

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)

**Holman, N.W.T.**  
**March 2, 1976**

PROCEEDINGS AT COMMUNITY HEARING

**Volume 41**

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for C.O.P.E.

Jack Marshall

for Canadian Arctic  
Gas Pipeline Lim-  
ited;

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1 Holman, N.W.T.

2 March 2, 1976.

3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED PURSUANT TO ADJOURNMENT)

4 THE COMMISSIONER: I'll call  
5 our meeting to order. I am Judge Berger, and I am here  
6 because the Committee for Original People's Entitlement  
7 asked me to come to hear what you wanted to say about  
8 the proposed pipeline and oil and gas development in  
9 the Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea.

10 There are two companies,  
11 Arctic Gas and Foothills, competing for the right to  
12 build a pipeline to bring natural gas from the Arctic  
13 to markets in the south.

14 The Government of Canada will  
15 have to decide about this. But the government is in  
16 Ottawa running the country so they have sent me here to  
17 the north to find out what you think about all this.

18 So I am here to see what will  
19 happen here in the north if a pipeline is built; but  
20 not just to see what will happen if a gas pipeline is  
21 built. The government has said that an oil pipeline  
22 will follow if a gas pipeline is built. In fact, the  
23 companies that have found gas in the Mackenzie Delta -  
24 that is Gulf, Shell and Imperial -- have announced that  
25 they want to build a pipeline to bring oil from the  
26 delta along the Mackenzie Valley to Southern Canada, So  
27 I have to see then what would happen if a gas pipeline  
28 and/an oil pipeline are constructed.

29 Now I have been in Inuvik since  
30 January 20th hearing evidence about the gas plants and

1 gathering lines that will be developed in the delta if a  
2 pipeline is built. I have also been hearing evidence  
3 about the likely course of oil and gas exploration and  
4 development in the delta and in the Beaufort Sea. We  
5 have been told that if a pipeline is built, oil and gas  
6 exploration will reach Banks Island and Victoria Island.  
7 That will mean seismic exploration onshore and offshore,  
8 and exploratory drilling.

9   The pipeline, if it is built,  
10 will be the greatest project ever undertaken by private  
11 enterprise in the history of the world. We are told  
12 that 6,000 men will be required to build the pipeline  
13 and that it will take three years to build. We are  
14 told that 1,200 more workers will be required to build  
15 the gas plants in the delta.

16   We are told by the pipeline  
17 companies and the oil and gas industry that there will  
18 be jobs for native people on the construction of  
19 pipeline and jobs for native people on seismic crews  
20 and on drilling rigs. Already native people are being  
21 flown in regularly from Coppermine to work in oil and  
22 gas operations in the Mackenzie Delta.

23   Given the thousands of men  
24 that will be needed to build the pipeline, and to work  
25 in the oil and gas industry, you may be given the  
26 opportunity of working on the pipeline and in the oil  
27 and gas industry of the delta. Because you see we have  
28 been told that if the pipeline is built there will be  
29 increased oil and gas exploration activity, all of these  
30 things must be examined if we are to understand what

1 | the pipeline will mean to the north, that is why we are  
2 | in Holman today.

3 | I know that you are concerned  
4 | about drilling for oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea.  
5 | Dome Petroleum wants to drill two exploration wells in  
6 | deep water in the Beaufort Sea this summer. The  
7 | Government of Canada wants to know whether there is oil  
8 | and gas in the Beaufort Sea so they have decided to let  
9 | Dome go ahead. I have no right to examine that  
10 | decision. I think that you are concerned for oil and  
11 | gas in the Beaufort Sea. Dome Petroleum wants to drill  
12 | two exploration wells in deep water this summer.  
13 | Because the Government of Canada wants to know whether  
14 | there is oil and gas in the Beaufort Sea, they have  
15 | decided to let Dome go ahead, and I have no right to  
16 | examine the wisdom of that decision that the government  
17 | has decided that the risk is acceptable.

18 | But let me go on to say this if  
19 | the gas pipeline is built and an oil pipeline follows  
20 | there will be an extension of the margins of exploration  
21 | beyond the delta and into the Beaufort Sea, that is there  
22 | will be an expansion of oil and gas exploration into the  
23 | Beaufort Sea and the implications of that are what concern  
24 | you, I have no doubt. They concern me as well.

25 | If the gas pipeline is built,  
26 | and an oil pipeline, then there will be more and more  
27 | exploration in the Beaufort Sea, It is that risk that I  
28 | am looking into, what will happen if you get more and  
29 | more exploration, more and more drilling, more and more  
30 | exploration wells, development wells and gathering lines

1 under the sea. I will let the government know what I  
2 consider the magnitude of that risk to be.

