

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)

**New Indian Village
Hay River, N.W.T.
May 30, 1975.**

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

Volume 6

The 2003 electronic version prepared from the original transcripts by
Allwest Reporting Ltd.
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3A7 Canada
Ph: 604-683-4774 Fax: 604-683-9378
www.allwestbc.com

APPEARANCES

Prof. Michael Jackson Mr. Ian Roland	for Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry;
Mr. Darryl Carter	for Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Limited;
Mr. Alan Hollingsworth	for Foothills Pipelines Ltd.;
Mr. Glen W. Bell	for Northwest Territories, Indian Brotherhood and Metis Association of the Northwest Territories;

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1 New Indian Village
2 Hay River, N.W.T.
3 May 30, 1975.

4 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I'll
6 call our meeting to order. Those of you who are at the
7 back, please feel free to come and take some of these
8 chairs at the front, Well, I am Judge Berger, and I
9 have been asked by the Federal Government to conduct an
10 Inquiry into the proposal to build a pipeline to bring
11 gas from the north to Southern Canada and the United
12 States.

13 The purpose of my being here
14 today is to hear what you have to say about the
15 proposal to build a pipeline and all of its
16 ramifications, and to give you an opportunity to state
17 what you think, to tell me what you think about the
18 pipeline and to ask any questions that you may want to
19 ask. I'm here to listen to each one of you, and to
20 consider what you have to say.

21 I think I should say that
22 if this pipeline is built we are told that it will mean
23 that there will be 400 men employed at Hay River to
24 build a stockpile site, where they will store the pipe.
25 Then there will be 400 men employed there on the
26 stockpile site for about three years, to load and
27 unload
28 the pipe. They will have to add to the number of tugs
29 and barges on the river, so that they can carry twice
30 as much in the way of goods and materials as they do

1 Chief Sonfere, or any member of the Band Council wish
2 to make a statement, certainly I'd be happy to hear
3 from you now, whatever you wish.

4 CHIEF TOM SONFERE, not sworn:

5 THE INTERPRETER: He's really
6 thanking you people for coming over and coming to the
7 village here with the Band members on this side to
8 discuss this pipeline. We heard all what people are
9 saying about the pipeline and we seen quite a few
10 pictures of it, and we pretty well know what's been
11 going on, and we pretty well know what to say on it.

12 He says he's so thankful that
13 he knows there is some people that are trying to help
14 them. He says the way things look now, he says, I know
15 that there is quite a few people willing to help us,
16 and when we try and help one another like this, he
17 says, we'll go ahead because we'll be stronger to do
18 something for ourselves.

19 He says not very many days --
20 a few days ago, that's when they moved this school on
21 this side, that's why we're sitting in a better
22 building to talk about that today.

23 He says these three
24 councillor sitting here with him at the table today,
25 they're all employed and they're working, but they're
26 really trying their best to make things look better for
27 all these other people across to visit him -- to visit
28 us. They hope to have a better place where the people
29 can gather together here, and that's what they're
30 really working on, but things sure take time once they

1 THE COMMISSIONER: May we
2 have this councillor's name?

3 JIM LAMALICE, sworn:

4 THE INTERPRETER: Jim

5 Lamalice. He said he's thankful for all these people
6 who came across to be with him today and discuss a few
7 things, what's on their mind with you people, and then
8 he says, he's happy to say a few words here because his
9 chief done the talking and now he told him to say a few
10 things so he's going to say a few things to you.

11 Yes, he says it seems to us
12 that there is more white man than the native in Hay
13 River. There is not enough of us people in here but he
14 says that's why we've got our leader here, he says our
15 chief is sitting here with us. Whatever he says, we've
16 got rise to help him, we have to work together and try
17 and go ahead. Whatever he says, whatever he want us to
18 do, we have to do. We are going to do the same as our
19 chief does.

20 He says like his chief told
21 you about what the people were like before the white
22 man came to his town, he said. Even himself, he's 66
23 years old and he knows what went on and how things
24 happening and what a lot of different things went on.
25 He says he knows it all.

26 He says when you look at it
27 today, he says, I guess there is all kinds of help the
28 natives could get, but in the older days it never used
29 to be like that, he says. Maybe there was some
30 government could help the people but he says native

1 ourselves, but he says we're talking for all our people
2 in Hay River.

3 He says for his part, he
4 says, even they came and asked him if they wanted to
5 get the pipeline through, he says he's pretty sure
6 there is quite a few people wouldn't allow that
7 pipeline to go through, that's the way he feels about
8 it.

9 Yes, he said you heard this
10 shortly after the meeting started, what my chief said
11 to you. This is our land, he says, and before the
12 white man came amongst us, he says, we didn't start
13 this ourselves, he says. The older generation not
14 start this place. Each place is like that, and they
15 kept following us, but he says what the chief said to
16 you about the first treaty when the government paid out
17 the first treaty and make what kind of a promise to the
18 natives, and over half of it is not kept. He says
19 that's the way he feels about it, too.

20 Yes, he says we're calling
21 ourselves treaty Indians right from Hay River all the way
22 down Mackenzie River, he says. How come, he says, every
23 settlement, just like the white man comes along and they're
24 not trying to let the native people go ahead, but they seem
25 like they're making these native people getting poorer and
26 poorer all the time, he says. They come into this country,
27 not to get us well off, he says, but they'd sooner see us
28 poor, and they're making all the money down on the land of
29 ours. Therefore we got rights to talk for ourselves and we
30 got to talk about our land, because this is our land. He

1 he says you came over here to help the people, and
2 you're going to try and help the people, that's why
3 you're sitting here with us, and he says just like I
4 got knowledge, my chance to tell him what I think
5 might help me. That's the way I think about my people,
6 that's why I'm talking to you today.

7 He says we're sitting here.
8 We're not going to make a big promise, we're just going
9 to forget about it, no. He says I know you are sitting
10 in here today with us. You're just going to write down
11 whatever we tell you, you're not going to turn around
12 and throw it away and just forget about it. Like what
13 the white man's been doing right along, he said. We've
14 got to have somebody to help us, and if we think
15 that's the right guy there to help us, therefore then
16 we start talking to him.

17 Yes, he says, when you stop
18 and look around, he says, the white man brought
19 something amongst the people that made the people poor,
20 but he says look at all those native people sitting in
21 here, he says. They know what's going to happen to
22 their land if they let the pipeline go through, and he
23 says do you think the people are going to say, "O.K.,
24 you can go ahead and start the pipeline." They're
25 scared to say "O.K." because they know what's going to
26 happen to their land, and that's what they're afraid,
27 that's why everybody is talking against it.

28 Yes, he says he's glad that
29 he brought a few things up to you. He says if a person
30 knows that he's going to suffer with something, well he

1 | wouldn't try and fight for what he's going to suffer
2 | with; but he wants to get away from things like that,
3 | that's why they talked to you. They had a good
4 | opportunity to talk to you about those things today, he
5 | says. That's all he's going to tell you for now
6 | because there might be some other people who want to
7 | say something.

8 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
9 | very much, sir.

10 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

11 | THE INTERPRETER: There's
12 | another councillor sitting here, Ted Bughhins, is going
13 | to say a few things to you too. There's one more, and
14 | then they'll give people a chance to talk.

15 | TED BUGGHINS, unsworn:

16 | THE INTERPRETER: He says
17 | he's going to talk about -- he's going to talk to you
18 | about what he remember in the olden days, he says. He
19 | remember how it used to be in the olden days up till
20 | today. He's going to talk to you about that.

21 | In the olden days as far as
22 | he can remember back, he says, all the people that used
23 | to live down at the Point, at the Old Village, and the
24 | people used to be well off and he says, I remember how
25 | the people used to live them days.

26 | Yes, he says as far as he could
27 | remember back, he says, on Vale Island there might be about
28 | two families on Vale Island, and there's Anglican minister
29 | and there's priest and there's Hudson' Bay manager, that's all
30 | the white man used to be in Hay River. You never heard no

1 he says, if they refuse the pipeline, he says I don't
2 blame them because even up town he says they've got
3 pipes buried underground for water. He says even those
4 pipes are busting. He says if the pipeline goes
5 through for gas, I'm pretty sure the same thing will
6 happen to the pipe.

7 So what's going to happen is
8 if the pipeline went through and if it happened to
9 break or anything, well, he says, not only the trees
10 are going to be dead, he says, all the animals are
11 going to be killed, too.

12 It's dangerous for
13 everything, he says, even for the fires. What if it
14 bust and oil spill and if it caught on fire, he says
15 even the ground is going to be burning for quite a
16 while before they put it out.

17 Just look at this, he says,
18 we're talking about pipeline but how about those
19 drillings been going on around Pine Point, he says? I
20 don't know how many miles around there, all the trees
21 are dead. He says even that, it's no good. That
22 pipeline is going to be worse yet.

23 Yes, he says, these people,
24 he says, they're going to spoil his land. They're
25 going to break up all the land; but not only that, he
26 says if they have it, there is one pipe that's going to
27 be buried and one's going to be on top, the animals
28 can't go underneath it or over it, he says. It's going
29 to be bad for everything.

30 Yes, he says, as far as he's

1 Hay River, he says, he used to keep us feeding us off
2 the land in the bush, that's why he kept us in the bush
3 all the time. That's where I was brought up.

4 Yes, he says when he was ten
5 years old, as far as he could remember, he says they
6 used to go up the river, they never used to have no
7 kickers behind the boats, he says they used to push
8 poles and that's how they used to go up the river, up
9 Buffalo River to get to Buffalo Lake.

10 That's where they brought up
11 their family right because when they get to Buffalo
12 Lake they used to have all kinds of meat and have
13 enough fish for the winter, and that's how come they
14 always brought their family out in the bush, and that's
15 where they kept them.

