

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 Resolution, N.W.T.
October 7, 1975**

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

Volume 31

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APPEARANCES

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Pipeline Inquiry;

Mr. Darryl Carter for Canadian Arctic
Gas Pipeline Limited;

Mr. Glen Bell For Northwest Territories Indian Brotherhood, and Metis Association of the Northwest Territories;

Mr. John Ellwood

Mr. Ed Mirosh

For Foothills Pipe
Line Ltd.

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1 Fort Resolution, N.W.T.

2 October 7, 1975

3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,

5 ladies and gentlemen, I will call our meeting to order.

6 I am Judge Berger. I am here to find out what you have

7 to say about the proposal to build a pipeline up the

8 Mackenzie Valley to bring natural gas from the Arctic

9 to markets in southern Canada and the United States. I

10 am holding hearings in all of the communities in the

11 Mackenzie District and that is why I am here today.

12 Now, Canada and the United

13 States have a great appetite for oil and gas and that

14 is why the Government of Canada is considering this gas

15 pipeline, but before the government decides what to do

16 they want to know what you think about this and that is

17 why they have sent me here to find out what you think

18 about it.

19 We have been told that this

20 pipeline project would be the most expensive project

21 ever undertaken by private enterprise anywhere in the

22 world. If it does go ahead it will change the north,

23 and for that reason I want to know how you feel about

24 it and what you think about it.

25 There are two companies that

26 want to build this pipeline. One is called Arctic Gas,

27 the other is called Foothills Pipe Lines. I have

28 invited representatives of both of those companies to be

29 here today and if you have any questions later on that

30 you want to ask these gentlemen who represent these

1 | companies, you'll certainly have every opportunity of
2 | questioning them.

3 | I want you to feel free to
4 | tell me today what you think about this., You live
5 | here, this is your home, I want you to tell me what the
6 | things that have happened here in the south side of
7 | Great Slave Lake and here in Fort Resolution, the basis
8 | of those things I want you to tell me what you think
9 | about this pipeline project.

10 | So my job today, and I will
11 | be here tomorrow too, is to listen to what you have to
12 | say. I'll ask Chief Sayine to make the first
13 | statement.

14 | MR. MANDERVILLE sworn as Interpreter:

15 | CHIEF ED SAYINE resumed

16 | THE INTERPRETER: The Chief
17 | just said that he has other things to talk about as
18 | well as the pipeline, that is the land claim
19 | settlement.

20 | This is two big jobs here,
21 | the pipeline and the land claims and we'd like -- it is
22 | a big job and we would like to have the land claims
23 | settled before we go ahead with the pipeline.

24 | He says that we are afraid of
25 | the pipeline in that it could ruin our forests and our
26 | game, even the fish, since we are not always working, and
27 | we live off the land. You see, as we are all Natives
28 | here, we were born here, lived here and are going to die
29 | here and as far as I am concerned, he says, your pipeline
30 | can sit over there for some time yet to come.

1 CHIEF ZEP CASOWAY Sworn
2 THE INTERPRETER: He said I
3 am glad to be here today, and he says our Maker made
4 this land here and we are all here together and I am
5 glad that we are, able to shake hands together, the
6 white and the natives all alike.
7 He says he can't say too
8 much, he says the Chief is in town here but not
9 present, I am just representing the Chief here now, but
10 I would like to say, I have one question to bring up
11 here and that is all I have.
12 At first when the white man
13 came into the country they paid out treaty and they
14 said when they paid out treaty they said, "I give you
15 this money for you to use." The Chief said, "We don't
16 know what it is all about, we don't know what that
17 money is for so we cannot take it yet just now."
18 Then we were told by the
19 Bishop the Missionary and the Bishop that this money
20 will be a great help to you people, it is just to help
21 you people out here.
22 The Chief said at that time
23 if we take your money now, maybe this land, you'll take
24 away this land from us. That is what was said then.
25 Then the white man said, "No, we will not do that."
26 Then we'll draw up a strong word, that is the exact
27 word that he is saying.. '
28 He says, what I am saying now,
29 said the whiteman then, that see that sun up there? As
30 long as it is up there, he says, the word that I am

1 | have your name first?

2 | THE WITNESS: Oh, sorry. My
3 | name is Tim Beaulieu.

4 | Mr. Berger, who benefits and
5 | who loses? At this time Alberta is experiencing multi-
6 | billion petrochemical industrial growth. The list of
7 | companies is staggering with Dow Chemical, Canadian
8 | Industries Limited and Dupont Limited all in the
9 | running to press their applications to the Energy
10 | Resources Conservation Board of Alberta for industrial
11 | permit. In a province that is claiming its natural
12 | gas reserves are quickly depleting. Where,
13 | Mr. Berger, are these multi-national corporations
14 | going to get the natural gas needed to make their
15 | plastic garbage bags?

16 | Some of these multi-billion
17 | dollar corporations are Canadian Industries Limited;
18 | Imperial Chemical Company; London, England; and Dow
19 | Chemical. Mr. Berger, is this hearing going to provide
20 | these corporations the necessary tool to promote
21 | industrial growth and the death of the Dene.

22 | In other parts of the country
23 | known as Canada, the people rights are protected and
24 | enshrined within the British North American Act. North
25 | of the 60th parallel of this continent the people have
26 | no such rights. Is it the purpose of this hearing to
27 | provide such protection?

28 | I view these hearings existing
29 | based upon the assumption that there exists a valid
30 | southern want for large amounts of natural gas. There

1 I wonder if we could keep that written statement, Mr.
2 Beaulieu, and it will be marked as an exhibit and form
3 a part of the permanent record of the proceedings.

4 (SUBMISSION BY TIM BEAULIEU MARKED EXHIBIT C-219)

5 (WITNESS ASIDE)

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
7 gentlemen, anyone else who wishes to speak, I'd be most
8 anxious to hear from you. You could come up ad we will
9 put a chair at the end of this table here and you could
10 use that microphone or you could use Mr. Beaulieu's
11 chair which he is willing to give up.

12

13 LOUIS VILLINEAUE sworn

14

15 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, he
16 says --

17 THE COMMISSIONER: Could we
18 have the witness's name first, the gentlemen's name?

19 THE INTERPRETER: Louis
20 Villeneau, Fort Resolution, speaking, and he says I am
21 glad, he says, I come up here and say a few words and
22 whatever you people say we can't just say "Yes" right
23 off the bat, he says, about regarding the pipeline. We
24 don't know what the people up north have said or done
25 or said and that is why we can't say "Yes", right off
26 the bat.

27 Ever since I can remember, he
28 says, we have, never run short of gas yet, we always had
29 gas and we never had too much money to buy gas with, but
30 he says we've always had enough to get by with.

1 He says we live on account of,
2 he says, by the white man. They are making us live
3 here, he says, and you come here and you told your story
4 to us and he says we have to listen.

5 He says this pipeline we are
6 talking about now, he says, whatever the whiteman
7 makes, he says he makes it solid and I think that he is
8 not going to build a pipeline that will burst. For
9 those with traps, he says, since they built the
10 highways and the mines around here, he says, they made
11 it bad for us because we are way behind on the way we
12 used to live. He says that even no matter what we say,
13 he says if you are going to do it you are going to do
14 it anyway although I think it is needed because I hear
15 quite a bit of it on the radio about the pipeline. He
16 says, I can't understand English very good, but I hear
17 it a lot of times. *

18 He says, what goes on over
19 there he says, we are not aware of it, but he says it
20 is still our country and we are living here and we have
21 to talk about it. He says the white man gives us, like
22 old pensions and family allowance and everything and we
23 are living well off of that.

24 Our land, he says, we are
25 preserving that, just like we got money over there and
26 we are living off of it. He said maybe you'll be here
27 yet tomorrow and there are a lot of other* people over
28 there, he says, maybe if they have anything to say this
29 is the time to say it.