3 We have been holding hearings  
4 all over the north and have been to 22 communities in the  
5 north, and we have heard from more than 600 witnesses who  
6 live here in the north. That's why I'm here today, to  
7 listen to you and to let you help me in advising the  
8 government about the consequences of pipelines being built  
9 from the north and the expansion of oil and gas  
10 exploration and development that it will bring.

11 I can't decide whether all of  
12 this is going to happen. I have to listen to you and  
13 then report to the Government of Canada, make my  
14 recommendations to them, and then they, the government,  
15 in Ottawa, will decide whether to go ahead.

16 Now I want you people to tell  
17 me what you think and that's why I'm here. These other  
18 people are here with me. I'll tell you why they came  
19 along. This is Miss Hutchinson, the secretary of the  
20 Inquiry. The young lady with the mask over her face and  
21 the young man next to her are putting on tape everything  
22 you say, so it can be typed up and printed and we will  
23 be able to look it up and remember what you say here  
24 today and tomorrow to make sure we don't forget it. The  
25 men and women at that table at the side of the hall are  
26 with the C.B.C. They travel with the Inquiry and  
27 broadcast each night over the radio and on television,  
28 and they are Whit Fraser, who broadcasts in English; Abe  
29 Ookpik, who broadcasts in your own language, Jim  
30 Sittichinli, who broadcasts in Louchux; Louis Blondin



1 | who broadcasts in Slavey; and Joe Toby, who broadcasts  
2 | in Dogrib and Chippewyan; and the other ladies and  
3 | gentlemen are from newspapers in Southern Canada who  
4 | come here because people in Southern Canada want to know  
5 | what is going on here and what you have to say to them.

6 |                                 Well, I've said enough. Well  
7 | we can hear from you, yes sir?

8 |                                 (WALLACE GOOSE SWORN AS  
9 | INTERPRETER)

10 |                                 JIMMY MEMOGANA sworn:

11 |                                 THE INTERPRETER: Jimmy said  
12 | that he welcome you people, that you're here to help the  
13 | people, and also you want to hear what they have to say.  
14 | He'll be glad to say what he knows about it. He says  
15 | that's all he has to say. He will talk late on after  
16 | these old people have to tell their story.

17 |                                 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
18 | sir.

19 |                                 (WITNESS ASIDE)

20 |                                 MARK MEMARAK sworn:

21 |                                 THE INTERPRETER: He said he's  
22 | going to tell story all right as far as he could  
23 | remember when he was a little boy. He was born in  
24 | Cambridge Bay and then from there he will try and  
25 | remember back as far as he could.

26 |                                 He said he remember as far  
27 | back he was born in Cambridge Bay, and now he's going to  
28 | tell it right now. Also he used to be in Coppermine  
29 | when he was a young man, he walk in land and hunt  
30 | caribou and so on.



1 out in straight ice way out and they just take just bow  
2 and arrows, and he said they could spend ten days out  
3 there without nothing, they go only one dog and so on,  
4 and when they get polar bears, when they go out there  
5 and get the polar bear and they cut a piece of meat  
6 right away and they put it on a piece of stick and tie  
7 it up to freeze it up, so that's the meal they're going  
8 to eat it frozen, polar bear meat.

9 One time when they went out  
10 there, really hard time to eat, the polar bear frozen,  
11 they used to eat it; when they see somebody start doing  
12 that also himself beginning to like it later on.

13 The people, when they start  
14 going out in real cold weather like that, they just go  
15 out to hunt polar bear and just take their bow and  
16 arrows and one dog and they live like that, those  
17 hunters at that time, as far as he could remember.

18 When they start to make camp  
19 they built snow houses and they use a snow block for  
20 pillows. He said even if they're cold already they have  
21 to live like that in the night.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry, do  
23 you, want to repeat that? You build a snow house

24 THE INTERPRETER: They build a  
25 snow house when they camp and they got nothing else or  
26 anything for pillows but they use snow block as a  
27 pillow, and spend the night like that, in cold weather.

28 It's really hard to use a bow  
29 and arrow the first time he start to use it. He said  
30 sometimes the birds are easiest to kill with a bow and

1 | arrow. He remember the fishers says it's easiest in the  
2 | old time because they could go in the lake and fish and  
3 | they would get fish any place in the lakes. It was  
4 | easiest life for him. (WITNESS ASIDE)

5 | CHARLIE KILOLAIKAK, sworn:

6 | THE INTERPRETER: Mark Nemarak  
7 | is an old-timer on Holman Island. There was only three  
8 | families here at that time, 1940s; but right now he said  
9 | right now he's going to speak about his life.

