

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)

July 9, 1975
Fort McPherson, N.W.T.

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

Volume 12

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APPEARANCES

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Mr. Darryl Carter	for Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Limited;
Mr. Glen W. Bell	for Northwest Territories, Indian Brotherhood and Metis Association of the Northwest Territories;
Mr. Ellwood	for Foothills Pipelines Ltd.;

INDEX OF WITNESSES	Page No.
NEIL COLIN	1067,1011
PHILLIP BLAKE	1077
JOHN ITSI	1088,1105
ELIZABETH COLIN	1097
DORIS ITSI	1109
RICHARD KOE	1112
BOB SIMPSON	1116
GLADYS LUXIE (NERYSOO)	1120
RICHARD FRANCIS	1124
MARY WILSON	1127
MRS. JIMMY THOMPSON	1128
RODDY PETERS	1130
SARAH FRANCIS	1134
MARY KENDI	1134
WILLIAM NERYSOO	1137 J
JOHN BLAKE	1139
MARY NEYENDO	1147
CHIEF JOHNNY KAY	1131

1 July 9, 1975
2 Fort McPherson, N.W.T.

3
4 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I
6 think ladies and gentlemen, we will call the Hearing to
7 order today. And give to anyone this afternoon an
8 opportunity to speak who wishes to. And some of those
9 who spoke yesterday said they were going to have
10 something further to say today. And I want to hear
11 from them, as well as from those of you who haven't yet
12 had an opportunity to say anything.

13 MR. FRANCIS: Good afternoon.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Bell?

15 MR. BELL: Perhaps this would
16 be a good opportunity just to take a few minutes and
17 put our land use maps in. For the purpose of doing
18 this, I would like the assistance of Neil Colin who has
19 already been sworn.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

21 MR. BELL: You were involved
22 in the preparation of the maps that we see on the wall
23 here?

24 NEIL COLIN: Resumed.

25 MR. COLIN: Yes.

26 Q Could you tell us what
27 the extent of your involvement was and what you did?

28 A Well, first of all, I
29 work for Indian Brotherhood for about a year and a half.
30 And when I was hired, I was hired as a community devel-

1 | opment. And later, they wanted me to do a land research
2 | with the Loucheux people here in Fort McPherson.

3 |

4 | Q Did you interview any of
5 | the trappers whose trap lines are recorded on the map
6 | today?

7 | A Yes.

8 | Q Do you remember who you
9 | interviewed?

10 | A Well, I interview 27
11 | people altogether.

12 | Q Well, perhaps then
13 | before I ask you to describe the map, you could go up
14 | to the map and, if you have a pointer--okay. Could you
15 | go up to the map then please?

16 | A Well, first of all, Mr.
17 | Berger, Chief and the Band Council and ladies and
18 | gentlemen. I did this work as working for Indian
19 | Brotherhood as a land research. And I did 27 people.

20 | THE INTERPRETER: Neil, could
21 | you translate for yourself in Loucheux, if you could?
22 | It would save a lot of time here.

23 | A Okay, I'll try. First I
24 | will say it in English. This is the map that I did with
25 | the Loucheux people on to Dawson City in
26 | Yukon. It's down here and this is the Peel River
27 | going down to Mackenzie. And there's Arctic ocean up
28 | here. And then it goes as far as Anderson River, and up
29 | to ahead of Little Wooden River, and ahead of
30 | Arctic Red River. And just below Old Crow, where the

1 | boundary line, were Alaska is. And the people travel in
2 | the Arctic Ocean towards as far as Herschel Island. And
3 | it's too high to put it up so we'll put it down. And
4 | those black marks you see, that's where people travel in
5 | the river.

6 | And all these little black
7 | marks towards Richardson Mountain, down to Arctic
8 | Ocean, every little black mark, I guess, is a river.
9 | Like Stoney Creek, Vittrewka River, Road River, Trail
10 | Creek, Snake River, Bonnet Plane River, Hart ver,
11 | Blackstone River, and ahead of Peel River, on the other
12 | side of Richardson Mountain, there is Porcupine Bear
13 | River, Johnson Creek, Eagle River, Rock River and
14 | beside that, here is Fort McPherson and this is the
15 | Mackenzie Delta, Going into Arctic Ocean.

16 | You can see Fort McPherson
17 | here, Aklavik here, Inuvik here, and Arctic Red River,
18 | And this is Mackenzie River.

19 | And I did this mapping with
20 | the people, mostly old people and sometimes when I map
21 | them, they don't understand. They can't read the map.
22 | But they tell me where they've been, and I ask them,
23 | suppose I ask them this is Eagle River. And this is
24 | Snare River and this is Rock River. By that, they show
25 | me where they have been.

26 | I also travel myself a few
27 | places, other sites as far as Eagle River, Fish Lake,
28 | Porcupine, way up the Peel River, and all around Rat
29 | River area. And a few places I know, as far as about
30 | 150 miles up the Peel River. I know myself. And I

1 | to Dawson those days.

2 | One thing I know--like
3 | yesterday, when old Andrew Kunnizzi was telling his
4 | story. He said he was--he came from Dawson in 1920,
5 | 1921 around here someplace towards the Dawson. That's
6 | where he was raised. From there they came over to Fort
7 | McPherson.

8 | And these, people on the map,
9 | they hunt, they trap and they fish. And they've been
10 | all over in Yukon, up the Peel, all over the place.

11 | And after each one of them, I
12 | explain to them, what this map is about. And I ask
13 | them if they see any white man signs any place in the
14 | country, wherever they've been.

15 | They say they see only some
16 | --some people say they've seen white man signs. That
17 | is, that is at Destruction City, it's here. That is
18 | one we call "Trih zhit tagoodii" in Loucheux.

19 | They also say they saw a
20 | white man sign at Eagle River, and Destruction City.
21 | And I ask them, how come they're there. And they all
22 | tell me they found gold in Klondike in 1898. And the
23 | miners, used to go up the Peel River and they used to
24 | go up by Destruction City. And one time, they froze in
25 | and they had to camp there. And then after the winter,
26 | they went over to Bear River and down to Fort Yukon.

27 | And I tell some people go
28 | even around here, up just straight up from Point
29 | Separation in this country. I know, far as they go,
30 | that's from Arctic Red River, is Anderson River.

1 First of all, I would like to
2 do a--there is all kinds of it here. First of all, I
3 will take one of this. This is the one an that came
4 from Dawson in 1920-1921, but he didn't last around
5 Dawson area. And he moved in from Dawson to Fort
6 McPherson in 1920 and 21. His name is Andrew Kunnizz
7 and he is sitting there.

8 Maybe I could read some of
9 these, his story here. He said, "I start trapping when
10 I was fifteen years old, with my parents at Chapman
11 Lake, Yukon Territory.

12 We do nothing by hunting and
13 sell meat, moose, sheep and caribou in Dawson City. In
14 spring we do hunt live fox for long time. We live for
15 twenty years around Dawson, Yukon Territory area. We
16 do all kinds of work around Dawson. I cut wood,
17 deckhand on steamboat, mining for gold.

18 I look after cattles, also I
19 look after pigs. Helping blacksmith, sawmill, help to
20 build boat and how to build steer wheeler, steam boat.

21 I do fish in Dawson in the
22 fish wheel to catch King salmon. I hunt in winter, and
23 in summer whenever I get a chance. I went to Fort
24 McPherson from Dawson by dog team in 1914, with
25 R.C.M.P. patrol.

26 I was just a kid that time.
27 We meet some people around Wind River from McPherson
28 also 35 miles above McPherson.

29 We pass spring in different
30 place almost every spring in Yukon. Sometime at Chapman

1 Lake, Hart River, Blackstone River, Yukon Territory.
2 Head of Ogilvie River , Yukon Territory.

3 I trapped in 1923--one river.
4 Bonnet Plume River, Yukon Territory. We built skin
5 boat 1923 spring,-- mouth of Mountain Creek, Yukon
6 Territory. 1924, winter, I went back to Blackstone
7 River by dog team. 1925 to 1926, I stayed around
8 Chapman Lake to hunt, trap, sell meat to traders in
9 Dawson and Yukon Territory.

10 Winter 1927, I went back to
11 McPherson by dog team by Wough Creek, then to Wind
12 River in Yukon Territory.

13 Spring we built skin boat
14 below Cannon. From Cannon, we drift to McPherson in
15 1927. Now today they use mercury. 1928, after new
16 year, we move by dog team to hunt, trap around Hungry
17 Lake and Big Wind River, Yukon Territory. 1928 we go
18 to Yukon to, in winter, to trap and hunt until 1935..

19 From 1935, I start making
20 living around Fort McPherson on Delta. I start trading
21 1936, every winter I get meat by hunting through Rat
22 River, N.W.T. Also I fish at Road River in summer, for
23 two summers, by fish wheel, 1938.

24 1939, Eagle River, winter
25 time, hunt, trap, live in bush. 1939-40, he done the
26 same thing in Eagle River. 1941, he done the same
27 thing in Hungry Lake area. 1942, Caribou River, Yukon
28 Territory. He done the same thing, hunting, trapping,
29 living in the bush. 1943, Rock River.

30 Just to hunt, we went to Yukon

1 | in 1944." Fish lake, he mean around here. There's Old
2 | crow there and there is Richardson Mountain. That's the
3 | area he used to hunt for caribou.

4 | "In 1945 winter, we went to
5 | Rat River to hunt caribou. In 1946 winter, we went to
6 | Caribou Mountain, Caribou Creek, we just hunt and live
7 | there." There's Caribou Creek here. Caribou River,
8 | hits the Peel. And Caribou Mountain around this area.

9 | "1947 we hunt around Rock
10 | River, Yukon Territory. 1948 we done the same thing
11 | around Vittrewka River. That's the last time I go to
12 | mountain in winter. I live in the Delta since that time.

13 | I trap in the Delta in spring
14 | time. In 1914 I went to Whitehorse, Yukon Territory in
15 | summer. I took from McPherson to Mayo, Yukon Territory
16 | by dog team, 1942. I killed grizzly bear, Stoney Creek
17 | and Satah Creek. A few I kill around Black River,
18 | Yukon Territory. I was to Fort Good Hope in 1944 summer
19 | by boat.

20 | I was down to Circel from
21 | Dawson 1917. I hunt for beaver, sheep, moose." This
22 | is just one of the old timer

23 | Q Thank you very much,
24 | Neil. I take it that all of the trap lines shown on
25 | this map are for people who live in Fort McPherson?

26 | A Yes.

27 | Q And there's none from
28 | any., other place, like Aklavik or Arctic Red?