30 Yes, that is all for now.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
2 very much, sir.

3 (WITNESS ASIDE)

4 THE INTERPRETER: Mr. Berger,
5 may I say that the gentlemen over on my right here is
6 under the influence with the -

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
8 carry on here.

9 JOE BOGGINS sworn

10 THE INTERPRETER: He says it
11 has been a long time -

12 THE COMMISSIONER: Could we
13 have the witness's name first, I am sorry.

14 THE INTERPRETER: Joe
15 Boggins, speaking. He says there must be something up,
16 he said, because I hear so much talk about the
17 pipeline. It has been a long time now since I've heard
18 talking about this pipeline, and they told me, they
19 said, "Say it, say it, say it", so I said it.

20 I imagine you are here
21 regarding this pipeline here today. So far we have
22 been hearing about the pipeline all the time, but he
23 said never nobody sat up before us here and talked
24 about it up until now.

25 The pipeline we are talking
26 about here and now, he says, it is a long ways from
27 here, actually it is none of our business, but the fact
28 that you are here to talk about it and that's why we
29 are saying a few words too.

30 The first time, he says in

1 | knows who are talking about, he says, are you taking
2 | the men's word or not listening to the womans? I know
3 | that all the people, most of the people up north do not
4 | want the pipeline and he says I am not surprised, but
5 | he said maybe later on after the land claims
6 | settlement, then he said it may be up to you people
7 | then what to do. After that he says you can do what
8 | you want. Thank you very much.

9 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
10 | sir.

11 |

12 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

13 | CHIEF JOE LOCKHART sworn

14 | THE INTERPRETER: Chief

15 | Lockhart would like to say a few words.

16 | He is sitting down here, Mr.
17 | Berger, you are the boss of it all. I am just using
18 | the exact words he is saying.

19 | THE COMMISSIONER: That is
20 | all right.

21 | THE INTERPRETER: Us chiefs
22 | in the Northwest Territories would like to see your
23 | kind here because we have never seen them before
24 | here.

25 | Treaty was first paid here in
26 | Fort Resolution and we were told that, but we have
27 | never seen the bigshot before. Too bad, he said, if
28 | the chiefs, if the head chiefs from before if they were
29 | here now, he said, they would have been glad and they
30 | would have settled everything at once.

1 | chief.

2 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

3 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I
4 | think that maybe we will stop for a little break and a
5 | cup of coffee in a minute, but does anyone else want to
6 | say anything before we take a coffee break?

7 | Well, we will just take a
8 | five or ten minute break now for coffee and then we
9 | will start again and then you can add anything to what
10 | you have said or say anything if you haven't had a
11 | chance to speak so far.

12 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED)

13 |

14 | (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

15 |

16 | THE COMMISSIONER: We will
17 | call our meeting to order again this afternoon, ladies
18 | and gentlemen.

19 | Well, anyone who wishes to
20 | speak or to say anything or to ask a question may do so
21 | now.

22 | HAROLD BOSLEY sworn

23 | THE WITNESS: We have heard a
24 | lot about this pipeline going through --

25 | THE COMMISSIONER: Could I
26 | have your name, please, sir?

27 | THE WITNESS: My name is
28 | Harold Bosley.

29 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
30 | please sit down.

1 THE WITNESS: I have heard a
2 lot about this pipeline going through, there's a lot of
3 people down here who are against this pipeline. Well,
4 I think myself, that this pipeline that's going
5 through, that's going to destroy their hunting grounds
6 and fish lakes and whatnot, whatever they've got down
7 there. This pipeline is going through, it wouldn't
8 affect us up here any, but it sure will affect the
9 People down in that area.

10 Like now, like now it is
11 going to destroy the country. Right at the present
12 time here, you take Pine Point now. I was trapping
13 that area here a few years ago, oh, close to ten years
14 and when Pine Point opened up that really destroyed
15 that land. There was six of us that was trapping down
16 in that area at one time and when they opened up that
17 Pine Point, -- and when they opened up that place,
18 there was six of us that was trapping down there. When
19 they opened up the mine there, and when we went back to
20 our traps, they had been cutting lines there right on
21 our trapline and between the six of us we lost about
22 200 traps and we never got no return for it, and we
23 wished to live there from rabbits and moose and
24 buffaloes and that is what we had there for a living,
25 and that fed the dogs as well.

26 You take like now, you take
27 Pine Point now, this water running out of the mines,
28 that is running right into this lake. Well, you take
29 like that creek , what you call Paulette Creek, well,
30 all that water's coming through there. I remember

1 | years ago, that was not very long ago, maybe four or
2 | five years ago, there was all kinds of fish in that
3 | creek, and now these fish seem to be disappearing.

4 | Even right now you notice a
5 | lot of trees along the highway, you notice is going
6 | bad, there's a lot of these trees are dying off. I
7 | worked there for just about two months on that rate and
8 | I know that the trees are dying off, everything was
9 | dying off. Well, if the trees could die off, if any
10 | streams that have got fish in them, they're going to be
11 | dying off too. So if there's ducks and rabbits,
12 | whatever is in there, could be dying off too.

13 | The way it goes, if this
14 | carries on this way with this water running into this
15 | lake here, the lake is going to be polluted too, so
16 | then the fish will be dying off this lake here too.
17 | Right now, there is days right now it could be
18 | polluted.

19 | I don't know, I'll come back
20 | to the pipeline again. Like a pipeline now, if a
21 | pipeline happens to break at a certain place, now, how
22 | do they know where to find the break if it happens to
23 | break? By the time they find it, there's going to be a
24 | lot of oil that's going to be destroyed there and
25 | destroying a lot of lakes and killing things off.

26 | Yes, there should be
27 | something done about it before it gets too late, I
28 | think. I don't know what the rest of the people think
29 | about it, but that's my way of thinking about it.

30 | Then as far as that goes,

1 | there's a lot of work in Pine Point, but I think myself
2 | that -- I think the Resolution people should get the
3 | first choice in getting jobs down there, but now that I
4 | see that there's only --

5 | THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me,
6 | at Pine Point?

7 | A Yes.

8 | Q M-hm.

9 | A I'm at Pine Point now,
10 | and there's only a few people from here that has got
11 | jobs down there. I think myself that --

12 | Q Excuse me, there's only
13 | a few people from --

14 | A From Res here.

15 | Q All right, right, right.

16 | A There's only a few from
17 | Res here. I think myself that the northern people
18 | should have the first jobs if any jobs are available
19 | down there, I think myself that the northern people
20 | should get a job down there. This town here, we just
21 | have one mill that's running here and that can't supply
22 | the whole population of Resolution on work. I guess
23 | they wonder why the people of Resolution don't want to
24 | work, that little mill can't supply the whole Town of
25 | Resolution with work, because they wonder why people
26 | won't work around here.

27 | The only thing that we've got
28 | now is a few rats what we can get to try and make a
29 | living out of it, and that's what the people are
30 | depending this fall and make a living out of it. This

1 | fall here it seems that there ain't the moose what it
2 | used to be before. There, is hardly any moose this
3 | year. Everybody's been going up the Slave and coming
4 | back with nothing, and therefore the moose seem to be
5 | disappearing and it is pretty hard for the people to
6 | get any neat at all.

7 | It is a good thing last
8 | winter that the caribou had come a little bit south
9 | than what they ever did for the last 20 years, and a
10 | lot of people from town here got all their winter's
11 | meat, and a lot of them still got caribou meat today.

12 | Well, I think that's about
13 | all I got to say for just now.

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

16 | A Thank you.

17 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

18 | THE COMMISSIONER: Yes,
19 | chief?

20 |

21 | CHIEF EDWARD SAYINE resumed:

22 | THE INTERPRETER: The speaker
23 | before me was talking about pollution. He says it's
24 | true. He said I worked there for a year and a half and
25 | I know it is. He fished at Dawson Landing since 1963
26 | till '69, commercial fishing. They wouldn't take ice
27 | from Dawson Landing, they used to haul the ice from Hay
28 | River. They are not fishing there any more. He says
29 | it's only us that say that the water is no good, but
30 | if there was some kind of research work done there

1 | experiences of development, example of Pine Point Mines
2 | as related to the pipeline.