10 | THE COMMISSIONER: Fine.

11 | THE INTERPRETER: He's one of  
12 | the oldest people on Holman Island, He was born in Mount  
13 | Fair, I mean Minto Inlet, as far back as he remember, he  
14 | said he was born there. His parents, they camp at Mount  
15 | Fair and then they rest when they finish, everybody  
16 | going out hunting polar bear, hibernated polar bear stay  
17 | in Mount Fair, The people that used to hunt there is  
18 | their grandparents and their ancestors used to hunt  
19 | there for polar bear hibernating in Mount Fair. He said  
20 | when they went there they get a polar bear right away  
21 | because they know there was a polar bear used to  
22 | hibernate there. They get the polar bear meat, they  
23 | were glad to get the polar bear meat and they get that  
24 | polar bear soon as they were finishing their snow house.

25 | He don't remember that time  
26 | but that time he was too small to hunt when they were  
27 | staying in Mount Fair. He said he started to grow up  
28 | there in Minto Inlet and he was getting bigger at that  
29 | time. Even though he didn't grow very fast that time he  
30 | remember he was in Minto Inlet.

1 He imagine that he could tell  
2 about when he was starting hunting by himself, but his  
3 memory is bad, but he remembers the people used to hunt  
4 around, fish and caribous and seal and so on. They are  
5 overlapping hunting with bow and arrows and harpoons and  
6 everything. He says he knows that the people that time  
7 used to hunt all kinds, as far back as he could  
8 remember, and he was beginning to hunt himself using  
9 fish and seals and caribous and so on. He remember his  
10 uncle was one of the best hunters. He say every time  
11 when he go out he always get caribou right away inland  
12 when he went, and never came back empty-handed.

13 He said he know that every  
14 time he goes out his uncle, when he come back with a  
15 caribou, everybody was glad in the cold weather to share  
16 that caribou meat. The first polar bear he get at that  
17 time with his bow and arrow, even though those bow and  
18 arrows were a little bit too strong for him, and he got  
19 two dogs to surround the polar bear, and he got close to  
20 it, he was hunting with old Mark here at that time. He  
21 say that's his first polar bear and he got him right in  
22 the body with his bow and arrow, first polar bear he  
23 get.

24 The first arrow he shot him  
25 close right there in his shoulder, and the polar bear  
26 just dropped dead right there. Once they get that polar  
27 bear they split it, him and Memarak and Charlie, and they  
28 bring it home. They used the skin for a sled. That's  
29 his uncle, you know he used to go hunting together the  
30 first day when they start hunting, they all go together.

1 First time when he started  
2 hunting with him, they get real low sometime, they get  
3 empty-handed going home, there were lots when they both  
4 together going out hunting.

5 Everybody when they heard they  
6 were going out again hunting polar bears to Nelson Head,  
7 so the both of them they started going with those  
8 hunter'. Everybody used to go out hunting from way back  
9 at Prince Albert Sound, take their wives and families and  
10 go to Nelson Head for polar bear hunting. Lots of people  
11 used to go together, even though they have to camp; at  
12 that time they say they don't have too many dogs, but  
13 they have to help their dogs to pull a sled themself, and  
14 dragging the sled, and then when it time to camp they  
15 don't travel, even though they go far, even their wives  
16 have to pull a sled themself to help the dogs, and when  
17 they camp they bring the dogs in to warm their: feet in  
18 the night in the snow house and they use a snow block for  
19 a pillow. He say they spend a night that way.

20 Once they finished through  
21 hunting polar bears, from Nelson Head they have to go  
22 back across to Minto Inlet, there's an island they call  
23 Napigakvik, and everybody gather there when they are  
24 through hunting polar bears. Then when they go to that  
25 Napigakvik, they're getting ready to go inland, they go  
26 right in the bottom for summertime before the breakup  
27 they go in the bottom of Minto Inlet. When they go in  
28 Minto Inlet in the summer they go in the lake fishing;  
29 they wait for the ground to dry up, the mud, and they do  
30 fishing in the lakes, wait for the ground to dry.

1                                   He said when they are ready to  
2 go, when the ground, they think they are dry, they start  
3 to go north for caribou hunting, and when they get  
4 caribous they keep burying them with the rocks so the  
5 wolf and fox can't get it. He said he had hard time to  
6 get caribou that time himself. When they started getting  
7 a few caribou, he started to learn better all the time,  
8 even though they had hard time to get caribous.

