that time I have worked in various northern  
11 | communities, including Cambridge Bay, Sachs Bay,  
12 | Coppermine, Fort Resolution, Fort Simpson, and for the  
13 | last two years I have been working as the Regional  
14 | Development Officer with the Department of Local  
15 | Government out of Inuvik.

16 | My work, over the past two  
17 | years, has involved working closely with Band Councils  
18 | primarily in Fort McPherson, Fort Clarkson, both in  
19 | Aklavik, Paulatuk, as well, and I am presently employed  
20 | for two months working with the hamlets training a  
21 | Secretary-Manager here.

22 | I find it difficult in making  
23 | a presentation, as I am sure do the people here. It is  
24 | hard to say things that are relevant. It's hard to  
25 | share one's impression that one gets from living north  
26 | over a period of time.

27 | I do not pretend to  
28 | understand Native cultures. Through my years of  
29 | experience, I have learned that there is something  
30 | different, there is something very valuable, something







1 | such decolonization will become evident, not only to  
2 | Native people, but to every person who is living in the  
3 | north or in Canada, and, trying to live in dignity and  
4 | with respect and concern for all human beings.

5 | I think I will leave it at  
6 | that.

7 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
8 | very much.

9 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

10 | PETER THRASHER resumed:

11 | THE COMMISSIONER: Carry on,  
12 | Mr. Thrasher.

13 | A What I want to say  
14 | tonight -- can you hear? -- what I want to say can't be  
15 | very important -- I think it is okay now -- what I want  
16 | to say is some sort of interpretation of how some of  
17 | these people, we don't really speak their language, we  
18 | don't really speak the language as they did. They know  
19 | their own language, like I may say something which  
20 | is a report of evidence the way they are saying it,  
21 | and I would like to explain in a way as how they think  
22 | of it as proof or evidence, or as proof of what they  
23 | want to say, what they want to bring up to you, or to  
24 | anyone here, when they want to talk about proof of a  
25 | fact, proof of how they owned this country, how they  
26 | like to keep it, and also what they really mean when  
27 | they say they have existed here a long time. It might  
28 | be just a story, or they might say that I have lived  
29 | here with my relatives, that's the truth actually.  
30 | They can really prove that they did make their living





1 everybody wants to work in union, that is how I feel  
2 the spirit, and how I think the spirit is amongst all  
3 of us, and I am quite proud of it.

4 I don't think anyway there  
5 was ever a document shown to the Inuit, I don't know  
6 anything of a document or a signed statement for the  
7 Inuit. If they did see it, I don't think they would  
8 know what it means anyway in those days, or to this day  
9 even. The people of the North are still getting a good  
10 interest for their fine fur trapping, so if the  
11 Government of Canada, or if it were U.S.A. or any  
12 foreign government, all existing oil or gas exploration  
13 companies should give us interest. We think they should  
14 give us interest because we still want to own our place  
15 of birth, that is if they are going to try and take  
16 it.

17 The Inuit of the North were  
18 the first in the North, and should have first priority.  
19 I shouldn't say only the Inuit, it is the Indians and  
20 Eskimos in this country were the first, and should have  
21 first priority in whatever interest that comes out of  
22 the north.

23 They already have one and  
24 they are still hanging on to it, which is their  
25 livelihood, their hunting, and that's what we have been  
26 telling you today and yesterday, and I think it would  
27 be good to listen to more of this coming. I hope some  
28 more will speak tomorrow. I know there are some more  
29 that want to speak tomorrow too.

30 The Indian and Eskimo were

1 first in the North and should have first priority in  
2 whatever interest comes out of the North. They had  
3 ancestors for hundreds of years past on their land and  
4 so have a right to be the rightful heirs of the land  
5 that they make their living in. In fact, the Indians  
6 and Eskimos in Canada can prove that they had relatives  
7 way far back, maybe it is hereditary. They were born,  
8 and also about their ancestors, names of places up to  
9 100 years past. This is how I think the people would  
10 like to say to the Government, instead of just saying  
11 well no pipeline, maybe that is right, that is the  
12 simplest way for them to say, and if I was to interpret  
13 that to them in some way, I would say to the Government  
14 of Canada has no right to seize land of the people of  
15 the north, the Aboriginal people of the north, that's  
16 what I mean, the Aboriginal people of the north.

