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 4, 1975 1:00 P.M.

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

Volume 3

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Entitlement.

Mr. Ron Veale

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Indians.

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AKLAVIK, N.W.T., 1 2 April 4, 1975 1:00 P.M. 3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT.) 4 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, 5 ladies and gentlemen, I will call our gathering to 6 order this afternoon. This has been our first 7 Community Hearing and I have listened and appreciated 8 everything each one of you has said. I hope you 9 understand that in a sense because Aklavik is the first 10 community that the Inquiry has visited, it has not been 11 altogether fair to you because some of you, I am sure, 12 don't know exactly what you ought to say, and we made 13 it clear I think before but I will repeat it now, that 14 I will be coming back to Aklavik later in the year to 15 hear from anybody who didn't get a chance to speak on 16 this occasion, or who did speak but didn't get a chance 17 to say everything they wanted to say. Now I thought I 18 would just point that out so that the people would 19 understand that it isn't your last chance, I will be 20 back again later in the year, and I certainly am 21 grateful to all of the people who have come, and the 22 23 counsel, and people of Aklavik for inviting us to come, and giving us a chance to have our first 24 Community Hearing here in Aklavik. 25 So we will start our session this afternoon. 26 I apologize for being late. 27 I was out visiting Mr. Headpoint's camp this morning, 28 and I also visited the Seismic, Shell Canada Seismic 29 crew on the west side of the West Channel of the

Mackenzie Delta, and we saw them carrying out some 1 blasting operations this morning. 2 JOHN MacWATT, sworn: 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Go ahead, 4 Judge Berger, my name is 5 John MacWatt and I am Chairman of the Hamlet Council 6 here in Aklavik, and it is in that capacity I would 7 like to tell you the following. 8 I would like to submit to 9 this Inquiry a collection of concerns expressed by the 10 people of Aklavik at a public meeting held in this hall 11 on March 25th. These concerns were spontaneous and from 12 a very wide cross-section of the public, in fact, one 13 of the best attended public meetings for a long time. 14 The views expressed represent many of the social 15 aspects, problems and aspirations of the people here 16 towards a more agreeable life and community spirit. I 17 hope they will be of some assistance to you in better 18 understanding the views and problems of the people in 19 this community. The purpose of obtaining the views of 20 the people regarding their social life and future was 21 not expressly for this Hearing, but for the benefit of 22 23 the people here in planning our future. It is an example of the responsibility shown by our Hamlet in 24 helping to shape our future and to meet the wishes of 25 the people here. We are trying to make our Hamlet work 26 for the residents of Aklavik. I would like to-submit 27 now the thoughts, some of the thoughts and ideas of the 28 people that attended that meeting. 29 30 Before that meeting was

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planned, a month or so ago, our Council also conceived a concept of obtaining from each household, or individual, who wanted to participate, their individual views how Aklavik should grow.

If it should grow in terms of development in this area, or should we be trying to have Aklavik strictly as a residential area. We were to find out how many people were interested to work in the future, or how many people wanted to stay at home, stay and live off the land as much as they did before development came, and of those who worked, what seasons of the year they want to work, and what seasons of the year they want to be on the land. We also wanted to find out if some people wanted to provide service. We wanted to find out if some people do want to get training, to be upgraded in their education, and some of those Questions related to the future. This survey was set up, it was prepared, as I said, circulated and completed. Until we have the results of that survey, the Hamlet Council of Aklavik cannot give evidence as to what conditions or restrictions we recommend to the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline.

It was to this end that we would ask you, Judge Berger, to give us your assurance that you would be coming back to Aklavik. Now you have given us this commitment, we would like to say we feel better about it, that there will be a second public hearing, so that all the people of Aklavik can have a further opportunity to bare their views and for their own consideration than what has been submitted.