9                                   He remember he used to go as  
10 close as possible and use a rock shelter to get close to  
11 the caribous and then from there they start shooting  
12 them with bow and arrows. They usually shot from like a  
13 shelter -- not a shelter of rocks, they use the rocks --  
14 what do you call that again? He said they used to make  
15 some kind of a corral, they put up the rocks and lined  
16 it up on one side and then when they finished it they  
17 did the same thing on the other side. They make it  
18 narrow like this right to the end where the caribous  
19 could follow those Inukshuk, go between them, and then  
20 from there the hunter is facing where you make a shelter  
21 so the caribou couldn't see them among the rocks piled  
22 up, and they go in, and hunt there with their bow and  
23 arrows. They hunt caribous like that in the old time.

24                                  When he was getting better and  
25 he used to get lots of caribous and save the skins for  
26 clothing and sleeping rugs for caribous. They don't  
27 throw nothing at that time.

28                                  He wants to tell story about  
29 himself that he got those two bulls himself alone. He  
30 said the hunters, they pass those two bulls and

1 himself with the other guy, they started to go to those  
2 two bulls by themselves and started to head them, keep  
3 running behind their heel, then they head those two  
4 bulls. The other guy, he went to the first shelter,  
5 and himself he went to the farthest shelter. So he'll  
6 probably tell you he's going to let the first one pass,  
7 so he got a chance himself with bow and arrow he's going  
8 to get the last one. Those got names, those shelters.  
9 Kivalikyaok was first shelter; Agiaghelok was second.  
10 He let the first one pass with his bow and arrow he  
11 missed it, and then the bull started to run to old  
12 Charlie. First one he was getting really close past so  
13 he took his bow and arrow and aimed, and got him right  
14 in the soft spot and he started to get wounded, the first  
15 one. He said in the rush he passed all right, he aimed  
16 his bow and arrow and got him in the hindquarters, the  
17 last one. They both of them started to get wounded in  
18 the same place and he said he started to look around and  
19 after they kill those two bulls himself they couldn't  
20 see any more so they went home. They couldn't do  
21 nothing so they left those two bulls until they went  
22 home, when it got really dark they couldn't see them.

23 They get up next morning, they  
24 took dogs to pack the caribou meat, so they started to  
25 look for those two bulls when they get up in the  
26 morning,. The first one that he killed with his bow and  
27 arrow, the first one he shot he said he was dead right  
28 there in the same place. When they finished that, the  
29 first one,, they skin it. The other one disappeared but  
30 they know that that morning they get fresh snow so they



1 started to track the other one. They got a special name  
2 for the arrows that bull got, himion, that's the name of  
3 it, that arrow, it got copper point. I don't know how  
4 it's shaped, but he say they call it himion, a special  
5 arrow they call it himion. Himself, he said he started  
6 to track that caribou down and when he got farther he  
7 saw that caribou was laying down, then they go ahead of  
8 that caribou and they chase him towards the tents, and  
9 the caribou started running away right away it slow  
10 down. He said the caribou was wounded in a way, he was  
11 trotting because he got an arrow still in the caribou.  
12 He said that arrow went right deep down to the bone,  
13 that's why the caribou slowed down right away. He said  
14 they start to chase that caribou towards the tent and  
15 when they get a little bit closer to the tent, the  
16 caribou wouldn't go any further, and he was still quite  
17 a ways yet to go to the tent. He wouldn't go any  
18 further so he had to kill the caribou right there and he  
19 said he skin it right there, and he give the skin to his  
20 grandfather for his rug, and some of the meat. He says  
21 he remember his gnat grandfather.

22 (WITNESS ASIDE)

23 (MRS. ANNIE GOOSE SWORN AS INTERPRETER)

24 ALBERT PALVIK sworn:

25 THE INTERPRETER: Albert

26 Palvik is going to tell what he remembers also.

27 THE COMMISSIONER: All right, fine.

28 THE INTERPRETER: He's going to  
29 tell what he remembers from the time he start to remember  
30 his first beginning of life. When he first started

1 remembering, he first started hunting things like small  
2 birds and he said it was hard in the beginning when he  
3 first started learning how to hunt. They had hard time  
4 when they first start their hunting, they had to do it  
5 because that's the way it was always done ahead of them,  
6 like their fathers and their forefathers, so they had to  
7 try and learn how to hunt.