16 But after that, when they
17 brought these outboard motors into this country, just
18 about everyone of them used to own a kicker. He says
19 in them days people, if they wanted to buy something
20 big like that they used to have money and buy outboard
21 motors no matter how much it cost. But you heard
22 these people, what the white man done to the Indians in
23 Hay River. He says sure it's right because I know
24 myself, he says. He says even himself he hardly own
25 anything these days because the liquor done that to the
26 people.

27 Yes, but what his old man
28 bought for him in those days he's still keeping it
29 because he doesn't want to sell it to buy something,
30 to get something to drink for it because he know that

1 Chief Sayie to be sworn. I'm sure that everything you
2 said to me was true, but we do this for everyone, so I
3 know you won't mind.

4 (CHIEF TOM SONFERE , COUNCILLORS JIM LAMALICE, TED
5 BUGGHINS & PAT BUGGHINS, AND CHIEF EDWARD SAYIE:
6 SWORN)

7 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, he
8 says he's going to talk to you about Pine Point. He
9 says about the water that's around that mine, he says
10 what it does to the trees and all what's happening
11 around there. He says if you really want to go and
12 look over there with me, he says I'm willing to take
13 you there and show you around Pine Point and show you
14 what I'm trying to tell you.

15 When they had a meeting about
16 that in Pine Point, I guess there was 15 white guys and
17 he sat in the meeting with them. He done quite a bit
18 of talking about it, but they don't seem to do anything
19 about it.

20 He says they've been having a
21 meeting about what's happening around Pine Point Mine,
22 he says. They had a meeting about it for over a year
23 and they don't get no reply, so he got one of his men
24 to wrote a letter to Ottawa and he put his name on it
25 and they send that letter to Pine Point. It's over
26 three months now, there's no reply from Ottawa yet.

27 He says you should see our own Pine
28 Point there. He says for about ten miles radius around Pine
29 Point he says you'll never see no green trees around there
30 for about ten miles radius around Pine Point. He says

1 us. Sure, he says, the native people and the half-breeds,
2 the welfare is looking after them. But he says the only
3 person he's looking for a job for is the white man, and he
4 put the native people and the half-breeds on welfare and he
5 goes and looks for a job for white man, that's all he does.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me.
7 Chief Sayie, how many people live in Fort Resolution?

8 THE INTERPRETER: 500, about
9 500, The way I am in Fort Resolution, he says, I'm not
10 going to give him O.K. before anything that's settled
11 and he says I don't think I'll give them O.K. to go
12 ahead on that pipeline, he says. There's nothing
13 settled yet, and he says I don't care what the hell
14 people think, he says that's the way I feel. He says
15 everything's got to be settled. If they want to start
16 they can start, but I'm not going to give them my O.K.
17 no matter what, he says.

18 He says it's up to my band
19 people, he says, I'm not talking for my own self. He
20 says I'm talking for the whole band in Fort Resolution,
21 he says. If they want land settlement, sure, he says,
22 I'll grab a bit of land I want for my people but he
23 says that's not only for myself, that's for the whole
24 band in Fort Resolution.

25 If they're going to run the
26 pipe, gas pipeline into -- they're going to say, "Ah,
27 they're going to run it into Pine Point so people could
28 use gas or whatever they're going to use it for their
29 heater," I'm pretty sure you go as far as Pine Point
30 because there's a mine in Pine Point, there is nothing

1 | in Fort Resolution. That's right, he says, I'm not
2 | going to take it. Yes, he says right now, he says
3 | there is 600 employees in Pine Point and there's only
4 | five natives amongst those -- there's only five natives
5 | in Pine Point, the rest is white man.

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: You say
7 | there are 600 employees at the Pine Point Mine?

8 | A Yes.

9 | Q And how many are native
10 | people?

11 | A Five.

12 | Q Five out of 600?

13 | A Yes.

14 | Q How long has the mine
15 | been there?

16 | A '63.

17 | THE INTERPRETER: He says
18 | everything has been going full blast since about '63.
19 | I guess.

20 | Q About ten years or so.

21 | A Yeah, about that.

22 | Q Two shifts?

23 | A They've got three shifts
24 | there in Pine Point.

25 | Q How far is it from
26 | Resolution if you were going to drive from Resolution
27 | to Pine Point on the road?

28 | A 45 miles from Fort
29 | Resolution, from here it's about 50, but if you're
30 | going to drive in from Resolution it's 45 miles.

1 Q You said there's only
2 about five native people living at -- or working at --
3 you said five people out of 60 at Pine Point are native
4 workers. Did they move into Pine Point, or do they
5 still live in Resolution?

6 A They move into Pine
7 Point. They are living in rented houses at Pine Point.

8 Q But did they come from
9 Resolution, sir?

10 A Yeah, I guess they moved
11 there from Resolution. That's all he's going to talk
12 to you about.

13 CHIEF SONFERE, (THROUGH INTERPRETER):

14 Yes, he says he's got one of
15 the older men from Hay River. He looks old, but he
16 says he helped a lot of people in his days and he's
17 going to talk to you for a while about pipeline and
18 what he thinks about pipeline and what's going to
19 happen. He's going to talk to you for a while. His
20 name is William Martel.

21 (WITNESS ASIDE)

22 THE COMMISSIONER: We'll
23 swear Mr. Martel. We'll have the secretary swear him.

24 WILLIAM MARTEL, sworn:

25 THE INTERPRETER: He says ever
26 since they start talking about the pipeline, he says, I
27 listen to these native language, sometimes have Joe Tobi
28 talking on the radio and they'll listen to him, and they
29 know what's going on, but he says I'm going to speak to you
30 about how these animals live in the land, he says, like

1 moose and bears and even the birds, they fly north in the
2 spring for their nesting ground, he says they got a nesting
3 ground around there, and these moose and bears like that,
4 sometimes they're in the water most of the time, he says
5 that's where they go and have something, that's where
6 they're living off weeds from the bottom of the river, he
7 says; but he says some pipe running under-water, he says,
8 I'm going to talk to you about what's going to happen to
9 these things when they do have pipeline through.

10 Even us humans are like that,
11 he said, we can't live without water. He said we got
12 to drink water, that's how we're living. Yes, he says
13 what if they have this pipe goes through -- across a
14 river or goes underground, what if the pipe bust and
15 the fuel starts spilling, he says you just got to come
16 down to the river and getting water, and what's going
17 to happen to us if the water is polluted?

18 Some places, well he says,
19 the ground moves once in a while, not often, but I
20 guess sometimes you hear about landslide and things
21 like that, and he says if anything happens like that
22 the pipe won't last very long.

23 What we're worrying about is
24 if anything happens like that, a pipeline bust and fuel
25 started spilling, it's going to kill off all our fish
26 and all our animals, and what are we going to live on
27 afterwards? There will be nothing left for us to live
28 on, that's what we're afraid of.

29 Yes, he says, we can tell the
30 people, he says this is our land, you can't run the

1 | heard one of the boys mention how the fish taste, oil
2 | on, you catch fish down the river, even around here it
3 | is like that, but he says it will be like that all over
4 | after -- if there's a lot of fuel spilled and the
5 | pipeline bust, he says, our fish will be worse than
6 | what it is now.

7 | Yes, he says, this is our land,
8 | that's why, he says, we have to fight for it and we have to
9 | say what we think about our land, because we're trying to
10 | save our land. Whenever we tell them about our land, they
11 | should think whatever we're saying about our land is right,
12 | because always we have to try and save it and say what we
13 | think about our land.

14 | He says us native people, if
15 | we round up about 15 or 20 people and went south and
16 | went to Ottawa some day and walk into the Government
17 | Official Office, we're going to go in there and sure, I
18 | want a bit of your land so I came here to take your
19 | land. Well, they know what kind of land they've got
20 | and they're going to try and bug us, they're not going
21 | to try and give us their land because they know what
22 | kind of land they got out there. They says, "We can't
23 | do that," they won't even listen to us when we talk
24 | about their land.

25 | Yes, he says, when we talk
26 | about our land he says we know it's valuable to us.
27 | That's why we're talking about it, because we're here
28 | before the white man ever came in this country. He
29 | says the native people are on this land before the
30 | white man came by right, and when we say we own this

1 | and what you do.

2 | A I work for the Indian
3 | Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories and the
4 | position that I hold there is that of co-ordinator,
5 | research co-ordinator for the land use study.

6 | Q Could you tell us,
7 | please what type of research you're doing and what the
8 | land use study is?

9 | A The land use study that
10 | were currently working on is researching the tradition
11 | hunting, trapping and fishing areas, and were talking
12 | to as many hunters and trappers as possible in each
13 | community we have field workers in the field doing this

14 | Q I see, and can you tell
15 | us why this research is being carried out?

16 | A Well a bit of the
17 | background of this research, to begin with, the
18 | position
19 | of the people and the Board of the Indian Brotherhood
20 | when they filed their caveat in 1970, they claimed
21 | 460,000 square miles, and to substantiate this claim
22 | we had to document -- we had to research into it, so
23 | the land use study is to find out just how intensive
24 | the land was being used and what areas were and are
25 | being occupied at the present, so when we speak to
26 | each hunter and trapper we get a pretty good history
27 | of his hunting and trapping life, and we're only
28 | talking to the people who are living now. They can
29 | tell us about their family history and things, but
30 | basically we're talking -- we're asking them for

1 | their own experience on the land.

2 | Q Could you tell us how 3
3 | you record the information that you get and the
4 | procedures that you use to obtain the information?

