

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)

**Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.
August 5, 1975.**

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

Volume 18

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Indian Brotherhood and Metis
Association of the Northwest
Territories;

MR. R. Blair,
Mr. John Ellwood

for Foothills Pipelines Ltd.

INDEX OF WITNESSES	Page No.
CHIEF FRANK T'SELEIE	1768, 1833
GEORGE BARNABY	1779
JOHN T'SELEIE	1783
FRED RABISCA	1785
HYCIENE KOCHON	1789
LOUIS CAESER	1789
JOHN LOUISON	1792
ANTOINE ABALON	1795
JONAS KAKFWI	1800
MICHAEL LAFFERTY	1803
JUDY LAFFERTY	1804
AL WILSON	1806
JOHN ELLWOOD	1809, 1827
JIM PIERROT	1813
CHARLIE BARNABY	1815
JAMES CAESAR	1819
DOUGLAS ROWE	1822
STEVE KAKFWI	1826
LOUIE BOUCAN	1829
GEORGE ABLON	1831

INDEX OF EXHIBITS		Page
No		
C-109	Submission of Chief Frank T'Seleie	1797
C-110	Submission of John T'Seleie	1797
C-111	Submission of Fred Rabisca	1797
C-112	Submission of Jonas Kakfwi	1802
C-113	Submission of Judy Lafferty	1806
C-114	Submission of Al Wilson	1813
C-115	Submission of Jim Pierrot	1814
C-116	Submission of James Ceaser	1822

1 Fort Good Hope, N.W.T.

2 August 5, 1975.

3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

4 MARY WILSON, sworn as

5 interpreter.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
7 gentlemen, I will call our meeting to order and I'll
8 ask our interpreter to interpret what I am going to
9 say.

10 I am Judge Berger, I am
11 conducting an Inquiry to consider what the impact will
12 be of the pipeline that Arctic Gas and Foothills
13 Pipelines want to build to bring natural gas from the
14 Arctic to southern markets.

15 I am holding hearings in
16 every community in the Mackenzie Valley, the Mackenzie
17 Delta and the northern Yukon likely to be affected by
18 the pipeline if it is built. That is why I am here. I
19 want to hear from Native people and white people, from
20 the old people and the young people.

21 You can speak in English or
22 in Slavey. We have interpreters here. They will
23 translate for you or you can translate for yourself if
24 you wish.

25 The people seated at this
26 table to my left are Miss Hutchinson, the Secretary
27 of the Inquiry who will swear the people as witnesses
28 who are going to speak today and the official
29 reporters for the Inquiry who have that mask just so
30 that they can repeat everything that is said here

1 and it is taken down on tape and then is typed up and
2 it is the official record of the Inquiry and I will
3 keep that so that I can, after I have left Good Hope,
4 read and re-read what you have said.

5 We will send a copy of that
6 official record of the hearings in Good Hope to
7 Chief T'Seleie and the Chairman of the Settlement
8 Council.

9 The ladies and gentlemen over
10 at the wall are the CBC broadcasters who will be
11 reporting over the Northern Service the events of our
12 meeting here in Good Hope. There are other
13 representatives of the press here as well and I have
14 invited them here so that people throughout the North
15 and throughout Canada will know what you, the people of
16 Good Hope have to say. In addition, there is a crew
17 here, these two gentlemen in front of me, from the
18 National Film Board of Canada who want to make a film
19 about what is happening here.

20 Canada and the United States
21 have a great appetite for oil and gas. That is why the
22 Government of Canada is considering this gas pipeline.
23 But before the Government decides what they are going
24 to do, they want to know what you think about it, that
25 is why they have sent me here.

26 It is vital that we take a
27 hard look now at this pipeline and what its consequences
28 will be, for once the first shovel full of earth has
29 been dug, once the first length of pipe has been laid it
30 will be too late. We have representatives of the

1 | pipeline companies here today to listen to what you have
2 | to say and to answer any questions that you may wish to
3 | put to them.

4 | I want you, the people who
5 | make the North your home, I want you to tell me what
6 | you would say to the Government of Canada if you could
7 | tell them what was in your minds. I want you to tell
8 | me what the pipeline will mean to you, to your family
9 | and to the land. I am here to listen to you.

10 | I will ask Chief T'Seleie to
11 | make the first statement here today.

12 | CHIEF FRANK T'SELEIE, GEORGE
13 | BARNABY, JOHN T'SELEIE, FRED
14 | RABISCA, HYCIENE KOCHON
15 | LOUIS CAESER, sworn.

16 | CHIEF T'SELEIE: I was hoping
17 | that we would have the Inquiry begin at the Ramparts
18 | today, but the weather turned bad. I was hoping to
19 | give this opening address up there.

20 | Mr. Berger, as Chief of the
21 | Fort Good Hope Band I want to welcome you and your
22 | party to Fort Good Hope. This is the first time in the
23 | history of my people that an important person from your
24 | Nation has come to listen and learn from us, and not
25 | just come to tell us what we should do, or trick us
26 | into saying yes to something that in the end, is not
27 | good for us. I believe you are an honest man. I
28 | believe you are a just man, Mr. Berger, and that you do
29 | not intend to be a part of a plot to trick us or fool us
30 | or play games with us.

1 and our future enough to blow up the pipeline. He told
2 you that we, the last free Indian nation, are willing
3 to fight so that we may survive as a free nation.

4 You have heard old people and
5 young people, Mr. Berger, You have heard people who
6 were raised in the bush and people who were raised in
7 Government hostels. You have heard men and women
8 People who have worked for the white man, and people
9 who have never sold their labour. People from the
10 Mackenzie Delta to the Great Slave Lake. People have
11 talked to you from their heart and soul, for they know,
12 as I know, that if a pipeline goes through they will be
13 destroyed.

14 All these people have told
15 you one thing, Mr. Berger. They have told you that
16 they do not want a pipeline. My people are very
17 strong, Mr. Berger, and we are becoming even stronger.
18 My people are finding new 'strength for the struggle
19 that we are going through. That is why I can say to
20 you, Mr. Berger, yes, we can stop the pipeline. Our
21 grandchildren will remember us, the Dene people here
22 today, and the Dene people who have talked to you in
23 other communities, as the people who stopped the
24 pipeline from coming through their land.

25 Mr. Berger, there will be no
26 pipeline.

27 There will be no pipeline
28 because, we have our plans for our land. There will be
29 no pipeline because we no longer intend to allow our land
30 and our future to be taken away from us so that we are

1 I would like to read to you a
2 copy of a letter dated February 7, 1928, addressed to
3 the Director, Northwest Territories, Ottawa, from
4 Father Binami:

5 "Sir:

6 Due to the fact that Indians do their
7 Fall fishing and trapping at points north of
8 Fort Good Hope and east of the Mackenzie River
9 and as fish are not obtainable at these places
10 through the late Winter, they the Indians are
11 forced to move south and west to get moose and
12 other game for food, we would suggest that two
13 Preserves would be needed to do them good.