29 | A Well, there's--I know,
30 | Frederick Reelan(?) from Aklavik. He was doing the Aklavik.

1 | And I done three people from Inuvik.

2 | Q Those three people are
3 | marked on there?

4 | A Pardon?

5 | Q Those three people are
6 | shown on the map?

7 | A Yes, yes.

8 | Q All right. Fine, well
9 | thank you very much then.

10 | A Yes. Could I mention
11 | one more thing? These little marks, to the shape of a
12 | triangle, it means that they have been camping there.
13 | Where people used to camp for years and years and
14 | years. Some of them are square with a black dot in the
15 | middle, that is where they had a cabin. But some
16 | cabins, I guess all of the cabin is rotten, nothing
17 | left. Just a foundation.

18 | There is lots of people in
19 | the Loucheux people know all of this Delta. And they
20 | fish all over the place and they even take lots of
21 | fishes, from the Mackenzie River. Also in Peel River
22 | and also on the different kind of lakes. Like one old
23 | man there, George Vittrewka. He said he know about
24 | half of Delta. And whenever he fly across to Inuvik by
25 | plane, any place he looks through the window, he says,
26 | that's the place I've been.

27 | And people travel from
28 | McPherson to Dawson to Arctic, Red River, to Aklavik,
29 | down to Old Crow, all of this black mark. At the head
30 | of Arctic Red River, across from Point Separation to

1 Sitidgi Lake, down the coast, down to Herschel Island.
2 And I know Peter Tharson made a trip from Herschel
3 Island to Victoria Island. But it's not on the map.
4 It's on the paper down here.

5 There is one tell me. I might
6 as well mention his name is William MacDonalld. He trap
7 in the Yukon. He says, it doesn't matter wherever you
8 go. You think nobody ever been in that creek or that
9 country. He says, you have to see the ice. Somebody
10 been there. He said he see a sign there. That's all.

11 Q Well, thank you very
12 much, Neil. I should point out that the scale of the
13 map is 8 miles to the inch. And that they have the
14 usual legend which explains that the intensity of the
15 use is indicated by the thickness of the line.

16 I think these maps should be
17 marked as an exhibit. And perhaps the map biography
18 sheet that Neil Colin was referring to.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, they
20 will be marked. The map as an exhibit, and the
21 biography sheet numbered A to the exhibit.

22 (LAND USE, MAP MARKED EXHIBIT C-31)

23 (BIOGRAPHY SHEET FOR LAND USE MAP MARKED EXHIBIT C-31A)

24 (PLACE NAMES ON MAP MARKED EXHIBIT C-31B)

25 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Bell,
26 how many people were interviewed--

27 MR. BELL: According to-

28 THE COMMISSIONER: --about
29 how many were interviewed?

30 A Well, before I said I

1 interviewed 27 people.

2 THE COMMISSIONER: 27?

3 A Yes: And I could have
4 done more.

5 THE COMMISSIONER: And those
6 represent people who trapped in the old days, and
7 people who are still trapping and hunting and fishing
8 today?

9 A Right, absolutely right.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: And you
11 took as a sample of the extent of the use of the land
12 territory is that what you did?

13 A Yes.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: The map
15 says that the 27 people represent 30 per cent of the,
16 of the men of native origin who are over 30.

17 MR. BELL: I believe that is
18 what it says on the legend, yes.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Right, now
20 I understand that. Thank you.

21 PHILLIP BLAKE Sworn.

22 A: Mr. Berger, my name is
23 Phillip Blake and I am a Treaty Indian from Fort
24 McPherson. I have worked as a social worker here in
25 Fort McPherson here for the past five and a half years.
26 Now, before I go any further on, I would personally
27 like to welcome you to Fort McPherson. I hope you
28 enjoy your stay here.

29 THE COMMISSIONER: We should
30 have won that ball game.

1 A: First, I would like to
2 say I am not an old man, but I have seen many changes
3 life. Fifteen years ago, most of what you see as Fort
4 McPherson did not exist. Take a look around the
5 community now. And you will start to get an idea of
6 what has happened to the Indian people here over the
7 past few years.

8 Look at the housing where
9 transient Government staff live. And look at the
10 housing where the Indian people live. Look at which
11 houses are connected to the utilidor. Look at how the
12 school and hostel, the R.C.M.P. and government staff
13 houses are right in the center of town. Dividing the
14 Indian people into two sides.

15 Look at where the Bay store
16 is, right on top of the highest point of land.

17 Mr. Berger, do you think that
18 this is the way the Indian people chose to have this
19 community? Do you think the people here had any voice in
20 planning this community? Do you think they would have
21 planned it so that it would divide them, pardon me.

22 Do you think they would plan
23 it so that it divided them and gave them a poorer
24 standard than the transient whites who come in,
25 supposedly to help them? Take a look at the school
26 here. Try to find anything that makes it a place where
27 Indian values traditions, and Indian culture is
28 respected.

29 It could be a school in the
30 suburbs of Edmonton, Toronto or Vancouver. Do you think

1 Indian people would have chosen a building like this as
2 a way to teach their children how to be proud of their
3 Indian heritage?

4 Do you think Indian people
5 chose to have their children taught that the only way
6 to survive in the future is to become like the white
7 man?

8 Look around you. Look at this
9 building. Find out who the teachers are. Find out what
10 they teach our children. Find out what regulations
11 there are in this school, find out who decides these
12 regulations. Who hires the teachers and who fires they.

13 This school is just a symbol
14 of white domination and control. It is a part of a
15 system set up to destroy Indian culture and to destroy
16 our pride in our Indian heritage.

17 It is only part of that
18 system. Look at some of the other parts. Do you think
19 people chose to live in rental houses owned by the
20 government, instead of in houses they built for
21 themselves and owned by themselves? Do you think they
22 chose to have a system of justice which often they can
23 not understand and which does not allow them to help
24 their own people, deal with their own problems?

25 A system which punishes the
26 Indians for stealing from the Bay, but does not punish
27 the Bay for stealing from the Indians? Do you think that
28 they chose to become cheap labour for oil companies,
29 construction companies and government? Instead of
30 working for themselves and developing their own economy

1 | in their own way?

2 | In short, Mr. Berger, can you
3 | or anyone else really believe that we Indian people
4 | are; now living the way we have chosen to live? Can you
5 | really believe that we have chosen to have high rates
6 | of alcoholism, murder, suicide and social breakdown? Do
7 | you think we have chosen to become beggars in our own
8 | homeland?

9 | Mr. Berger, you are well
10 | aware that hundreds of years ago, in southern Canada
11 | and in the United States, many Indian civilizations
12 | were destroyed. In some cases, this was done simply by
13 | killing off the India; Indian people, I should say, who
14 | occupied the land the land that was valuable to white
15 | settlers.

16 | In other cases, it was done
17 | by restricting the Indians to small reserves where they
18 | could no longer hunt, fish and make a living from their
19 | land. In all cases, it was pretty clear that whatever
20 | the white man wanted, the white man got.

21 | When he wanted greater land
22 | for farming, he cleared off the trees and he cleared
23 | off the Indians. When he wanted to dig the gold, or
24 | minerals from the land, he killed the Indians who tried
25 | to defend their own land.

26 | In James Bay, when the white
27 | man decided that he wanted to again play God and change
28 | the course of mighty rivers, so he could make money and
29 | power from then, he corralled the Indian people, the
30 | Indians, into reserves and flooded the Indian land. The

1 nations of Indians and Eskimos in the north have been
2 slightly luckier.

3 For a while it seemed that we
4 might escape the greed of the southern system. The
5 north was seen as a frozen wasteland, not fit for the
6 civilized ways of the white man. But that has been
7 changing over the past few years.

8 Now the system of genocide
9 practiced on our Indian brothers in the south, over
10 the, past few hundred years is now being turned loose
11 on us,, and our Eskimo brothers. "Don't be silly;' you
12 may say. "We are sorry about what we did in the past,
13 we made some mistakes. But it's different now.

14 Look, we give you an
15 education, houses and health services."

16 Mr. Berger, the system of
17 genocide may have become a little more polished over
18 the past few hundred years in order to suit the
19 civilized tastes of the southern people who watch Lloyd
20 Robertson on the National.

21 But the effect is exactly the
22 same. We are being destroyed. Your nation is destroy
23 our nation. What we are saying today, here and now is
24 exactly what Louis Riel was saying roughly a hundred
25 years ago.

26 We are a nation. We have our
27 own land, our own ways and our own civilization. We do
28 not want to destroy you or your land. Please do not
29 destroy us.

30 You and I both know what happened

1 to Louis Riel. Yet now, a hundred years later, your
2 Prime Minister is willing to say that Louis Riel was not
3 all wrong. He is willing to say that, a hundred years
4 later.

5 But is he willing to change
6 the approach that destroyed Louis Riel? And his nation?
7 And is now threatening to destroy us?

8 I am sure throughout your
9 visits to native communities, Mr. Berger, that you have
10 been shown much of the hospitality that is our
11 tradition, as a people. We have always tried to treat
12 our guests well, it never occurred to us that our
13 guests would one day claim that they owned our whole
14 house. Yet that is exactly what is happening.

15 White people came as visitors
16 to our land. Suddenly they claim it as their land.
17 They claim that we have no right to call it Indian
18 land, land that we have occupied and used for thousand
19 of years. Which just recently the white man has come
20 to visit. And suddenly he claims it to be his own.

21 Is this is the great system
22 of justice, which your nation is so proud of? Now look
23 at what happened to France during the Second World War?
24 Germany moved in and occupied the land that France
25 claimed as her own.

26 At that time, Canada seemed
27 willing to help a people whose land had been unjustly
28 taken. Now, the same thing is happening to Indian
29 nations of the north. Your nation has suddenly decided
30 to move in and occupy land that is rightfully ours.

1 | Where is your great tradition
2 | of justice today? Does your nation's greed for oil and
3 | gas suddenly override justice? What exactly is your
4 | superior civilization? That can so blindly ignore the
5 | injustice occurring continually over one third of the
6 | land mass in Canada? And yet barely gets reported on
7 | your T.V, or newspapers?

8 | One third of the land mass of
9 | Canada is under the direct colonial rule. Yet you seem
10 | willing only to talk of igloos, polar bears and snow
11 | when you talk about the north. One has to read about
12 | South Africa or Rhodesia to get a clear picture of what
13 | is really happening in Northern Canada. While your
14 | newspapers and television talk about sports fishing up
15 | here, we as a people, are being destroyed.

16 | And it doesn't even merit any
17 | coverage.