5 | A Well, this sort of
6 | research is not -- is what we call an actual research,
7 | it's different from other researches in that we don't
8 | have professional people going into communities and
9 | getting information, writing the reports and then
10 | leaving, which is what a lot of the native people are
11 | used to, before, at this research involves is having
12 | native people talk to their own people and get as much
13 | information written down, and then checked over again
14 | and again, and so what we do is we go -- what the field
15 | workers do is we go to the communities and we find out
16 | the total number of trappers or those who used to
17 | trap, and from that total get a one-third sample and
18 | talk to this one-third sample to get a pretty good
19 | picture of the representation of the community, and the
20 | representation is that of trappers over 30 that is born
21 | before 1935.

22 | Q Does your research
23 | include anything other than hunting, fishing and
24 | trapping?

25 | A The kind of questions
26 | that we ask the hunter-trappers is:
27 | Where did you go?
28 | What season?
29 | What does he hunt for?
30 | When?

1 | the maps that are prepared to record trapping. Are there any
2 | other kinds maps that are being prepared?

3 | A Well, we follow a map
4 | code, a sheet telling us what symbol stands for sheep
5 | woodland caribou and mink, martin and otter and the
6 | rest of the wildlife symbols, and we have symbols for
7 | wildlife, symbols for particular sites such as sacred
8 | sites, and a code for routes that they travel on, and
9 | a code for camps, permanent and temporary, and we --
10 | besides that kind of research, when the researcher has
11 | time he gathers information on place names, depending
12 | on where your researching could be -- place names
13 | Chipewyan, Slavey or Dogrib, Loucheux.

14 | Q I'd like to ask you
15 | some more questions about the map on the wall.
16 | Perhaps it would help if we moved over to it so we
17 | could refer to it more easily. Could you tell us
18 | briefly what area this map represents, and what the
19 | lines on it mean?

20 | A This is a representation
21 | of 18 trappers and that's a third of the same in Hay
22 | River, and it's incomplete. In other words, there
23 | are some trappers here who have given us some of the
24 | lines, but haven't given us all of their lines because
25 | they say that if they did, the map would be just
26 | really covered and it would be just black with routes
27 | and everything. So this is incomplete. We didn't
28 | discriminate between what seasons -- what routes we
29 | used for what seasons. We just put all the routes
30 | down here. There's thin lines which represent

1 | the code here says, "Less than 25%," which would be
2 | less than, I guess, five people.

3 | THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me.
4 | Sorry, I just didn't hear that. The thin lines
5 | represent what? I'm sorry.

6 | A Represents less than 25%
7 | of the 18 people, and the thicker lines, which is this
8 | one here, represents half -- 25 - 49%, I'm sorry. The
9 | thickest line represents 50% or more, and --

10 | Q You'll have to forgive
11 | me. I still don't quite understand. 50%, the thickest
12 | lines represent more than 50%.

13 | A Or more, which would be
14 | the samples 18, eh?

15 | Q Yes.

16 | A -- and it probably
17 | represents more than half.

18 | Q 9-10 or more of the
19 | trappers that you sampled.

20 | A Nine or more, yes.

21 | Q I see, I see. Just so
22 | that we all understand where we are, would you just
23 | point out Hay River on that?

24 | A Right here. This is Hay
25 | River.

26 | Q And is the border
27 | between Alberta -- that's it there?

28 | A Yes.

29 | MR. BELL: What scale is this
30 | map?

1 | A This is the 500,000 scale.

2 | Q Do you want to translate
3 | that?

4 | A Oh.

5 | Q What period of time is
6 | represented by these lines?

7 | A Well, most of the people
8 | represented on here are over 30. There's two that were
9 | 32 when this was recorded, and the oldest person was
10 | born in 1910, and usually they, at the time they
11 | started trapping when they were between 6 and 13,
12 | that's when they started to learn. Some learned later
13 | than 13, but usually they learned when they were about
14 | six years old.

15 | Q Are all of these lines
16 | used every year?

17 | A I'd have to refer back
18 | to the biographies to tell you accurately, but briefly
19 | I these lines are used today, even though it's
20 | seasonal. A long time ago they used to use it all the
21 | time, you know, regardless of the season; but they had
22 | particular areas for say, the spring hunt, particular
23 | areas for the wintertime, and other areas for the
24 | summer where they go fishing.

25 | Q There are some small
26 | triangles marked on the map. What do they stand for?

27 | A The open triangles
28 | are the temporary camps, and the solid triangles are
29 | permanent camps. If you can't see it, I'll point them
30 | out. There's temporary camps here and here, here and

1 | in here, here and way out here near Tathlina Lake, west
2 | of Alexandra Falls, west of Kakisa Lake, not too far
3 | from Providence, and across near Deep Bay, The
4 | permanent camps are the solid triangles here at Point
5 | de Roche, near Yates River, near Buffalo Lake, south on
6 | the southern end of Buffalo Lake -- I'm sure that
7 | there 71, are camps all over Buffalo Lake and north of
8 | Buffalo Lake, and on the border near Buchan Lake; and
9 | the temporary camps are either open camps or else tent
10 | camps and they go there occasionally. The permanent
11 | camps are cabins or tent foundations.

12 | Q You said that this map
13 | represented 18 trappers from Hay River. Do you have
14 | the names of those trappers?

15 | A There is Chief Daniel Sonfere,
16 | Ted Bughins, Felix Cardinal, Baptiste Tambour John Lamalice,
17 | Ernest Martel, Fred Martel, Patrick Martel, Modest McKay, Joe
18 | McKay, Frank Norn, John Sabourine, Victor Bughins, James
19 | Lamalice, Pat Bughins, William Thibautt, Frank Lamalice and
20 | Edward Fabien.

21 | Q There are some other
22 | places marked on this map. I see Fort Resolution and
23 | Fort Providence. Are there a of the trappers from that
24 | area represented on this map?

25 | A No, it's just the sample
26 | from Hay River.

27 | Q Do trappers from those
28 | other areas use the same area, though?

29 | A There are areas of
30 | overlap, and I think that Dan and Ted probably can tell you

1 | more about that, because they have more information.

2 | MR. BELL: Thank you. Those
3 | are all the questions that I have. Do you want to add
4 | anything?

5 | A Well, I think I forgot
6 | one thing. In the - we have map biography sheets where
7 | we record everything that the people say, and one of
8 | the things that we ask, one of the questions we ask
9 | them is their views on land claims. That's the only
10 | thing I left out. It is just really very interesting.
11 | and people have really lots to say, so like, my view
12 | after having looked at quite a number of interviews, is
13 | that the biography sheets are really incomplete. You
14 | know, it's sort of an ongoing thing. People just keep
15 | remembering and remembering a lot of stories.

16 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
17 | very much. Maybe you'd like to translate.

18 | Mr. Bell, might that map on
19 | the blackboard and the list of the names of the trapper
20 | be marked as exhibits?

21 | MR. BELL: Yes, I was just
22 | going to suggest that.

23 | (MAP OF TRAPLINES IN HAY RIVER AREA MARKED EXHIBIT C-
24 | 12)

25 | (LIST OF 18 TRAPPERS MARKED EXHIBIT C-13)

26 | CHIEF SONFERE: (THROUGH 7
27 | INTERPRETER): What Phoebe told him about this map, 3
28 | he said he would be glad if you would let him explain)
29 | a few things about that map.

30 | THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly.

1 CHIEF TOM SONFERE, resumed:

2 THE INTERPRETER: If people
3 don't mind, he'd be glad to speak on it.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: While the
5 map is being put up, Mr. Jackson, maybe some of the
6 people at the back might like to stand over here so
7 that they could see the map.

8 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, he says he'd
9 like to say a few things to you people on this map, because
10 what he's going to talk to you, he wants to talk to you about
11 what he knows about this land and how he used to use it, and
12 about these people's names 3 that were putting it down, or
13 who is all using these lands. He's going to talk to you
14 about that.

15 Yes, he says they worked hard
16 on this map but they sure made it look better and it
17 took quite a bit of work, but they sure made it look
18 nice. He says I guess he met some field workers about
19 fixing this map, and he wanted to see them when they
20 start on this map and he wants to see them again after
21 they finish it, but he hasn't seen them.

22 Yes, he says I guess they
23 were looking for him one time about it but they just
24 couldn't get ahold of him, so maybe that's the reason.

25 He says when they were showing this
26 map here now, people used to trap in those areas, that used
27 to be their land. First time when they had a meeting about
28 it, they wanted each trapper to get his line registered on
29 that, one time. Yes, that's the time they had a chief here,
30 his name was Cardinal Lamalice was the head chief, and

1 William Bughins was his council. Them days they told him
2 they're not going to register any line for the people in that
3 area. There's lot of time that the chief and his council,
4 they told him they're not going to register any line down
5 there because some area is going to be given to the trappers,
6 it's going to be straight muskeg and some is going to be on
7 the better trapping area, so he doesn't want those people to
8 register any line, that's why they never did.

9 In them days when they had a
10 meeting about that, the chief said he wants a bigger
11 area for his people because there's not just enough
12 area to be there for his people to do what they want,
13 they can trap wherever they want in that area. So they
14 just left it open for the people to do the trapping
15 wherever they want.

16 Yes, he says, he never seen
17 anybody ever since that time. Last fall they went and
18 seen a park superintendent in Fort Smith. They asked
19 him for the area they got that time a long time ago.
20 They wanted a map of that area so they asked him for
21 the area map about their hunting grounds.

22 That's how big of the land
23 they got for these -- the one that's doing trapping in
24 the park area, that's how big of the land they got,
25 that's what it's marked on there.

26 There is one marked 506 in
27 this area, just like it's one because whenever they
28 wanted to work together in that area they can go ahead
29 and work together in there.

30 Yes, so whenever they go out

1 a lot of good promise.

2 Just because they paid the
3 Indians \$5. a year, that's why they gave them that good
4 promise to the people when they're facing the people
5 and sitting down, they're facing the people and they
6 gave them a lot of good promise just on account of the
7 \$5. they paid out to the treaty Indians.