14 The two localities most frequented by
15 them are bounded as follows:

- 16 1. From the mouth of the Hare Indian River
17 east toward Smith Bay on Bear Lake and
18 North to the Junction of Anderson River
19 and Lockhart Rivers then west and south
20 to New Chicago on Mackenzie River and
21 South along the Mackenzie River to the
22 mouth of the Hare Indian River.' New
23 Chicago is at the mouth of Tutsieta
24 River,
- 25 2. From the mouth of the Gossage River west
26 toward the Arctic Red River and south
27 along the Arctic Red River to a point
28 west of the Sans Sault rapids and North
29 along the West of the Mackenzie River to
30 the mouth of the Gossage River".

1 Locality No. 1 produces most food for
2 the Indians and should be given first considera-
3 tion.

4 At the present time the Indians are
5 in fear of too many outside trappers getting
6 into the districts outlined above and should
7 these preserves be granted, they, the Indians,
8 would be more likely to endeavour to preserve
9 the game in their own way. They at present
10 say are afraid of leaving the Beaver colonies
11 to breed up as the white men would in all
12 likelihood come in and hunt them.

13 Trusting this will receive your favour-
14 able consideration I remain,

15 Sincerely yours.

16 Father Binami, omi,

17 For Indians and Petitioners."

18 As you can see from the
19 letter, Mr. Berger, that in 1928 we felt the same about
20 ourselves as we do now. We want to live our own way on
21 our own land and not be invaded by outsiders coming to
22 take our resources. We saw ourselves then as we see
23 ourselves now, as different from the white man. We do
24 not say we are better or worse than the white man. We
25 are proud of who we are, proud to be Dene, and loyal to
26 our Nation, but we are not saying we do not respect you
27 and your ways. We are only asking now as we asked you
28 then, to let us live our own lives, in our own way,
29 on our own land, without forever being threatened
30 by invasion and extinction. Mr. Berger, we too want to

1 live. We want our nation to survive in peace, we want
2 to be able to put our energy and time into living our
3 lives in the way our fathers and grandfathers have
4 taught us.

5 We do not want to have to
6 fight and struggle forever, just to survive as a
7 people. Your nation has the power to destroy us all
8 tomorrow i.-ni-it chooses to. It has chosen instead to
9 torture us slowly. To take our children from us and
10 teach them foreign ways and tell us that you are
11 teaching them to be civilized. Sometimes now, we
12 hardly know our own children. You have forced us into
13 communities and tried to make us forget how to live off
14 the land, so you could go ahead and take the resources
15 where we trap and hunt and fish. You encourage us to
16 drink liquor until we are half crazy and fight among
17 ourselves. What else other than liquor is the
18 Territorial Government willing to subsidize to make
19 sure that prices are the same throughout the Northwest
20 Territories Does it subsidize fresh food or clothing,
21 or even pop in the same way? No, only liquor. Try to
22 buy anything else at Yellowknife prices throughout the
23 North. The Government knows very well that liquor
24 helps keep my people asleep, helps keep them from
25 realizing what is really happening to them and why. I
26 know very well, too, Mr. Berger, because I used to
27 drink. I am not the only one of my people who is
28 waking up. There are many here in Good Hope who will
29 be talking to you about their experiences.
30 There are many, many more all over the Dene Nation.

1 | We are waking up and
2 | realizing that apart from the glossy pamphlets and
3 | promises, apart from the smiles and slaps on the back,
4 | apart from the good-natured small talk, what your
5 | nation is really doing to us is destroying us. We know
6 | that now. And we know that you know it, for I believe
7 | that there are many white people in the North who did
8 | not realize before, that, whatever their personal
9 | feeling, the system that they were working for and
10 | supporting, was really set up to destroy us. Many of
11 | these people honestly thought they could help us. It
12 | is clear now that the system is stronger than any
13 | individual. It is no accident that the Territorial
14 | Government is having great difficulty in recruiting
15 | people to work for it.

16 | The individuals of your
17 | nation do not want to be part of our system of
18 | genocide.

19 | There is a great force within
20 | your own nation to change the system under which you
21 | operate so that it becomes more human. This people are
22 | our allies. It is clear that there are many white men
23 | who believe that the Dene nation should survive.

24 | Obviously Mr. Blair,
25 | President of Foothills, and his friend Mr. Horte,
26 | President of Gas Arctic, want to see us destroyed.
27 | Maybe, Mr. Blair, that is because you do not know us or
28 | understand us. Or maybe money has become so important
29 | to you that you are losing your own humanity. Maybe
30 | you too

1 are a victim, imprisoned by a way of life that you are
2 afraid to question. I don't know. I only know you are
3 a human being. There must be times when you too think
4 of your children and their future. I doubt that you
5 would knowingly destroy what is valuable to them. Why
6 are you asking us to destroy our future? We are not
7 trying to take your children and force them to speak a
8 foreign language and to live out in the bush. Why are
9 you trying to force us to be like you? Are you not rich
10 enough now? Must you try to become so powerful to
11 control our land and our children and our future? I
12 cannot understand and why you can not be happy to live
13 in a cabin beside some river and leave the world the
14 way the great spirit made it. I cannot understand how
15 a man can live for wealth and power, knowing that his
16 ambitions and greed is destroying so much around him.
17 I do not envy you, Mr. Blair, I feel sorry for you.

18 Mr. Blair, there is a life
19 and death struggle going on between us, between you and
20 I. Somehow in your carpeted boardrooms, in your
21 panelled office, you are plotting to take away from me
22 the very centre of my existence. You are stealing my
23 soul. Deep in the glass and concrete of your world you
24 are stealing my soul, my spirit. By scheming to
25 torture my land you are torturing me. By plotting to
26 invade my land you are invading me. If you ever dig a
27 trench through my land, you are cutting through me.
28 You are like the Pentagon, Mr. Blair, planning the
29 slaughter of innocent Vietnamese. Don't tell me you are
30 not responsible for the destruction of my nation. You

1 are directly responsible. You are the twentieth
2 century General Custer. You have come to destroy the
3 Dene Nation. You are coming with your troops to
4 slaughter us and steal land that is rightfully ours.

5 You are coming to destroy a
6 people that have a history of thirty thousand years.
7 Why? For twenty years of gas? Are you really that
8 insane? The original General Custer was exactly that
9 insane. You still have a chance to learn. A chance to
10 be remembered by history as something other than a fool
11 bent on destroying everything he touched. You still
12 have a chance, you have a choice. Are you a strong
13 enough man to really exercise your freedom and make
14 that choice. You can destroy my nation, Mr. Blair, or
15 you could be a great help to give us our freedom.
16 Which choice do you make, Mr. Blair? Which choice do
17 you make for your children and mine?

18 It seems to me that the whole
19 point in living is to become as human as possible. To
20 learn to understand the world and to live in it. To be
21 part of it. To learn to understand the animals, for
22 they are our brothers and they have much to teach us.
23 We are a part of this world.