17 The Crown is supposed to be a  
18 Defender of Faith according to what we know now, The  
19 Crown cannot break an act of God, I don't think so. The  
20 way of living by nature is one the Indians and Eskimos  
21 made their living with the balance of nature, they make  
22 their living with the balance of nature. I don't think  
23 the Crown can take away these possessions of Aboriginal  
24 rights. If they do it , it will be like taking private  
25 livelihood away from a nation for the purpose of other  
26 public interests.

27 We also have our children to  
28 think about, our future  
29 generations to worry about. We want them to be our  
30 heirs, our inheritors, the Indians and Eskimos by

1 | rights have the highest right to stay in their  
2 | homeland, and by right should have rights to any shares  
3 | that come out of it. As the first permanent residents  
4 | in their homeland, that is what they should own, that  
5 | is what they are asking for, that is what they want to  
6 | keep, what they need, and this is how I think they say  
7 | in my concept, how they think, where we live is where  
8 | we permanently make a living off the land. From  
9 | generation to generation our forefathers lived and died  
10 | on the land we now live in. We hope our children will  
11 | live and enjoy that land that they can inherit from  
12 | us. Our land is capable of being inherited. We are also  
13 | a nation that has existed for hundreds of years. I  
14 | think this is how most of them would like to say it. I  
15 | think I will stop for now, maybe somebody else would  
16 | like to say something too.

17 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
18 | Mr. Thrasher.

19 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

20 | ABE OOKPIK, sworn:

21 | Mr. Justice Berger, I would  
22 | like to elaborate on some of the things that happened  
23 | in this country in our lifetime that will have to be  
24 | told to you, but I have observed them myself in my  
25 | lifetime.

26 | As a young man here, I was  
27 | born in this land. I remember I was trying to say,  
28 | sometimes we call it bad times, and I guess to say that  
29 | to you sometimes you would call it the tough luck, and  
30 | other times we call it just bad luck. I don't want you



1 | those days there wasn't much, there was a few flat  
2 | tops and you got nothing to eat for about three days  
3 | and maybe the dogs screaming for life, and you tried to  
4 | build smudges to keep them alive, and I am not telling  
5 | stories, I know for a fact people had to protect their  
6 | eyes. When you get up in the morning you start building  
7 | smudges, the dogs holler, and their eyes get bloated up  
8 | from mosquito bites. That is one of the worst enemies  
9 | that we have when we used to be out on the land in the  
10 | summertime here especially. About the end of June and  
11 | all the month of July in the summer, that is one of the  
12 | best times we had to hunt quail.

13 |                         Now, the fourth one, I know  
14 | many of the people that live in the Delta have  
15 | experienced one time or another, and I have experienced  
16 | it too, when the ice jams out here, right here where we  
17 | are sitting, people canoe or paddle through it in the  
18 | springtime when the flood starts to come in from the  
19 | rivers up there, you could go to the store here with a  
20 | paddle and you can find a man who will tell you some  
21 | of them have moved on cakes of ice until the water goes  
22 | down.

23 |                         And then the fifth one, in  
24 | the fall sometimes, you come up here in the fall time  
25 | when it is heavy rain, rain for about a week, you  
26 | can't go on the shore unless you bring out a log to  
27 | walk on, because you go knee deep or lower in the mud.  
28 | You slip all the time, and we didn't have the rubber  
29 | boots like we have now. Even here you go downtown and  
30 | you sink into the mud probably a foot at that time, so

1 | those are things that I want you to understand that  
2 | this country always isn't nice, that I have experienced  
3 | and I know some people have experienced.