3 | I am expressing these views
4 | as a native of Fort Resolution, and I speak as such,
5 | and not an employee of the Indian Brotherhood or the
6 | Metis Association of the N.W.T. I want this to be
7 | clearly understood.

8 | We here in Fort Resolution had
9 | many bad experiences with development in our community
10 | and also on our land. We are the oldest settlement in
11 | the N.W.T. We were the first to experience the white
12 | man that came to this land. At the time this place was
13 | small. Then it grew to be the largest community in the
14 | north, and now it is just about the smallest. As a
15 | result, the people here having gone through that
16 | experience, have a feeling of total hopelessness.. This
17 | may also happen to the other 26 communities along the
18 | route of the pipeline. It is not a state of life I
19 | would want to see happen anywhere else.

20 | Now to go onto the biggest
21 | development in the NWT., which is Pine Point Mines. As
22 | I stated earlier we here in Fort Resolution have had
23 | experiences which I will try to relate to you as clearly
24 | as possible. As you well know by now, we, the Dene
25 | people, do a lot of hunting and trapping and fishing.
26 | Our hunting has decreased a lot, due to the construction
27 | of the highway, the building of the mine, and the
28 | increase of the people from the south. These people,
29 | southerners, during their days off work from the mine,
30 | during hunting season or fishing season, are all over

1 United States Government, the oil companies, the
2 smaller businesses fail to understand or refuse to
3 admit, is this is Dene land. It always was and always
4 will be. With these last words I have this to say. If
5 there is a pipeline started before there is a just land
6 settlement, I will personally be willing to lay my life
7 down to protect this Dene land for our future
8 generations and those unborn. Thank you.

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
10 Mr. Beaulieu. I wonder if we can have that written
11 statement so that it can be marked as an exhibit?
12 Thank you.

13 (SUBMISSION OF M. BEAULIEU MARKED EXHIBIT C-220)

14 (WITNESS ASIDE)

15 THE INTERPRETER: Bob
16 Stevenson.

17 BOB STEVENSON sworn:

18 THE WITNESS: Bob Stevenson.

19 I want to say a couple of things here at this time,
20 also to note that I will be making my own formal
21 presentation, much probably similar as Mike has just
22 done; but since being here and working with the people
23 now I'd like to say a few things.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: Go ahead.

25 THE WITNESS: And you can
26 interpret as I go, because I don't have a written
27 statement.

28 I work for the Housing
29 Corporation now, I've worked for housing for the last
30 couple of years through the Metis Association and now

1 | with the Territorial Housing Corporation. I want to at
2 | this time, as much as possible, stick to that subject.

3 | I work right today, my main
4 | concern and things I have to do are based on today's
5 | needs, because of what has happened already in the
6 | past. Many different kinds of programs trying to be
7 | established through the government, as they got
8 | involved with the various communities in the north.
9 | These programs have had only southern input in such
10 | things as design and formation of various groups and
11 | companies, probably all from the south that had the
12 | input in bringing these houses about.

13 | Up until a year ago, and in
14 | some cases less than that, all of this houses or all
15 | of these houses were built with southern designs and
16 | southern standards and so on, which did not fill in the
17 | needs of the people, or the wants of these people. The
18 | communities were not asked what size, what kind and so
19 | on, and if they did, they usually were restricted to
20 | whatever they could afford or make available for these
21 | people. In most cases what it usually boils down to
22 | now is that the people's needs were not met.

23 | Southern contractors, in many
24 | cases, came up just to more or less throw these houses
25 | up and walk away leaving them the way -- any way that
26 | they could see in the way of saving their money or
27 | making their money, and then throwing up whatever they
28 | can in the way of materials that were cheap.

29 | In the rental programs, the
30 | responsibilities of tenants were not explained properly

1 | in many cases,, and that was because of people coming
2 | in, usually outsiders, usually southerners, on one day
3 | visits. Managers and field workers not trained
4 | properly to work with these people. Organizations,
5 | housing associations, housing authorities formed were
6 | little help in the training of these local people.

7 | The last couple of years, the
8 | Northern Government, which is the Territorial Government
9 | has been trying and is trying in various ways to get
10 | training programs for field workers, get other programs
11 | for tenants, allow more money for fixing up the mistakes
12 | that were done in the past, and are trying to come up
13 | with better housing building programs; but they're always
14 | faced with cutbacks from Ottawa.

15 | I think what has to be
16 | stressed is that the need of involving local people more
17 | in the way of housing and trying to bring about their
18 | wishes, rather than bring about southern standards.
19 | I've only been working here for close to a couple of
20 | weeks now, but I intend to work as long as possible in
21 | this community anyway, I do have the backing of the
22 | Housing Corporation to do that. Not only do I need the
23 | backing of the Housing Corporation, but other groups
24 | across the Territories and Canada to bring about the
25 | point that what people need in the way of housing is
26 | their input in a way that they would like it rather than
27 | throwing up houses for every ten years or every few
28 | years, and destroying some, writing off some, and so on.
29 | If they'd have made their plans properly, this would
30 | have come out a lot better, I think.

1 Thank you.
2 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
3 Mr. Stevenson.

4 (WITNESS ASIDE)

5
6 JOHN MORIN sworn:

7 THE WITNESS: This is John
8 Morin, Mr. Berger. I've listened to the discussions in
9 Pine Point, the discussions here this afternoon, and I
10 would like you to interpret this, Mod, in the Chipewyan
11 language.

12 I know, Mr. Chairman, there
13 is a great need for housing, especially all over the
14 Northwest Territories. I sit on a Housing Authority at
15 Pine Point and what we are attempting to do now is
16 originally the 20 houses that was built in Pine Point
17 is for northern trainees; but our great Territorial
18 Government says, "How do you draw a line for a northern
19 trainee, a northern resident? Is it three years, five
20 years, or what term do you use?"

21 I think what has to be done
22 is legislation has to be passed within the level of the
23 Northwest Territorial Council, then we can determine
24 where northern residents, that is by far, certainly the
25 people of Resolution, they have preference to all
26 housing. What happens when they come to Pine Point is
27 there's a lot of talent here in Resolution. I've been
28 in Pine Point for 11 years, I know most of the people
29 here, all in the Mackenzie south, When they do come for
30 work they have to communicate back and forth which is

1 | quite a distance, and an expense to them; but there is
2 | work there, but the thing we're strapped with is
3 | housing. But in the new year we're hoping that all
4 | the housing will have to make a monstrous shuffle.

5 | I'm going to be pushing for
6 | it, not just as a member of the Town Council, but as
7 | well as sitting on the Housing Authority.

8 | Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask
9 | a question to the gentleman from Foothills, if I may.

10 | THE COMMISSIONER: Certainly.

11 | THE WITNESS: Sir, you made a
12 | statement last night in Pine Point that you would build
13 | a feeder line from Fort Simpson, feeding no doubt Hay
14 | River and Pine Point. Would the same thing apply for
15 | Fort Resolution?

16 | MR. MI ROSH: Well, we have
17 | along with proposing a main pipeline,, as I explained
18 | the other day, proposed that there would be certain
19 | communities along the valley and around Slave Lake,
20 | which, we felt, from a matter of economic calculations
21 | could be fed with natural gas.

22 | There is a certain point when
23 | doing these studies or calculations, that one has to
24 | draw a line between supplying gas and not supplying gas
25 | to a community. From the matter of economics, Fort
26 | Resolution falls on the wrong side of that line.

27 | THE WITNESS: The other
28 | statement I'd like to make, sir, is you said probably
29 | about 20 miles south of Pine Point there would be a
30 | large camp. Would you, your company, if they were

1 | awarded the contract through the Energy Board, would
2 | you be building housing or also would you be training
3 | natives such as Resolution, because you know this is
4 | dealing directly with the Mackenzie south?