18 | Look at us. And what we
19 | stand for, before you accept without further thought
20 | that the Indian nation must die. In many parts of the
21 | world people are starving. It is said that two-thirds
22 | of the people of the world go to bed hungry each night.
23 | We Indian people are sometimes accused of not being
24 | willing to share our resources. But what of this
25 | absurd scheme that Arctic Gas has dreamt up?

26 | What does it offer to those
27 | who are starving? Does it promise to use our resources
28 | and our land to help those who are poor? It suggests
29 | exactly the opposite.

30 | It suggests that we give up our

1 For it is not the way we would choose. However, if we are
2 forced to blow up the pipeline, I hope violence -- I hope
3 you will not only look on the violence of Indian action, but
4 also on the violence of your own nation which would force us
5 to take such a course.

6 We will never initiate violence.
7 But if your nation threatens by its own violent action to
8 destroy our nation, you will have given us no choice.

9 Please do not force us into
10 this position. For we would all lose too much.

11 Mr. Berger, I believe it is
12 because I am a social worker here that I have, in a
13 sense, had to make some sense out of the frustration
14 and desperation that people in this community and
15 others along the valley are feeling. I have therefore
16 tried to read as much as possible of other situations
17 in Canada and in the world.

18 It is clear to me that the
19 pipeline in Alaska has not been any part of progress,
20 whatever progress may mean. Where progress should mean
21 people getting greater controls over their own lives,
22 greater freedom, the pipeline in Alaska appears to have
23 driven people into the ground. Along with the pipeline.

24 Clearly, we do not want that
25 here. Perhaps it is also because I am a social worker
26 that I am aware that what steps my people may take in
27 reaction to the building of a pipeline here.

28 Mr. Berger, it should be very
29 clear by now what are the wishes of the people along
30 the Mackenzie

1 Valley regarding the pipeline here. I do not believe
2 you or anyone else could misunderstand what the native
3 people of this valley are saying.

4 Obviously if we lived in any
5 kind of a democratic system, there would be no further
6 talk of Gas Arctic pipeline. The will of the people
7 has been made very clear. If this consensus, if the
8 will of the people is not respected, then I appeal to
9 you and all people of southern Canada to respect and
10 support us in our efforts to re-establish democracy and
11 democratic decision making in our homeland.

12 I guess the question for
13 southern Canada is simply which side are you on? Are
14 you on the side of the people trying to find freedom
15 and a democratic tradition? Or are you on the side of
16 those who are trying to frustrate our attempts to find
17 freedom?

18 Are you on the side of those
19 who are trying to frustrate our attempts to find
20 freedom and who are, instead, trying to destroy the
21 last free Indian nation?

22 Mr. Berger, I guess what I am
23 really trying to say is, can you help us? And can we
24 help you make sure that the will of the people is
25 respected? After all, isn't that what -- isn't that
26 supposed to be what Canada once stood for?

27 Can we as an Indian nation
28 keep, help Canada to once again become a true democracy?

29 Thank you very much, sir.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,

1 Mr. Blake.

2 (WITNESS ASIDE)

3

4

5 THE COMMISSIONER: Do you
6 need a break, Mr. Charlie?

7 MR. FRANCIS: He would like
8 to have a break, yes.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
10 sure, I understand that. And I am grateful to you, Mr.
11 Charlie for the interpreting that you have done for us.
12 Well, we'll take maybe a five or ten minute break and
13 just relax for a minute.

14 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

15 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

16 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
17 gentlemen, we will carry on again. And Mr. Charlie
18 will continue with the translation of Mr. Blake's
19 statement. So, carry on Mr. Charlie.

20

21 THE COMMISSIONER: I would
22 like that statement marked as an exhibit. Miss
23 Hutchinson, would you mark that as an exhibit?

24 (STATEMENT OF PHILLIP BLAKE MARKED AS EXHIBIT C-32)

25 JOHN ITSI: Resumed.

26 A Good afternoon, ladies
27 and gentlemen, Chief, and Band Counsellors. Mr. Judge
28 Berger and staff, and CBC reporters.

29 My name is John Itsi and I am
30 a small-time general contractor. I have been Vice-

1 | President of the Indian Brotherhood for two years and
2 | Chief of the Fort McPherson band for two years.

3 | Before I say my presentation, I
4 | would like to let the court reporters and news media
5 | from--stop them referring to people that make
6 | presentation at this Inquiry as radicals, militants and
7 | as far as Edmonton Journal went, they called me an "angry
8 | young chief" which sort of my reputation as bad as it is,
9 | but it went further, probably on across Canada.

10 | I would like to tell you
11 | about when I was 12 years old, just out of school in
12 | Inuvik, I had to go hunting caribou. We went hunting
13 | caribou about a hundred miles from here. That is up
14 | Caribou Creek where they call it, Caribou Creek up in
15 | the Yukon.

16 | And I had to go because one
17 | of my older brothers, was out hunting, I mean, out
18 | working for the oil company. One of the oil companies.
19 | And my mother was alone and somebody had to go out and
20 | get meat for my smaller brothers and sisters. The
21 | weather was cold and it took us four days to get up to
22 | our destination. And two weeks later, we came back
23 | with a big load of meat which was good.

24 | But the thing I am getting at
25 | is, that now you could travel a hundred miles in one
26 | day with skidoo and just hope that you don't break
27 | down, because it is a long way back. But traveling
28 | with dog team, you can always rely on the dog team.

29 | But the most important thing
30 | I am getting at is the distance you have to travel,

1 either by dog team or skidoo to get caribou or moose.
2 That is if they build a pipeline. It might change the
3 route of the caribou. And the compressor stations,
4 all the noise they make might chase the moose further
5 away.

6 The majority of the people
7 here live on caribou or moose meat and fish. Some of
8 the natives hold steady jobs here. But on weekends you
9 still see them out hunting caribou or fishing on their
10 days off. These kinds of foods is important to them,
11 because they are raised on these natural foods. You
12 can't change them.

13 I know some of them tried to
14 live like white man, but you still see them buying meat
15 off of the people that's got caribou meat or buying
16 fish. You can't change their diet.

17 And the people that make
18 their living off of the land, move into the mountains
19 close to the caribou. Or fish where the best places
20 are to fish. If these people make their--kill caribou
21 for their, for summer use, they dry the meat. And in
22 the summer time they fish and they fish to make dry
23 fish for the winter.

24 These animals that we depend
25 on for food are very valuable to us Natives. If the
26 pipeline was to be built across the caribou route and
27 the caribou route change, it will take us many weeks to
28 get there wherever the caribou is. Or maybe we will
29 starve on the way. Because most of the experienced
30 hunters are old now and, like myself, I am still a

1 | greenhorn. But I still hunt and fish. Or maybe we
2 | will freeze if our skidoo break down getting to there.

3 | If changes like this is to
4 | take place, and this is just a note, a silly notion
5 | that I had here . I said that I recommend that Gas
6 | Arctic give us new stomachs so we could live off of the
7 | garbage that they sell in the stores.

8 | One important thing I would
9 | like to talk about is what if the pipeline break? How
10 | are they going to know if the pipe break during
11 | breakup? Maybe that's a question for one of either
12 | Foothills or Canadian Arctic Gas? That's when the
13 | Mackenzie and Peel River floods, how are they going to
14 | get to their turnoff valves during spring breakup?

15 | This spring, when I was
16 | coming back from one of my hunting trips, just before
17 | the spring breakup, I happened to take the wrong road,
18 | I took the Keene Industries winter road. Across the
19 | river here and came, it was dark that time and
20 | everything was frozen. And I seen a little creek, a
21 | little creek running down the bank and it was strange
22 | for me, you know, to see this creek. And every other
23 | creek is frozen.

24 | And I smell oil. And so I
25 | stopped my skidoo. And I went over to the creek and I
26 | put my hand in the little creek and I smelled it. And
27 | it is pure diesel fuel.

28 | So when I came back, I tried
29 | it was on a weekend. I tried to get ahold of -- and
30 | the only person I could get ahold of was, well, the

1 | If they ever build a pipeline
2 | all of the jobs will be given to the union of southern
3 | workers. And that is a fact because here on the
4 | Dempster Highway, there is only three or four who work
5 | steady. There was maybe at one time, I remember they
6 | had about fourteen, but just to do odd jobs and then
7 | they were laid off.

8 | And Keene Industries hired
9 | their labour from the south. I don't know why.

10 | And another thing, the
11 | Department of Economic Development, it's not doing a
12 | damn thing in encouraging Native businessmen or those
13 | interested in running their own business. You know to-
14 | while the highway is coming and while the pipeline is
15 | coming, they are not doing nothing to encourage the
16 | Native businessmen.

17 | Or those interested in running
18 | their own business. You put in an application to run
19 | maybe a taxi or a cafe, or maybe a garage. You put in an
20 | application at the Economic Development, they send it
21 | out. It's gone for about six weeks and then they write
22 | to you that they want you to change a few things,, then
23 | you're--by that time, the shipping season's over.

24 | Like the barges, you can't
25 | get your cars in for taxi, you can't get your material
26 | into fill the garage. And then they send it down to
27 | Ottawa and Ottawa says no. McPherson don't need a
28 | taxi, McPherson don't need a garage.

29 | But if a white people, a white,
30 | person put in an application, it's right there. It's

1 | signed.

2 | And things like that are
3 | going' on, you know. People are fed up with it.

4 | Well, what I would like you
5 | Judge Berger to recommend to the Federal Government is
6 | that Natives be given special rates to get jobs on the
7 | pipeline. Not, don't say first priority. Give them a
8 | special way of going into, maybe could--I don't know
9 | how I could say it.

10 | A special way, that they are
11 | W ver' a special privileges to get jobs on the highway,
12 | because that thing is going to be built anyway.

13 | And you know, like the thing
14 | I keep coming back to is, Natives get first priority.
15 | That is all, you know, I don't like to swear or
16 | anything, but you know, that is not true.

17 | They should be given the
18 | special -- if there is going to be a union, the
19 | southern union people are going to get the jobs. There
20 | should be consultation where we could get in there and
21 | the government could talk for us or maybe the
22 | Brotherhood and get them to join up with the unions.

23 | So that we could get jobs.
24 | And not just these guys supposed to be getting jobs,
25 | they are not getting jobs, stuff like that. Because
26 | even on the, on the highway last winter, one Gas Arctic
27 | guy came to me and said, when they're going to build a
28 | pipeline,, we are going to be competing with Keene
29 | Industries for Native workers. He said, according to
30 | my paper here, he says, I heard there's about a hundred

1 Natives working. And that was in February.

2 THE COMMISSIONER: On the
3 highway?

4 A Yes.

5 THE COMMISSIONER: That's
6 what he thought?

7 A Yes. Well, that is what
8 he heard at his desk. So I told him there is one guy
9 that is on that highway. And that was Frederick Blake
10 from Arctic Red. And I told him that they must have
11 add two zeros to that one.