8 He says ever since they paid
9 out that \$5. to these treaty Indians, he says right up
10 till today, he says, you could see that \$5. still
11 sitting on the table. The way it looks today, he says
12 right from the olden days up to today, he says you
13 could see the \$5. still sitting on the table, he says,
14 just like there is a big hole in all the papers they
15 made a big strong promise to the treaty Indians just
16 because they paid them \$5., and then he said there must
17 be a big hole in the paper, that's why you don't see no
18 paper of what was promised to the Indians in them days,
19 but still you could see that \$5. on the table yet
20 today.

21 Yes, he says when the first
22 time the Indians took treaty in Hay River was in 1899,
23 that's when they took the first treaty. Fort
24 Resolution, that's where the Hay River people got their
25 first treaty, in Fort Resolution. At that time when
26 they were going to pay out treaty, they had a meeting
27 for 21/2 days, that was in Resolution. He says when
28 they paid out the first treaty in Fort Resolution they
29 had that meeting in Fort Resolution, my grandfather, my
30 dad's dad, was interpreter when they paid out that

1 first treaty.

2 That s when my grandfather
3 told him, he says that's the promise they gave him.
4 "As long as the sun comes up west and sets in the east,
5 and as long as the Mackenzie River runs one way and it
6 doesn't start flowing back, this promise will never be
7 broken," That's the kind of promise they gave to those
8 people in them days.

9 That's why they're talking about
10 their land, because that's the kind of promise they got in
11 them days. He says this river is still is flowing one way and
12 the sun is still going one way, that's why they're fighting
13 for their land because that's the kind of promise they got
14 when they took that \$5. first.

15 Sure, he says, us native
16 people sitting around here, he says if we want to talk
17 about our land for pipe we got rights to talk about it
18 and fight for it because our own.

19 He says now I'm going to ask
20 you a few questions about this pipeline, and can you
21 give me the answer back and see how this Hay River is
22 going to be affected with a pipeline? Can you answer me
23 back if I ask you a few questions?

24 He said I don't know which
25 way they're going to run this pipeline. The pipeline
26 is going to run through Hay River or it's going to go
27 the other way. So if the pipeline is going to go
28 through, he says, I like to know if these Hay River
29 people are going to be employed there for a while
30 steady, can they get a steady employment from the

1 | we go along.

2 | THE INTERPRETER: He says I'm
3 | not trying to get you to promise us anything on the
4 | pipeline, but do you think there is a possibility that
5 | -- there is a possibility for the native people to make
6 | their living, if the pipeline do come through, do you
7 | think this Arctic Gas Company and Foothills Company,
8 | you think they're going to hire some native people? He
9 | says that's all I want to know, that's what I'm asking
10 | you. That's why I told you at the start, he says, I
11 | told you that many times white man promise many things
12 | to us and he says I told you I done a lot of
13 | translating for these band member in Hay River.

14 | He says the first time we
15 | heard about these railroad, there's another thing I'm
16 | bringing up, but he says we heard about the railroad
17 | but he says we don't know what it is. But there
18 | again, he says, when the railroad was coming through
19 | in through this Hay River, he says we were promised
20 | something on that too. He says at the time they
21 | talked about this railroad coming into Hay River,
22 | he says I was translating for the band members on
23 | this side when we had a meeting with the people
24 | about the railroad, and that's the time too that
25 | they told the native people that only natives are
26 | going to be working on those trains, and there
27 | won't be anybody coming in from south to have the
28 | jobs; and the natives from Hay River is supposed
29 | to be on that train, he says. He says every time I see
30 | those train come in, he says I don't see any native

1 getting off that train, he says not one of the natives.
2 They never gave nobody a job on those trains.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Did -- are
4 you saying, sir, that none of the native people from
5 Hay River got any jobs running the train?

6 A No.

7 Q Let me just go back to
8 your earlier question, sir. If these pipeline
9 companies are allowed to build a pipeline and if the
10 native people want jobs on the pipeline, then I have
11 to figure out a way to make sure that the native people
12 get jobs on the pipeline. That's one of the things I
13 am here for. You say that when they build that railway
14 to Great Slave Lake you didn't get any jobs on the
15 railway. Chief Sayie from Fort Resolution said that
16 there are practically no native people employed at Pine
17 Point, So we -- I want to know if the native people
18 want to work on the pipeline if it goes ahead, and then
19 I have to figure out a way to make sure that you do get
20 jobs on the pipeline if you want them. That is what
21 the Government of Canada has asked me to do.

22 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, he
23 says: For what you're saying I'm going to say thanks
24 to you; but he says I'm going to tell you another
25 thing, he says like you are sitting in here, he says
26 by rights you guys should try and get employment on
27 those things for the native, I'd be glad if you guys
28 could do that, he says. That what I was trying --

29 Yes, he says what he's
30 worrying about, he says, what's going to happen to our

1 | land if they decide to run the pipeline through Hay
2 | River? He says what's going to happen to our land?
3 | They're going to kill it or they're going to spoil it.

4 | Yes, he says even right now I
5 | see what's going on, he says our land is spoiled quite
6 | badly. Who done it? He says ever since the white man
7 | came into Hay River, he says, they sure spoil a lot of
8 | land around Hay River itself.

9 | Yes, he says, ever since Kaps
10 | and Northern Transportation started shipping freight
11 | down from this Hay River, he says our land doesn't look
12 | too good from the other way if you look at it. He
13 | says that's how badly they spoiled it.

14 | He said, I was born in Hay
15 | River, He said he was born in Hay River on 1904, and
16 | he's 71 years old now. He says he's been watching all
17 | what's going on, right along.

18 | He says, I've seen what's
19 | going on on T.V. about the pipeline, he says. Even I
20 | watch it on T.V. sitting in a hearing like this having
21 | meeting.

22 | He says he's reading these
23 | "News of the North" and all the newspapers, he says
24 | he always buys them and keep watch what's going on.
25 | Yes, he says, up north, he says down the Mackenzie
26 | River I guess you face a lot of people, lot of native
27 | people and you talk to them a lot of time, you heard
28 | what they told you about the pipeline. Yes, he says,
29 | all these different tribes of people along this
30 | Mackenzie River, he says, there's different people. On

1 THE COMMISSIONER: We'll
2 swear you in, sir. We'll just ask the secretary to
3 come forward and swear you in.

4

5 JOE MCKAY sworn:

6 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, he
7 says he's been from quite a while back, he's not young,
8 he's an old guy now, he says he knows what went on
9 quite a while, and he says he heard about something --
10 he heard something about that river running by Fort
11 McMurray. Yes, he says, when they're hauling fuel with
12 barges through McMurray, he says he heard about a barge
13 being bust and there was a lot of oil spilled there one
14 time, and the river was flowing with nothing but fuel
15 for a while.

16 He said after there was quite
17 a spill along that river, he says all the rats got
18 killed with it and even ducks and geese and quite a few
19 other things that died on account of that.

20 Yes, according to what they
21 were hauling with those barges, compared to this
22 pipeline he says that one barge full of fuel had been
23 spilled, he said this is just like one little cup for
24 the pipeline; but he says it sure spoil a lot of
25 things with it.

26 This Great Slave Lake, he
27 says, there is quite a few rivers flowing out onto this
28 Great Slave Lake. So one of these days the same thing
29 is going to happen what I heard about it one time, he
30 says it's going to happen up in the north around this

1 lake, it's going to happen one of these days.

2 All these small animals, they
3 couldn't travel with boats so they pretty well have to
4 live in water, and they swim all the time, so if their
5 fur gets wet or gets wet with oil, he says they're
6 bound to drown.

7 These native people, they're
8 poor, t1-'s why they said, no, they don't want no
9 pipeline because they're afraid of they don't know what
10 is going to happen if pipeline come through, well they
11 don't know what's going to happen to all the animals.

12 So this Mackenzie River flows
13 out onto the Arctic Ocean, he says, and if they happen
14 to run the pipe under the water and the pipe bust, he
15 says are they going to clean up all that fuel, gas
16 whatever is flowing out onto the Arctic coast? Are they
17 going to clean up right away or the water is going to
18 get polluted with it.

19 When we talk about this because
20 we're talking our language so I understood all of what they
21 were saying. When the pipeline run through like that and if
22 the pipeline bust, well they're going to have a bunch of men
23 available there so they can repair that pipe right away,
24 patch it up or anything, and there going to try and keep
25 those gas and fuel from flowing, but he says I wonder if
26 they'll ever fix that quick, because before it start flowing
27 all over.

28 Yes, he says, they're only
29 going to work on that pipeline during the winter. He
30 says what if they run across somebody's trapline, and

1 fuel.

2 I haven't talked to you long
3 because if I wanted to talk long well I'm going to go
4 crazy, so that's all I'm going to tell you.

5 (LAUGHTER)

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

7 THE INTERPRETER: There is
8 only one thing I want to bring up, he says maybe they
9 wouldn't do it but I'll tell you what I mean.

10 He says the way I heard about
11 this earth, he says it's round like a ball. He says
12 that's the way I heard about it. Yes, he says, they're
13 doing it on top of this earth, that's why the people
14 talking about it. Yes, he says, the way I heard, this
15 earth is round like a ball, but if they want to run a
16 pipeline through it, why don't they dig it right
17 through the earth and let it run out the other end, he
18 says, that way nobody will talk about it?

19 (LAUGHTER)

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

21 Well, I think its time for supper.

22 (LAUGHTER)

23

24 (WITNESS ASIDE)

25 THE COMMISSIONER: We'll come
26 back at eight o'clock, chief, do you want us to?

27 CHIEF TOM SONFERE: O.K.

28 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 6:15 P.M.)

29 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 9 P.M.)