5 | MR. MIROSH: Yes, during the
6 | construction of a pipeline to Pine Point to bring gas
7 | there will be the need for a 250-man camp about 20
8 | miles west of Pine Point. That will be totally self-
9 | contained and we will not be building any -at least
10 | it's not in our plans that we will be building any
11 | additional housing in the area.

12 | It will only be used during one
13 | winter at that location and then will be moved out. The
14 | people who will be working on maintaining the pipeline
15 | while it's operating will be living in the communities of
16 | Yellowknife and Fort Simpson, in this area.

17 | I might say one thing, that
18 | in Alberta where we have the same kind of pipelines, we
19 | quite often employ local people to assist in some way
20 | at metering stations or maintenance.

21 | On your second question about
22 | training, we do plan to train people from the north for
23 | work on the pipeline and we are doing so even today,
24 | and have done that for the last few years.

25 | THE WITNESS: As I said
26 | earlier in my statement, there is a lot of talent in
27 | Resolution, so if they come and they're applying for
28 | work under a trainee program, would this be put through
29 | the Territorial Government, or is that directly your
30 | company's responsibility?

1 MR. MIROSH: The program
2 which we have now set up is called Nortran, and that's
3 a responsibility of the pipeline companies and producer
4 companies, but it is done in consultation with the
5 Territorial Government.

6 I think, I was just asking
7 some question of my associate as to how people from
8 Fort Resolution or anywhere else in the north can see
9 if they qualify to participate in this program, and
10 it's a matter of contacting any of the companies
11 involved - ourselves or Canadian Arctic Gas, or the
12 Nortran people -- and then seeing where that leads to.

13 THE WITNESS: I think this is
14 the feeling, of most of the people all down -- all the
15 way down the corridor of the Mackenzie, including Fort
16 Resolution. Pine Point, there's virtually no
17 unemployment, everybody is employed. I think this is
18 what our native people are afraid of, that if the thing'
19 is built, if and when come hell or high water, it's going
20 to be built anyway, but that they may not get the work,
21 and this is why I'm asking you these questions.

22 MR. MIROSH: We want very
23 much to employ on this pipeline northerners, be they
24 Indian or Eskimo or white, and we're quite prepared to
25 train those people that are -- that have the
26 qualifications that we need, and they're not great, and
27 that are willing to work on it.

28 THE WITNESS: One other question
29 excuse me, one other question I have, sir, is that we've
30 got to remember one thing. North of the 60th Parallel

1 that we do away with these real intelligent -- it's great
2 to have an education, I wish I could have gone to school
3 more, I didn't, I didn't have a chance to, but a
4 university degree, you always see an advertisement in the
5 paper, "You must have a university degree."

6 That's not always so. You
7 know we've got a lot of talent at the Grade 5, Grade
8 level too, not only university degree people that --
9 and this is where the native is always pushed down,
10 we're always knocked down.

11 MR. MIROSH: We're not talking
12 about university degrees here. We would -- the Nortran
13 program does have people, some that have completed High
14 School, some that haven't quite completed it. What we
15 do need is a certain amount of schooling, and we would
16 encourage people interested to of course continue, at
17 least to High School; but we would look at any people
18 with mechanical ability to participate.

19 THE WITNESS: I have no
20 further questions for the Foothill people or Arctic
21 Gas, sir, but I would say that we're forecasting in
22 Pine Point in the 1976 year an additional 30 houses,
23 and if we can push more than 30, well, we're going to
24 do so. What we have to do, as you realize we have to
25 get our budget in to the Territorial, to the financial
26 people so the money can be appropriated for next year's
27 construction.

28 It's been said, for my final
29 question, sir, that all over it's been said that Pine
30 Point Mines dictates to the Territorial Government.

1 Well, maybe this is so to a certain extent. They have
2 to listen because as we know, as everyone knows, the
3 Pine Point Mines is the largest industry in the north.
4 The government is going to pay attention.

5 As far as going back to
6 employment at Pine Point, I can remember one time the
7 first boss we had in Pine Point, his name was Joe
8 Scarborough, he lived in Yellowknife for years, and he
9 said, "If I have to, I'll run this damn mine with a
10 bunch of native Indians," and that's practically what
11 he did. Whenever anyone does come particularly, from
12 Resolution,, I know if I can help them out, him or the
13 family, to try, to get them established a job and a
14 house, I'll go my best lick for anyone any time.

15 Thank you, gentlemen.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,
17 Mr. Morin, very much.

18 (WITNESS ASIDE)

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
20 gentlemen, we've been talking now here for about three
21 hours, so it's five o'clock. I think maybe we should
22 stop now for supper. I will carry on this evening at
23 eight o'clock, and we'll hear from some of you who
24 haven't had a chance to speak yet, and perhaps hear
25 more from others who have already spoken. I invite you
26 all to come back here at eight o'clock tonight. I'll
27 be here at eight o'clock tonight and we'll carry on
28 with our hearing at that time, and carry on into --
29 we'll carry on at eight o'clock, well, for as long as
30 we all feel able to tonight then.

1 (APPLAUSE)

2 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO 8 P.M.)

3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Well,
5 ladies and gentlemen, I'll call our meeting to order
6 and those of you that are sitting at the back, if you
7 want to move forward there's some chairs closer to the
8 front here.

9 Well, we'll hear from any of
10 you that wish to speak tonight. Before we do that
11 maybe I should just tell you that something I should
12 have told you this afternoon, that these ladies here on
13 my right are Miss Hutchinson, the secretary of the
14 Inquiry, and the other two ladies with the masks are
15 making a record on tape of everything that is said here
16 in Fort Resolution at this hearing. A written record
17 of that will be made and it will be sent back here to
18 Fort Resolution to the Band Chief, the president of the
19 Metis Association, and the settlement chairman, so that
20 you people will have a written record of everything
21 that has been said at this hearing in Fort Resolution
22 today and tomorrow.

23 The gentlemen and the ladies
24 on the left side of the room here are the members of
25 the C.B.C.'s Northern Service Broadcasting team who
26 broadcast from the Inquiry each night in English and
27 the native languages. The other ladies and gentlemen
28 there represent the newspapers in this area, "The Hub,"
29 "The Pilot", and "Tapwe [?]", and we also have with us
30 this week members of the Radio Canada, which broadcasts

1 | in the French language on television and radio on the
2 | C.B.C.'s French speaking network. They are here
3 | because it is important that people throughout the
4 | north should know what people here in Fort Resolution
5 | and in Pine Point and Fort Smith think, and have to say
6 | for themselves, and important that people in southern
7 | Canada should know what the people of the north are
8 | saying and thinking.

9 | Well, we're ready to begin
10 | then Did you wish to speak, sir? Well, anyone who
11 | wishes to speak can come to the front of the hall and
12 | to this microphone or over here.

13 |
14 | RICK McLEOD sworn:

15 | THE WITNESS: My name is Rick
16 | McLeod from Aklavik-Inuvik. I think this hearing
17 | concerns everybody in the north here, so it starts on a
18 | person going through the whole system right from the
19 | start of school in Aklavik to university and coming
20 | back. I was born in the bush, lived there, parents
21 | trapped, fished and so on. There were open cabins. We
22 | used to come to town and there would be dances and
23 | everybody would go and have a great time at Christmas
24 | and so on.

25 | Then we had to go to school,
26 | but I started when I was seven years old, which is back
27 | in 1957 in Aklavik. There was a missionary school
28 | there, two of them. One was Protestant School
29 | system based on Protacansor whatever, and then there
30 |

1 were Catholics School system. There were Indians,
2 Eskimos, Metis people and some white people. We went to
3 school and many people lost their languages.