12 I mean things like that--if
13 they want to get, if they want to get the whole truth
14 then, they should get it right from the community, not
15 from Ottawa or Edmonton.

16 And I would also like you to
17 recommend to the government that the Department of
18 Economic Development assist Native businessmen or those
19 interested in having their own business, get them to
20 encourage them, or bring out all of the best
21 possibility of doing these business. Before the
22 Dempster Highway is completed.

23 Or even before the pipeline is
24 going to be built. Because these are very important.
25 There is nothing that has been done and there is highway
26 on full speed right now. And if I was, if I was still
27 the chief, I was going to try to stop that 47 mile gap
28 between here, between the border and Dawson. I was going
29 to put a halt on that until they, the Economic
30 Development people smarten up because they are not doing

1 | 1 how we started A.A. here and what has happened.

2 | The Peel River Alcohol A.A.
3 | would like you to hear about how we, as Natives are
4 | trying to help ourselves for our drinking problems
5 | that we used to have 27 months ago. At that time we
6 | didn't know about getting help for our alcoholism.
7 | A lot of people were drinking so we thought that it
8 | was supposed to be that way. Until I got so fed up
9 | with all the problems I was having at home with my
10 | family.

11 | Those days we never even hear
12 | of anybody getting help to stop drinking or even to
13 | control their drinking. I am happy today that I asked
14 | the social worker, Phillip Blake, for help with my
15 | drinking. I was told that I was the first person, I was
16 | told that I was the first person to admit that I had
17 | drinking problems. So he said that he was going to help
18 | me all he can.

19 | That is the first time that I
20 | heard about Henwood. That is a place where people go 1
21 | for 28 days. For their drinking problems, and to get
22 | help for their drinking. It is about 15 miles from
23 | Edmonton.

24 | Neil and I were the first to go
25 | there in July '73 for 28 days for our drinking. We have
26 | nine children, the oldest is 17, the youngest 7 is five
27 | now. That much we wanted to stop drinking. We left all
28 | of our children here and went out to Henwood. We are
29 | happy now that we did that, because our children are
30 | happy, just as we are today.

1 | While we were in Henwood, we
2 | learned a lot of things that we never knew before. We
3 | went to group therapy , couples meetings, lectures and
4 | saw a lot of movies on alcohol. We did a lot of talking
5 | about what is really bothering us.

6 | Like myself I couldn't talk
7 | to anybody about anything. I felt like I was a nobody
8 | until I went to Henwood. There, the door opened for
9 | me, for a lot of things I didn't know. There were a
10 | lot of things that I had never been able to talk about
11 | with anyone before.

12 | But in those sessions it just
13 | all came out. Often I just cried, but so did many of
14 | the other people that were there. And I found there
15 | were others worse off than me, and that helped me.

16 | After we came back end of
17 | July we started A.A. in McPherson. October 20, 1973,
18 | we couldn't start on our own. Three A.A. came from
19 | Inuvik to start A.A. with us. Since then we are having
20 | meetings once a week, since '73. Thirteen other people
21 | have gone to Henwood, for treatment for their drinking
22 | problem.

23 | And we have had the meetings
24 | since then. But we have learned a lot, as Indians,
25 | that we could do a lot for ourselves. We always let
26 | the white people do things for us. But since we quit
27 | drinking, we found out that we could do things for our
28 | own. And we didn't even know they had grant for
29 | alcohol in every community.

30 | And the social worker, John

1 Osborne, is the one that told us about it and how we
2 could apply for it. And what we could do for it. And
3 all last summer I was busy writing letters to the
4 people that I didn't know and everything. But he
5 helped me. He didn't write it for me though, but I had
6 to do the writing. But he told me I could.

7 A lot of time, I remember,
8 I got mad at him because I told him I couldn't. But he
9 said, you could. But today I am happy. John is in
10 Inuvik and we are here and we still do our own. We
11 know what to do.

12 And that was the time we as
13 the Department of Social Workers in Yellowknife for a
14 grant so that we could have the Alcohol Centre. We got
15 a grant of \$25,000 in September 26th, 1974. e opened
16 the center in November 7, 1974. The reason I am saying
17 this is we know the pipeline will really affect the
18 Indian way of life.

19 Also the Dempster Highway.
20 And they have a beer outlet in the town here that is
21 being opened Fridays and Saturdays. And just to give
22 you an idea of how much is being spent. You see the
23 peoples who are working on the highways for good wages
24 last winter, and just to give you a--how much one in
25 three months.

26 And here I have to ask Neil
27 to read it for me because I can't do it very good.
28 This is just in three months how much beer was sold and
29 all that. The reason I am doing this is because that's
30 in three months, with beer, for the work on the highway

1 | like.

2 | But I couldn't say it was
3 | only the natives. It was the whites and natives
4 | together. But what if the pipeline come through, it
5 | will be worse than that.

6 | MR. COLIN: Thank you, Mrs. The
7 | beer sale here in Fort McPherson is \$5.50 a dozen. In
8 | March, 1974, they sold 1,413 case. Pardon me, this is
9 | March 1975. They sold 1,413 case, which cost \$7,771.30.

10 | In April, they sold 2360
11 | case, it cost \$12,980. In May, they sold 2489, it cost
12 | \$13,690 case, pardon me, \$13,690 dollars. Total sales
13 | is \$34,441.50. That's in three months.

14 | This averages out to 7.3
15 | dozen beer for every man and woman and child in this
16 | community. Also, for this amount, ten men could
17 | purchase a freighter canoe.

18 | THE COMMISSIONER: Could
19 | purchase a what?

20 | NEIL COLIN: A freighter
21 | canoe.

22 | THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, yes.

23 | MR. COLIN: And 20, and a
24 | kicker and a new skidoo every three months. Or forty
25 | men each year could be outfit with the same equipment.
26 | Or purchase 49,202 gallons of gasoline every three
27 | months or 196,808 gallons of gasoline a year.

28 | MRS. COLIN: Thank you Neil.
29 | And the reason I put this up is because what if the
30 | pipeline come through, it will be worse. And

1 | like right now we are trying to get back on our feet
2 | like. As Natives. Trying to help ourself. But what
3 | will happen if the pipeline come through and there is
4 | going to be a lot of money and a lot of the Indians is
5 | going to be affected by alcohol.

6 | And that is what is worrying
7 | us, the A.A. group in McPherson. Like we were saying
8 | it's not that we are trying to make everybody quit
9 | drinking. We know we will see the drink the rest of
10 | our lives. But there is a better way without it. And
11 | you know what you are doing.

12 | And there are a lot of
13 | beautiful things that is in this world that we could
14 | see. This is what is worrying us.

15 | Like myself I didn't even
16 | know that I could do the things that I am doing today.
17 | Because, I read and I hear it. The Indians are just
18 | stupid, drunken, lazy, that's what we are called most
19 | of the time by the white peoples.

20 | But we can't be called that
21 | way all of the time. We could show them that we could,
22 | have our own say too. That is why I am happy that I
23 | have a chance to talk to you, Mr. Berger.

24 | Like myself, you know, since
25 | I quit drinking, I have been in a lot of things, trying
26 | to help my people. If we didn't care when we first
27 | came back from Henwood, I don't think that any of this
28 | would be going on. We would have just kept it to
29 | ourself as long as we were sobered, and no use about
30 | the next person.

1 But we care about our
2 people, that is why we are trying to do all that we
3 can to help our peoples in any way that we know we
4 could help them.

5 And I have been to a lot of
6 places for meetings, or for seminar, and I was to
7 International Women's Conference in Yellowknife, too.
8 And by going places like that, I learn a lot all of the
9 time. And I am happy to say that for being on the Band
10 Council.

11 The peoples put me here for
12 them to try and do something for them. I will try my
13 best for my peoples. Because this is the first time I
14 think that I am ever making a speech in a public place
15 like this to a lot of people.

16 It is not easy, but I am
17 talking so that's the main thing.

18 So Mr. Berger, may I end my
19 talk with this? Mr. Berger, all of this work for Judges
20 Berger might be for nothing. Right now you are going
21 to all of the communities and the people are telling
22 you everything, how they feel about themselves and
23 their land and their future.

24 The people have never done
25 this before. They trust you and they want to tell you
26 because they believe you can help them. They are going
27 to a lot of work and doing everything they can to tell
28 you all about their life.

29 You will be writing a report
30 to Ottawa. What will happen if Ottawa doesn't listen to

1 | you? What if Ottawa doesn't listen to us? What if they
2 | just go ahead with the pipeline?

3 | The people in the north are
4 | talking to the government for the first time now. If
5 | the government doesn't listen, how many more people
6 | will start drinking, just because they feel they have
7 | been fooled again?

8 | We will feel bad ourselves,
9 | presenting all of this for nothing. We will try to
10 | accept whatever happens. Even though it will be very
11 | hard. But what of the other people in the town? Maybe
12 | they will just drink more to try to forget what is
13 | happening to them.

14 | Thank you, Mr. Berger, for
15 | listening to me, from Elizabeth Colin.

16 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
17 | Mrs. Colin.

18 |

19 |

20 |

21 | MR. ITSI: What about my
22 | question about turnoff valves during breakup?

23 | THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I
24 | think we should come to that. I wonder, maybe we could
25 | have Mrs. Colin's statement translated and then get
26 | your question?

27 | MR. ITSI: Yes , okay.

28 | THE COMMISSIONER: You can
29 | stay there, Mr. Itsi.

30 |

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Would you
2 have Mrs. Colin's statement marked as an exhibit?
3 (MRS. COLIN'S STATEMENT MARKED EXHIBIT C-34)

4 THE COMMISSIONER: It's 5:30,
5 r. would you mind waiting until after supper to ask
6 your questions?

7 Well, we'll adjourn until 8
8 o'clock tonight. And we will come back at 8 o'clock
9 tonight and carry right on. Thank you.

10 Yes, I am going on a boat
11 trip up the river. But I will be back I think by 8
12 o'clock, so the rest of you will be here.

13 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

14 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

15 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
16 ladies and gentlemen, I think we will come to order.
17 And I have asked Mr. Carter and Mr. Workman of Arctic
18 Gas, and Mr. Elwood of Foothills Pipeline to go to that
19 microphone so that--Mr. Itsi, if you want to come up to
20 this microphone, they are right here to answer your
21 questions.