24 We are like the river that
25 .flows and changes, yet is always the same. The river
26 cannot flow too slow and it cannot flow too fast. It
27 is a river and it will always be a river, for that is
28 what it was meant to be. We are like the river,
29 but we are not the river. We are human. That is
30 what we were meant to be. We were not meant to be

1 | is so that this unborn child can know the freedom of
2 | this land that I am willing to lay down my life. I will
3 | do my own translating. (WITNESS ASIDE)

4 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I
5 | call upon the other members of the Band Council now to
6 | make their statements.

7 | GEORGE BARNABY: My name is
8 | George Barnaby. I am a member of the Band Council,
9 | Fort Good Hope. I tried for three days to write down
10 | what I felt, but I couldn't put it on paper so I just
11 | put down some notes and I'll try to bring it out from
12 | inside.

13 | People have lived on this
14 | land for thousands of years, but still there is very
15 | little sign of them having passed through. They have
16 | looked after the land and used it without destroying
17 | it. We want the land to remain clean and natural. The
18 | ways of the people are from the land. Their ways are
19 | clean and human and free and we want to continue this
20 | way of life. What I mean is that there is no politics
21 | in our way of life. We share everything, our whole
22 | culture is based on people and not -- since we share
23 | everything there is no need to cheat each other,
24 | exploit each other, we just live naturally, that's what
25 | I meant by clean living.

26 | Building a pipeline or a
27 | highway into our land is not the way to protect
28 | the land or this way of life that we have. We are
29 | told by people from the south who really want us to
30 | be like them, that we should get in the action and grab

1 | not help this to happen. It will only help to destroy
2 | the people and the land.

3 | I think we are talking about
4 | more than just a pipe that is going to be buried in the
5 | ground, but rather on the whole invasion of the north,
6 | I don't think that is what is promised by Arctic Gas or
7 | Foothills or anybody can be kept none of the promises
8 | can be kept.

9 | We don't want Good Hope
10 | dug up for gravel. We don't want the Mackenzie all
11 | dug up to bring the material down. Who is deciding
12 | on these things: pipeline, highway and so on?
13 | Judge Berger mentioned the Government of Canada,
14 | but who controls the Government of Canada? Is it
15 | the people in the south, the voters or is it the
16 | large corporations?

17 | Is it true that in the
18 | southern system 1% of the population has 99% of the
19 | political power? Just a few people have more power
20 | than all the rest of the common people, the rich
21 | people. How much of what is really going on is
22 | told to the people in the south, how desperate are
23 | they for oil, what damages are being done, and so
24 | on?

25 | There has been an idea
26 | planted in people's minds that there is no other way,
27 | that the pipeline has to go through the Mackenzie
28 | Valley, that it has to be built right away. I don't
29 | believe this.

30 | This spring on the radio

1 | there was news that the Americans want to build the
2 | pipeline through Alaska. What they said was that if
3 | they really take the land into consideration it will
4 | cost too much to build through here. The reason is
5 | that if they try not to damage the land it is going to
6 | cost too much.

7 |
8 | But there is some guys on
9 | this side who for their own interests are trying to get
10 | it built through the Mackenzie Valley. So is there --
11 | these sort of things should be taken into consideration
12 | that something like this shouldn't happen just for the
13 | good of a few people, but -

14 | Another article I read was
15 | about coal. In this article it stated that there was
16 | enough coal in the south to last for 300 years. The
17 | article also said that for political reasons coal is
18 | .not being developed. The article talked about ways of
19 | making synthetic natural gas. It said they can make
20 | enough gas to -- that they can make as much as what can
21 | be pumped through the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. How
22 | much of these things are known? How much is told to the
23 | people in the south? Maybe tomorrow or sometime I will
24 | get into the Dene way of government, if you want to
25 | call it that, but I -give somebody else a chance to
26 | talk now. Thank you.

26 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

27 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
28 | Chief, and thank you Mr. Barnaby for your statements.
29 | We are about halfway through the afternoon and I think
30 | we'll just adjourn now for maybe ten minutes and

1 | have a cup of coffee or stretch our legs and get some
2 | fresh air and then we will start again in about ten
3 | minutes.

4 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

5 | (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
7 | gentlemen, I will call our meeting to order again and
8 | invite other members of the Band Council to make their
9 | statements and after that anyone living here in Good
10 | Hope will have the right to make their own statements,
11 | so --

12 | JOHN T'SELEIE: My name
13 | is John T'Seleie, I am a councillor here. I would
14 | rather have let the old people speak, but I'll talk
15 | now.

16 | There are many, many things
17 | to talk about, but I want to say just a few things. I
18 | can't pretend to know everything, but I think I've been
19 | around long enough to know a few things about the white
20 | man and about Dene people.

21 | Mr. Berger, the Government
22 | of Canada has sent you here today to listen to what
23 | we want to say about our land, our life and the
24 | pipeline.

25 | I can't understand how the
26 | Government can have so small a mind that they have to
27 | ask us such a question. I want to tell you now why I
28 | think this is a foolish question -- why I think it is a
29 | foolish question.

30 | The white man and the Dene

1 destination, it got very dark and there was no road, so
2 we had to camp out in the open as we didn't have stove
3 or tent. We slept in a hut which we made of branches
4 and is was about sixty below. And I appreciated and
5 was proud.

6 I was forced to go to school
7 that fall even though I didn't want to go. Finally the
8 nurse and R.C.M.P. brought me to school. When I was
9 in school with the rest we were forced to learn in the
10 white man's system. We had to learn whatever was
11 taught to us. We didn't learn a thing about our
12 traditional life. We weren't given the ability or
13 rights to say what we wanted to learn. It was hard for
14 us to miss school or to even go out in the bush. Most
15 of us had to stay in town, while our parents were out
16 in the bush. To this day I can never use what I was
17 taught in school to live in the bush. In other words,
18 it was just waste of time.

19 We are happy people living
20 off our land and proud of what we are and of our land,
21 until the white man, seismic and oil companies came and
22 used our land. They have ruined our land. Ever since
23 they came, the animals are very scarce. The forest
24 fire increased every year. Animals are even dying just
25 like that. There were dead ducks, beaver, fishes
26 floating on lakes in this area. I don't think it's
27 only in this area, but all over in the North. Even
28 dead moose floating down the Mackenzie River this
29 summer. Animals don't just die like that for no
30 reason. There has to be a cause. Before the white

1 man, seismic and oil companies came there was hardly
2 any forest fires, there as no dead animals floating in
3 the lake or in the Mackenzie River.

4 Ever since development came
5 to our land, such as social development, housing
6 associations and others, we were rather into individual
7 groups , not living together like long ago. But we
8 drifted farther from each other and from our land.

9 As for my own opinion I truly
10 feel that Government did what he wanted to do on our
11 land. -- As for my own opinion I truly feel that
12 Government did what he wanted to do on our land. I
13 don't think my people were given a chance to talk,
14 think or thought about any of the developments that
15 were pushed into their hands by the Government. I'll
16 say we were ignored and not considered as people but
17 rather as children by the Government. Whereas we were
18 supposed to be the governor of our land, we were
19 supposed to have the ability and rights to say whatever
20 we want and not want.