4 Then there was an attempt to
5 move the town called Aklavik to a place called Inuvik.
6 In this town there were two hostels, one was Catholic,
7 the other one was Protestant, the same as before.
8 People from all over the Arctic again, kids from about
9 four or five years old, people who were in their 20's.
10 There were also was a school system there as well.
11 This was also divided, an A-wing and a B-wing. I
12 gather it was based on an agreement between the
13 Anglican Bishop and the Catholic Bishop and the
14 government. This school system had an A-wing and a B-
15 wing. B-wing was Catholic; A-wing was Protestant.
16 There was a mixture of native peoples again, but a lot
17 more white people. These new white people were
18 complete strangers to the north, for the most part.
19 Many of them were people who were of the military.

20 This town changes quite a
21 bit. There used to be slingshot wars and snowball
22 fights, rock fights and so on between the native people
23 themselves, between them and the white people. The
24 town was divided between the service end of town and
25 the unserviced end of town. The unserviced end of town
26 was the native people for the most part.

27 THE COMMISSIONER: That's
28 Inuvik?

29 A Right. There was an
30 introduction of bars, of liquor stores, there was

1 governmental change on all levels. The town was now
2 changed beyond recognition to a place called Aklavik or
3 anywhere else in the Territories, it was new form of town.
4 It was a town in which families were split up all over the
5 north. Families were split up, young people went to these
6 towns for the most part, a lot of old people stayed, and
7 some young people.

8 We had a town with a lot of
9 races, and there was religion which people for the most
10 part did not understand, I think, it was sort of
11 indoctrinated into them, jobs in which native people
12 for the most part were laborers; but the family
13 continued. There was a change in people's relations
14 now. People weren't keeping their cabins open, open
15 cabins which had once supported people were now
16 vandalized and so on. People went. to bars, there was
17 wholesale drinking everywhere. The V.D. rate went up
18 like crazy. The Police Force as well, the Police Force
19 was increased. Outside workers, government and
20 otherwise, increased this change for the worst.

21 There was a place now famous
22 called "The Zoo", which everybody should know now, where
23 native people for the most part would now go. This
24 increased, and if they were there they went home and
25 drank as well. They went to their settlements with their
26 booze and drank as well and carried the destruction to
27 their own towns. That's the Inuvik part of it.

28 The change is continuing. I
29 went to school in the south after this. I went to
30 University in Alberta. I have seen racists and ignorance

1 before, it was greatly increased here. People were a
2 lot colder. There was a process of change whereby
3 natives became more white . There were bars yet, bars
4 of natives and whites, the bars like the Cecil, which
5 were continuation of The Zoo in Inuvik on a grand scale,
6 an experience of apathy. There was loss of an interest
7 to do things or whatever. I saw a great change going
8 back home. We had no people going south experiencing
9 this and coming back, many did not ever go south again,
10 and many who went south were changed for the worse.
11 They did not know their people any more.

12 After university, which I did
13 not think was doing me any good, I spent two years
14 travelling around Canada. You see this all across
15 Canada from B.C. to Newfoundland, changes in native
16 peoples.

17 Coming back I decided I'd see
18 the southern territory. There are great changes here
19 which are very similar to up north. I don't believe,
20 not so much government, not so much small businesses or
21 anything else as a situation where we have people
22 versus the corporation. Many corporations now are more
23 powerful than governments. I wonder what way change
24 will now go? We cannot control change, the Native
25 people cannot control change simply by going south. We
26 have to live here, this is the land of our people.
27 There is now coming in a reversal in direction.

28 I do not believe native people
29 could change the south, by going south we have to live
30 here and change it as much as possible as it comes

1 | in. I hope and I think everybody else hopes that this
2 | change is going to be for the better, especially for the
3 | people in the Territories.

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

6 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

7 |

8 | NOEL YALE resumed:

9 | THE INTERPRETER: What he
10 | just heard now is true, he says.

11 | THE COMMISSIONER: The
12 | gentleman's name? Sorry.

13 | THE WITNESS: Noel Yale.

14 | THE INTERPRETER: He's spoken
15 | this morning.

16 | THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, of
17 | course.

18 | THE INTERPRETER: What I just
19 | heard just now is true, he says. Since the white man
20 | came in here with their booze, he says things got worse
21 | and still are growing worse yet. He says it's true, he
22 | said that since it's getting worse and worse, now he
23 | says, as soon as we have money we buy booze, we drink
24 | it, we don't even know where our children are, and we
25 | continue, and he says things are getting worse here.
26 | He says it's bad for the kids too. He says the man and
27 | wife, we should be watching our children, buy food, and
28 | look after them; but no, we don't. He said the kids
29 | are lost and that are we going to do?

30 | We can't stop them bringing

1 | booze in, he says, it's theirs and we can't help it, we
2 | continue doing it. When we used to be out in the bush
3 | there was no such a thing as that, he says, because we
4 | couldn't obtain it; but since we're here we have to be
5 | here on account of our children because the kids go to
6 | school, they have to go to school, and that is why
7 | we're here and how things are.

8 | We used to stay out in the
9 | bush maybe three months or something, hunting and trap
10 | for a living, and we were all right. He said now we're
11 | living in town just like we're tied down, we have to
12 | remain here on account of children. Maybe our chief do
13 | a little talking for us, and a lot of people sitting
14 | back here, if they all got up and talked, he said, if
15 | we keep bugging them about it he says maybe we'll get
16 | it back to what it used to be in the past.

17 | Things are growing worse now,
18 | he said, even if the chief talks for us we wouldn't pay
19 | no attention to him, and the kids also should be inside
20 | the house by 11 o'clock, which they haven't been doing.
21 | All of those in here know that, too. Those that are in
22 | the bush now, he says, they're not paying no power
23 | bills and they're not paying for fuel, they're not
24 | paying for nothing. He said they don't buy their
25 | meat, they're living well, they're O.K. out there.
26 | It's pretty hard to men of the past and what goes on
27 | now, he said, it's pretty tough going right now in
28 | Resolution.

29 | In the past there was a lot
30 | of things missing, he said, but now the mine is in

1 | existence here and he says it'll be doing a lot of good
2 | for certain things, like food cheaper, and we got a
3 | road through, and a lot of things. I like Pine Point
4 | being in existence. He says there's nothing we can do,
5 | Pine Point would be in existence for a long time to
6 | come.

7 | I'm talking to the listeners
8 | back of me here. This is our chance to talk to Judge
9 | Berger here. He says he's sitting here now, he says
10 | this is our chance t talk to him.

11 | There maybe some things I
12 | missed out. That's all for now. I understand that you
13 | might be here tomorrow again and maybe I'll find
14 | something else to say, at that time. That's all for
15 | now.

16 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.
17 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

18 |
19 | CHIEF EDWARD SAYINE resumed:
20 | THE INTERPRETER: He used to
21 | be able to talk back there and we're still talking
22 | about the pipeline, I have a little bit of something
23 | to. say about that.

24 | It's making it bad for us
25 | just by talking about the pipeline alone. The highway
26 | and Hire North before the pipeline, and as soon as they
27 | start talking about the pipeline they got this highway
28 | built up to Fort Wrigley only, then it stopped. All
29 | the natives in the country, here and other places, all
30 | are making a little bit of money over there on Hire

1 North. After they began talking about pipeline,
2 everything stopped, though. It made it bad for us. A
3 lot of these young fellows sitting back there 25 years
4 old, 30 years old, got all their schooling, they can
5 drive, and they can do mostly anything. Now they're
6 here and have no jobs. We understand that the oil
7 companies are going to give us jobs. He said there
8 would be jobs available here, but first of all you have
9 to train these people before they go to work.

10 It wasn't so much trouble
11 them days when they were working at Hire North them
12 young fellows, we were bringing in the money to us or
13 sending money, and they were over there and there was
14 not so much trouble them days.

15 He said I know some of them
16 young fellows. They're still trying to get jobs over
17 there, but there's no work now, and if they were still
18 working on that highway of Hire North, he said a lot of
19 them boys would have been over there. He said shortly
20 before I started talking here he said there was someone
21 here was talking that people were going to the bars and
22 that. It's true, he says. The young fellows coming
23 back from work and they get to one of the bars and
24 they'll drink to their heart's content, and go away
25 again and that was all right.