8 He said when they first  
9 started hunting they had to always make more and more  
10 shells because their shells for their bow and arrows  
11 always break. They hunted birds, they started going to  
12 ptarmigan hunting, which is bigger than the small birds.  
13 Once in a while they would get a few ptarmigan;  
14 sometimes they would get nothing, on account of they  
15 always get out o-f shells and they break. They were  
16 learning after they were growing up to hunt other things  
17 like when they go out hunting they would get enough to  
18 make a pot of food for themselves.

19 He said when he was grown  
20 older he first got his caribou in the summertime. He  
21 said later on in the summertime when they go caribou  
22 hunting he would get more than a few caribou. He  
23 remembers the time people would keep caribou in the  
24 summertime. He said when they would hunt caribou the  
25 ladies would chase after the caribou. He said when he  
26 first got a seal he got it from the breathing hole of  
27 the seal. He said he doesn't remember how big he was  
28 when he got that seal.

29 He remembers the time when he  
30 first make his trip over to Banks Island. On his trip

1 | over there there was lots of polar bears around Banks  
2 | Island. He remembers times when the polar bears would  
3 | get close to the settlement or to the mainland, and they  
4 | would get polar bear. People who are out hunting would  
5 | kill a polar bear, they would use a snow knife and wrap  
6 | it around a pole or something and use it to kill the  
7 | polar bear. He said that was dangerous. When he first  
8 | tried that it was dangerous but he had to learn that so  
9 | he just had to go along with it. They would kill a  
10 | polar bear that way even though it was dangerous to do  
11 | because they had sleigh dogs to help him along with the  
12 | kill. Albert is going to stop for a while,

13 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

14 |  
15 | MRS. AGNES ALEEKUK sworn:

16 | INTERPRETER MR. GOOSE: She  
17 | said as far back as she could remember she was born in  
18 | the lake, they call it Pusingnajojaq, that's the name of  
19 | the lake where she was born. She said she was born to  
20 | her parents, she was adopted at that time and she says  
21 | she start from there with adopted parents.

22 | She was growing with her  
23 | adopted parents and from there they would take care of  
24 | her because she were adopted child who had no parents.  
25 | She said when she start growing up a bit at that time  
26 | the people used to take a girl for their sons, and from  
27 | there they started raising a girl for their son's wife -  
28 | that's the way it was in the long time, long time ago.  
29 | She said that time old people at that time they got  
30 | their own ways and they used to take a girl for

1 their son's wife, they started raising the girl at that  
2 time. So they start travelling with their mother-in-  
3 laws, they start to take the girl away from their  
4 original parents or stepmothers, they took them for  
5 their son's wife, they started raising the girl for  
6 their son's wife the way they wanted her to be. She  
7 said at that time they start travelling to get away from  
8 her stepparents, they start travelling in the ice and  
9 that time the ice was starting melting and the water on  
10 top of the ice, as far as she could remember.

11 She said while they were  
12 travelling to reach their destination there was a lake  
13 they call Very Good Fish, and from there they start  
14 fishing until the ice is -- they couldn't get to the  
15 ice, and from there they start hunting caribous.

16 She said when it's time to go  
17 out hunting caribou, the pack dogs and people pack their  
18 tents, everything they have, and herself she said they  
19 have to follow behind them, walking behind them -- their  
20 father-in-law or mother-in-law behind them, they had to  
21 follow them walking.

22 From here at that time she  
23 said her step-father-in-law, they crossed to the  
24 mainland to around Bowes Island walking, and the dogs  
25 with the sled and that time they got hardly any dogs and  
26 at that time they have to walk behind the dog team, or  
27 help the dogs to drag the sled.

28 She said when they get to the  
29 mainland every day they travel towards Bowes Island around  
30 the shore across Reid Island, they crossed from Reid

1 | Island to the mainland, and they follow the shore all the  
2 | way down to Bowes Island, packing and pack dogs. She said  
3 | at their destination on Bowes Island she was going to get  
4 | married to their son, but she never got married to their  
5 | son.. He died at that time, when they reach their  
6 | destination to Bowes Island, across there from the  
7 | mainland.

8 |   The fall time comes and they had  
9 | no sled so they used caribou skins for the sled when  
10 | there's snow on the ground, and they bring their whole  
11 | stuff down to the shore where he could find to make a sled  
12 | driftwood. They went to the coast to look for sled, but  
13 | they use caribou skin for sled in the first place to reach  
14 | the coast.

15 |   Then when they reached the coast  
16 | line they looked for a log to make sled, and then they  
17 | found some logs and they started to make sleds, and they  
18 | got sled from there. They never see any other strangers  
19 | themselves, they were living on the coast around there.  
20 | While they were living, some strangers they arrived there.  
21 | We say those strangers they came, at that time they don't  
22 | know nothing about trapping. They say they were new  
23 | travellers they came to their own home, they were  
24 | trappers. But about trapping themselves, they didn't know  
25 | what trapping means at that time.