22 JOHN ITSI: Resumed.

23 MR. ITSI: Yes, my question.
24 I have a question for Foothills Pipeline and Canadian
25 Arctic Gas. How will your -- the pipeline companies
26 know when there is a break in the line during spring
27 breakup, or during freeze up? Like, if your turnoff
28 valves were under water, how would you get to them?

29 THE COMMISSIONER: You want
30 to translate that question?

1 MR. CARTER: I will ask Mr.
2 Workman to answer that for Arctic Gas.

3 MR. WORKMAN: If, at any time
4 there is a break in the pipeline, regardless of where
5 whether the break is under the river or wherever, the
6 section of line with that break would be shut off
7 automatically. This is all automatically controlled.
8 The valves on each side of that break would shut as the
9 pressure sensors noted that there was a leak.

10 If we had to get in, for any
11 particular reason to make sure that these valves were
12 shut off, say, on each side of the river, and it was
13 high water, breakup periods we could get in by
14 helicopter.

15 There are either airstrip
16 fields or helicopter pads planned for wherever these
17 valves are.

18 MR. ITSI: You mind if I ask
19 a couple more, just to--from yesterday when John Blake
20 was asking, a couple of questions. I would just like
21 to clarify a couple more questions.

22 From what I read in the trade
23 magazines, the Alyeska pipeline in Alaska is going to
24 pipe gas in the air form to Valdez. And at Valdez, the
25 gas will be liquefied so that it will be shipped by
26 tankers, to southern markets.

27 And yesterday you said that
28 the gas that is in its last staging area where it can
29 be liquefied. Am I correct on that?

30 MR. ELWOOD: I believe you are

1 | referring to the El Paso project there, not Alyeska.

2 | MR. ITSI: Yes, yes.

3 | MR. ELLWOOD: That is true.

4 | Their plan is to ship the gas across Alaska, liquefy it
5 | and carry it in tankers down to the southern states.

6 | And there it would go into another plant to be
7 | converted back into a gas, and then shipped in a
8 | pipeline to the markets in the States.

9 | It is not used in the liquid
10 | form. We just do that for convenience to carry it in
11 | the tankers.

12 | MR. ITSI: Well, yesterday
13 | you, said it can't be--can't be liquefied after --you
14 | said when it is in its air form stage, it can't be
15 | liquefied. Now it's a different story. Well, any
16 | way I got it anyway.

17 | THE COMMISSIONER: Before you
18 | go on, you want to have a go at translating that, that
19 | exchange.

20 |
21 | MR. ITSI: My last question
22 | is not a question, but yesterday you told the audience
23 | that the gas wasn't poisonous. According to the men
24 | that work on the pipeline in the south, like I've been
25 | talking to some of them that worked, had experience in
26 | working on pipelines in the south. That the gas is
27 | extremely poisonous.

28 | One guy said there was a leak.
29 | in a small valley. And the gas hung in that area, it
30 | lifted up but it hung in that valley there. And one of

1 | the workers, I guess one of the maintenance guys forgot
2 | to take his safety mask with him. And he went into that
3 | place and he got killed. And yesterday you said it
4 | wasn't poisonous.

5 | MR. ELLWOOD: I would just
6 | comment on that. The poison gas, poisonous gas that is
7 | found in southern Canada, in Alberta, contains H₂S,
8 | hydrogen sulphide, which is poisonous.

9 | The gas itself, the natural
10 | gas is not poisonous. It is the hydrogen sulphide
11 | which is poisonous. And, so far as we know all of the
12 | gas that has been found in the Delta thus far does not
13 | contain hydrogen sulphide.

14 | THE COMMISSIONER; Well, it
15 | may be sweet gas or whatever it is you call it, but you
16 | can't breathe it, can you?

17 | MR. ELLWOOD; No, you need to
18 | breathe oxygen to live. You can't live in impure gas
19 | but it is not poisonous in the sense that one whiff of
20 | it mixed with air would kill you.

21 | MR. WORKMAN: I might add --

22 | THE COMMISSIONER: Do you want
23 | to try and translate that before Mr. Workman goes on.

24 | MR. WORKMAN: I might add one
25 | word to that. The gas that is discovered so far is not
26 | poisonous. There is no hydrogen sulphide in the gas
27 | that has been discovered in the north up to now.

28 | And if by any chance they do
29 | ? discover gas that has this hydrogen sulphide in it,
30 | that hydrogen sulphide would be all removed right at

1 | the gas plant, so that the gas that is coming down
2 | through the pipeline would still be quite free of this
3 | poisonous material..

4 | MR. ITSI: How will they get
5 | rid of that poisonous gas at the plant, burn it or--?

6 | MR. WORKMAN: No, the
7 | poisonous?

8 | gas is converted to a
9 | material called sulphur. The sulphur itself is not
10 | poisonous and it could be used as raw material for
11 | other chemicals and byproducts later on.

12 | But the main purpose for
13 | taking hydrogen sulphide out of the gas, in the gas
14 | plant is to remove this poison.

15 | MR. ITSI: Okay, thank you.

16 | DORIS ITSI, Resumed.

17 | A Ladies and gentlemen,
18 | before I start talking about what I want to say, first
19 | of all, I would like to say how pleased I am to be with
20 | you all, to say a few words about my land, about the
21 | pipeline.

22 | I was elected Chief of Fort
23 | McPherson, also Band Council, and I have lived in Fort
24 | McPherson, 5 years now. And I know quite a bit of this
25 | area.

26 | So, Mr. Berger, on behalf of
27 | my people, I would like to bring to your attention my
28 | feelings in regards to the pipeline. I do not like the
29 | idea of the pipeline, as do many of the people in this
30 | community. Especially the people who hunt and trap.

1 The Arctic Gas people say the
2 pipeline will be 48 inches wide and will be built very
3 close to Fort McPherson. Large compressor station will
4 be built approximately 23 miles from Fort McPherson.

5 Just eleven miles east of
6 location lives two Native families. These two
7 families, along with other families, go to this certain
8 area, that they call Timber Creek to hunt and trap.

9 Construction of the pipeline
10 is to begin five miles north of McPherson, passing
11 Husky Lake, the foothills and through caribou migration
12 areas.

13 I strongly feel that the
14 noise from the compressor station and the noise from
15 the construction will greatly affect and chase away the
16 animals, especially the caribou.

17 We depend greatly on the
18 caribou for its meat. And today, the prices of meat in
19 the store is too high in our stores and that we got
20 more of the caribou. The larger families can not
21 afford to live from the local stores.

22 Referring to the high prices,
23 does not mean that the people of Fort McPherson do not
24 live off of the caribou. Because every person, which
25 includes the children, have been brought eating caribou
26 meat.

27 Another fault of the pipeline
28 is the possible breakage of the pipeline. People here
29 are always hearing of pipelines breaking throughout the
30 rest of Canada, and the world. The breaks will

1 cause considerable damage and pollute a large area.

2 Last fall, after there had
3 been a lot of seismic and drilling work, people said
4 that the Arctic Char a that runs up the Rat River were
5 down in numbers. Construction camp that are close to
6 Fort McPherson will create a lot of social problems.

7 Drinking will increase,
8 Indian girls will be involved with white men. There
9 will be more unwed mothers. More crimes, more drugs,
10 employment is another important thing in the pipeline.

11 It seems that the Natives
12 always get the lower type of jobs. It has already
13 happened with the oil companies and construction camps
14 that promise to hire Native workers. These promises
15 have never been kept to their full extent.

16 Discrimination seems to be a
17 point that exists when the workers are being hired.
18 The Department of Lands and Forests says that the oil
19 companies must have permission from Natives to do any
20 work within their area.

21 In the past we have experienced
22 oil companies conducting seismic and drilling work
23 without permission. We do not want to even talk about
24 pipeline until there is a proper land claims settlement.

25 By having a land claims
26 settlement, we can have more control over large
27 development to our land.

28 This is Doris Itsi.

29 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
30 very much, ma'am.

1 (WITNESS ASIDE)
2 THE COMMISSIONER: Are you
3 going to interpret that? I would like that statement
4 marked as an exhibit.
5 (DORIS ITSI'S STATEMENT MARKED EXHIBIT C-35)
6
7 MR. KOE: And Mr. Justice
8 Berger and ladies and gentlemen. And before I decide,
9 you know --
10 THE COMMISSIONER: We will
11 have to swear you in. I didn't see you there for a
12 minute.
13 MR. KOE: You have to swear
14 me in?
15 THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry.
16 RICHARD KOE Sworn.
17 A Mr. Justice Berger and
18 ladies and gentlemen. Before I start, I want to tell
19 you that I am not a public speaker or something like
20 that. What I want to talk about is my experience at
21 work and what I thought about it after I you know
22 associated with some of the white people from down
23 south.
24 My friends here have got a
25 presentation written out which maybe later on or
26 tomorrow they will be reading to you on that there.
27 They are going to give you their idea of what they
28 think about this pipeline that is coming through.
29 But what I want to add, to say
30 is that when I was working for Shell Canada, when I was,

1 | working out at the rig, I think that the general idea of
2 | having Indian people on that job was to sell a sort of
3 | product to the rest of Canada or to the Indian people
4 | saying great, "Look, we've got Indian people on the
5 | job."

6 | Therefore the rest of you people
7 | should be glad, but I think they have maybe two people on
8 | the whole rig, and all the rest are from down south. And
9 | any Indian people that is on that job there, they really
10 | aren't being taken for what they are.

11 | Like if they're really willing
12 | to work, like, they've been given a pat on the head, like
13 | you know, you are a good Indian. And another thing that
14 | surprises me was that before I was there I didn't know
15 | that when I started working, I heard from one of my
16 | fellow employees down south that this, they had this
17 | meeting, I think it was Gas Arctic or I don't know what
18 | -- for Shell. that there is going to be some Indian
19 | people working on that rig.

20 | And we want you to treat them
21 | real good, don't get mad at them. You know, just like
22 | come token Indian. They wanted us to be happy, where we
23 | were. So maybe we can come back and tell the Indian
24 | people that, oh, we got this job, we are happy now.

25 | And then they can say, like,
26 | oh, that's good. Now the idea -- well, I guess maybe
27 | after I finish this speech, the Interpreter can, you
28 | know, , just say what he wants. Like he can give the
29 | general idea behind what I have to say. I think he
30 | understands me and he understand what the rest of the

1 getting all of the recognition. I think the only
2 recognition the Indian people get down there is like
3 bad publicity, like, you know, the Indian people have
4 no jobs.