26 There's no work at all now.
27 Talking about pipeline and all this sort of stuff, but
28 they give us no work at all to everybody here.

29 I'd like to talk to the oil
30 companies here. He says this pipeline that you're

1 | putting in, it would be under-water, maybe, or on land.
2 | If you happen to run out of oil over there, he said are
3 | you going to take up your pipe?

4 | THE COMMISSIONER: Abandonment.

5 | MR. MIROSH: Well, first of
6 | all I should explain that natural gas pipeline is
7 | different from an oil pipeline. Natural gas is like
8 | air rather than like gasoline in your car's gas tank.
9 | But to answer your question about what we would do
10 | with the pipe, it would be buried under-ground, it
11 | would go under rivers and streams, and the land on top
12 | of the pipeline would be restored to its original
13 | condition except the trees wouldn't be there. The
14 | pipeline would stay in the ground for 30 or 40 or 50
15 | years.

16 | THE INTERPRETER: Us natives
17 | here, he says, when we trap he says we use traps and
18 | it's metal, and when we are finished trapping he says
19 | we pick them up again. It would spoil the water with
20 | rust and stuff.

21 | THE COMMISSIONER: No answer.
22 | Thank you.

23 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

24 |
25 | THE COMMISSIONER: Is there
26 | someone else who wishes to speak?

27 |
28 | FRANCOIS PAUL KING sworn:

29 | THE INTERPRETER: Francois
30 | Paul King. He says I was in the hospital in the year

1 of 1972 and there was a pipeline between McMurray and
2 Waterways, and the pipeline burst, busted. The fall
3 migration, flow from that pipeline busting, killed a
4 lot of the geese that were migrating south in the fall,
5 and they were all dead, those that landed. A thousand
6 of them birds died. There was an inch and a half of
7 oil on top on the surface of the water and it soaked
8 the birds' feathers right through, and they were unable
9 to migrate any further. There was a decrease in the
10 geese, there are not quite so many now.

11 I watched it on T.V. too, he
12 says, while I was in the hospital. Even young beaver,
13 he said, I see them holding the young beaver up, he
14 said, that died on account of this oil flow. That time
15 we're talking about now, he said, if it happened to
16 bust, break, or spring a leak or something, he said it
17 would happen the same way. He says if it happens
18 further up north, he said, where the geese are going to
19 nest, it would destroy them. He said it took a long
20 time before they found out that there was a leak there.
21 He said that by that time it was too late. That can
22 happen up here too.

23 Some of those birds prohibited
24 us to kill them in closed season, yet they were all
25 destroyed. Now there's not so many geese; even moose
26 are getting scarce around here. Even caribou, he said,
27 there used to be lots of caribou and all of a sudden
28 they disappeared for so many years. Only last winter
29 they began coming back again. I am 73 years old. I
30 still want to go out to hunt and trap yet. Now,

1 he said, I only get \$125 because they took some back
2 away from me, and I only get 125, So maybe I'll be found
3 dead in the bush hunting. He said his father died in
4 his tracks hunting; my father died in his tracks
5 hunting. He said I don't know about myself, he said
6 maybe I won't be dead in the hospital either.

7 That's all I have to say.

8 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
9 very much.

10 (WITNESS ASIDE)

11 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes sir?

12

13 JIM RIDSDALE sworn:

14 THE WITNESS: My name is Jim
15 Ridsdale. I have not been -- I would like this
16 translated, please. I have not been in the Northwest
17 Territories very long. This is going onto my second
18 year. I thought it might be of some value for a
19 person who has lived in the south and who has
20 experienced some of the things in the north to give
21 some of my views of what -- of some of the things that
22 I have learned here.

23 Many people down south have
24 been speaking about the pipeline and of oil and of gas,
25 and they have said that we must have these things for
26 progress. Well, you are looking at someone right now
27 who grew up in a place that the area down south that is
28 always talking about progress, but from what I have
29 experienced I don't think it is very good progress.

30 I saw the progress that they

1 | wanted down south produce pollution in the air that you
2 | can't hardly breathe, and the only time that I've
3 | experienced a complete type of fresh air is since I've
4 | come up here. Progress in the south put my-grandfather
5 | in a factory where he had to work in order to make a
6 | living, and I saw that progress cause him to have lung
7 | cancer because of working over the polluted moulding
8 | making iron, the moulding factory.

9 | I've seen that progress
10 | produce children in cities that the only place that
11 | they can go to see a wild animal is behind bars in a
12 | cage in a. zoo. I've seen that progress produce
13 | people living in such tight areas that they're
14 | packed in like sardines, and they can hardly relate
15 | to each other, there's such mass, there's so much
16 | confusion, there is so much tension, and there is so
17 | much frustration from lack of connection with
18 | nature. I've seen that progress produce automobiles
19 | which take over the cities of people, where people
20 | aren't important any more, it seems, but automobiles
21 | have a preference, they seem to be a little more
22 | important than people.

23 | I came up here with my wife
24 | and my child to try to get away from that kind of
25 | progress. I hope very much that that kind of progress
26 | that caused those conditions that I grew up in don't
27 | happen here. That's all I have to say.

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

30 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

1 FATHER LOUIS MENEZ, sworn:
2 THE WITNESS: My name is Lou
3 Menez, and I've been asked to give a kind of historical
4 background to the different types of development that
5 took place in the Fort Resolution area. I will not
6 mention all the development that took place or started
7 to take place, but some, like the fur trade,
8 transportation, sawmill

9 THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me,
10 father, don't feel that you have to leave anything out.
11 You give me the full account of what you intend to say.
12 That's fine with me. I'm happy to listen.

13 A O.K., thank you very
14 much, sir. Well I'll start with the fur trade, and to
15 this point only that up to the boom of the fur business
16 in 1910, many trading posts of the north were run by
17 native people as manager or quite a few were assistant
18 manager 18 or doing some kind of odd job on the trading
19 post. Most of the ancestors of the families at Fort
20 Resolution -- grandfathers and great grandfathers --
21 were managers of the trading post; but when the fur
22 boom, when the price of fur became very good and also
23 because the life-style of the north became easier and
24 communication with the south became more easier, yes,
25 then for one reason or another the native people were
26 pushed to the side and replaced by outsiders.

27 Something I will repeat about
28 every development, those outsiders came and spent a few
29 years and went back and were replaced by others.

30 I should mention also at that

1 | time from 1910 up to 1940, the outsiders -- we used to
2 | call them the white trappers were numerous in the area.
3 | They were in because the fur price was very good and
4 | very high, and they were doing about a 10 or 20, or 100
5 | times. better than the native people in the trapping
6 | business. Now one reason is because they were greedy,
7 | and the native people are not, and they were just
8 | taking from the land what they needed. The main reason
9 | why they were doing so was because the white trappers
10 | knew how to use poison, the best bait to get the
11 | animals. Evidently by doing so well, they clean out
12 | some area of all the fur animal of the area. Then they
13 | left and went south richer.

14 | Well, let's go now to the
15 | transportation business. Up to 1940 or '45, most of
16 | the river pilots were native people, and all the
17 | deckhands were native people. I'm quite sure Gabe
18 | could talk, but not tonight perhaps, although he got
19 | that in his mind, it's on his conscience.

20 | O.K., so what happened then
21 | while a new fleet were added to the Hudson's Bay Company
22 | like "El Dorado" and "Chief", and right away they put
23 | new markers not new markers, simply markers on the river
24 | to show the sandbar. They imported the pilots from the
25 | south and push on the side the native people who were
26 | doing their job. That included the deckhands who were
27 | replaced by university -- by students from the south.
28 | Yes, not in the winter season.