We, as the Council, did not 1 2 officially know the approximate date of his hearing until very recently, and to prepare evidence for the 3 first Community Hearing until a complete submission 4 could be gathered, we agreed to the date suggested. 5 What I was going to say, in 6 the light of what you had said, it's a small thing, 7 perhaps that we did not know of the meeting that was 8 set up in Inuvik, to arrange the meeting for this 9 particular hearing, but it is no small thing. 10 I think the first meeting has 11 been very valuable for many people and we will look 12 forward to the next meeting. 13 On a personal note I would 14 like to say I have known well all the people of Aklavik 15 that have testified and that I am very pleased to 16 attest to their honesty and to their sincerity of their 17 feelings and doubts for the future. It has been my 18 privilege to live here for eight years and my great 19 fortune to be a confidant and friend of many of the 20 people that have spoken thus far. I know their fears to 21 be real and based on past experience. 22 23 I would not for one minute underestimate the importance of the proposal of 24 building a gas pipeline, or any other major 25 construction, in the Mackenzie Valley and the Delta or 26 along the coast. 27 28 Any great changes to the disadvantage of the people here, or the destruction of 29 the country, the land that that hearing is considering,

the land that the pipeline has been proposed to be built on, any great damage to that land through negligence or carelessness, or lack of foresight, could be nothing but a national disgrace. I think I had the privilege of seeing people, mostly Native people of this community, at their happiest times in the bush and on the coast. It has been a great revelation for me to see people truly at one with the environment that no one else cherishes or can appreciate like they do. Having to remove that opportunity for people to live their life, anything that will deprive the American continent or Canada the privilege of maintaining this type of country and type of life that the people have had here for so many years, I don't think can be accepted.

Nothing should be spared to ensure that this opportunity for people to live that way continue and that nothing be spared to protect that environment which is so rich for the north and so rich for Canada.

I would like to say at the same time that the importance of the Aklavik Community Hearing must be that the people of Aklavik and all the people of Aklavik consider their future, what life style they want to adopt, maintain, and many other factors as much by themselves as possible.

They are the people who will be living here (1) if no development takes place, and (2) if a major development takes place, and once a rigid stand has been made, it is less easy to bend to your own advantage,

and perhaps many of the out-of-town 1 people that are here today won't be around then. 2 great to have support when dealing with such passionate 3 matters as one's land and of past injustice. People 4 need legal advice and resources in such important 5 issues as land settlement, compensation, and other 6 matters, but what about the question of daily living, 7 who puts the pieces together once fractions have been, 8 made in infinity, discrimination and other matters, who 9 puts the pieces together? It has to fall back to the 10 community, the people that live here themselves. To 11 further this Inquiry, I feel that a settlement of land 12 to the Native people will allow our community to freely 13 take part in this hearing without fear of jeopardizing 14 a settlement and without feeling partial or traitor to 15 some group within the Hamlet. Indeed the very 16 conditions that this Inquiry is all about can be a 17 very important part of what people want to get out of 18 the resources of this land. I can now look forward to 19 the next community hearing and hope at that time to 20 present a submission on behalf of the Hamlet Council 21 of Aklavik, a presentation that will be prepared by the 22 Hamlet of Aklavik and endorsed, I hope, by the people 23 of Aklavik so that we may present something of faith n 24 the future. But we can only develop that case by 25 recognizing the scope of our influence and by taking 26 full advantage of this privilege or opportunity instead 27 of ignoring what may be the obvious. For many 28 generations and many decades people have said the 29 problems of Aklavik cannot be solved because there are

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too many different people in Aklavik.
                                            People will
1
   never be able to agree in Aklavik. I have heard many
2
   times by Council and other organizations to end up with
3
   fruitless results or frustrations.
4
                              MR. ITSI: Can this be
5
   translated in Loucheux?
6
7
                               THE COMMISSIONER:
                                                  Just a
   moment, I think that's a good point.
                                            Maybe Mr.
8
   Sittichinli could come up and translate what Mr.
9
   MacWatt is saying.
10
11
                               MR. MacWATT: I just have a
   few remarks to make, a couple of sentences.
12
                               THE COMMISSIONER: I think we
13
   should do that, when Mr. MacWatt is finished, if it is
14
   all right with Mr. MacWatt, we might have Susie Husky
15
   translate your remarks that you have written down, is
16
17
   that all right?
                               MR. MacWATT: I didn't write
18
19
   down everything.
                               THE COMMISSIONER: Well, the
20
21
   things you did write down. I think what we will do, Mr.
   MacWatt just has a few things left to say. We will let
22
   him carry on and then have Mr. Ookpik translate into
23
   Eskimo, and then we will see if we can have what Mr.
24
   MacWatt said translated into Loucheux.
25
                               I think we should do that. I
26
   would like Mr. MacWatt to finish and then Mr. Ookpik
27
   can complete the translation in Eskimo, and then we
28
   will try and arrange for it to be translated into
29
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Loucheux, we can sort that out in just a moment when