26 |   She said when those two  
27 | travellers left they heard that there was quite a few  
28 | people and they got some kind of houses, she doesn't know  
29 | what kind, so their parents -- I mean fathers, they start  
30 | to leave to that settlement. There were five families by

1 | the name of Kioaluk. Hikoaluk was the name of the  
2 | families, and they started to go to that settlement where  
3 | they see the strange lady come from. So they started to  
4 | go to those strangers' settlement.

5 |                                   At that time they didn't know  
6 | who they were but after they travelled they came so they  
7 | started going to that settlement, even though we don't  
8 | know who they are at that time, so they got clothing like  
9 | combination caribou skins like herself, one whole piece  
10 | like that is the way they used to make caribou skins, even  
11 | thought they get poor clothing.

12 |                                   When they start travelling when  
13 | they left there, they wintered there and they started to  
14 | go to that settlement and herself and her cousin, they  
15 | were left behind from these five families. They follow  
16 | them by their trail when they get left behind, her cousin  
17 | and herself, nothing else, they start keep going after  
18 | these people when they left behind. When they get left  
19 | behind they follow their trail. When it get dark her  
20 | cousin was a little bit older than her, they got nothing  
21 | to build shelter or anything, they go behind rough ice  
22 | where it should be warmer and they spend the night like  
23 | that. When they remember, they could look up there they  
24 | could see the stars, real clear weather like that. They  
25 | lost their trail, they just followed towards -- they know  
26 | where they going.

27 |                                   She say after they get up  
28 | after spending night like that in the shelter of rough  
29 | ice, when they get really thirsty, they put piece of  
30 | snow in their mouth and melt it, and that's the only

1 thing they eat; and when they reach their old camp they  
2 started to look around for a little bit of meat the family  
3 left behind. They couldn't find nothing, nothing else to  
4 eat or nothing. They couldn't find anything to eat. She  
5 said when they start crossing one big bay from Pearce Point  
6 to Town Cod Bay there was a big bay, they start crossing  
7 it and they find three old houses while they were crossing  
8 that bay, walking, when they get left behind.

9   She said while they're  
10 crossing they get ice on top of it, they are sleeping,  
11 that's the way it is. But the inside towards their skin  
12 were only place they were soft but outside of it they  
13 get full of ice, or else they got nothing else to sleep  
14 on.

15   As they were crossing her  
16 oldest cousin, that little boy, not really little  
17 boy, he was grown up he know what to do but he never  
18 take his cousin to old houses for taking a rest.  
19 Instead of that they go behind a rough ice shelter,  
20 that's how they take their rest, and they tried not  
21 to lose the, trail of people. She said quite a few  
22 nights was real good weather, nice, no clouds,  
23 nothing, while they were left behind. She said  
24 sometimes when they were taking rests sometime when  
25 they camp they start crying. While they were crying,  
26 she doesn't know, they went to sleep. That last day  
27 they get close to the shore, close to our Town camp  
28 town Cod Bay and they were taking a rest and then  
29 from there those two strangers came in, they found  
30 them when they were sleeping.

1   They find out somebody was  
2 talking while they was sleeping and her clothes was  
3 frozen, she tried to put her head up and finally she put  
4 her head up and her clothes was frozen. Those strangers  
5 were talking about like this, they say, "Those two poor  
6 kids, they were frozen to death."

7   At that time even though she  
8 was trying to put her head up, she had hard time to put  
9 her head up because her clothes were frozen. But while  
10 they were talking finally she got her head up and those  
11 two people they get surprised they was still living.  
12 They started to wake her cousin. He was still sleeping.  
13 Those strangers, he didn't know they were there so she  
14 start waking up her cousin, she told him that those  
15 strangers found them. He said he was really glad the  
16 strangers found them.

17    She says one of those families  
18 they were travelling together, the five families, those  
19 families were behind them. Those people found them from  
20 there, that last family that was travelling. A man by  
21 the name of Ogiakkiak he told her cousin and her. They  
22 wouldn't travel very far and they told them, "Don't try  
23 to lose our trail when we camp so you could be in my  
24 house and eat with us every time we camp. Don't try to  
25 lose the trail and follow it real good." That's all that  
26 family told us.