21 When the liquor was first
22 opened to my people it has really ruined us. By liquor
23 a lot of our people died. Did the Federal Government
24 do anything good for us? No All he did was to cause us
25 grief and trouble. Maybe the Government thought he was
26 doing us a great favour, but it was really the
27 opposite.

28 If the pipeline is built we
29 will be very unhappy people. We will drift farther
30 from each other as well as our land. Our land where we

1 | people say and not be forgotten.

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

3 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

4 | THE COMMISSIONER: If anyone
5 | wishes to speak they can come forward and sit next to
6 | Mrs. Wilson, the interpreter. That's probably the most
7 | comfortable way of coming forward and speaking if you
8 | would like to do that.

9 | HYCIENE KOCHON:

10 | THE INTERPRETER: His name is
11 | Hyciene Kochon. He is the Chief from Colville Lake.
12 | So he says he is just sitting here listening :0 the
13 | hearing and he says that so far what the people said
14 | about not wanting the pipeline, he says he agrees with
15 | it, but he is not going to say anything now, he says
16 | that he will talk when he is back in Colville
17 | Lake.

18 | THE COMMISSIONER: Fine.

19 | Well, will be there later in the week, sir.

20 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

21 | LOUIS CAESAR sworn.

22 | THE INTERPRETER: This is
23 | Louis Caesar.

24 | THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, sir,
25 | go ahead.

26 | THE INTERPRETER: He says he
27 | chiefs and the band councillors made a long speech, but
28 | he says that two of them are his boys and he says he is
29 | not going to make a long speech, he is just going
30 | to say a few words.

1 A I spent about three
2 years in school at the most.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

4 A And since I quit hunting
5 and trapping about twelve years ago, I spend most of H
6 the time working at various places. Gentlemen, when I
7 say this I am serious from here. Since I heard about
8 pipeline about five years ago I thought the Government
9 was more or less going to ignore the idea. Then the
10 idea for the pipeline to go through was getting more
11 serious and now the pipeline is going through even
12 though it is against the will of the Indian people.
13 What do we care about pipeline, we don't need it when
14 it does go through, who is going to benefit from it?
15 We are not going to, for sure.

16 But those white people
17 down south and the companies that build it and
18 they'll be sitting back laughing, and not a thing
19 to worry about but more money for them and nothing for
20 us.

21 I wonder how many people in
22 this room and throughout the North know that the
23 Federal Government is being controlled by these major
24 companies like Foothills Pipelines and all the major
25 companies throughout the country and maybe from the
26 States.

27 I wonder if these people
28 ever realize, the pipeline people, I mean, that they
29 are not only going to hurt the environment and the
30 animals in the area, but also human life.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: I think
2 that we will adjourn now, but before we do, Chief, Mr.
3 Barnaby and Mr. T'Seleie and Mr. Rabisca and Mr.
4 Louison and you all had written statements. If you
5 would, would you turn those over to the Secretary of
6 the Inquiry so that we can keep them and they can
7 become part of the formal record of the Inquiry. You
8 don't have to, but if you would, I would appreciate it.
9 She can collect them from you when we adjourn, and I
10 think Mr. Louison had a written statement as well, and
11 Mr. Louison if you would turn that over to the
12 secretary, I would appreciate it. I think we will
13 adjourn then until -- We will adjourn then for supper
14 and we will come back here at eight o'clock tonight and
15 we will carry on the hearings at eight o'clock tonight
16 here in the school.

17 Thank you.

18 (SUBMISSION OF CHIEF FRANK T'SELEIE MARKED EXHIBIT C-109)

19 (SUBMISSION OF JOHN T'SELEIE MARKED EXHIBIT C-110)

20 (SUBMISSION OF FRED RABISCA MARKED EXHIBIT C-111)

21

22 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

23 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
25 gentlemen, I'll call our meeting to order this evening.
26 As I said this afternoon, we have interpreters -- we
27 had interpreters. I think that Mrs. Wilson and Mrs.
28 Jackson are still available to act as interpreters. Is
29 either one of them here in the room?

30 Well, we'll just sit here for

1 | another minute or two and maybe --

2 | CHIEF T'SELEIE: There is
3 | another interpreter here.

4 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
5 | would you swear in this interpreter?

6 | NOEL KAKFWI, sworn in as
7 | interpreter

8 | CHIEF T'SELEIE: I would like
9 | to maybe explain why those maps are up on the wall.

10 | THE COMMISSIONER: All right,
11 | go ahead.

12 | CHIEF T'SELEIE: No, I am
13 | asking you what's the reason for the maps on the wall

14 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I
15 | think that Mr. Bell can tell us about this map and I
16 | think that we can ask the people from Arctic Gas and
17 | Foothills to explain this map.

18 | Mr. Bell, would you like to
19 | tell us about the map on the left side, if you think
20 | now is the appropriate time.

21 | MR. BELL: I think, sir,
22 | perhaps if I could just mention that these are the land
23 | use maps that we have been preparing in connection with
24 | OU2 land use research. That would be sufficient for
25 | the time being and I will bring forward witnesses later
26 | on in the Inquiry to explain them in more detail.

27 | THE COMMISSIONER: Mr.
28 | Carter, would you just tell us about the map on the
29 | right, just briefly what it is and we won't go into it
30 | at length now.

1 MR. CARTER: Sir, the map on
2 the right was prepared by Arctic Gas staff at the
3 request of the Commission Staff to outline the route
4 that Arctic Gas has applied for and as well outline the
5 route that Foothills has applied for and you'll note
6 that the Arctic Gas route includes the cross delta
7 alternative that is presently under consideration by
8 Arctic Gas.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, why
10 doesn't it include the interior route, past Old Crow?

11 MR. CARTER: I can't explain
12 that, sir, we just brought it today and I hadn't
13 noticed that until now. I don't know why.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: I think I
15 should say, Chief, for the benefit of the people here
16 that the first gentlemen who spoke was Mr. Bell who is
17 a lawyer for the Indian Brotherhood and he later on
18 will explain through witnesses the traditional hunting,
19 trapping and fishing areas used by the people of Good
20 Hope as they appear on this map. The second gentleman
21 who spoke is Mr. Carter, a lawyer for Arctic Gas who
22 prepared this map which shows the route of the Arctic
23 Gas pipeline and the route to the Foothills pipeline
24 and these maps are here just so you can look at them,
25 and when we adjourn for coffee later on, feel free to
26 come up and look at them and that's why the Indian
27 Brotherhood and Arctic Gas put them up there so you
28 could take a look at them.

29 We're ready to hear anyone
30 else who wishes to speak, and the people at the door,

1 | if you want to come up and take seats further --
2 | closer to the front, you certainly are welcome to do
3 | that.

4 | Anyone who wishes to come
5 | forward now and make a statement, I am anxious to hear
6 | any of you who wish to speak.