Mr. MacWatt finishes. Well, to finish briefly, 2 Α our people believe there has been a past record of 3 division in the community and a division in people 4 working together. I myself feel we maybe have come to 5 the time when people may work better together and I 6 hope people will not lose sight of the fact that 7 Aklavik is very important regardless of the other 8 ethnic groups that are working very hard for our 9 people. We also want to work hard for the future of 10 Aklavik as one close community. 11 I hope my present and future 12 involvement in this Inquiry does and will reflect my 13 sincere interest in this community and its people, 14 because that is certainly my intention. That is the 15 end of my presentation. 16 17 THE COMMISSIONER: I think I can remember everything Mr. MacWatt said, I will repeat 18 it and you can translate. 19 (TRANSLATION OF MR. MacWATT'S SPEECH) 20 21 THE COMMISSIONER: I know 22 that isn't everything you said, Mr. MacWatt. that represents the main things you said. I think we 23 24 Can carry on. 25 (COMMUNITY WORKSHOP HELD IN AKLAVIK, MARCH 25, 1975, MARKED C-6.) 26 27 (WITNESS ASIDE) (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED FOR A SHORT RECESS.) (PROCEEDINGS 28 29 RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT.) 30 THE COMMISSIONER: We will

1	call our meeting to order, and I understand that Mrs.
2	Rosie Jane Stewart has a statement that she wishes Mr.
3	Jackson to read.
4	MRS. ROSIE JANE STEWART resumed:
5	MR. JACKSON: "Whoever wants
6	the pipeline is crazy. I want our country to be the
7	way it stands. I don't want it upside down just for
8	the sake of our children. We are all right with what we
9	eat in the bush like caribou, fish, rabbits, and rats,
10	that is the best food we live on and if we don't do
11	that it will be the pipeline's fault. The grub in
12	the Bay is high. I set ten snares, in one week's time
13	I got one ptarmigan, and what is that, I never get
14	rabbit."
15	This is the statement of
16	Rosie Jane Stewart, the lady sitting next to me.
17	THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
18	very much, Mrs. Stewart. Would you let us have that
19	statement to be marked as an exhibit?
20	(STATEMENT OF ROSIE JANE STEWART MARKED EXHIBIT C-7.)
21	MR. BAYLY: Mr. Commissioner,
22	while on the subject of exhibits, Mr. Joe is here
23	again, he doesn't have anything further to add, but he
24	did bring additional photographs of the crossing of the
25	Rengleng River that he would like you to have.
26	THE COMMISSIONER: Is that
27	the culvert?
28	MR. BAYLY: Yes,
29	PROFESSOR JACKSON: Mr.
30	Commissioner, I think what we should do at this point,

1	the simultaneous translation has now been set up, that
2	is the procedure we have been using so far, and to my
3	understanding, everyone found it satisfactory, the
4	people who require translation in Loucheux,
5	MR. ITSI: Satisfactory to
6	you but not to the people.
7	THE COMMISSIONER: Let us try
8	to get along here.
9	PROFESSOR JACKSON: The
10	translation is certainly satisfactory to the people who
11	require translation and what it will mean is everything
12	will be spoken in English, is immediately spoken into
13	Loucheux and into Eskimo, so everyone understands
14	exactly what is happening.
15	THE COMMISSIONER: Well, just
16	so I understand where we are at, that is the system we
17	were using yesterday and the day before.
18	PROFESSOR JACKSON: That's it.
19	THE COMMISSIONER: Well, does
20	that require people to use those machines?
21	PROFESSOR JACKSON: Yes.
22	THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
23	then, shall we take a break?
24	PROFESSOR JACKSON: No, I
25	think the machines are all set up, are all available,
26	and the system has been tested, what is required is
27	Miss Husky and Mr. Ookpik to go to the microphones.
28	MR. ITSI: Can't we get
29	started? I am in a hurry to get back into Inuvik,
30	THE COMMISSIONER: Well, Mr.