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Take a

1 chair or just stand by the walls. Somebody didn't get
2 in, eh? A few more chairs here, gentlemen, if you want
3 to move up, or just stand at the sides. Just make
4 yourselves comfortable.

5 I'll call our meeting to
6 order tonight and say how much I appreciated what all
7 of you who spoke this afternoon had to say, What Peach
8 of you who spoke this afternoon said was recorded,
9 taken down in writing, and will be printed and will be
10 -- a copy will be sent back to Chief Sonfere so that
11 you will have a permanent record of what was said, and
12 of course I will have a record of what was said so I
13 can read it again and study it again.

14 So tonight anyone who wishes
15 to speak should feel free to just say whatever is on
16 your mind about the pipeline and the things that you
17 are concerned about in connection with the pipeline.

18 I've said all I'm going to
19 say for right now, so I'm waiting for any one of you
20 to

21 THE INTERPRETER: Edward
22 Fabien he said he didn't attend the meeting this
23 afternoon but he just finished work and he's going to
24 say a few words to you.

25 THE COMMISSIONER: Fine,
26 thank you, sir. We'll just swear you in, if we may,
27 and then you can proceed.

28

29

30

EDWARD FABIEN sworn:

THE INTERPRETER: He's going

1 out trapping and they make their living off the bush,
2 lie says we're not employed all the time. He says we
3 have to go out in the bush and do some trapping and
4 still making our living off the land.

5 Yes, he says I'm not going to
6 do all the talking right now, he says I might tell you
7 this, but he says I'd be glad if you could tell me just
8 a few words of what you think about us.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: A few
10 words about what?

11 THE INTERPRETER: Well, he
12 says he just told you a little life story like this,
13 he says, can you tell me how I'm -- can you tell him
14 what you think about this pipeline after what was
15 going on?

16 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I'm
17 here to find out what you think about it, sir, and the
18 other people that live here, in Hay River, and I'm
19 going to be visiting all the towns and villages in the
20 Mackenzie Valley to find out what the people in each
21 town and each village think about the pipeline, and
22 then I have to tell the Federal Government what I
23 think it will all mean, and the Federal Government
24 then has to make up its mind. But I really have
25 come here to listen to you and I won't be in a
26 position to make up my mind until I've heard from all
27 the people who live in the Mackenzie Valley, and that
28 will take me quite a few months more before I've met
29 them all, just as I'm meeting you people here tonight.

30 But don't feel that you have

1 | there anyone else who wishes to say anything about --
2 | THE INTERPRETER: Fred Martel
3 | is coming up and he's going to say a few words to you.
4 | MR. MARTEL: If you don't mind?
5 | THE COMMISSIONER: Not at
6 | all.
7 | MR. MARTEL: You don't mind
8 | if I say a few words?
9 | THE COMMISSIONER: Please do,
10 | sir, you can be seated, if you wish. You don't have to
11 | stand up unless you want.
12 | MR. MARTEL: You don't mind
13 | if I have my interpreter with me, please?
14 | THE COMMISSIONER: Right.
15 | MR. MARTEL: I don't like to
16 | say these words because some people don't understand my
17 | English words, you know. I want to have interpreter.
18 | THE COMMISSIONER: Fine.
19 | FRED MARTEL, unsworn:
20 | THE WITNESS: My name is Fred
21 | Martel, What I want to ask you, what meeting for? I
22 | don't know.
23 | THE INTERPRETER: Well, he
24 | introduce himself and I think he talks English better
25 | than me, and I don't know why he wants me to translate.
26 | What's on his mind, he's going to tell you because he
27 | already introduce himself and I'll try my best to
28 | translate for him anyway. If I don't do right I guess
29 | he'll go ahead and translate himself.
30 | (LAUGHTER)

1 | to translate. They're just wasting too much time.

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
3 | maybe, sir, we could -- I don't want to stop you from
4 | saying anything you want to say, even if it isn't
5 | altogether popular here. Maybe you could compose your
6 | differences with the interpreter --

7 | THE INTERPRETER (for
8 | himself): But where they were this afternoon they had
9 | an opportunity to talk to you this afternoon. After
10 | supper, that's when a bunch coming in.

11 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I think that
12 | we'll come back to you in a minute, sir, if --

13 | THE INTERPRETER (for himself):
14 | Well, if they want to talk to you privately they can talk to
15 | you, but not in open meeting like this.

16 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
17 | look. I don't -- we're all getting along very well
18 | here but I don't want anyone to think that somebody
19 | came here and wanted to say something and didn't get
20 | the chance, so maybe we could just break for about five
21 | minutes and see if we can sort this out. Would that
22 | be all right, chief?

23 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

24 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 9:35 P M)

25 | PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 9:45 P.M.)

26 | THE COMMISSIONER: All right,
27 | we will swear you as an interpreters We've impressed a
28 | new interpreter into service, so we'll have to swear
29 | him.

30 | (JOC TAMBOUR SWORN AS INTERPRETER)

1 THE COMMISSIONER: All right,
2 thank you, sir.

3 THE INTERPRETER: The chief
4 says do you want to speak for a while before we start
5 again?

6 THE COMMISSIONER: All right.

7 CHIEF TOM SONFERE , resumed:

8 THE INTERPRETER: The chief
9 said that since we started from one o'clock in the
10 morning till six -- I mean one o'clock in the afternoon
11 until six, then he says the meeting was going pretty
12 good. He says that the people that want to listen to
13 the radio, maybe if they want to listen to it, to
14 listen to it. Maybe his people, like the band members,
15 if they want to say something they can say it.

16 We're not allowed to speak,
17 but if the people want to speak on their own rights,
18 we're not going to stop them. They're going to go
19 ahead and do whatever they want to do.

20 The chief says he wants to
21 make everything fixed the way it is, he wants to cover
22 this pipeline meeting and he wants to do whatever he
23 wants with the people. If they want to speak, they're
24 on their own, free will. They can do whatever they
25 do, except they can speak if they want to on their own
26 free will, that is.

27 The old women that are the
28 latest, if they want to say whatever they want to what
29 this pipeline means, they can go ahead and do it.

30 The chief said since they

1 brought in the meeting here, and he says ever since
2 they brought in the drums here, he says maybe we don't
3 like to have a meeting that long, maybe they might
4 have some playful stuff over here, put on an Indian
5 dance or something like that.

6 He says thank you very much.
7 Now he wants to listen to his people here.

8 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

9 (WITNESS ASIDE)

10 FRED MARTEL, resumed:

11 THE INTERPRETER: The people
12 around here, he says, even the government or anybody,
13 that's the way we were living before, way before them.

14 He says like Dan Sonfere say
15 before, the chief, he says that's the one the same damn
16 -- he says that's the same thing that's going on here.
17 If you help each another, that is we've got to cross
18 that bridge. As long as we put the bridge across,
19 that's the way we've got to help each another because
20 that's the only way we can get throughout this land, we
21 got to help each another.

22 Now to listen to one other of
23 his opinion of each another, they think and what we
24 think, we help one another. If their way is right,
25 then we agree with them. That's the way we think
26 it is. My land, your land, everything about the
27 same. Even the hills over there, Cameron Hills, if we
28 want to put it straight we have to put it straight.
29 But it doesn't matter anything about our land, then you
30 guys land. If, we figured we're not working together

1 | and we work, we go ahead and do what we do with our
2 | land, they can do with what their land is. Now then,
3 | the people they get treaty money \$5, and then this year
4 | is \$5. , that's what we get for our treaty money.
5 | That's the money you brought here, that's the evidence
6 | that you brought in.

7 | THE COMMISSIONER: \$5.,
8 | that's a years pay, is it, under the treaty?

9 | THE INTERPRETER: That's
10 | received here where we supposed to be, he says. That's
11 | what we get for only one year to boss our land around.

12 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
13 | that's a point very effectively made.

14 | THE INTERPRETER: That's for
15 | sure.

16 | THE COMMISSIONER: You know,
17 | the trouble, sir, with doing that is we -- Mr. Bell
18 | there might ask that it be marked as an exhibit and
19 | then the Inquiry staff would probably dispose of it.

20 | THE INTERPRETER: Maybe his
21 | wife and him don't even support with that \$5. enough.
22 | Maybe especially if you buy straight candies.

23 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
24 | I think that with all these photographs being taken
25 | of it, I think what we'll do, sir, is get one of
26 | these gentlemen to give us one of their photographs
27 | when they've been developed, and we will mark the
28 | photograph as an exhibit so that we won't oblige you
29 | to leave all of these goods with us.

30 | THE INTERPRETER: A council

1 | has just told me a joke about it. He says even this
2 | paper bag cost \$2. He says before in the olden days
3 | when we had a big meeting like this we used to buy tea
4 | and coffee for the people, and then after that they
5 | have big drum dance. Today, he says you don't have
6 | none of that.

7 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
8 | you're doing your best anyway, sir.

9 | THE INTERPRETER: It all
10 | depends on the view, lie says this is all we have to
11 | eat throughout the year. That's not very much, he
12 | says. If you're going to buy this much it doesn't
13 | matter, but him, he's worried about whatever grub there
14 | is, but that's true. I thank heaven it's right here.
15 | He says that's all he's going to speak on now.

16 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
17 | very much.

18 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

19 | THE COMMISSIONER: The people
20 | that are at the back, if you want to step around the
21 | sides and by the blackboard or by the windows, you're
22 | welcome, Is there anyone else who wishes to speak
23 | tonight? Yes, certainly.

24 | (CANDIES, CIGARETTES ETC. - REED EXHIBIT C-14)

25 | THE INTERPRETER: Albert told
26 | me that you have to, in the first town over here, he
27 | says you got all kinds of things down over there.

28 | (OFF RECORD DISCUSSION)

29 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
30 | very much. I think we should swear you in, MR.