5 You know, they're drinking.
6 And all of that. Well, ever since 19--well, '58 when
7 the construction first started up here, the Indian
8 people were hired on and off and on and off and on and
9 off. Like, small, you know, short-time employment.

10 And they got so used to it,
11 you know, I don't think they could have worked for like
12 two months without saying, you know, "Oh man, I've
13 worked two months. Like this really beats one week,"
14 you know. And they got so used to that.

15 And all of a sudden the oil
16 companies come and they hit them with a lifetime
17 employment. Like you know, you've got an employment,
18 now you can work for the rest of your life. You can
19 have big car, you can have everything. But then they
20 turn around and they pat them on the head and they
21 don't give them employment. And you know, you can feel
22 when you are left out or when you are different.

23 It is as simple as that. And
24 if they want equality, they might as well come down to
25 our level, because we can't go up there. They left us
26 behind a long time ago, through their own doings.

27 They put us down, first time
28 in 1958 by sending Indian agents over here, by sending
29 workers, by sending foremen and everything they are
30 sending here, and putting us down.

1 The most attractive
2 part of the gas pipeline that has been proposed
3 is, employment. The great pipeline is to take
4 us out of poverty. Yes, in this country you are
5 not rich by the standards of southerners, but
6 there are very few Canadians who eat better than
7 we do.

8 The pipeline will not bring
9 us out of poverty. It will bring the standard of
10 living up to two, three times higher than now. Which
11 is already about twice that of the average Canadian's
12 grocery bill.

13 So it is a very attractive
14 proposal, Gas Arctic and Foothills Pipeline bring us
15 today. We will just have to pay four to five times
16 higher prices.

17 But that slithering snake of
18 a pipeline, who tries its hardest to tempt us, will
19 tell us the great number of jobs, the money, yes, this
20 is the snake's apple. Money..

21 I also heard at one time that
22 this was to happen then the Dempster Highway was to be
23 constructed. Already this mud stream has passed us.
24 There has been no great amount of money flowing into
25 this town. Admittedly, there are a few families who
26 have seen a better time because of this construction
27 boom.

28 And I can count them on my
29 fingers. And this better time comes after taxes, grocery
30 bills and, if they live in their own houses, heat,

1 light , which is never cheap. Very little is left for
2 the better life, whatever that means.

3 What is a better life? Perhaps
4 in fairyland, it would be driving trucks 12 hours a day,
5 six days a week, receiving a minimum of \$1500 every two
6 weeks. In the three years of road construction, a man
7 would have earned \$108,000. But who in this community
8 has received a quarter of this amount in three years?

9 I can only count three. How
10 many receive a quarter or more who do not live in this
11 country? 75 to a 100 men. How many men from this town
12 could receive this amount? 50 to 100 men.

13 Why are not these men
14 employed now or were not employed because Indians are
15 thought of as labourers, not capable of doing any
16 skilled job of any kind.

17 My occupation as employment
18 officer is to find jobs for the people in the town by
19 creating jobs or by certain companies asking for
20 labour. I am sorry to say, but in the short period of
21 my being in this position, companies request only
22 labourers.

23 It seems to me this helps out
24 their public image. You see, nobody can scream
25 prejudice because they have hired local labour. But
26 very few Indians are ever, given the chance or equal
27 chance to prove their full capacity.

28 Gas Arctic has only two men
29 trained from here for pressure stations. One of them
30 is still working for Gas Arctic. This is good. I am

1 | happy to see that man in his position. But it seems
2 | that you only have 200 jobs at maximum to offer in
3 | Northwest Territories. 200 permanent jobs

4 | Sir, this is a drop in the
5 | ocean. As far as I am concerned, you have nothing to
6 | offer us in the way of employment. What you offer is
7 | three to four years of employment, then nothing.

8 | What can fill the empty
9 | pocket? The land will be gone. The land may well be
10 | taken away -- forever. Sir, did you expect people to
11 | take hundreds of years and then to throw them into a
12 | mere four years?

13 | What kind of suicide you
14 | asking us to take?

15 | Thank you.

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

18 | (WITNESS ASIDE.)

19 | THE COMMISSIONER: Translate
20 | that if you would, Mr. Charlie.

21 | CHIEF CHARLIE: They asked me
22 | if they could just do away with the interpreting,
23 | because if it is all recorded over there and it is
24 | going to left here. When they get it, they could
25 | explain it to the older peoples what's been said as it
26 | is taking too much of the time. We have about 20 lined
27 | up that want to talk.

28 | And if we go through an
29 | interpreter like this, I think you will be here another
30 | three or four days. So will you tell us just what you think

1 way it is. Even though it is damaged a little by the
2 roads that the oil companies made in the sixties.

3 We are the last frontier in
4 Canada and maybe in the whole of North America. As
5 Alaska now is no longer the way it used to be.

6 So why not build the gas
7 pipeline along the oil pipeline that you have built in
8 Alaska and keep Canada beautiful? And another thing
9 that I would like to say, is that all of Canada belong
10 to the Indian people.

11 It always has and always will.
12 Before Canada became a nation, the Indian people were a
13 nation among themselves. The English and the French
14 fought for land, for the land, calling it theirs.

15 But it really belonged to the
16 Indians. And even calling it Crown land will not
17 change the way we think.

18 You have taken land away from
19 people throughout the world, and don't you think that you
20 have taken enough already? You have given us everything
21 and by giving us everything, and destroying what we had
22 on our own, the only thing now that we have left is our
23 pride in our land which will be ours always.

24 The cost of everything here
25 will go higher. This will be worse when the wages go
26 up. And as everyone knows, most of the wages will go
27 to taxes anyway.

28 We aren't like the white
29 people who are always trying to stay ahead of each other
30 in owning large homes, land and things that they don't

1 | even really need.

2 | The government of Canada is
3 | trying to bring down inflation and they can't seem to
4 | do anything about it. Up here we are used to it, as it
5 | all--the cost of everything has always been high. What
6 | will happen then?

7 | The rest of Canada are always
8 | complaining of the high cost of things. Before they
9 | say things like that, I would like them to come and
10 | live a few years up north and to pay the prices that
11 | we, the Native people, pay.

12 | One thing that we are lucky
13 | to have is animals on the land. We do not need to buy
14 | meat and fish, unless we really have to. And another
15 | thing I would like to talk about is the young people.

16 | There are a lot of young
17 | people who are making their living off of the land.
18 | They see beauty as it really is, not like the young
19 | people in the south who have to go to the parks and
20 | zoos in order to see animals which are caged up, and
21 | aren't free to roam.

22 | Like I said before, we are in
23 | ? a land that has already seen some damage, which the
24 | oil companies have done. I am one of the few people
25 | who has an education on which I can depend on if the
26 | oil pipeline does go through. But very few of my
27 | people have what I have.

28 | Therefore, not only for myself
29 | but for my people, I do not want the pipeline to be built
30 | on our land. Even when we go south for further

1 MARY WILSON: Sworn.

2 CHIEF CHARLIE: Yes, the
3 letter reads "To the Justice Berger. First of all I
4 would like to say that I am happy to see you here with
5 us at last. I have heard your voice on the radio all
6 spring and I am very thankful that you can be here with
7 us and listen to us.

8 Ever since I got married, I
9 have been living at Rat River. My husband died about
10 eight years ago. And I still carry on in the same way
11 with my children. We use our area for trapping,
12 fishing, and hunting.

13 Living in the bush is a good,
14 life. We live well, sleep well and have very little to
15 worry about. We don't need money out there. We only
16 depend on our land.

17 Since exploration started, we
18 notice that trapping and fishing isn't exactly like it
19 used to be ten, twenty years ago.

20 Last summer was worse. The
21 trout looked like something else. It was not the same
22 fish that we had before. I am very sure this kind of
23 thing is caused by oil exploration.

24 This is why I really don't
25 want the pipeline to pass my camp. What will I do
26 during or after the building of the pipeline? I don't
27 want it. That's all I can say.

28 It is going to ruin our way of
29 life for sure. Our children's life will be destroyed. No,
30 we don't want the pipeline." Signed, Mrs. Mary Wilson".

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
2 That will be handed in and marked as an exhibit as well.
3 (LETTER OF MARY WILSON MARKED EXHIBIT C-39)

4 THE COMMISSIONER: We had
5 better collect those now. I am sorry. Certainly, if
6 you would swear in this lady?

7 MRS. JIMMY THOMPSON: Sworn,

8 THE INTERPRETER: This is
9 Mrs. Jimmy Thompson, of Fort McPherson. Judge Berger,
10 I am sure happy that you are with us now. I can't tell
11 you in English, also I want to thank Interpreter.

12 When a child is born, they
13 are brought up by their parents. And after the child
14 do what his parents are, sometime they are right and
15 sometime they are wrong. Now, today we see there is a
16 lot of change to what it was -- what it used to be many
17 years back.

18 Today sometime our young
19 people don't listen to their parents and they do as
20 they please. This we know is because of the many
21 changes that is coming into the northland.

22 Now we hear so much about our
23 land, we see the map on the wall and see what we are
24 doing in the land on that map.

25 We all claim that land for
26 many years because of our grandparents. We had many
27 good chiefs in the past years and that is how that e
28 are gathered here in one of our chief's name building.
29 So as we are telling you about our land.

30 It's our land and we all think

1 of it as a bank. We all think of it as a bank. Now we
2 hear that a gas line is coming through our land and
3 there is a lot of good timber, even willows grow on it.

4 No more--because of the
5 pipeline, these good timbers and willows will be
6 destroyed. It's just like sometime that we have a
7 storage of meat. If it's thaws, we get rid of that
8 meat and that is the way that our land will go.

9 There will be more animal left
10 on the land because there is nothing for the animals to
11 live or feed on. So that is the reason we don't want the
12 pipeline. Even the fish is not like what it used to be.
13 We have hard times to catch fish nowadays.

14 I want to say a few words
15 about drinking. Not because I don't drink. Firewater
16 was brought into our land by white man. We didn't ask
17 for it. When it came in. Now today there is a lot
18 good jobs which our young people do to make good money
19 or their work. But when they get paid, have a holiday
20 they always spend their money on the firewater.

21 We know there is going to be
22 lots of money made through that pipeline. But we also
23 know that money will be spent too. So we know there be
24 always a lot of problems.

25 That is the reason why we
26 older people don't want the pipeline because it will
27 bring a lot people into land and it's going to spoil
28 our land and our young people.