Itsi, we are simply trying to do our best to make sure 1 everybody knows what everybody else is saying. 2 3 MR. ITSI: That is the way it should be. 4 5 THE COMMISSIONER: I think the people who speak and understand Loucheux and who 6 wish to use the machines, would you do so, and if it 7 turns out the machines don't work well enough, or it 8 turns out that the machine is something you don't want 9 to use just tell me and we will carry on in this way 10 with the translations following in sequence. We have 11 lots of time so there is no need for anyone to be 12 upset or concerned. 13 PROFESSOR JACKSON: The 14 difficulty about doing it this way, if someone speaks 15 in English and then it is translated into Loucheux, by 16 the 11 time the person who is going to translate it 17 into Eskimo, has got to translate, he has already 18 forgotten what was said in English. I raise that 19 because we just had that problem, it is very difficult 20 to remember for a few minutes what someone has just 21 22 said. This way the translation comes out immediately. 23 THE COMMISSIONER: Let's try the machines and if anyone who is trying to understand 24 a new language doesn't understand what is being said, 25 just tell me, and we will go back to this other way. We 26 will do our best to make sure that the people can hear 27 and can understand what everybody else is saying. 28 29 SUSIE HUSKY: Mr. Berger, he said he is quite happy the way it is going with the

translations back and forth, he said he would like it 1 this way. He doesn't like that earphone. 2 3 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, we will carry on the way we are doing now, but people can 4 still use the machines. It will take a little longer 5 but that doesn't matter, we will take our time. 6 7 Well, we are not having quite the same success today I gather. Let us carry on. 8 I think you must understand all of you, since there are 9 three languages, that we are using here today, it may 10 get a little difficult, but let u do the best we can. 11 I think we will get along all right. As I told you 12 before, I will be back again at a time that is suitable 13 to the people of Aklavik, and anybody who doesn't get a 14 chance today to say what he or she wants to say will 15 get a chance then, and anybody who has already spoken 16 17 yesterday, on Wednesday or Thursday or today, will get another chance then too. 18 19 Well, after all that, I think the last thing that happened was that Mr. 20 two photographs were introduced, and I think Mr. 21 22 Thrasher and Miss Husky just might explain these two photographs of a culvert that Mr. Joe told me about 23 yesterday had collapsed and they are part of a set of 24 photographs that he turned into the Inquiry. I am 25 grateful to him for that. You might explain that. 26 MR. BAYLY: Mr. Commissioner, 27 the next witness has a statement that she would like to 28 read right through and then give the Interpreters so 29 they can interpret it from the paper.

THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly. 1 2 FANNY MARRING sworn: MR. BAYLY: Mr. Commissioner, 3 I have been asked if I could read this for her because 4 she is very nervous. 5 THE COMMISSIONER: Go ahead. 6 MR. BAYLY: "I lived here 7 all my life and I have gone through what experiences 8 the people here of Aklavik have gone through and like 9 most of them I do not like to see our land spoiled. 10 Whether or not in my feelings some day the pipeline 11 will come through and I would like to see more time and 12 years and the people to understand what really is going 13 on. Everything is going too fast and we need time to 14 think and learn about it more and for the younger 15 16 generation to get an education so they can he prepared for it when it comes to get jobs. All construction of 17 oil companies that has been going on for the last few 18 years hasn't really made the people clear on. They get 19 jobs now and not really knowing what the company are 20 working towards. There has been a few camps set up 21 close by and most people should be able to. see what a 22 23 change there has been especially with the younger people and I don't think we are really prepared for the 24 bigger camps that are coming up and to my thinking and 25 speaking I would like very much to see lots more time 26 and then we should be prepared to make the answer of 27 what the pipeline would do for everyone, whether it is 28 29 yes or no." 30 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you