1 Judge Morrow. I'm sorry, I'm always thinking about the
2 other judge.

3 (LAUGHTER)

4 Maybe we should go for supper
5 or something.

6 I would like to say a few
7 things about the younger generation. It's for the
8 younger generation that are coming up today right now,
9 including me, I'm very young myself, I'm thinking about
10 my land. White men like to make money, but what about
11 our land? Do we get any money out of it? Do we live in
12 the business? If we destroy our land or if you guys
13 destroy our land, will they give us another land to
14 trap? Where do we fish? In the park? Do we have to
15 follow white man's ways? If not, we don't follow
16 pipeline ways. Poor people and rich people, all they
17 care about is Indian land. Never my land but the
18 Indian way. People we have to listen, it is poor
19 people. So why don't you put up your gear and get out
20 of the land?

21 Never mind where the pipe
22 goes, it's up to the land. If the land wants a pipe,
23 you have to go. They say you've got \$50 million. How
24 much does that go to the Indians? We live with the
25 Indian ways. Can any white man change it? They
26 can because we live this way and we are Indians.

27 Do we get notes, do we get
28 trappers, do we get fishermen? Never. All
29 they tell us is, "Go down yonder and go see game
30 warden."

1 Do we have free hunting? Not
2 unless we have licence. People are more than the land.
3 Unless we have to do our own way we do it our way.
4 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
5 very much. Yes sir?
6 MR. MARTEL: Do you mind if I
7 say one word?
8 THE COMMISSIONER: No, I
9 don't mind at all.
10 MR. MARTEL: Keep this.
11 THE COMMISSIONER: All right,
12 we'll keep it, and you have our thanks, sir.
13 MR. MARTEL: You welcome.
14 THE COMMISSIONER: Anyone
15 else? Yes sir.
16 ROY FABIEN resumed:
17 THE INTERPRETER: We better
18 swear you in.
19 THE WITNESS: Well, I think I
20 got sworn in on Wednesday.
21 THE COMMISSIONER: Go ahead.
22 THE WITNESS: Well, I'm going
23 to try and explain what I want to say in English. This
24 is mostly for, like the way I feel, being a young
25 native person who has an education, and like how I feel
26 right now.
27 I'm going to translate in
28 Slavey.
29 I'm a young native Indian.
30 I've got an education, I've got a job with the

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, take
2 your time. You certainly will have an opportunity to
3 speak later.

4 (WITNESS ASIDE)

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Maybe you'
6 like to come to the front, sir, if you want to make a
7 few -- maybe you'd like to sit over here, Mr. Norn.

8

9 ALBERT NORN, sworn:

10 THE WITNESS: I want to tell
11 you something about what Raymond and Roy Fabien --
12 Raymond Sonfere and Roy Fabien said, and I appreciate
13 with them because I understand Roy and Raymond, they
14 were talking about. In 1971 I went to Fort Smith and I
15 wanted to take heavy duty equipment operator, and I
16 did, and I heard all these older people and council
17 and chief, they talk to you about what kind of a life
18 we have in the Northwest Territories and when my old
19 man stopped talk to you about, "Do the natives going to
20 be fully employed with pipeline when it's coming
21 through?"

22 Well, I went to school in
23 1971, Fort Smith, A.V.T.C. and I took the course as a
24 heavy duty operator, and that's when I was told,
25 "After you complete your course you can get a job
26 any place," and when I heard Raymond and Roy, they're
27 talking about their life and we're rejected many times.
28 After I completed my course I thought I was going to
29 get a cat-skinner operator or grader or front-end
30 loader or forklift. I went and seen Goodzeck

1 Construction and I went and contacted the Manpower in
2 Hay River. He told me, he says, "What kind of a job
3 you could do?"

4 I says, "I could be
5 operator."

6 He told me, he says, "Come
7 back and see me in two weeks time."

8 So in two weeks time -- well
9 I didn't have no papers, I complete my course and when
10 after I told the Manpower to find me a job, well he
11 told me which is Mrs. Vail, Al Vail's wife was
12 running the Manpower Office. I came back and she
13 told me, she says, "Alex Vail is looking for a grader
14 operator."

15 I walk into Alex Vail's
16 office and he had his wife as a secretary. She told
17 me, "What kind of a job you could do?"

18 Well, I said, "I heard Alex
19 is looking for a grader operator."

20 He told me, he says, "You
21 been operating heavy equipment operator before?"

22 I said, "I just finished my
23 course, took me nine months to complete it."

24 He told me, he says, "You
25 can't apply as an operator; you're not qualified as
26 operator. "

27 So I told her, I said, "If I
28 couldn't qualify as operator," I says, "I might as well
29 go and look for a labor job. " And I been looking for
30 an operator job -- I been looking for a labor job ever

1 | sir.

2 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

3 | THE INTERPRETER: The chief
4 | says one of the councillors here behind him, Jim
5 | Lamalice, he says when we speak we speak the truth
6 | about what the pipeline is going to go through. The
7 | woman that swore us in, we thank her very much for
8 | swearing us in because we can tell the truth. When we
9 | put our hands on the Bible, at least we tell the truth,
10 | we do not lie about what we will have to say.

11 | JIM LAMALICE, resumed:

12 | THE INTERPRETER: He says
13 | that he understands that he heard also the pipeline
14 | meeting here, and he says that the people, they said
15 | they know that means "No" and he's happy about that,
16 | and he meant it. He says if it was way back and the
17 | kids grew up there, that if you brought up this thing,
18 | it's very important and you'll say you agree with him,
19 | too.

20 | He says whatever the younger
21 | generation thinks, he knows that they would -- they
22 | have to destroy our land, he says the woods around
23 | here, whatever you can see, that's our woods. That was
24 | destroyed because way back in the old times, that's
25 | the way they were, that's their fuel. They didn't have
26 | to destroy it because they're still going on it.

27 | The reason why he's telling
28 | you this is because not to spoil our land, because
29 | that's our fuel, even if he gets a living better than
30 | we do, because you guys are burning gas and we are

1 | burning woods.

2 | He said nobody said "Yes"
3 | around here, and on the MacKenzie River nobody said
4 | "Yes" to, so I wonder if you guys going to carry on
5 | with this, since they all said, "No. "

6 | He says we have to go hunting
7 | and kill our own game. Do you guys ever throw them on
8 | the road and let us pick them up and ever bring them
9 | down for food? He says I bet you threw out the
10 | Northwest Territories, everybody says the same thing,
11 | too, but again with the wildlife game there, the ones
12 | that they kill or whatever they do with it. Same thing
13 | with it.

14 | He says that his land that we
15 | live in, we like it very much, like the young people
16 | that said that they really like it themselves, as well
17 | as the older people, the older generation because they
18 | knew -- they haven't that experience but they know
19 | whatever the land they want. That's the land they
20 | have.

21 | He says we do not like to chase our
22 | native people around, except we want to help one another and
23 | we do not chase them away. He says that even four of us
24 | sitting here, if they don't
25 | like what we said they can come and say whatever they want and
26 | we can help each another and discuss this thing over, and then
27 | bring out the right point. Old village and new village, we
28 | have been separated because --

29 | It does not matter but it
30 | does not go because of the white man ways, that's how

1 THE WITNESS: First of all, a
2 lot of people in this village from Hay River, they like
3 to know what's all this pipeline about, you know, and
4 how many miles and that. Me myself, I've been living
5 here since I was 25 years old, and I really don't know
6 how many miles is that or anything. So I think-well,
7 myself, I live off the land sometimes when I don't have
8 a job, eh, and first of all I'd like to know how many
9 miles this pipeline is supposed to be?

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I'll
11 answer that, if you like, or try to. One of the pipeline
12 companies wants to bring the pipeline from the Mackenzie
13 Delta along the Mackenzie River and then it will cross
14 the Mackenzie River south of Fort Simpson, and then go
15 down to Alberta. One of the other pipeline companies
16 wants to bring its pipeline from the Mackenzie Delta along
17 the Mackenzie River and then they want to bring a branch
18 line to Flay River and to Pine Point to supply gas to Hay
19 River and Pine Point. That's what the pipeline proposals
20 involve, but both of them would mean that a lot of pipe
21 would have to be brought by train to Hay River and then
22 taken on barges down the Mackenzie River
23 and it would mean that there would be a great deal of new
24 development in Hay River, and a great many people would be
25 employed there, and I think both of the pipeline companies
26 say that that is what their proposals would mean to the
27 people who live here.

28 A I think quite a bit of
29 the native people here are against it, I think. I am,
30 anyways. I don't know, but I --

1 Q Well, a lot of people
2 have spoken here today, this afternoon and this
3 evening, and if you say you're against it, you don't
4 seem to be alone in that.

5 A But what profit do the
6 native people have from the pipeline?

7 Q Well, the pipeline
8 companies say that they want
9 to give native people jobs, building a pipeline, and
10 then they say when the pipeline is finished they want
11 to give native people jobs running the pipeline. We
12 have the people from the two pipeline companies here,
13 if you want me to have them come up and explain these
14 things in greater detail. I'm just telling you what
15 they've told me.

16 A I think, you know,
17 probably from killing animals or something like that,
18 living off the land, there's a lot of wild game
19 involved in this. Over how many thousand miles is it?

20 Q Well, I think it's about
21 1,000 miles from the Arctic Ocean to the Alberta
22 border, and then it goes south from there into the
23 Southern Canada and the United States, and up at the
24 Arctic Ocean it goes through the Mackenzie Delta over
25 to Alaska to pick up Alaskan gas. All together it's
26 2,600 miles, something like that. But the people here
27 in the Northwest Territories are concerned about the
28 1,000 miles of pipeline that comes from Mackenzie Delta
29 right down to the Alberta border.