4 |                                   Then the sixth one, in the  
5 | fall time, it freezes and we have heavy snow, we get an  
6 | overflow, and the overflow stays with us for maybe a  
7 | month. It is definitely cold. You can't go out on the  
8 | ice, it is dangerous to go on it. You can't fish  
9 | because the overflow has a tendency to insulate the  
10 | first frozen ice, and then there is water in between,  
11 | it is dangerous, either you fall through or you ride on  
12 | a sheet of ice too.

13 |                                   The eighth one is that some  
14 | years, when there is a big west wind before freeze-up,  
15 | all the creeks, the water flows back around Shallow  
16 | Bay, maybe three or four feet of water, and all the  
17 | fish that are supposed to go up the creeks hardly come  
18 | up and you have a hard time getting any good load of  
19 | fish and you really have to work to get that because  
20 | once it is hard, it stays a long time, and the fish  
21 | doesn't come up, so you have a problem with that.  
22 | That's when there is no, the jigging are not very good  
23 | because around here we used to jig a lot of fish out of  
24 | the creeks and so on, and this is one of the things I  
25 | know because I lived on this land too.

26 |                                   And then some years when the  
27 | decrease of fur bearing animals comes into this area  
28 | for some unknown reason, when there is no rabbit, no  
29 | lynx, like I said when the lakes freeze to the bottom,  
30 | there is no rats, some years there is no mink, because

1 they have a cycle of their own too, and all these furs  
2 disappear, and I know it is difficult to understand. We  
3 think because sometimes they go away and sometimes they  
4 come back, and I think that all this kind of problems  
5 we know we own this land.

6                                 The tenth one, I know we used  
7 to live on the west side and we would wait for the  
8 berries to come out, and we would go out and pick  
9 berries, and sometimes there was absolutely no berries,  
10 not enough rain maybe or not enough sunshine. You can't  
11 even get a pail full some places, in some years you  
12 really have to look around for that, and that is one  
13 the things that we like to get in the summertime.

14                                 The last one, Mr. Berger, as  
15 probably everyone knows in this country, before the  
16 medical people came in, we used to gather here, there  
17 has been recorded in this settlement of Aklavik one  
18 year as much as 36 people died in a week because of the  
19 common flu, they came from all over, up the river, up  
20 the Mackenzie River, and there was 35 burials in one  
21 week, well just before Christmas until after New  
22 Year's, in that period of time, because of the common  
23 flu came and we were not ready for it. All these things  
24 I want you to understand because these are things that  
25 I have experienced in this land too.

26                                 Now, the reason why I brought  
27 myself here to give you some information on this is  
28 that although all these things that we strive and  
29 struggle with, we like this land, it belongs to us.  
30 I think that these people's statements, we haven't only

1 | looked at the good side of it, we have looked at the  
2 | bad side too, to understand the problems we have in  
3 | this land, so therefore I submit my presentation from  
4 | that point of view because I have lived in this land  
5 | for the last 32 years and I was away for 3 years one  
6 | time, but I want you to understand that there was not  
7 | always good times, there was hard times too, and that  
8 | is what I want you to understand.

9 |                                   The last thing is, when the  
10 | dogs gets rabies, sometimes, some years it happens when  
11 | we used to drive dogs, the people used several dogs,  
12 | and the people really suffered because they had no more  
13 | transportation.

14 |                                   Now, with this statement, I  
15 | would like to leave you with the thought of all the  
16 | things that I have described, I call them the bad  
17 | times, I don't want the people talking with this idea  
18 | that this came out of the people, I have lived in this  
19 | land and I want you to understand that this is  
20 | something that we have including the good times. With  
21 | this statement I would like to say we own this land in  
22 | our hearts and we like it.

23 |                                   Thank you very much, Mr.  
24 | Berger.

25 |                                   THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
26 | for raising those points, I will bear them in mind.  
27 |                                   (WITNESS ASIDE)

28 |                                   MR. BAYLY: I realize it is  
29 | somewhat late, but there is one man coming from one of  
30 | the Shell camps who would like to make a presentation



1 | to you.