30

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very much.
                 I understand that Mrs. Gordon wants to
1
   make a statement but she isn't quite ready yet.
2
3
   there anyone else who wishes to speak before Mrs.
   Gordon?
4
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                               MR. ITSI: I would like to
   say a few words.
6
7
                               THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, go
8
   ahead.
                               MR. ITSI: I would like to
9
   say that I am the Chief from Fort McPherson, my name is
10
                The main point I want to stress here is why
11
   can't the Native people, the Indian people, the Eskimo
12
   people -- like you are a Judge -- can you put up the
13
   panel of six people to say when the pipeline should
14
   come in, when not to come in. Can you do that?
15
16
                               THE COMMISSIONER: No.
17
                               MR. ITSI: Like the whole
   load is on you?
18
19
                              THE COMMISSIONER: No, the job
   that I have to do is to conduct an Inquiry to make a
20
   report to the Government of Canada about the impact
21
22
   that the proposed gas pipeline will have in the north,
   on the people, on the land, on the economy of the
23
   north, and to recommend to the Government what terms
24
   and conditions should be imposed if a right-of-way is
25
   granted to allow the gas pipeline to be built. I am
26
   also bound to consider what will happen if a gas
27
   pipeline is built, in that I am bound to consider the
28
29
   question of the impact that an oil pipeline would have
    as well.
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I have been appointed by the 1 2 Government of Canada to carry on the Inquiry. I am to make a report and to make recommendations, that is my 3 job. That is why I am here, and that is why I intend to 4 visit each community in the Mackenzie Valley, the 5 Mackenzie Delta, the Northern Yukon, including Fort 6 McPherson, when the people invite me to come to, those 7 communities, to hear what the people who live in the 8 North have to say. That is my job. 9 MR. ITSI: Yes, the thing is 10 that I was talking to some trappers yesterday, and like 11 they are not still on any jobs, the oil companies 12 spoiled up all the Delta, they got nothing to do now. 13 They are looking for work. There is no work. People 14 won't hire them because they are unskilled. 15 16 Why can't we have -- why can't we have the right to say when to go and when not 17 to go How come it is always on the Federal Government's 18 side That is a good question, right. We should be the 19 ones to say when to go and when not to go, it's our 20 livelihood. I think you should ask the people, the 21 22 trappers to help and assist you in deciding, don't take it on the Brotherhood, don't take it on C.O.P.E., have 23 24 a regular Panel. 25 THE COMMISSIONER: I am here to listen to trappers, hunters --26 27 MR. ITSI: Sure. 28 THE COMMISSIONER: Let me 29 finish, people who live here. I want to hear what they have to say. I have been here for three days now