30 A But how is this supposed

1 | to affect our, you know, our jobs? I have a hard time
2 | getting a job myself now. How do I know I'll get t a
3 | job on it?

4 | Q Well, we were told last
5 | night by the pipeline companies that they have been
6 | training people who live in the north, including native
7 | people, to do jobs on the pipeline, and they say they
8 | have 100 people from the north that they are training
9 | now to work on the pipeline. If -- that's what they
10 | told us last night.

11 | A I was trained on heavy
12 | equipment course at the A.V.T.C. , you know. What they
13 | should have did is given them their jobs when I
14 | finished my course, but they never did, and I would
15 | have been a qualified operator now. But they don't do
16 | that.

17 | Q Sorry, you never what?

18 | A They never did, you know
19 | they never got me a job as
20 | soon as I got out of my
21 | course.

22 | Q I see. That's
23 | interesting, that's what the last man who spoke said.

24 | A Yeah, well I got my
25 | certificate, that's all they give me, and they never
26 | give me no job.

27 | Q I see.

28 | A How's that?

29 | Q Well, I'm interested in
30 | hearing about that because I have to consider what

1 | happened to you and to the other people who have told
2 | me about what happened to them when I'm looking at the
3 | pipeline company's statement that they will -- and
4 | expect to provide jobs on the pipeline to native
5 | people. Do you know, how long were you at A.V.T.C.?

6 | A Seven months.

7 | Q Training in heavy
8 | equipment?

9 | A Yes.

10 | Q How long ago did you get
11 | your certificate?

12 | A It was '72, and they
13 | were supposed to give me a job after I finished my
14 | training, but they never got me a job. They sent me
15 | home and they give me a little certificate and now I
16 | can't get a job. They could have sent me somewhere
17 | where I can get more experience, you know, on
18 | construction work or something like that.

19 | CHIEF LANDRY: You see, what happens
20 | when you building pipeline, you training welders.

21 | THE COMMISSIONER: I wonder,
22 | I'd like to hear from you, sir. Could we swear you in
23 | please? Miss Hutchinson?

24 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

25 | CHIEF ARCHIE LANDRY, sworn:

26 | THE WITNESS: You see what
27 | he'd talking about, he's building houses in training.
28 | You guys see the people from outside.

29 | You can't train in school
30 | building a pipeline. You do one thing. You push him,

1 | there is no way Indian people are going to learn in
2 | seven months, no way; but the other story, Indian ways,
3 | you people up this way, I've been working around people
4 | all my life now, just lately become chief 11 months, I
5 | know how it is, I know how it is to be Indian, to get a
6 | job. As long as you got black hair you can't get a
7 | job. White men turn you down. That's the way it is.

8 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

9 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
10 | very much, sir. I am interested in what each one of
11 | you has had to say about your own experiences. That's
12 | something that I have to know about. Yes, you wanted
13 | to add something?

14 | MR. SABOURINE: There's a --
15 | they're talking about pipeline, eh, and this is
16 | supposed to be a reserve, isn't it? N. T. is going to
17 | get our land across here, I don't know nothing about
18 | it, I don't even know nothing about pipeline, only what
19 | I read in the Indian magazine. What I'm trying to say
20 | is this, they train people, they spend so much money
21 | but they can't -- they don't get a qualified
22 | certificate or something, qualified operator. Why
23 | don't they do this and then they will get some
24 | qualified

25 |
26 | operators? Because I was operating for A.V.T.C. they
27 | trained me, only they gave me a little paper. What is
28 | that supposed to prove, when I only just started. They
29 | going to give me a job or something, eh?

30 | What I would say, if they

1 | hire me for pipeline, maybe I will know nothing, I
2 | can't operate it, maybe I'm coming out fired, eh?

3 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thanks
4 | very much, I want you to know that I'm taking into
5 | account the experiences each of you have told me about.

6 | MR. SABOURINE: It's not that
7 | I'm telling you experience, but I'm just telling you
8 | this, that a lot of people are against the pipeline. A
9 | lot of old people are here, they won't say anything
10 | because maybe they don't want to talk. So what I
11 | think, I'm just telling you that, I'm telling this
12 | whole meeting.

13 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
14 | thank you. Well, is there anybody else? Yes, chief.

15 |
16 |
17 |

18 |

19 | CHIEF TOM SONFERE, resumed:
20 | THE INTERPRETER: He doesn't
21 | want to talk too long but he just wants to let you
22 | know whatever is going to happen now. He wants to
23 | talk to you about his councillors. He says his
24 | councillors behind him, they're the boss, lie said
25 | if another stranger comes to town, he says he'd be
26 | happy to see him.

27 | When other people spoke
28 | against, like if the stranger spoke against the other
29 | people, well, they got to watch theirselves plus the
30 | chief, whoever is in charge, they've got to watch

1 themselves. The two councillors around here, they
2 both don't drink, except only one councillor, he
3 drinks, like he said even though these two councillors
4 don't drink, if we have a big meeting like this, he
5 says, the other council that drinks he just stay away
6 from it, until they finish, only then he can go ahead.

7 He said even though this
8 thing comes up that big that they take the pipeline
9 here, even though he never said nothing, nor the other
10 people, if somebody comes in here, like this and that,
11 disturbing the pipeline meeting or anything like this,
12 if that moves ahead then they causing trouble, it's not
13 their fault.

14 He says if you want to drink,
15 keep away from drinking until this pipeline hearing is
16 over. There are a lot of days ahead of him to drink.
17 Maybe wherever they're going to have the next meeting
18 or anything, that's where I think people should he and
19 then they have a better meeting then.

20 The chief said he's still got
21 some three big things to talk about, but since night,
22 well the chief figured that we should quit right now
23 and we'll talk about that tomorrow about those three
24 things, if you have time, at least for two hours or
25 something. He said he'll talk to you about it.

26 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes,
27 that's all right with me. I can stay tomorrow, if you
28 want me to, because I know that what all of you have to
29 say is important to you and it's important to this
30 Inquiry. Could we meet about noon tomorrow, would that

1 | be all right? Excuse me, we could make it about two in
2 | the afternoon, would that be all right?

3 | THE INTERPRETER: He wants
4 | to know if they give a better time than that, he
5 | would --

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: Sure.
7 | Well what do you suggest?

8 | THE INTERPRETER: He said
9 | what about ten o'clock in the morning?

10 | THE COMMISSIONER: Oh,
11 | certainly, that's fine with me. Well, thank you,
12 | chief.

13 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

14 | THE COMMISSIONER: We'll
15 | adjourn until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning and then
16 | we'll hear these other matters that you still wish to
17 | discuss. So thank you all very much for coming, and I
18 | was very interested in hearing what each of you had to
19 | say, and I look forward to seeing you again at ten
20 | o'clock in the morning, and I should tell you that
21 | tomorrow, we should finish maybe tomorrow afternoon
22 | because I should get back to Yellowknife late in the
23 | afternoon or tomorrow night

24 | Yes, you go ahead.

25 | CHIEF SONFERE, (THROUGH
26 | INTERPRETER): He said they brought some drums over
27 | there to have a little bit of a drum dance.

28 | THE COMMISSIONER: Good.
29 | Well, we'll stay for a while then if that's all right.
30 | So thank you very much.

1 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO MAY 31, 1975)
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1 New Indian Village
2 Hay River, N.W.T.
3 May 31, 1975.

4 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Maybe we
6 could bring our meeting to order this morning. I
7 wonder chief, if the interpreter is -- we can wait a
8 few minutes. Are you waiting for the councillors?

9 INTERPRETER NORN: Yes, the
10 two councillors and they went back to look for some
11 people.

12 THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, I see.
13 Well, we'll wait a little while.

14 THE INTERPRETER: They won't
15 be long, they'll be gone for about two minutes or so.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: O.K. fine.

17 THE INTERPRETER: The chief
18 is going to discuss more things about what he left off
19 last night, but there is one guy sitting in here, he
20 made a list of what he was going to talk on this
21 morning, so they're going to let him go ahead and do
22 the talking on what he has written down, so they're
23 going to give him a chance to speak what's on his mind.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Fine.

25

26 TERRY CAMSELL sworn:

27 THE WITNESS: My name is
28 Terry Camsell. I was born and raised about a mile down
29 the river from where this meeting is being held. I
30 am of Eskimo-Indian, and white ancestry, the Eskimo

1 | coming from my mother, who was born on Herschel Island,
2 | to a white father and an Eskimo mother. Her parents
3 | died when she was very young, so she was sent to the
4 | Anglican Mission here. On my father's side, his father
5 | was a white man with an Indian wife. He was born in
6 | Fort Simpson and then got sent out to school in
7 | Winnipeg. He completed his education there and soon
8 | then lonesome for the north, he left and/came back. He
9 | trapped and hunted this territory for many years. He
10 | finally settled on this side of the river. I spent the
11 | early part of my life with many of the young people
12 | here today. As I became older, though I strayed away
13 | from this type of life and gradually molded into the
14 | white society, not by any conscience intention on my
15 | part. It was just the way it happened.

16 | I completed my education in
17 | Hay River and now am presently employed locally.
18 | Because of the conditions we are now faced with, I felt
19 | I had to become politically involved, so I am now a
20 | member of the Northern New Democrats and am here to
21 | voice my opinion on the effect the pipeline will have
22 | on northerners, especially those of the native people.
23 | I feel I am very qualified to comment on the situation,
24 | having come from a white-native origin, and I can get
25 | an overall look at the problems.

26 | On one side I see the white
27 | man and his development and how it would benefit him,
28 | and on the other side I see the natives preserving the
29 | old ways and trying to survive in the white man's
30 | society. I am still a young man, but have seen a vast

1 | chief, if you would.