27    When they take a rest when  
28 they reached the shore, they make a shelter, they  
29 started to make tea and while they were making tea there  
30 was a bunch of dog team and they start sliding down from



1 the mainland. She said there was three dog team, one of  
2 them was a white man, and they were digging the storage  
3 from the first people, they arrived to that strangers'  
4 settlement, they heard about there were two orphans left  
5 behind so those three dog teams, they were looking for  
6 these two orphans. They thought they were dead. But  
7 when they found them from there they started to take to  
8 what they call the strangers settlement.

9 She said she thought she was  
10 travelling real fast because the first thing they see  
11 was a dog team with lots of dogs and those strangers  
12 take them just a few minutes to get to their settlement.  
13 They were travelling pretty fast with the dog team like  
14 that, first time we seen them, a bunch of dog team and a  
15 sled.

16 The first time we see houses,  
17 there was one family they called Niaktuk. When they  
18 first went to arrive at that house, she was the first  
19 one to arrive to that house, there was by the name of  
20 Nigasik. They went in the house and Nigasik's wife,  
21 they cut their clothing because they were frozen, so  
22 they took, they cut them off and then the first time  
23 they started to wear these kind of clothing from there.  
24 Nigasiks wife gave her to wear.

25 She said she start living with  
26 those first family she went into by the name of Nigasik  
27 and from there she started living good because they got  
28 houses; but the rest of the family, they built snow  
29 houses, the people who left behind him and the rest of  
30 the family they built snow houses in that settlement.

1   When they started living with  
2 that family at that time he doesn't know how to pray and  
3 the people they were praying from the hymns, the first  
4 time she started to hear about it, and while they were  
5 staying there as far as she remember the R.C.M.P.  
6 started to trail them back where they had left from. At  
7 that time those R.C.M.P. wanted to know how far these  
8 two orphans been walking when they get left behind.

9   While they were staying in  
10 that family she moved to another family by the name of  
11 Lennie. Lennie Iglamasak, she moved to another family  
12 the following year. Yes, her cousin, that boy he lived  
13 with that Nigasik family, and while he was living with  
14 those families they went hunting ducks, he got an  
15 accident, that young fellow, from a shotgun, somebody  
16 shot him by accident.

17    She is living from then till  
18 that time, she was living with Lennie's family, and then  
19 the following year she moved to another family by the  
20 name of Nipalakyok. She was living with Nipalakyok that  
21 time, somebody get her to be his wife. One young man  
22 came to get Agnes to be his wife. A young man came by  
23 the name of Jacob Nipalakyok, that was her husband, and  
24 then they get married from there. She lived with her  
25 husband; aft three years and they got the one kid. She  
26 says that's the only one kid she have from her husband  
27 and from there after three years they went with a  
28 schooner and then when they get close to the shore here  
29 they were shipwrecked because the schooner was no engine  
30 at that time, so a big west wind drift them to the shore

1 and so they got a shipwreck across there. Schooner get  
2 wrecked.

3 From there when they get  
4 grounded themselves, they jump in the shore, they had  
5 nothing in their hands, by themselves they get to the  
6 shore, they leave their schooner and the schooner was  
7 start sinking in the shore, the waves from the big west  
8 wind. At that time they were getting cold, too, from  
9 the snow, and they got nothing else, they just get into  
10 the shore, all of them, there was nobody drowned.

11 While they were staying in the  
12 shore the ship started breaking up and all kinds of  
13 materials from that boat started drifting ashore, so  
14 they picked all these things, they find some logs in the  
15 shore, they started to make some kind of a house. While  
16 they were staying ice formed up in the shore so they  
17 started to hook their guns, it was clear water across  
18 there and they started to hook those whatever they need  
19 from the bottom of the sea, and they get a few rifles  
20 like that and whatever they need and they started to  
21 stay there for the fall time.

22 They got nothing else to eat,  
23 no tea, no flour, no sugar, but there happened to be  
24 five bags of muktuk in seal bag and they drift ashore,  
25 that's how they lived with these five muktuks. So the  
26 people started to arrive from some place, trappers.  
27 Those people and her husband, they were trapping towards  
28 around Cape Baring, across Prince Albert Sound. So  
29 Charlie and his brother-in-law, they arrested these  
30 people where they were setting traps.

1                        So they arrived at Charlie and  
2 his brother-in-law, they got extra shells and some tea  
3 and some sugar, so they give these to their family, those  
4 that were shipwrecked. They were by the name of Simon  
5 and Avakana from around these parts here, they heard  
6 about when this schooner was wrecked so these two young  
7 fellows, they going there to get them across that sound.