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listening to people who want to tell me what their
1
   concerns are, what their fears are, what their hopes
2
3
   are, and that's what I am doing.
                               MR. ITSI: Well, I will
4
   invite you down to the mouth of the Peel when you come
5
   to McPherson, I'll invite you down to the mouth of the
6
7
   Peel, and we'll have the Inquiry there, is that all
8
   right?
                               THE COMMISSIONER:
9
                                                  Well, let
   us allow the other participants in the Inquiry, to hear
10
   what they have to say about that.
11
12
                               MR. ITSI:
                                          Sure, well, I'll
   invite you down there, is that all right, is that part
13
   of the Inquiry?
14
                               THE COMMISSIONER: You can
15
   invite me down. I am going to go to Fort McPherson, I
16
17
   am not going to say now when --
                               MR. ITSI:
                                          Sure, well we
18
   feel you are jeopardizing our rights, you are throwing
19
   our rights away.
20
                               THE COMMISSIONER: Well, Mr.
21
22
   Itsi --
23
                               MR. ITSI: -- I could be
   sitting up there just the same as you and I will
24
   invite you down to a tent someplace, maybe then you'll
25
   know when not to put the pipeline in and when it is
26
   time to go ahead, is that all right?
27
                                           Can I say that?
   I said it.
28
29
                               You come to McPherson and we
   will take you down to the mouth of the Peel.
```

1	THE COMMISSIONER: All right,
2	I will be happy to come down to the mouth of the Peel.
3	MR. ITSI: And that's where
4	you will have the Inquiry.
5	THE COMMISSIONER: I said I
6	would go down to the mouth of the Peel, let's do this
7	one step at a time.
8	MR. ITSI: You have your
9	Inquiry down there.
10	THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I am
11	afraid, Mr. Itsi,
12	MR. ITSI: I'll invite about
13	a million mosquitoes.
14	THE COMMISSIONER: I will be
15	down at McPherson but I think that I have to listen to
16	all the people concerned, about when they want me to
17	come to McPherson, and where they want me to go when I
18	am there.
19	MR. ITSI: I am the spokesman
20	for them.
21	THY COMMISSIONER: Well, how
22	are we getting along now, are you not ready yet?
23	Well, now, is there anybody
24	else who wishes to say anything, if not, we will just
25	recess.
26	We did not have Mr. Itsi's
27	remarks translated into Eskimo and into Loucheux and I
28	think we should, I want Mr. Thrasher and Miss Husky for
29	you to translate what Mr. Itsi said into Eskimo and
30	into Loucheux.
	The Education.

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MR. THRASHER: I will say the
1
2
   ones I can remember.
3
                               THE COMMISSIONER: Do the
   best you can.
4
5
    (ESKIMO TRANSLATION.)
    (LOUCHEUX TRANSLATION.)
6
7
                               KATHY PAUL, sworn:
                               My name is Kathy Paul. Most
8
   of our living is depended on the land and animals. If
9
   the pipeline comes through our community, the noise
10
   might attract their attention and will get scared and
11
   move further up. Most people live on the animals
12
   because of meat in the stores being expensive.
13
                               If the pipeline is built
14
   here in our community, the increasing population will
15
   cause more garbage and sewage problems than it is now.
16
17
                               Another problem I think
   about the pipeline is outsiders bringing in all kinds
18
   of drugs and the younger and older generation will be
19
   taking them. This is all I have to say. Thank you for
20
   listening.
21
22
                              THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
23
   very much. I wonder if we could have that translated o
24
   far as the translators can.
25
                               (WITNESS ASIDE)
26
                               VICTOR ALLEN: I am here on
   behalf of Miss Thea Gordon.
27
28
                               "My name is Thea Gordon. I
29
   am going on for 69 years old. I was born at Barren,
   Alaska in 1906. I do not know my Mom but when I am
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seven or eight years old, my dad died. I was brought
1
   up by my Grannie. I thought she was my Mom but when I
2
   was five or six years old, my Grannie told me to go to
3
   school. It was kind of hard for my Grannie. I liked
4
   school, even how much it's cold. It's a public school.
5
   We use coal and blubber for school stove. No
6
   electricity. We used just gas lamp. We got married in
7
    1923 and we moved to Barter Island and there they
8
   trading Nielson and Company.
9
                               In 1947 or 1948 we came to
10
            My old kids they don't know how to talk
11
   English, not a word, but now they all speak how to talk
12
   English. They forgot Eskimo language, especially Jeanie
13
   talks not a word, but she understand me when I say.
14
   They should not forget their language. About the
15
   pipeline, I like fishing, I mean jiggling with a hook
16
   in the fall time and about caribou. If the pipeline
17
   starts, when the planes go back and forth there will be
18
   no caribou. I don't know nothing about the pipeline
19
   but I don't like pipeline. That is all I have to say
20
   to you, Mr. Berger. Have a good luck, May God be with
21
22
   you always. I hope you understand my writing.
   from Mrs. Thea Gordon. P.S. Oh, I forgot, I teach
23
   Eskimo language at school nearly two years.
24
                                                 I am still
              I like it and the kids at school like it
25
   teaching.
          They've learned a little but that's all I have
26
   too.
   to say."
27
28
                               I would like to give a
29
   version to the Eskimo speaking people.
30
                              THE COMMISSIONER: I think we
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1	have to swear you as an Interpreter.
2	VICTOR ALLEN sworn as Eskimo