7 | JONAS KAKFWI sworn.

8 | MR. KAKFWI: Mr. Berger, I am
9 | Jonas Kakfwi of Fort Good Hope, and I have four boys,
10 | and one adopted daughter. Their ages are: the oldest
11 | is eleven down to four.

12 | I have been living in Fort
13 | Good Hope all my life and I am forty-two years old.

14 | Welcome to our town, Fort
15 | Good Hope, to hear about what we think of our lovely
16 | land, of all our Northwest Territories. We know that
17 | it is our land and what is this about a pipeline coming
18 | through? How many times we already answered that we
19 | don't want the pipeline to come through, before this,
20 | our lovely land of the Northwest Territories is
21 | settled.

22 | Mr. Berger, I am a son of one
23 | of our oldest peoples living in Good Hope, name of Gabe
24 | Kakfwi. His age would be about 96. Since I was old
25 | enough, I start to listen to what my dad had to say
26 | about his back days in the bush, like trapping and
27 | hunting, and how they loved their land.

28 | This is what I had to say
29 | now and some tomorrow. Like in the old days my dad
30 | and mom, they were young and they used to travel,

1 | not by boat or kicker, or not by planes, but by
2 | foot. Like in the spring time, like they used to
3 | gather up this little village, Fort Good Hope to get
4 | little of white man's grub like tea, tobacco and
5 | ammunitions. Soon as they get this they used to
6 | start down to where they used to trap to do their
7 | hunting and then after they get all of their
8 | supplies, they would go -- they would take them down
9 | about four or five miles from here, then they would
10 | land them there. This is just by paddling, no
11 | kickers, and this, they know they were heading for
12 | Anderson River, their country.

13 | After they land down
14 | there they just pack up their dogs and away they
15 | go. After they go back inland and he told me a lot
16 | of times, he said, "Son, we were young when we used
17 | to come to a lake. We'd hear the ducks and beaver
18 | on the lake and by night they would hear the loons
19 | and the ducks howling way out on the lake. And
20 | that, they used to sit by their outside fire and
21 | there they would eat their fish or ducks or
22 | moosemeat or whatever they get and then when they
23 | have to walk eaten it, they used/all the way out to
24 | Anderson River, day after days of walking, but not
25 | one of us saying we are tired or that, or caught a
26 | cold or stomach ache or any other sickness. And
27 | once we get back to our country, Anderson River,
28 | we think we own our land, still today we know it's
29 | our land. And once we used to get back to the
30 | Anderson River we were in our glory. We eat what

1 MR. LAFFERTY: My name is
2 Michael Lafferty. I agree with everybody that is
3 against the pipeline and I am against it too. You, the
4 white people should think of us, the Dene people, and
5 our lives and ways.

6 We were born here and lived
7 here all our lives. I was raised in the bush and
8 would like to raise my children the same way. I
9 went to school for a few years but quit because I
10 didn't like it. My mind was not on schooling, but
11 it was the bush life that I enjoyed more than
12 school. Now, today, I am married and have three
13 children. I make my living off the land and have
14 everything to live off the bush with. Dog team, I
15 have a boat, kicker, gun, snowshoes, just about
16 everything -- tent.

17 I never realized what was
18 going on until we got together and talked about
19 what was happening to us people. The liquor and
20 welfare and other things are ruining us people and
21 our lives. They will ruin us more with the
22 pipeline and more development. None of these
23 things are any good to us. None of these things
24 will be any good for our children. If you, the
25 white people want to do anything with us people or
26 the land, let's have our land settlement first
27 before any more development.

28 That is all that I have to
29 say for tonight. I might come back tomorrow.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you

1 | very much, Mr. Lafferty.

2 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

3 | JUDY LAFFERTY sworn,

4 | MRS. LAFFERTY: My name is

5 | Judy Lafferty. I feel it is important for me to say

6 | what is on my mind because what we say today will

7 | concern the lives of our children and their children.

8 | I, myself, was born here and raised by my grandparents.

9 | Our people are proud of what

10 | they were, they were also proud of their ways and their

11 | lives. We all knew our Dene language and our way. We

12 | were one big happy family until the white people came

13 | with their laws and schools and especially their

14 | liquor.

15 | In other words, the white

16 | peoples are trying to wipe out our ways of life with

17 | their liquor and development.

18 | I also blame the schools

19 | because they are teaching our children the whiteman's

20 | way. I don't think that it will ever work out

21 | this way. I know this for sure because there is

22 | a lot of young people that quit school before they

23 | even got to Grade 12 and these young people are now

24 | very confused about life. They were born Dene and

25 | they'll stay Dene all their lives. Even if they finish

26 | school and make something of themselves, they'll never

27 | be accepted as a white man because he is an Indian,

28 | Dene.

29 | I'd rather bring my children

30 | out in the bush with us instead of going to school. I

1 | people can rule as long as they follow the
2 | Government policy. This policy is set down by
3 | Ottawa. Otherwise the Commissioner will overrule
4 | anything that the Government doesn't like. Of
5 | course, he is appointed by Ottawa. A council of the
6 | N.W.T. has been established with no way to make
7 | decisions that do not suit the government policy.

8 | Mr. Berger, if the
9 | Government has to give our non-renewable resources
10 | to the U.S.A., let them build their pipeline in
11 | someplace that has already been spoiled by the
12 | blight of our so-called civilization.

13 | I have lived in the N.W.T.
14 | approximately 15 years and I have found very little
15 | discrimination to those who wanted to make their
16 | home here. Not to come and impose our way on them.
17 | As a person who loves this country and wants it to
18 | remain a free country, I say take the pipeline some
19 | other route along the Alaska Highway or the Valdez
20 | way, but don't tear up our land and spoil the
21 | culture of the people.

22 | Mr. Berger, could I ask a
23 | question of the gas companies?

24 | THE COMMISSIONER: Yes,
25 | certainly.

26 | MR. WILSON: I would like
27 | to know how they are going to cross -- well, we call
28 | it the Rabbitskin, in -- our people --the Hare
29 | Indian River without disrupting the fishing and the
30 | water which we use there for this community in the

1 | wintertime.

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: Would
3 | you translate the question?

4 | Mr. Carter, we will call on
5 | you first. Do you want one of the representatives
6 | of Arctic Gas to answer Mr. Wilson's question?

7 | MR. CARTER: Yes, could we
8 | answer that just in a little while, maybe later on
9 | this evening?

10 | THE COMMISSIONER: All right,
11 | and well then, we'll call, Mr. Ellwood, on you, perhaps
12 | a little later on -

13 | MR. ELLWOOD: Any time.

14 | THE COMMISSIONER: You're
15 | ready now, well, all right, if you are ready now you
16 | might as well answer it now.

17 | Mr. Ellwood is a
18 | representative of Foothills Pipelines and he has been
19 | sworn in the past in community hearings. That is why
20 | he is being allowed to give evidence without being
21 | sworn. All right, go ahead.

22 | JOHN ELLWOOD resumed.