2 |                                   ANDREW ATCHUK sworn:

3 |                                   Mr. Berger, my name is Andrew  
4 | Atchuk , a trapper. As you know, the Native people are  
5 | really concerned about the land that we live in, the  
6 | Mackenzie Delta. If other people move from different  
7 | places, where they have another job, we, the people,  
8 | who are living in the north, we don't move to another  
9 | Province to go on to something better, or go to other  
10 | jobs in the country. We stay on the same land, the same  
11 | Mackenzie Delta, the land that we grew up in with our  
12 | older brothers and sisters lived in since we were old  
13 | enough to hunt and fish, the land where our mothers and  
14 | fathers were brought up. Most people in North America  
15 | all know about our great Mackenzie River. We also know  
16 | about the great Amazon and the great Mississippi. The  
17 | Mackenzie River we are proud of. This is the land that  
18 | we live in.

19 |                                   Now, the pipeline will  
20 | eventually come one way or another, but are we prepared  
21 | for it?

22 |                                   We have had meetings and more  
23 | meetings on the environmental work being done on our  
24 | land. I think that most of the people do not understand  
25 | the purpose of most of these things. One little thing  
26 | I would like to bring up is about the noise that will  
27 | come from the building of the pipeline, machines  
28 | and more machines, machines we haven't even seen or  
29 | heard about, that will affect our animals and birds.  
30 | Now, we hunt muskrat in the springtime, the smallest



1 | just try, before we close, to go into a more accustomed  
2 | surrounding of the Community Hall. I thought I would  
3 | maybe mention it is here, and we will have a better  
4 | idea when we come back next time if it is more  
5 | successful than in the gym. There are a lot of people  
6 | who are prepared for this meeting, and would have made  
7 | their presentation in circumstances, and I think many  
8 | people would have appreciated less formal surroundings.  
9 | I would like to submit this to you for your  
10 | consideration before the proceedings adjourn.

11 |   THE COMMISSIONER: I must say  
12 | I think that is a good idea, I am only pausing in case  
13 | there is someone who thinks it isn't a good idea. I  
14 | think that what we will do is adjourn the hearing  
15 | tonight and reconvene tomorrow in the Community Hall.  
16 | Would 1:00 o'clock tomorrow be all right do you think,  
17 | Mr. MacWatt?

18 |   MR. MacWATT: I am quite sure.

19 |   THE COMMISSIONER: Well, we  
20 | will adjourn until 1:00 o'clock tomorrow, and we will  
21 | be holding the hearing tomorrow in the Community Hall.

22 |   Let me say that this is a  
23 | Public Inquiry and I am anxious that everybody have a  
24 | chance to say what he or she wishes to say, and I know  
25 | it must be difficult to some of you to come forward in  
26 | this big gymnasium. I can understand that, but it is a  
27 | Public Inquiry, so it has to be held in public.

28 |   I hope that is understood. I  
29 | am anxious to do whatever the people in the communities  
30 | think would be the most suitable to them. I am anxious

1 | to hold hearings in whatever buildings will be most  
2 | comfortable for the people who live here, so we will  
3 | hold the hearing in the Community Hall tomorrow at  
4 | 1:00 o'clock.

5 | I should say in the morning I  
6 | am going to visit Mr. Headpoint's camp, and then visit  
7 | the Shell Canada Seismic crew, but I will be back by  
8 | 1:00 o'clock, and we will carry on tomorrow at 1:00  
9 | O'clock in the Community Hall, and I hope you will all  
10 | be back again in the Community Hall at 1:00 o'clock  
11 | tomorrow afternoon.

12 | I promise I will try to be on  
13 | time.

14 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO 1:00 P.M., APRIL 4th, 1975, AT  
15 | THE COMMUNITY HALL IN AKLAVIK, N.W.T.)

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