3	Interpreter.
4	G.G. STEWART, sworn:
5	I want my country.
6	THE COMMISSIONER: Would you
7	repeat that, sir?
8	A I said this is my
9	country and I want it to be my country. I don't want no
10	pipeline through this country. Is that correct?
11	THE COMMISSIONER: I under-
12	stand that is your position, sir, that is the stand you
13	take.
14	A Yes. I make my living
15	all my life in this country. I don't want nobody to
16	take it away from me. I want my country and I still
17	going to keep it as a country, also the rest of my
18	people right in this community. Anything I say wrong
19	you can correct me.
20	THE COMMISSIONER: I under-
21	stood everything you said, sir.
22	A If I have done anything
23	out of the way to my country, no, I love my country.
24	I. have my country for my own use right up until today.
25	Let it be my country. I ask you not to put the
26	pipeline through. My whole family, my children, my
27	grandchildren, everybody asks me to say this, therefore
28	I say it.
29	If I make any mistake, please
30	correct me. Am I mistaken? I say I want that country,

to stay, be my own country, I still want to make a living out of it. Who is going to chase me out of the 2 country? Nobody. I don't want no pipeline. 3 the right for the land. That's all, 4 THE COMMISSIONER: 5 Thank you very much. You made your stand very very plain, sir. 6 7 (WITNESS ASIDE) THE COMMISSIONER: I think, 8 ladies and gentlemen, that we have completed three 9 days of hearings here at Aklavik and I think that we 10 will adjourn now and I will return later on in the 11 summer, if you wish, or in the fall. You and any other 12 people that live here can let me know when you want me 13 to come back, so anyone who has anything further to 14 say will have a chance to say it then. 15 16 I want to thank all of you who gave evidence, all of you who are witnesses, thank 17 you very much. I feel that I have learned something 18 from each one of you and I am grateful to you for 19 coming here to tell me what you had to say. 20 I want to thank the ladies 21 22 who made the tea and coffee and sandwiches. I am very 23 grateful for the hospitality you extended to the Inquiry. I want all of you to realize that your 24 evidence is just as important, so far as the Inquiry is 25 concerned, as the evidence of the scientists and 26 engineers and biologists and the sociologists who are 27 28 giving evidence at Yellowknife at the Formal Hearing. 29 I think that I should make it clear that I am here because I want everybody in the

Mackenzie Valley, the Mackenzie Delta, and the Northern 1 Yukon to have a chance to have his say, that includes 2 the people who live here in Aklavik, it includes the 3 native people and the white people, it includes 4 trappers, fishermen, and people who work in stores and 5 offices. 6 7 My job is to listen to all 8 of you and then to make a report and recommendations to the Government of Canada. 9 I want you to understand 10 that I do intend to listen to everyone who lives in the 11 Mackenzie Valley and the Mackenzie Delta, and that 12 means that I will be visiting all of the cities and 13 towns and the villages and the other settlements. It 14 means that I want all of you to give me what help you 15 can and by all of you I mean the people living here in 16 Aklavik,, native and white, and the people living 17 throughout the Valley and the Delta, native and white. 18 I mean the people who are trappers, hunters and 19 fishermen, the people who work in stores and offices. 20 I think that I should tell 21 22 you that I am considering the evidence that is being brought forward. by Arctic Gas, the Company that wishes 23 to build the pipeline, by Foothills which is another 24 company wanting to build a pipeline, by the Committee 25 for Original Peoples Entitlement, the Indian 26 Brotherhood, the Metis Association, the Inuit 27 Tapirisat, the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, the 28 Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities, 29 the Chamber of Commerce, all of those organizations, 30

but I want to hear from the people who live in each 1 city, town, each 2 settlement, and each village, and I will be going 3 around to visit each one of those communities. 4 I have to make a report and 5 recommendation to the Government of Canada, and it is 6 the Government of Canada, the law making authority, the 7 highest law making authority in our country, that will 8 determine whether a gas pipeline will be built, and if 9 one is to be built, what terms and conditions should 10 be imposed on any right-of-way granted to allow a 11 pipeline to be built in the North. 12 I want to thank you all 13 again for coming, and I want to express my thanks again 14 to all of you for your kindness and hospitality, and to 15 say that I will be seeing you again when I return to 16 Aklavik later on. 17 MR. BAYLY: Mr. Commissioner, 18 I have a submission that was given to me just a few 19 minutes ago. I have spoken to the man who has given me 20 the submission and he said he would be content if this 21 22 was put in as a written submission and perhaps read into the record when the hearing reconvenes at 23 24 Yellowknife on Monday. 25 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I think perhaps you might read it now. 26 MR. BAYLY: I would be 27 28 This is the submission, sir, of Jim content to. Marring, and I don't know if you wish to have him 29 sworn or not. 30

THE COMMISSIONER: I think 1 2 perhaps he should be. 3 JIM MARRING, sworn: MR. BAYLY: The statement 4 is dated Aklavik, Northwest Territories, April 4th, 5 6 1975. 7 "Mr. Berger. I hope this will help to swing a little weight for being careful 8 how they build the pipeline because I believe they will 9 because oil will be needed and I don't believe we can 10 stop that kind of operation so big they call progress. 11 So let's hope for a minimum of northern damage and a 12 fair share of the profits all around. 13 I verify the facts of wires 14 being left behind and even garbage by various 15 companies, also creeks being full of dirt where they 16 crossed to make winter bridges, the same on the edge of 17 lakes and rivers. Did you know if some lakes lose 18 their natural water level suddenly it can cause a poor 19 rat crop for two or three years because some plants 20 grows in only about two feet of water and it takes 21 approximately two years for them to drift and find 22 23 their proper water depth, so I have been told by biologists. In the country I work east of Aklavik 24 there hasn't been good muskrat trapping or hunting 25 since the seismograph lines have been put through. I 26 don't understand it or if it's even the lines fault 27 but I do know rats, like anything else, die off in 28 cycles. I believe it used to be in the neighbourhood of 29 seven years and then start building up again to a very