23 | A As I understand your
24 | question, Mr. Wilson, was how to cross the Hare Indian
25 | River without disruption to the fish and the water
26 | supply of the Town of Fort Good Hope.

27 | The --

28 | THE COMMISSIONER: Just
29 | before we go any farther. Do you want to point out
30 | the river for me on the map?

1 A Certainly.

2 It is the Hare Indian here
3 just north of Fort Good Hope. The pipeline crossing is
4 just about three miles -- three and a half miles it
5 looks like from the Town of Fort Good Hope.

6 In this situation the actual
7 construction of the river crossing will be timed so
8 that it does not coincide with the fish migration up or
9 down the Hare Indian River,

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me,
11 do you want to translate this as we go along, Mrs.
12 Wilson.

13 A In addition our
14 biologists are sampling the Hare Indian and all other
15 rivers to identify overwintering spots for the fish.
16 We are avoiding these, as we find them the route is
17 moved to avoid such locations.

18 We feel that that will give
19 sufficient protection to the fish in all the rivers
20 that we are crossing here, that there will be no
21 adverse impact on the fish resources.

22 MR. WILSON:

23 Well, the reason for my
24 question is --

25 THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me,
26 let Mrs. Wilson translate first.

27 Thank you. You are going to
28 ask another question -

29 MR. WILSON: Yes, the reason of
30 my question is, Mr. Berger, is that that is a supply of

1 fresh fish for this community during the winter. There
2 are nets and hooks set in that river all winter under the
3 ice.

4 I fish and hunt myself and
5 have since I was a boy, I was brought up -- my
6 grandparents were Indians, and I have never caught fish
7 yet where the water has been disturbed, and also that
8 is the water supply for this community during the
9 winter, in the middle of that river.

10 MR. ELLWOOD:

11 A Yes, we are aware that
12 the Town of Good Hope gets their water supply from
13 the Hare Indian. With regard to that particular
14 question, it is quite likely that this crossing
15 would be put in in the summertime after the first
16 fish run, that is something still to be decided
17 upon.

18 At the time that the ditch
19 in the river bed is open, or is excavated, there is,
20 of course, sediment stirred up which is carried down
21 the river. I am not sure of the exact location,
22 where the Town of Fort Good Hope gets its water
23 supply, but it would be our intention not to foul
24 that up with the sediment disturbed by the trenching
25 operation.

26 THE COMMISSIONER: Would you
27 translate.

28 MR. WILSON:

29 Well, liking fishing as I do,
30 I still think that pipeline would look a lot better

1 | over the Alaska Highway or the Valdez.

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: I am
3 | sorry, I couldn't hear you, Mr. Wilson.

4 | A I said liking to fish
5 | the way I do, and I am allowed to fish and hunt here by
6 | the people of this community, I can't see where they
7 | are going to cross the stream without disturbing it and
8 | I think that the pipeline should be, let's put it over
9 | on the Alaska Highway. I think that is a very good
10 | place for it. That's already been spoiled over there.
11 | I used to live there.

12 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, we
13 | are going to hold hearings in Whitehorse next week to
14 | hear what Arctic Gas, Foothills, the Council of Yukon
15 | Indians and other people have to say about the notion
16 | that the pipeline should follow the Alaska Highway. We
17 | are going to be hearing what people have to say about
18 | that next week in Whitehorse. Maybe you could just
19 | translate what Mr. Wilson said and what I said, Mrs.
20 | Wilson.

21 | A I thank you for
22 | listening to me. I still think when I see that
23 | pipeline map there and the way that it's going, that
24 | after our land claims, then we can talk development.
25 | Up until then I have to go with the Dene people on land
26 | claims first. Thank you.

27 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
28 | Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson, did you have a written
29 | statement? If you did maybe you could leave it with
30 | us and it will be marked as an exhibit.

1 A If you can read my
2 writing.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I
4 think so.

5 (SUBMISSION OF AL WILSON MARKED EXHIBIT C114)

6 (WITNESSES ASIDE)

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr.
8 Carter, if you decide later on that you'd like one of
9 your representatives to add anything to what Mr.
10 Ellwood has said, you let me know.

11 JIM PIERROT sworn.

12 MR. PIERRIOT: I wanted to
13 say a few words about our land. My name is Jim Pierrot
14 and I have got seven kids.

15 THE COMMISSIONER: What is
16 your name again, sir, forgive me. Your name again?

17 A Jim Pierrot.

18 THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, yes,
19 thank you.

20 MR. PIERROT: We don't
21 want pipeline because the pipeline will give
22 trouble to our children. We understand what will
23 happen to our children and our grandchildren and
24 what will happen to our land, animals and fish and
25 water.

26 After the pipeline goes
27 through, our childrens and our young people will have
28 no jobs. So we want our land, this is our land, and
29 our children want to live on it, after us, as well as
30 with us. The pipeline if they put it on, it will

1 take a little break for coffee, if there is any.

2 CHARLIE BARNABY Sworn.

3 MR. BARNABY:

4 Mr. Berger, my name is

5 Charlie Barnaby. I am a former chief of Good Hope.

6 I was a chief of my people for five years and I

7 talked for my people and you can see that I have no

8 statement. Whatever I say I talk from the bottom

9 of my heart and always did. When I talk about

10 something I talk about things that I seen in the

11 past.

12 I don't agree with everybody

13 that don't want no pipeline because I know what oil

14 can do because I seen with my own eyes in 1943. When

15 the last war started, it was going on strong, they

16 were short of oil, so they got oil from Norman Wells

17 to Alaska. I seen one tank, 5,000 gallon tank on this

18 Cauol side and they used to call it old camp, that is

19 right on the river bank, there was tanks there.

20 In 1943 before I went to

21 school in April, that tank bust and all that oil T

22 went onto the Mackenzie River. I know it because my

23 dad had a cabin there and it got old so I built

24 another one, actually my dad lived there and raised

25 us up eight miles below Norman Wells on the west

26 side. And when that oil spilled there was about a

27 three mile stretch of it just full of oil on top of

28 the ice and when the ducks coming in they land in

29 it, and not one of those ducks ever got out. There

30 were hundreds and hundreds of ducks stuck in the

1 oil. And that fall, usually we stay here fishing in
2 the summer and go back in September and live there
3 all winter and I guess when the ice went, the oil
4 went with the ice and Goose Island they call it,
5 was all covered with oil, it didn't get rid of it
6 with the water, you know, with the overflow.

7 My brothers shot two moose
8 on that island and I think that is the only two that
9 ever went there and even the flesh was taste oil and
10 the hide was worth nothing because it was just
11 soaked with oil from the willows they were walking
12 through.

13 That's why we don't want
14 no pipeline. A little bit of spill can spoil a lot
15 of damage to our land and so for the animals we
16 live on and for the fur that we sell to get our
17 money.