29 Thank you very much for what
30 I had to say, Judge Berger. And also for you visitors

1 | to Fort McPherson."

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
3 | Mrs. Thompson. Well mark that as an exhibit in the
4 | proceedings.

5 | (MRS. JIMMY THOMPSON'S LETTER MARKED EXHIBIT C-40)

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: Miss
7 | Hutchison, would you swear in the gentleman at the
8 | microphone, I think he wants to make a statement.

9 | RODDY PETERS: Sworn.

10 | A Hello, Judge Berger,
11 | and my Chief and my second Chief and Town Counsellor
12 | and ladies and gentlemen.

13 | I am very glad I an here to
14 | put my two cents worth in this community. I am, a
15 | guy that come one of the big family too, but right I
16 | just got my mom living with me.

17 | And I spend half of my life in this town , in this
18 | community.

19 | Most of the time I'm doctor
20 | for her and nurse and, all these time, decide that I am
21 | just living right along. But as far as I understand in
22 | my opinion, that this pipeline, there is--that's what I
23 | would really like to understand.

24 | Natural gas and gas and oil,
25 | how many pipes is going to come through our country and
26 | that's what I'm disappointed on that. I would like to
27 | know how many of these are going to come through our
28 | country to spoil our country?

29 | And I'm not talking about
30 | myself, because some of my sisters have got big family.

1 (WITNESS ASIDE)

2 THE COMMISSIONER: I think
3 there are some others that want to speak tonight and I
4 understand that later on you are going to have a dance.

5 Maybe we could stop for five
6 minutes now and maybe some of those of you who were
7 going to say something could get together with the
8 Chief and Michael Jackson and just decide who is going
9 to speak for the rest of the time that we've got
10 tonight. And then agree when we will stop and the
11 dance can begin. We'll stop for five minutes now and
12 then we'll go on for a while after that.

13 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

14 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

15 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
16 gentlemen, we will come to order again and hear more of
17 the statements that people want to make then.

18 MR. CHARLIE: We have a
19 letter from Chief Johnny Kay. And he's referring that
20 he's not feeling well.

21 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, he
22 was sworn yesterday.

23 MR. CHARLIE: But he was
24 sworn yesterday.

25 THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly
26 so carry on then.

27 MR. CHARLIE: So when he
28 finish speaking, he mention that he was going to come
29 back today and talk about something else. And he sent
30 a note in. So I have it here in my hands so I will

1 | read it out.

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: Please do.
3 | CHIEF JOHNNY , resumed.

4 | MR. CHARLIE: This is letter
5 | of Chief Johnny Kay and it refers to Treaty Number 11,
6 | 1921.

7 | "Judge Berger, I would like
8 | to tell you about 1921 Treaty party. I am not feeling
9 | too well today so I did not come.

10 | Indian Agent, Mr. Conrad came
11 | by gas boat, first gas boat I seen in my life. He
12 | landed his boat, have a big flag on it. They set up a
13 | big tent and they put a table in it. They start
14 | talking about land and money.

15 | Jimmy Sibiston was his
16 | interpreter and he also gave Chief one flag and he
17 | talked about preserve. He said no white man is going
18 | to cut one tree on it. What a big lie he told us.

19 | Now they put highway on it,
20 | now they want to put pipeline through it too. He said
21 | someday if they find mineral, oil, gold, we will get
22 | big money from it. So if we take treaty money, no man
23 | will drive us around.

24 | Mr. Conrad said someday lots
25 | of white man will be coming around. So if we stay near
26 | creek, we have to put big stick with I.D. on it. And
27 | near eddy where we set our nets. And if a white man
28 | comes this I.D. he will not bother and go away.

29 | White man, they do lot of
30 | damage to our land. We are concerned about our land.

1 | We get fish, meat and we trap on it. To make our
2 | living by it.

3 | We don't want pipeline. They
4 | will make it bad for caribou and all living creatures.
5 | Hunting, trapping and fishing will be bad. What will
6 | our children do?

7 | And good luck, and God bless
8 | you on your trip to Old Crow and goodbye." Johnny Kay,
9 | Senior.

10 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
11 | That will be marked as an exhibit.
12 | (LETTER OF CHIEF JOHNNY KAY MARKED EXHIBIT C-41)

13 | MR. FRANCIS: Judge Berger, I
14 | have one filed brief here, but the lady has to be sworn
15 | in yet. It is very short. I think it would make her
16 | happy.

17 | There is two of them there,
18 | side by side. We have brief from each.

19 | THE COMMISSIONER: All right.
20 | SARAH FRANCIS Sworn.

21 | MARY KENDI Sworn.

22 | MR. FRANCIS: The first brief
23 | here is from the lady on my right here, Mary Kendi.
24 | All of it is written to Judge Berger.

25 | "I am happy for the opportunity
26 | to see you here with us. I do hope you will help us. I
27 | am doing this on behalf of my family. I am worried about
28 | what will become of them, during and after this big
29 | development starts. All my life, I worked hard for my
30 | children. Every spring I go out trapping in the woods.

1 With what little I get I do my
2 best for them. If this pipeline goes through, what kind
3 of life are we going to have? I am sure it won't be any
4 better than it is now, but only worse. This is why, ever
5 since we heard about the pipeline, we are afraid to even
6 think of the future.

7 It is not only for me. All
8 my, friends feel the same way. We are worried about
9 the future of our children. We would like to see our
10 children and theirs, carry on the ways of our ancestors
11 and ourselves.

12 We don't want to be changed
13 into something we don't understand. If we must make
14 some changes, we don't want it through someone pushing
15 us into it. We must be given time to think and do it
16 our own way.

17 And talking with my friends, I
18 find a lot of them don't like, don't want the pipeline
19 from Prudhoe Bay to pass over our land. If anything has
20 to be done, we must have land settlement first.

21 Otherwise we don't want
22 anyone bothering our land."

23 That is signed Mrs. Mary Kendi.
24 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
25 very much.

26 MR. CHARLIE: I have one here
27 before me, Judge Berger, and it's a note reads from
28 Sarah Francis, Senior.

29
30 MR. CHARLIE: "I am very happy

1 | for your visit and I am also happy you are here to share
2 | this little time with us.

3 | This land is our land and I
4 | wouldn't want to lose a good place as it is. Since my
5 | parents brought me up, we stayed in the bush all of the
6 | time. Ever since I remember back, we live off the land
7 | and through that time, we were in the bush, we made dry
8 | meat with caribou meat. And dry fish from the fish we
9 | caught.

10 | I say to this hearing, it is
11 | that I would not like to have the pipeline come through
12 | my country. This winter my son stayed up in the
13 | mountain for two months and we shared a lot of good
14 | times together. We stayed in close to caribou and we
15 | get meat wherever we want it.

16 | The reason for why I don't
17 | want the pipeline is that I don't want to see the young
18 | people of today with nothing. I want them to have
19 | something to be proud of as they were growing up.

20 | This is all for now. Thank
21 | you very much."

22 | And she has a postscript
23 | here. "Here I have here an example of what we used to
24 | do when we live off the land, when my parents lived.
25 | And still today we are doing it and the same."

26 | She brought a little bag of
27 | dry meat here which she wants you to see. And it's
28 | here before us.

29 | THE COMMISSIONER: Fine,
30 | well,, we'll mark the two statements.

1 (STATEMENT OF MARY KENDI MARKED EXHIBIT C-42)

2 (STATEMENT OF SARAH FRANCIS, SR., MARKED EXHIBIT C-43)

3 THE COMMISSIONER; Thank you
4 very much. That's very nice of you. I won't start
5 now, that would impolite. I will wait until we are
6 finished.

7 CHIEF CHARLIE: I have got a
8 statement, Should William Nerysoo be sworn in?

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, I
10 think so. What's his name?

11 MR. CHARLIE: Oh , he was
12 yesterday.

13 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, we
14 will regard this as a continuation of his testimony.
15 What was the name again, I am sorry?

16 CHIEF CHARLIE: Mr. William?
17 Nerysoo, Senior.

18 WILLIAM NERYSOO: Resumed.

19
20 CHIEF CHARLIE: The letter
21 reads:

22 "I remember quite clearly
23 about thirty years prior to 1921 when the Treaty was
24 signed. In those years prior to 1921, I do not recall
25 anyone having a tough time making a living. All of the
26 peonies were very independent, the Treaty party arrived
27 hero to give Treaty money.

28 I remember very clearly the
29 Treaty was signed by the Chief. Even that I won't go
30 into that part too much. I will only say that the

1 Indian agent was, then told the Chief that the
2 Government would take care of him always.

3 What the Indian agent said
4 that day, I believe now. I am saying this because the
5 government is assisting the Native people here in the
6 north a great deal and in many ways.

7 Since that day, a great many
8 years have passed until today with the aid of the
9 government and the peoples is getting along. They are
10 assisting all groups in the north and they seem to be
11 getting along quite well.

12 From what I hear, the government's
13 claiming all of the land in the Northwest Territories. And
14 so are the Native peoples, Indian and Eskimo alike.

15 There are many hundreds of
16 children being raised in the Northwest Territory and
17 they will increase substantially in the next fifty
18 years, and as the population increase, so will the land
19 area decrease.

20 And no doubt a lot of
21 southerners will be coming to the north and where will
22 the children go? For this reason, if the government
23 give the land to the Natives for their children in the
24 future I will be very happy.

25 If the government allows the
26 Natives to claim the land in the Northwest Territories,
27 the Natives will not deliberately keep the white
28 society out of it.

29 The peoples that come in and
30 work, to make their living will be welcomed by the

1 Natives, whoever comes our way we will regard as a
2 friend. But if a big company such as oil or mining
3 wants to explore, they have to ask the Natives for
4 permission to do so.

5 I am not talking about this
6 land for my benefit, but for our children and their
7 children for generations to come.

8 The government has assisted
9 the Indians since 1921 and I hope they will continue to
10 do so. What I am saying here is that not just for
11 tomorrow. I am thinking fifty to a hundred years
12 ahead.

13 Whatever the Native people
14 say, I hope the government considers this seriously and
15 hopefully agree with us. You are all gathered here and
16 you are listening to us.

17 I thank you for that. I
18 certainly welcome your visit to Fort McPherson, Thank
19 you." William Nerysoo, Sr.

20 THE COMMISSIONER: All right,
21 that statement will be marked as an exhibit.

22 (STATEMENT OF WILLIAM NERYSOO, SR., MARKED EXHIBIT C44)

23 THE COMMISSIONER: We will
24 carry on, I think until 11 o'clock, for another fifteen
25 minutes. So anybody who wants to speak tonight should
26 feel free to go right ahead.