29 | Then let's go now to the
30 | sawmill.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me,
2 just before you leave that --

3 A Yes?

4 Q Captain Tetrault at Hay
5 River -- we had a hearing there --

6 A Yes.

7 Q -- told me about that.
8 That happened just after the war, I gather.

9 A Well, it started perhaps
10 some of those who were working on the boat at that time
11 will tell you.

12 Q That's all right. Don't
13 worry about it.

14 A Mod could talk about it
15 if you want.

16 Q Well, you carry on.
17 Carry on.

18 A O.K., sawmill is a
19 pretty old industry in Fort Resolution, I think it was
20 around 1850 or somewhere around that, that's the old
21 sawmill, and much later on in 1910 the Catholic Mission
22 had their own sawmill built. Those two sawmills were,
23 may I say, for private use to build northern store,
24 churches, school and so on.

25 But then came the gold rush of
26 Yellowknife and evidently they couldn't get their lumber
27 by plane, especially in those days, so what they did was
28 almost each company from Yellowknife -- the Giant, Con,
29 Negus, opened their own Sawmills along the Slave River,
30 as a private enterprise for construction

1 projects in Yellowknife.

2 I came here to Resolution for
3 the first time in 1949. There were about three or four
4 sawmills along the Slave River, and all kinds of jobs
5 for the people here in town. But the highway opened
6 between Grimshaw and Hay River, there was a last link
7 between the south and the north, and as far as Hay
8 River is concerned. There was the same talk in the
9 gold mines and the building company didn't need any
10 more the service of our lumber and of the labor force.
11 They were getting their lumber from their friend in the
12 south.

13 Perhaps I should add here a
14 remark the way that operation went. There were,
15 whatever you call it, semi-portable sawmill, easy to
16 move from one place to another one, and what they did,
17 those sawmills, was to pick out the best trees here and
18 there, most accessible, and that's the type of
19 operation that's very detrimental to the forest.

20 Q We used to call them
21 gypos in British Columbia.

22 A It was because the roots
23 are not very deep in the ground so if you cut the best,
24 the biggest ones who offer lots of protection from the
25 wind to the others, you take them out, you cut them
26 out, the next storm the whole batch of wood, of timbers
27 are downed with the wind.

28 So like previous development
29 we had before, those also left behind big holes in the
30 forest, and the native people without jobs or without

1 source of income. When that highway opened, something
2 happened at Fort Smith. Our friends, they lost their
3 sole business, transportation, and Fort Smith at that
4 time was more or less the capital of the north and it
5 was full of what we call government people or Civil
6 Servants. So I suppose they got altogether to think
7 about how to put new blood in the town as far as
8 business and development is concerned. They found
9 nothing better than to build a big hospital and a big
10 school, and in doing that they closed down the big
11 small hospital we had here and the residential school
12 we had here also. Bearing in mind that that was a kind
13 of institution, due to the lack of communication with
14 the south that employed about another 10 to 15 people
15 men and women, working for the school and for the
16 hospital. The highway, which is called development,
17 had a contrary effect on Fort Resolution, and then it
18 was taken away from all the business we had here, the
19 development we had here -sawmill, the school and the
20 hospital were taken away from them and without
21 compensation from them.

22 Q You mean the completion
23 of the highway to Hay River?

24 A To Hay River, yes.

25 Q That was 1958, was it?

26 A No, no, no. In '51,
27 '52, somewhere around there. But at the same time
28 there was some light in the sky with commercial fishing
29 coming on. The native people were not invited into the
30 adventure, and the fishermen from the south came with

1 | their own crew. You will hear more about the beautiful
2 | fish we had here, the trout is the fish that was 2530-
3 | 36 pounds, up to 50. We used to catch them in the nets
4 | in the summer, but the most interesting part of it that
5 | fish was during the winter. The head man of the family
6 | would set about half a dozen of hooks under the ice and
7 | run the hooks every second and third day, and almost
8 | there was enough to provide food for a family --
9 | almost. But one day it was in December, 1950, yes, I
10 | was myself fishing for the hospital, and when I went to
11 | the lake early in the morning I was surprised to see
12 | about four caboose of fishermen around the shore and
13 | getting ready to set their nets, and each caboose with
14 | a crew of three or four men were setting them about
15 | three or four miles of nets.

16 | It goes without saying that
17 | before the end of the winter the trout were gone for
18 | good and never came back. They are not in the north
19 | any more. They left with their catch and their money
20 | to the south. Some retired to Hay River, and are now
21 | very successful business men;

22 | The Dene, the people, the
23 | natives are still here and they lost the company of the
24 | trout. I think I'll pass by Pine Point, I'll leave
25 | that to others to talk about in their own way.

26 | Now you know from the so-
27 | called development I've just recalled, the people of
28 | Fort Resolution have this in mind, that they are pushed
29 | on the side, they've been pushed on the side, they are
30 | still pushed on the side by outsiders. It was and it

1 | is a ripoff of our land by those people, and the most,
2 | perhaps the most frustrating of all for the Dene, for
3 | the people is to say waves after waves of outsiders
4 | invading their homeland starting some kind-of business
5 | or industry or company or working for high wages, and
6 | when they've got it made they go back home, to il-
7 | lustrate by another way just like ptarmigans, you know,
8 | you see them one day and they are gone the next day.

9 | I want to make it clear that
10 | the people, the Indians, the Dene, there is a group of
11 | people from outside, outsiders, they are coming here and
12 | they are not necessarily money-hungry, I mean they have
13 | to make a living, eh, but they come here to fulfill a
14 | job, to make a job, and the native people don't want or
15 | cannot fulfill like teaching, nursing, keeping law and
16 | order, managing a sawmill like this one, or being the
17 | manager of a co-op, so the people include that category
18 | on those money-hungry minded outsiders.

19 | Now I'm not making a story
20 | about that ripoff mind of the people. I have a
21 | clipping from "The Yellowknifer", May 1st, 1975. It
22 | was an interview that was conducted by the editor of
23 | that paper and the question he asked to eight people
24 | was:

25 | "What was your incentive to come to Yellowknife?"

26 | "What was the reason you came to Yellowknife?"

27 | Bob answered, "To make my
28 | million."

29 | And Charles said that he came
30 | north, was asked to come up to a job "and I wanted to

1 | have a look at the country."

2 | Bob said, "I came north to
3 | make bigger money."

4 | There's a third Bob here, and
5 | he says, "A good job with good money."

6 | Chris said, "Money more than
7 | anything."

8 | And then Fred, "I came to
9 | make money, that's my main interest."

10 | There's two ladies, one said,
11 | "My husband had a job here."

12 | The other lady had a good
13 | answer also, "Well, I had no choice, I was born here."

14 | The last two, they didn't
15 | come for money but you can read between the lines that
16 | like the last one didn't have a choice, but, "When I
17 | will be free to choose, I will go south."

18 | You know when you talk about
19 | development evidently it's at all levels -- cultural
20 | economical, spiritual, political -- and I don't think
21 | so nobody would argue with that descriptive definition
22 | of the word that development is the making of a
23 | complete person, but I would say from the people, to
24 | repeat the famous phrase," from the people, by the
25 | people for the people."

26 | Now the question is: Who are
27 | the true people of the north, who have the right to
28 | decide about the life-style of the northerner? To some
29 | t lie answer is simple, all Canadians who live in the
30 | north. So it's very simple then because according to

1 | the official statistics, 50% are native and 50% are
2 | white. Perhaps 90% of the white population come north
3 | for a short period of one to ten years at the most. To
4 | give you an example, at Fort Resolution there is
5 | perhaps -- there are perhaps from 25 to 30 positions to
6 | be filled by outsiders, white people, and in the last
7 | ten years we have seen well over 100 different faces, I
8 | would say, filling those positions.

9 | I was talking with somebody
10 | the other day and we agreed that the people of the
11 | north, the true ones, are those who have no other
12 | choice than to be buried in the graveyard at Fort
13 | Resolution or other places in the north.