18 I still think experts are
19 the Native, are the people from the country, not
20 the white people, they are not expert, from what I
21 seen in San Sault test site there. That is a test
22 site, they call it, a whole bunch of us went there
23 one time to see what's going on there, and they got
24 pipes on top of ground and underground and that
25 thing is not supposed to move, that is supposed to
26 be a test site, and that was five years ago when I
27 seen it and I went hunting last summer and I got
28 stuck and there was a couple of Natives from
29 Wrigley looking after the camp, so I went and had
30 tea and they showed me around with a truck at the

1 | put it there, we don't need it, we are happy without
2 | it.

3 | I know and there is a lot of
4 | people told me, they said, what is that pipeline for?
5 | Well, my answer is, the pipeline is just a crazy thing
6 | going through our land if it does go through, just for
7 | another stupid Indian like me to trip over it, that's
8 | all it is good for.

9 | Mr. Berger, I would like to
10 | give somebody else a chance to talk, I'll be talking
11 | again tomorrow, so thanks for listening.

12 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
13 | Mr. Barnaby.

14 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

15 | THE COMMISSIONER: Before
16 | we adjourn I should say that Mr. Barnaby discussed
17 | not only the impact of a gas pipeline, but the impact
18 | of an oil pipeline as well. The pipeline that Arctic
19 | Gas and Foothills Pipelines want to build is a gas
20 | pipeline, but the Federal Government has said that if
21 | a gas pipeline is built it will have a great
22 | influence on the route that an oil pipeline will take
23 | if one is built. That is, they have made it plain
24 | that if a gas pipeline is built up the Mackenzie
25 | Valley, then if an oil pipeline is built, the route
26 | it takes will be determined in large measure by the
27 | route already taken by the gas pipeline. So the
28 | Federal Government has said in the pipeline
29 | guidelines, that the pipeline companies are to bring
30 | forward evidence of the impact of an oil pipeline as

1 well as of the impact of a gas pipeline. Now, they
2 will be called upon to do so at the Inquiry later in
3 the year. I mention this now so that you will
4 understand that all of you who wish to discuss the
5 impact of an oil pipeline are, like Mr. Barnaby,
6 entitled to do so.

7 That may be a little
8 difficult to translate, but would you do the best you
9 can, Mrs. Wilson?

10 We will adjourn for about 15
11 minutes just to get some fresh air and as I say, some
12 coffee, if we can get any, and we will start again in
13 about 15 minutes and carry right on.

14 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

15 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

16 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
17 gentlemen, .we will call the hearing to order again and
18 Chief T'Seleie has asked that we carry on for another
19 hour and after that I understand that there will be a
20 drum dance, so we will hear as many people as we can
21 for the next hour or so and then we will adjourn until
22 tomorrow.

23 So, sir, you have been sworn,
24 so carry on then.

25 JAMES CAESER Sworn.

26 MR. CAESER: Mr. Berger,
27 people from Gas Arctic, Foothills, people from the
28 press and fellow Dene. My name is James Caesar and I
29 was born in February of 1954 in this settlement of Good
30 Hope. Until I was eight years I have lived with my

1 of value for me. It only taught me how to be greedy',
2 how to exploit others, and how to question my place in
3 the universe.

4 I thought I got away from the
5 white man's way of life after I completed my high
6 school studies. Now, I run into another problem. That
7 of the pipeline.

8 We, the Dene people, do not
9 want pipelines or highways to pierce the heart of our
10 land like spears, killing all life now present,
11 including the white man and other people of this earth.

12 We do not want development
13 because we do not want our people to sleep on park
14 benches because they don't have a place of their own,
15 to be murdered in some dark alley for a few dollars, to
16 work in some thirty storey building never knowing who
17 they are, to eat artificial flavoured food and die of
18 malnutrition, to wake up on concrete and having no
19 place to go, to die without ever seeing a wild flower,
20 or touching a wild animal, or drinking unpolluted water
21 in a wild land.

22 No, we do not want pipelines
23 or highways on our land.

24 I think of our land as a
25 virgin in its own time, untouched by the greedy hands
26 of big money, exploitation, ruin or death.

27 I think of our land as our
28 heart giving us blood to flow through our veins. I
29 think of our land like I think of our people, our
30 people like our land.

1 MR. ROWE: Arctic Gas would
2 propose
3 to cross the Hare Indian
4 River during the river using a conventional type of
5 pipeline winter crossing. This would involve digging a
6 trench in the bottom of the river, pulling the pipeline
7 into place and backfilling on top of it to a depth of
8 about seven feet of cover or so.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me,
10 how deep would the trench be? You said three feet of
11 cover, then there is four feet of pipe beneath that -

12 A No, I am sorry, it
13 wasn't three feet of cover. It would probably be seven
14 to ten feet of cover.

15 Q Oh, did you say seven to
16 ten feet of cover -- well, how deep would the trench be
17 in the river?

18 A It would be another four
19 feet on top of that, so say, 14 feet deep in the -at
20 the channel where the deepest-

21 Q So where the pipeline
22 crosses the Hare Indian River you will cross in winter
23 and the trench in the river bed itself would be ten to
24 fourteen feet deep?

25 A That is right.

26 Q And you put the pipe in
27 and then you put the soil in on top of the pipe.

28 You might translate that. If
29 it wasn't clear to me, it might not have been clear to
30 everybody else in the translation.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
2 MR. SCOTT: Mr. Rowe and I
3 will make an inspection tomorrow morning at six.
4
5
6 THE COMMISSIONER: That isn't
7 what I had in mind.
8 (WITNESS ASIDE)
9 THE COMMISSIONER: Do we have
10 another witness --
11 STEVE KAKFWI sworn.
12 MR. KAKFWI; I want to ask
13 Foothills and --
14 THE COMMISSIONER: Could you
15 give us your name first, sir.
16 A Steve Kakfwi.
17 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, sir.
18 A I'm from Good Hope. I'd
19 like to ask Foothills and Gas Arctic where they are
20 going to get gravel and sand from that they are going to
21 use during the construction of the proposed pipeline.
22 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, Mr.
23 Ellwood.
24 MR. ELLWOOD: Would you like
25 us to use this mike or whatever?
26 THE COMMISSIONER: Whatever
27 suits you.
28 JOHN ELLWOOD resumed
29 MR. ELLWOOD: We have
30 identified all along our route a series of potential

1 | sources of gravel. I am not certain of the exact
2 | locations of these in the Fort Good Hope area. We
3 | have most of our data from previous work up here and
4 | from the Department of Public Works who have been
5 | investigating gravel sources in relation to the
6 | Mackenzie Valley Highway and there is no decision yet
7 | on which gravel sources should be used. This is still
8 | a matter that the Government has indicated they want
9 | to play a fairly active role in deciding which ones
10 | will be used and which ones will not.

11 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, have
12 | you, has Foothills identified potential sources of
13 | gravel in the vicinity of Fort Good Hope?

14 | A We do have them
15 | identified, at this time I'm just not able to say
16 | exactly where they are. I would have to refer to some
17 | of our construction maps.

18 | Q Would it be possible to
19 | tell us tomorrow -- are you --?