high population. All I know is we have had a very low 1 population for the last four or five years. 2 3 Blasting. When they blast just how much damage does it do and how do they know? 4 5 Have they ever torn up a muskrat bank lodge to see how they are built or have 6 they ever tried it after a blast. I wonder how many 7 rats or even mink, never mind the fish, that might have 8 died under water or rats in their pushups. I've seen a 9 fellow deliberately shoot in front of a duck on water 10 with a high powered rifle and it died from concussion 11 and you can kill a mink the same way by shooting in 12 front of its nose up against a cutbank and kill it with 13 the same rifle, and a mink is tough, so how do we know 14 the extent of damage done to these bank or underground 15 animals. Did you know in Old Crow there was a study 16 done on aging muskrats by biologists from trapping 17 season to shooting season, March to June 15th. 80 some 18 percent was about 7 months old, the rest up to a year, 19 and I think about 3% over a year, so if they blast in 20 December, how much concussion would it take to kill 21 22 half-grown rats. What happened to all the rats, perhaps two litters they didn't study that should have been 23 born in late July or August. I think we need more 24 studying time for the biologists couldn't tell me. The 25 same for white foxes. After all the studying done they 26 still didn't know for sure how many litters they have 27 in a summer. It looked like two in a good year. Did 28 you know it might take a hundred years for a white 29 foxes den to be big enough for him to use as it is

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just ground mostly heaved up by the frost and it has to be right before it is used on account mostly it has to be high enough, I mean the nest, to be out of the water, because up to August or bad rain the dens are sometimes surrounded by water. Did you know from the Alaska border on the north slope to not too far north of Blow River we only found I believe 30 some white fox dens that could be used and I believe less of them showed active signs. What I am really trying to say is if any amount or even a few of those dens are damaged the young may be born outside and they don't live to feed some kid's belly by the price of their pelts. A biologist told me he thought those fox dens should be studied at least another year and the dens should be marked by sinking cement blocks in the ground with solid iron poles and iron flags that could be seen for a mile, then the companies can't send a Cat operator out in a poor visibility day to spoil it to save a few thousand dollars, fire the operator by passing the With the bright iron they could be in line to buck. be sued. Yes with all the study I saw from grass, birds, fish, flowers, what I have mentioned to big game I believe that word sued by land claimer or such is the best control this northern country has to survive and profit. I don't believe we will survive by lying dormant either but I believe we should think carefully, go slow until we are sure but above all let's not get greedy, I believe those are what will bring destruction to our kids faster than anything else. And if they go to hell, who's going to save this

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vast land of cold and mosquitoes from destroying us
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2
   northerners?
                              Thanks for coming and listen-
3
4
   ing to us, Mr. Berger, and party. Sincerely, J.
5
   Marring. P.S. I am no biologist."
6
7
                               THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
   Mr. Marring. I hope you will allow your statement to be
8
   introduced as an exhibit, and if you could tell Mr.
9
   Roland, a member of my staff, the name of the
10
   biologist that you talked to, please do, and we may
11
   want to talk to him ourselves.
12
    (STATEMENT OF J. MARRING MARKED EXHIBIT C-8.)
13
                               (WITNESS ASIDE)
14
                               LAZARUS SITTICHINLI resumed:
15
                               (Interpreted by Susie Husky)
16
                               He says this is the first
17
   time I ever been to a meeting like this and I never
18
19
   seen one in my life. There are so many different people
   talking in different ways, he said I can see the oil
20
   companies are talking one way, and the people are
21
   talking about the oil companies, and in the end I
22
   think everything will turn out okay, at least I hope it
23
   will.
24
25
                               I hope the next time you
   come before us again, the people will speak up more to
26
   you. Now I want to thank you for coming before us and
27
   speaking to us and giving us a chance to speak to you
28
   and thank you for all the kind words that you have
29
    given us. This is all I have to say too.
30
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1	THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
2	very much,
3	(WITNESS ASIDE)
4	MRS. CARMICHAEL: I want to
5	thank you for coming to Aklavik and making it available
6	for everyone to speak. There are so many different
7	people here and everyone spoke and we were very glad
8	and I want to thank you for coming. I want to thank you
9	and your staff for coming before us. I know you are
10	leaving tonight and I want to say good luck and God
11	bless you wherever you go in your work. Thank you very
12	much.
13	THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
14	ladies and gentlemen, I think nearly everyone has left
15	and I appreciate it very much, and I think we will
16	adjourn since there is nobody left.
17	
18	(CONCLUDED)
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