14 | If you go to the local grave
15 | yard here there are two white adults buried here, and
16 | two children, And the graveyard is 85 years old. The
17 | conclusion is this, that the population coming from
18 | outside is a transient group who have no intention to
19 | settle in the north, there is no settlers in the north.
20 | With all honesty, the transient group - and I say that
21 | a minimum of 95% of the white population don't have the
22 | right to decide the life-style or development of the
23 | people, of the Dene. I go further, I would like to
24 | make a little distinction. There is quite a few
25 | people, few white people who will agree with that
26 | statement that the transient group has no right to
27 | decide the life-style of the people. That's the second
28 | group. But many, I don't know how big is that group,
29 | but I think it's quite great, that white people are
30 | indifferent of what kind of development we have, and

1 | don't give a damn because they know there is enough a
2 | time left to make their million.

3 | Then there is a third group
4 | -- third category, who are interested enough with the
5 | north, and who like to see the same type of development
6 | they have witnessed in the south. To those people I'd
7 | like to, when I have a chance to tell a story, a story
8 | I made up myself, a kind of parable, if you want.
9 | Well, let's suppose that today the Indians of Fort
10 | Resolution, they go south and through some almost
11 | supernatural power they acquire the same power that the
12 | white people have in the northland, so those Indians
13 | that go south, they decide that trapping and hunting is
14 | the "A" thing, is the best for them. That's what the
15 | Indians decide, so no more farmland, everything becomes
16 | trapping and hunting grounds, and well, let's blow up
17 | that dam there because it's no good for the fish
18 | anyway, and so the fish will be able to go upstream and
19 | spawn. There would be no more electric power left for
20 | the people in the cities, so they have to disperse in
21 | the country.

22 | You see, my story is the
23 | reverse of what is happening in the north, and the
24 | Indians are very good, repeat all the time to those
25 | people, "Well, we are all equal, you have the same
26 | opportunity as us to trap and to hunt. The game is
27 | there. What you don't know, we're going to teach you,
28 | and when we have finished teaching you, well there is
29 | no trapline or hunting ground left for the white people
30 | because the Indians took it.

1 Evidently because the white people, they don't have
2 much success in hunting and trapping, the good Indians
3 give them a tent, a cheap one. They have to pay rent,
4 to pay two beaver pelts.

5 Everything is done without
6 paper, constitution, by-laws, and everything is done in
7 the Indian language, and the Indians declare we're all
8 equal, you are not Canadians any more, you would be
9 called the Dene nation, and evidently those Indians
10 they are like the ptarmigans or like the white people
11 who came north, when they have made it, when they are
12 rich enough, they come back north and they are replaced
13 by other poor Indians who go south to get rich.
14 Perhaps in the local newspaper they will have an
15 interview, instead of Bob, there would be Doubleshot,
16 or whatever name you have for him, and asking Mod
17 Manneville why you came south.

18 Now, what would be the
19 reaction of the people of the south if that happened?
20 Exactly the same reaction that the people of the north
21 have today. "Leave us alone. This is our land, our
22 lives, you have no right to tell us what lifestyle we
23 should follow."

24 What the people of the north
25 are saying really is, "We are intelligent enough to
26 look at your life-style in the south, at your
27 inventions, at your roads, at your services; we can make
28 a choice and take the best and pay for it. We don't
29 have to take pollution, crimes, riot, drugs, racism,
30 kidnapping, hijacking, bank robbing with hostages,

1 | war and so on. We don't have to pick out the president
2 | of the Indian Brotherhood as a target for shooting, like
3 | you do in some other countries."

4 | But anyway, another thing,
5 | we don 't have to pay \$1,000 a day to a guy that goes
6 | and cracks the skull of opponent with the hockey
7 | stick and pay \$30 a day to a nurse who helps to mend
8 | the same broken skull. You know, those are the
9 | things we don't have to take. To show that what kind
10 | of development the part of the people want, I take a
11 | local example that happened not too many years ago,
12 | seven years ago.

13 | The government wanted to
14 | start a good sawmill here, and they sent somebody would
15 | know how to operate a sawmill. He was a successful
16 | operator of a sawmill in the northern part of Alberta
17 | and he came here to make a feasibility study how the
18 | sawmill should be operated and set and so on Why I know
19 | about it, he was staying with me at my place and he
20 | came with a recommendation that a sawmill was possible
21 | at Fort Resolution on one condition, that it must
22 | produce 15 million board feet of lumber a year. To sum
23 | up, a big sawmill, two or three shifts and one hundred
24 | people employed. The government did not follow his
25 | recommendation, not because he was no good but because
26 | they didn't have the money. And thank God because he
27 | had forgotten to tell us that today, if that sawmill
28 | would have started here seven years ago in such
29 | grandeur or grandness there would be no sawmill
30 | at Fort Resolution because there will

1 | be no timber left around, and this is what happened
2 | exactly to his own sawmill in Northern Alberta. Two
3 | years ago they move away, they produce for about 10 or
4 | 12 years, 50 million board feet, but they had to move
5 | now, there is no timber left, and they move about 150
6 | miles away and left behind a sorry big-sized hole in
7 | the land, and a village of 1,500 people, Fort Chipewan,
8 | with no source of income, no jobs.

9 | The local sawmill actually is
10 | working under a completely different philosophy
11 | approach, but I let manager of the sawmill talk about
12 | it. Just one thing, I don't think Ray will mention it,
13 | but I want to mention it.

14 | In the Northwest Territories
15 | they use about 17 million board feet a year for
16 | construction of different projects. In the Northwest
17 | Territories they produce no more than or million board
18 | feet.

19 | THE COMMISSIONER: All the
20 | sawmills now produce five or six million board feet?

21 | A Altogether, yes.

22 | Q All the sawmills in the
23 | Territories?

24 | A Yes. The oil company
25 | and the construction company working in the north are
26 | repeating all the time, "We'll use the local material."
27 | The question is: Why then we have million of board
28 | feet waiting for a customer in the lumber yard at Fort
29 | Resolution? Why? For the same reason that there is
30 | not a single piece of lumber from the local sawmill

1 | in that school, in this school, not one. single piece
2 | of lumber from our sawmill was used to build this
3 | school here. I suppose if you are a southern
4 | corporation you must do some favors to your- friends in
5 | the south and to hell with the native sawmill.

6 | By the way, Mr. Berger, the
7 | lumber is brought up from the south to build this
8 | school/had no other choice for storage than the local
9 | lumber yard, adding irony to insult.

10 | That's my conclusion and
11 | that's enough. I'm sorry, I'm a preacher so I have to
12 | be long.

13 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you
14 | very much, father. We'll be
15 | here tomorrow too, and if you decide there's anything
16 | left out that you want to put back in I'll be happy to
17 | hear from you again.

18 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

19 | THE COMMISSIONER: Ladies and
20 | gentlemen, it's after ten o'clock and I'm going to be
21 | here tomorrow afternoon and again tomorrow night, so
22 | that I can listen to those of you who still wish to
23 | speak. So I. think it's agreeable to everyone that we
24 | should adjourn now, and I understand there is going to
25 | be a dance, so -- well, that wasn't my idea -- we'll
26 | adjourn now and I want to thank all of you who spoke
27 | today because I spend 'lot of my time listening to
28 | experts from the south give evidence at Yellowknife, and
29 | that's very interesting and very helpful to me, but it
30 | is just as helpful to me, and I must say an awful lot

1 | more interesting, to listen to what you people who live
2 | here, who make the north your home, have to say. What
3 | each of you said is important to me, and helpful to me,
4 | and I want you to know I pay attention to what each of
5 | you has said. What each of you has said has been taken
6 | down so that I can read it and re-read it and continue
7 | to learn from it.

8 | I will look forward to seeing
9 | you all again at one o'clock tomorrow. We'll start
10 | again at one o'clock tomorrow here at the school and
11 | carry on tomorrow afternoon and tomorrow evening.

12 | Professor Jackson, maybe you
13 | would see what you can do about getting Father Menez to
14 | come over to Yellowknife to the formal hearings.

15 | We'll see you tomorrow then.

16 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO OCTOBER 8, 1975)

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