20 | A Yes, I could, I could
21 | get that information by tomorrow.

22 | Q Are you in the same
23 | position, Mr. Carter?

24 | MR. CARTER: I think that our
25 | problem is the same as that of Mr. Ellwood. We will
26 | attempt to dig that information up and give it to you
27 | tomorrow.

28 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, you
29 | don't have to translate all of this, you can just say
30 | that they will try to answer that question tomorrow.

1 | It is a good question and these gentlemen will do their
2 | best to answer it, but we will give them the night to
3 | think about it,

4 | MR. KAKFWI:

5 | A Thank you.

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

7 | (WITNESSES ASIDE)

8 | THE COMMISSIONER: Bear in
9 | mind Mr. Carter and Mr. Ellwood that we understand your
10 | policy, what we are interested in is the potential
11 | sources of gravel, and sand, I think.

12 | MR. CARTER: My policy men
13 | haven't made any decisions.

14 | THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

15 | THE INTERPRETER: This is not
16 | too easy a thing to translate for your own son.

17 | THE COMMISSIONER: No, well,
18 | don't worry about it.

19 | THE INTERPRETER: I mean, he
20 | is Dene just like me, but I am still translating.

21 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, we
22 | have another half hour and I am most anxious to hear
23 | from any others who wish to speak and we will just
24 | carry on for a little while longer.

25 | MR. CARTER: Sir, we have got
26 | a map with the preferred borrow pits and aiternat(-,
27 | borrow pits marked on it.

28 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, why
29 | don't you when we adjourn tonight just put the map up
30 | on the wall, tack it up, and then as people come in

1 | tomorrow, they can look at it and then ask any further
2 | questions. Maybe that is the best way to handle it.

3 | We have another witness
4 | anyway, so --

5 | Mark that map, Mr. Carter
6 | so that an ordinary person like myself who is not an
7 | engineer could actually look at it and understand
8 | where the sources of gravel are and you might
9 | consult with Mr. Ellwood about it and if his sources
10 | are different from yours, let him mark up your map
11 | when it goes up.

12 |

13 |

14 | Yes, sir, carry on, sir.

15 | LOUIE BOUCAN sworn.

16 | THE INTERPRETER: Mr. Louie
17 | Boucan, claim this is our land, and he agree they with
18 | everybody that/don't want any pipeline to come through
19 | or any highway to come through this land of theirs,
20 | because he says this is our land.

21 | He says we live out on the
22 | land. We go out and kill the games, we don't have to
23 | pay for it. So therefore, he says, this is our land
24 | and we want to keep it the way it is. He says,
25 | compared to the white peoples, they have got
26 | the money to buy their food. They can go ahead
27 | and go to any store or anything and buy their food,
28 | but he says, we Dene in the north here, this is
29 | our land and he says we live out of it, that's why
30 | we don't want any pipeline or highway to come through.

1 He says, this oil companies
2 never had discussion with the people before they
3 started in the North. He says, further up, he says, he
4 was 200 miles north of here and about 150 miles up in
5 the foothills in the west and he says he's been
6 travelling with a plane and he says there's cat roads
7 all over the area -

8 THE COMMISSIONER: Cat roads?

9 THE INTERPRETER: Yes.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Seismic--

11 THE INTERPRETER: Seismic.

12 He says why didn't they discuss this before they
13 started that, he says, it was never discussed. He's
14 seen the whole land all torn.

15 He says we Dene people in the
16 north, he says, we know our land. He says we know
17 where we can get fish, we know where we can get meat,
18 and we know where we can -- a good trapping area. He
19 says we know it, he says, that's why we depend on it
20 and we don't want any more of that exploration on our
21 land.

22 He says this was how good in
23 them old days, he says, he was about ten years old
24 when his dad left sometime early June. He says all I
25 had was little tea, little shells, matches, he says
26 they went about 30 miles up river and they went
27 across over to the Yukon border in the mountain.
28 All the way along, he says, his dad would shoot a
29 caribou or something to eat. No problem, he said,
30 we had no tea -- I am sorry -- they had no sugar, no

1 flour, anything like that plus besides straight
2 country food. He says they went into the -- I don't
3 know, it is someplace in the Yukon, where they call
4 the Lansing Creek. -- They went in there around the
5 middle of summer and then made the turn back and they
6 got out over on the border there to do their trapping
7 and they travelled until the snow failed, and up to
8 that day, he says, from the time when they left here,
9 they never had a cupful of flour or sugar or anything
10 besides their straight meat, and he said it was a good
11 life yet.

12 That is all he has to say.

13 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
14 very much, sir. (Witness Aside)

15 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, sir?
16 GEORGE ABLON Sworn.

17 MR. ABLON: My name is George
18 Ablon of Fort Good Hope. I will talk Slavey.

19 THE INTERPRETER: This
20 gentleman says that if they put a pipeline in through
21 the north they'll have nothing to live on. He said
22 he goes along the C.N. line there, he's been out
23 travelling on that road quite a bit and he says a lot
24 of time he find a dead chicken or a dead rabbit along
25 it. There must be something that doesn't agree with
26 poor rabbit or something that dies on that, and he
27 said they are going to put explore, through, put a
28 highway and a pipeline, how many of those little
29 animals are going to die which they could be using
30 for food?

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly.

2 JOHN T'SELEIE, resumed.

3 A Nobody knows for sure if
4 there is going to be any pipeline. The pipeline people
5 here today are only playing a game against the people.
6 They are trying to make the people think that there is
7 going to be a pipeline. I think the whole game is like
8 that.

9 Not long ago the Commissioner
10 of the Northwest Territories approved land applications
11 to dig some test sites, applications from Foothills,
12 and I think tomorrow someone is going to be dealing
13 with that, but I just want to say to my people, don't
14 be fooled. (WITNESS ASIDE)

15 CHIEF T'SELEIE: Resumed.

16 CHIEF T'SELEIE: Mr. Berger, I would like to repeat
17 myself again that there will be no pipeline.

18 (WITNESS ASIDE)

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, it's
20 11:15. I think maybe we have gone on as long as we
21 should today. I want to thank all of the people of
22 Fort Good Hope who spoke today and the visitors from
23 Gas Arctic and Foothills who spoke and I think we'll
24 adjourn until tomorrow and tomorrow anyone who wishes
25 to speak I am certainly anxious that you should come
26 forward and speak and any one who spoke today but wants
27 to add something tomorrow, I certainly want you to feel
28 free to add whatever you wish at that time.

29 Would you translate that?

30 Before we adjourn, Chief, did

1 | you want to, or any member of the Council, want to say
2 | anything about the drum dance tonight -- He just did.
3 | Well, I thought he did. I wasn't sure.

4 | I'll see you at the drum
5 | dance and we will all come back here at one o'clock at
6 | least I am inviting you all to come back here at one
7 | o'clock tomorrow and we will adjourn the hearing then
8 | until one o'clock tomorrow.

9 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO AUGUST 6, 1975)

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