2 | THE INTERPRETER: There is
3 | this man came to the table here and he didn't make it
4 | to the meeting yesterday, but he is available at the
5 | meeting today, so he's one of the older guys from Hay
6 | River, and his name is Dean Sabourin and he wants to
7 | say a few things. That's why he came up.

8 | THE COMMISSIONER: Fine.

9 | THE INTERPRETER: To do some
10 | talking.

11 | THE COMMISSIONER: We'll just
12 | swear you in, sir.

13 |
14 | DEAN SABOURINE, sworn:

15 | THE INTERPRETER: He says he
16 | just wanted you to hear what he thinks about this
17 | pipeline that's going to go through. He's going to
18 | speak on what he think about it.

19 | Yes, he says the way he
20 | thinks for his part, he says, it might take about five,
21 | maybe more than five years to put the pipeline through,
22 | but he says how do I know I'm going to be still here
23 | amongst my people when it does get through? He says he
24 | might be gone by then, he says, he doesn't know.
25 | Yes, he says the reason why he doesn't want the
26 | pipeline to go through, if they want to start
27 | putting the pipeline through, he says once they
28 | finish it's going to be trouble at the end when they
29 | finish putting the pipeline, he says there's going to
30 | be trouble.

1 Yes, he says us native
2 people, we're brought up poor in this country, he says.
3 Now if the pipeline comes through, he says, we're going
4 to be worse than what we are now.

5 He says even I see no oil by
6 myself, but I don't want the pipeline to go through but
7 he says I know that they're going to go through with
8 the pipeline. Yes, he says, because us native people
9 are not as many as white people, he says, there is more
10 white people than us native people, he says. Seems to
11 me, he says, we haven't got no power against them. But
12 he says what could I do?

13 Yes, he says he started
14 receiving his old age pension now, he says he was born
15 in 1908. Yes, he says ever since he remember, he had a
16 tough time in those days. He says when they had the
17 big flu in 1928, he says that's when he lost his -- in
18 1919, that's when he lost his mom and dad, when they
19 had a big flu went through in this north.

20 He says when mom and dad
21 passed away, he says, I was the oldest and I didn't
22 have no money and I didn't have nothing, and I had five
23 others beside me to look after, he said.

24 He says the only way that he
25 brought the other five up beside him, he says he's
26 got to do the hunting in the
27 bush and he's got to do trapping, and he really work
28 hard to bring the others up beside him.

29 He says when the flu went
30 through that time when he lost his mom and dad in that

1 | to happen if they ever let the pipeline through, he
2 | says what kind of trouble are we going to have, he
3 | says, I know it because if they ever done it in five
4 | years I know what kind of people they're going to face
5 | after the pipeline go through.

6 | He says he's got -- yes, he
7 | says what he's worrying about now, he says, if they
8 | ever run the pipeline under-water, if anything happens,
9 | if the pipeline bust, he says, there's going to be a
10 | lot of people suffering down the Mackenzie.

11 | Not only under-water, but he
12 | says they're running this under-ground. He says what
13 | if the pipeline ever -- if it happened to buss, he
14 | says, the water would be polluted, it won't be fit to
15 | drink no more, and he says they're going to make a lot
16 | of people suffering.

17 | It's not only the human
18 | beings will suffer, but he says he's wondering about
19 | what they're going to lose from the land. All the
20 | animals would be killed and he said there wouldn't be
21 | any more to hunt in the bush, and there's going to be
22 | trouble, there's going to be a hardship for the people,
23 | and that's what he's afraid of.

24 | Yes, he says that's all he's
25 | going to tell you, that's what was on his mind and
26 | that's why he brought it up to you, and he says that's
27 | all he's going to tell you.

28 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
29 | very much, sir.

30 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

1 CHIEF TOM SONFERE , resumed:
2 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, he
3 said he was real happy when he sat in the meeting here
4 yesterday because he had his three council with him
5 yesterday. But he said the other council he's employed
6 with N,T. so he told him last night he wouldn't be
7 here at the meeting with him this morning. He said
8 it's all right, I still got the other two with me and
9 all that we told you, we'll go and tell the other
10 council, so it doesn't matter. Even though he's not
11 here we can still go on without him.

12 He said he'd like to speak to
13 you about how they started this and how they're trying
14 to work for the people. He said he's going to let you
15 know.

16 Yes, he says you sat here
17 with us yesterday and you heard some other older people
18 talk to you about what kind of a life they had when
19 they were brought up in this country, and you heard
20 some more this morning, he says. Whatever they told
21 you, he says, they really mean it.

22 Last evening, he said he was
23 sitting in here and listened to those people talking,
24 he says they remind him of the older people that they
25 used to live amongst here in Hay River. He says
26 those people might as well tell you the truth, he
27 says, they were kind of dangerous to do the talking.
28 He says that's the kind of people that he used to
29 be. Yes, he says, the way our old parents brought
30 us up, he says, we know how they taught us and

1 | he says that's what you used to eat.

2 | Those older people, they used
3 | to be just like an animal. They used to be like a
4 | wild animal, how they used to live in the bushes.
5 | That's how the older people used to be like.

6 | He says not only in Hay River
7 | but when you were travelling, he says, you must have
8 | met a lot of older people in different settlements. He
9 | says whenever you see older people, he says, that's the
10 | way they used to be like, he says. Them days they
11 | used to mostly travel in the bush all the time. He
12 | said if a woman happened to have a baby, well, he said
13 | they never used to look for a hospital. He says they
14 | just used to --they'd just stop and let the woman have
15 | the baby, and in about three days' time they got to
16 | start travelling. She's walking, the kid is smart
17 | enough to know what's going on.

18 | Yes, he says in them days
19 | these older women, when a woman is going to have a
20 | baby, he says they were just like a doctor for those
21 | kind of jobs they can do. Yes, he said that's why
22 | every time you see older people like that, he says you
23 | can't just look at them and you can't think it's
24 | nothing, because he was a top man one time and he
25 | still is, even though he's old, but he maybe still are

26 | He says they never looked
27 | after their own land them days, he says, maybe what
28 | we're talking about today wouldn't look so good.
29 | They must of took good care of their land, that's why
30 | this land still look the same what it used to look

1 | see little different again. Yes, he says that's how
2 | come they got ahold of this land they got on this side,
3 | for the Indians. They know what's happening and if all
4 | their animals chased away from around our hunting
5 | ground, but nobody is going to chase them away from
6 | this place where they're living now. That's why they
7 | got ahold of that land to hang onto it for the whole
8 | band.

9 | Yes he says, there's no gold
10 | or nothing in this reserve, but if all our animals are
11 | chased away from us and we couldn't go out in the bush,
12 | even though we go out hunting we couldn't get nothing.
13 | He said for one purpose we got ahold of this land,
14 | because there is valuable timbers on it, and if anybody
15 | wants to build a house, well they don't have to go very
16 | far to cut logs, and for those things they got ahold
17 | of this land.

18 | Yes, he says, not because
19 | they're against any organization, he says, they're not
20 | against brotherhood or any organization, but they just
21 | trying to do something for themselves, that's what
22 | they got ahold of this land for.

23 | If they never got ahold of
24 | the land on this side, he said we would have been
25 | chased off and this land would have been taken away
26 | from us. That's the reason we got ahold of it.

27 | People living on this side,
28 | he says, wherever they want to stay, whatever they
29 | want to do on this side, he says, all they got to go
30 | to the council and tell them what they're going to do

1 and they can go ahead and do what they want on this
2 side, he says, that's how come we got this reserve on
3 this side, just for the native people.

4 Yes, he said there is no fur
5 or nothing on the land that we've got ahold of, but if
6 anybody wants to put up a teepee, he says it's going to
7 take quite a few teepees before they can cover up this
8 reserve. That's what we got ahold of.

9 Yes, and the way this
10 Brotherhood is fighting for these land claim, he says,
11 if they settle everything and if we still could get
12 another about 100 miles square land, we going to get
13 ahold of it, and whatever there for us, he says we're
14 going to get ahold of it.

15 Even when we got ahold of
16 this land, he says, nobody is going to take it away
17 from us, he says. Same as our trapping area, he says,
18 wherever we got our trapping areas he says that's going
19 to be looked after for us because we can trap there
20 anytime we want and we can go out hunting anytime we
21 want, and it's going to stay there for us.

22 Not for money we got ahold of
23 this land, he says, no, not for anything like that.
24 Because what money they get from the government to help
25 their people with, he says some people have poor
26 houses, if they want to get a new house, he says that's
27 the way they're going to help their people, that's why
28 they got it.

29 Yes, he says for one reason
30 they got ahold of this land because they were afraid

1 | you very much, Chief Sonfrere, and I want to thank the
2 | members of your council as well for coming here, and
3 | the people who live here in the village for coming and
4 | I want you to know that I will be bearing in mind all
5 | that you have said.

6 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

7 | THE COMMISSIONER: I will
8 | adjourn the hearing then in Hay River now, and we will
9 | recommence -- that is the people who came here with me
10 | -- will recommence the hearings in Yellowknife on
11 | Monday at one o'clock. So thank you again, chief, and
12 | the members of the council, and the people in the
13 | village for coming because I realize you know that I
14 | was up north before I came here.

15 | I'm going back to the Central
16 | Mackenzie in the middle of June to Fort Franklin and
17 | Fort Norman to hear what people have to say there, and
18 | I hope that you will remember that if there is anything
19 | else you want to say to me that you will feel free to
20 | write to me at Yellowknife, and if it should happen
21 | that there is something else you want to bring up with
22 | me personally, you should let Mr. Jackson know, of my
23 | staff, and he will arrange for the chief to come to
24 | Yellowknife, if that's what the people here wish.

25 | So thank you again and I hope
26 | to see you all again.

27 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO JUNE 23, 1975)

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