27 JOHN BLAKE: Resumed.

28 MR. BLAKE: Mr. Justice Berger,
29 I have one item here to bring up and maybe after I've
30 finished this one here, maybe---I would like to ask the

1 | said you trained up to date, how many have you on the
2 | job at the present?

3 | MR. ELLWOOD: All of those 91
4 | are on the jobs, on the jobs at present. I would just
5 | add, Mr. Blake, that the number of trainees is being
6 | expanded this summer, and again this fall.

7 | Through the Nor-Tran program
8 | they are adding some 15 new positions in construction
9 | training this summer and I believe another eight
10 | positions in operation's training this fall.

11 | MR. BLAKE: Looking back at
12 | it now, I see the pipeline will be crossing somewhere
13 | between five and six miles below McPherson here. From
14 | McPherson alone you had--there was only two from
15 | McPherson went out for training. And McPherson is one
16 | of the biggest settlements down the Mackenzie.

17 | And seeing the pipeline be
18 | passing by that close, I think you should take maybe
19 | 10, 15 from McPherson each year.

20 | That two you guys took out a
21 | few years ago, one is out on a job, one is back here
22 | And that one of the camps will be a few miles out of
23 | McPherson here. Where you are going to have your 800
24 | men, Out of that 800, could you at least have 20
25 | Natives from here trained before the pipeline comes
26 | through.

27 | MR. WORKMAN: I am surprised
28 | when you say there is only two that have been on the
29 | training program from McPherson. I don't have the
30 | exact figures in front of me but I was of the opinion

1 | that there is more than that that have come from
2 | McPherson. Now, the number that we can take in to the
3 | training program is limited, because all of those that
4 | are in the program have been guaranteed jobs by the
5 | participating companies, regardless of whether the
6 | pipeline is built or not.

7 | Now, until we get word that
8 | there is going to be a pipeline, it is pretty hard to
9 | expand the program and still guarantee jobs for these
10 | people. We don't think it's a good idea to train
11 | people into a job that isn't going to exist.

12 | We want to make sure that
13 | when they have finished their training that there is
14 | going to be a job for them. So once we do know that
15 | the pipeline is going to be built, then we can really
16 | expand, and will expand the training program.

17 | And I can assure you that
18 | people who want to get this training from Fort
19 | McPherson will have every opportunity to get onto the
20 | program at that time. Maybe Mr. Ellwood would like to
21 | add something to that?

22 | MR. ELLWOOD: Well, I too am
23 | surprised that there are only two trainees from
24 | McPherson. I thought there were more than that. But
25 | my understanding is that the Nor-Tran people,
26 | particularly Mr. Archie Drew , are now recruiting
27 | people for new positions open this summer. And also
28 | looking for people possibly in the fall.

29 | If anyone here were interested
30 | in getting on one of these training programs, I would

1 | advise them to contact the Nor-Tran program in Inuvik.
2 | The person there is Ed Lenny, if they would get hold of
3 | him, I am sure he could arrange for them to be
4 | interviewed or to have their application, or to have Mr.
5 | Drew come around here.

6 | MR. BLAKE: How long did you
7 | say it takes a person to be trained?

8 | MR. WORKMAN: I gave the
9 | estimate of five years to train a man to the higher
10 | level of jobs, say, in compressor stations. The
11 | compressor station operator, say, or gas plant
12 | operator. This is on-the-job training where he is
13 | trained to do each step of the job progressively until
14 | he is right up to the top level.

15 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, you
16 | said you had 91 people on the Northerner Training
17 | Program. Were those 91 people from the Northwest
18 | Territories?

19 | MR. WORKMAN: Yes. Actually
20 | the southern boundary of the area that we were looking
21 | at was, I think that they call it the Twenty-fifth
22 | Range Line, which is just slightly below the sixtieth
23 | parallel.

24 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, of
25 | the 91 people, was it thought that all 91 would
26 | undertake five years of training?

27 | MR. WORKMAN: If they so ii
28 | desired to go on that far and were capable of --

29 | THE COMMISSIONER: That is, to
30 | train them to work on the pipeline after it is built,

1 | and you have your 200 people running it?

2 | MR. WORKMAN: Yes, yes.

3 | THE COMMISSIONER: And you
4 | need five years training to qualify for those jobs?

5 | MR. WORKMAN: Yes, to qualify
6 | for the top jobs.

7 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, of
8 | the 91 people, are they all in the program now?

9 | MR. WORKMAN: Yes.

10 | THE COMMISSIONER: Do you
11 | happen to know how many are Native Indian or Eskimo, or
12 | Metis people, as opposed to white people? Have you any
13 | breakdown?

14 | MR. WORKMAN: Mr. Ellwood
15 | just advised me that the last figure he got from Mr.
16 | Drew was 90 per cent Native, 10 per cent white. And by
17 | 10 per cent white, we mean white people that have been
18 | in the Northwest Territories for a good number of
19 | years.

20 | THE COMMISSIONER: Yes,
21 | northerners are white and Native.

22 | MR. WORKMAN: Right.

23 | THE COMMISSIONER: I just
24 | wanted to know. Any other questions?

25 | MR. BLAKE: You say it takes
26 | five years to train them. If you started building a
27 | pipeline today, just supposing, how long would it take
28 | before completion?

29 | MR. WORKMAN: Well, it would
30 | take--well, if we were to actually start digging the

1 ditch today, it would take at least two years before
2 the pipeline was completed to the Delta.

3 MR. BLAKE: Now, you say it
4 takes five years to train a person and you say it takes
5 two years to build a pipeline. And you said you can
6 not, you didn't say you can not, but you say you have
7 to wait to get a definite answer if you are going to
8 build a pipeline.

9 Okay, if you got your answer
10 today, and you put these people on the training for
11 five years, they will finish three years after the
12 pipeline is finished now.

13 MR. WORKMAN: That is the
14 very, reason we wanted to get the pipeline going, or
15 the training program going before we get the word, so
16 that? we could have people well-trained as the pipeline
17 was completed.

18 We are not waiting to get the
19 word that the pipeline is going to go before we start
20 our program. We have already got 91 trainees well
21 under way.

22 MR. BLAKE: It seems
23 ridiculous for me, you said before that you had to wait
24 to get a definite answer.

25 MR. WORKMAN: Well, what I
26 said there I believe was that when we get a definite
27 answer, we will expand our training program to train
28 people in all aspects of it. But in the meantime we
29 will certainly have a core of people being trained to
30 look after these initial jobs.

1 MR. BLAKE: Thanks a lot.

2 (WITNESS ASIDE)

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, we
4 have time I think to hear from one more person before
5 we stop. Well, it's almost eleven, maybe we will stop
6 now. Let me apologize for being late tonight. The
7 Chief and Neil Colin took my staff and me for a boat
8 ride up the Peel River.

9 We visited the old camp at
10 Old Fort and the camp at Eight Mile. And we were very
11 interested to see the camps. I think some of you know
12 that when I visited the Mackenzie Valley last summer, I
13 visited the camp that you have at the mouth of the Peel
14 River, and spent a little while there.

15 We'll adjourn. And I want
16 you to know that seeing those camps, helps me to
17 understand what you mean when you tell me how important
18 the land is to you and your way of life.

19 I want to adjourn then and we
20 will start at one o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Yes?

21 CHIEF CHARLIE: I have one
22 short letter here from an old woman.

23 THE COMMISSIONER: Fine, go
24 ahead.

25 CHIEF CHARLIE: It will take
26 only a couple of minutes to read before you adjourn.

27 THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly
28 go ahead.

29 CHIEF CHARLIE: Maybe you
30 have to swear her in?

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, would
2 you swear the lady?

3 MARY NEYENDO Sworn.

4 CHIEF CHARLIE:

5
6 It reads; "Dear Mr. Berger,
7 long ago peoples used to live good. Today it's not
8 like that. I am an old woman. Still I think of
9 grandchildren and their future. I don't want this
10 country to be destroyed. I would like to see the
11 country to be the way it is.

12 No more game we depend on
13 wild life. It will be a long time now that-it's bc a
14 long time now since the government has been after us
15 that the peoples still say no. We don't want to give
16 it up. Give up our land.

17 Although the oil companies is
18 destroying it. If we get money, it won't go very far.
19 So thank you. This is Mary Neyendo."

20 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank That
21 statement will be marked as an exhibit.

22 (LETTER OF MARY NEYENDO MARKED AS EXHIBIT C-45)

23 CHIEF CHARLIE: Also, Mr.
24 Berger, before you adjourn the meeting, that the
25 afternoon we have some teenager girls cooking in the
26 home ec, they say they are going -- which is for coffee
27 and tea tonight.

28 So I think they got every-
29 thing pretty well ready. Except for the coffee, they
30 got some juice and the reason they are doing this, they

1 | want to see the dance tonight. And we hope you will
2 | stay for the dance too. Thank you.

3 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
4 | Could I say that tomorrow at
5 | one o'clock we will start again and Mrs. Sarah Simon
6 | will show some more slides then. So if we all come at
7 | one o'clock tomorrow afternoon, we will see some more
8 | of those slides. I certainly enjoyed Mrs. Simon's
9 | slide show last night. So we will start again at one
10 | o'clock tomorrow.

11 | We will go along until five
12 | or six, and then we will come back at 8 o'clock
13 | tomorrow night. And carry on as long as we can. I'm
14 | happy to carry on late into the night. I have gotten
15 | used to staying up late since I got to McPherson, so I
16 | am ready for anything.

17 | Yes, Mr. Itsi.

18 | MR. ITSI: Can you start at
19 | 10 o'clock?

20 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, we
21 | can start at 10 o'clock in the morning. I don't know
22 | how the people feel about that. It's okay with me.
23 | But we might find that people would be a little tired.

24 | What do you and the members
25 | of the Council think, Chief?

26 | CHIEF CHARLIE: Well, 10
27 | o'clock sounds all right. But this morning at 10
28 | o'clock was hardly anybody around. So --

29 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I
30 | think we --

1 CHIEF CHARLIE: You are going
2 to start -- you are going to stay late tomorrow night.
3 So it's okay at one o'clock.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
5 let's start at one o'clock and we'll stay late tomorrow
6 night.

7 Tomorrow morning I am going
8 to visit a lady who is ill and who wants to say
9 something to me. And I will go up there in the
10 morning. So we'll adjourn until one o'clock then. And
11 thank you very much for the dry meat, and I am going to
12 share it with my staff, who need some good food.

13 So we will see you tomorrow
14 at one. We will see you at the dance.

15 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

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