8                        At that time on Holman Island  
9 there was nobody living around here, and those two young  
10 fellows, they take them right down to Minto Inlet to the  
11 settlement at Minto Inlet. They were living down there.  
12 When they move here again the Hudson's Bay was here so  
13 they moved here again, and then R.C.M.P. was here,  
14 there was two buildings when they moved here. She says  
15 her husband started to work for the R.C. Mission then,  
16 and since then she was living here.

17                       THE COMMISSIONER: How old  
18 were at that time that you got lost?

19                       THE INTERPRETER: He lived in  
20 the way till that time, when he came back here again he  
21 got a little boy, ice was on his back and he saw a polar  
22 bear here so he ran after that polar bear and he shot  
23 that polar bear.

24                       MISS LANE: Before Agnes goes  
25 could you ask her to just say the name of the place that  
26 she was born? Is that close to here? Could you ask  
27 Agnes to tell us the name of the place that was the  
28 farthest away she got before she was left behind? The  
29 farthest away from here, the name of the place?

30                       THE INTERPRETER: Pearce Point

1 | is where she was left behind.

2 |                                   MISS LANE: Pearce Point?

3 |                                   THE INTERPRETER: Yes, on the  
4 | mainland, right across from Paulatuk. It would show in  
5 | the map.

6 |                                   MISS LANE: Is that the  
7 | farthest away she was from this place?

8 |                                   THE INTERPRETER: Yes. She  
9 | went as far as Aklavik.

10 |                                  MISS LANE: Could you ask Agnes  
11 | to say the name of the place where she was married?

12 |                                  THE INTERPRETER: Lady Harbour.

13 |                                  MISS LANE: And could you ask  
14 | her the name of the place where her ship was wrecked her  
15 | schooner was wrecked?

16 |                                  THE INTERPRETER: It was close  
17 | to Cape Baring.

18 |                                  THE COMMISSIONER: May I ask a  
19 | question? You said that when you were lost you and the  
20 | boy came across some snow houses that someone else had  
21 | built and left behind, but you didn't use them for  
22 | shelter. Instead you took shelter behind some rough ice.  
23 | I just wondered why you didn't use the snow houses?

24 |                                  THE INTERPRETER: There was  
25 | the reason because when they reached those snow houses  
26 | it was in daylight, they thought they going to catch up  
27 | from there so they have to stay in the shelter of rough  
28 | ice. That's why they think they going to catch up.

29 |                                  THE COMMISSIONER: So they  
30 | kept moving.

1 THE INTERPRETER: They keep  
2 moving, yeah.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, thank  
4 you very much, ma'am.

5 (WITNESS ASIDE)

6  
7 MRS. ROSE NIRIYONAK , sworn:

8 THE INTERPRETER: She says  
9 she's going to tell the story of her life as far back as  
10 she could remember. Right now her memory keeps  
11 forgetting sometimes. She's going to tell a story about  
12 her dad until his death.

13 While he was hunting he went  
14 out sealing in ice and then from there her dad doesn't  
15 feel good, and he was getting sick after he went home  
16 after sealing. He was home, he was getting worse and  
17 worse, and some other people start dying too also, some  
18 other families they getting sick or something. He lost  
19 his memory, he was so sick, she doesn't know what he was  
20 doing, her dad in the middle of the night. Everybody,  
21 the guys who was not sick were getting ready to leave  
22 the camp, so old Charlie, her brother at that time he  
23 was a young man, so old Charlie started getting ready to  
24 leave. Even though her dad was sick, she wanted to  
25 follow the other families.

26 They couldn't take her dead dad,  
27 so they left him inside a house. He was unconscious  
28 anyway so they had to leave her dad inside the snow  
29 house. While old Charlie was getting ready to leave  
30 because in order to be -- because she doesn't want to be

1 left behind, while they were getting ready -- that's her  
2 name anyway, she went inside the snow house and started  
3 to cry about her dad because she was really sorry to  
4 leave her dad like that.

5 Her dad's name was Nilgak.  
6 While they were travelling some people getting sick so  
7 that time nobody was allowed to sit in the sled because  
8 short of dogs, so they can't help it so they take a ride  
9 in the sled. That's how they were travelling when they  
10 get sick. When they were travelling at that time the  
11 spring was coming up, that time when they were  
12 travelling it was springtime, about this time of the  
13 year, March or April or something like that.

14 As far as she could remember  
15 too, they make fires like that with a stone and they  
16 keep hitting like that and make sparks, and they got  
17 some kind of a moss, they just keep blowing it and they  
18 put inside another some kind of a moss again. So when  
19 the fire get lit they light their lamps, that's the way  
20 they light their lamps in the old time.

21 The rest of the family,  
22 whoever; make fire first like that so they get fire, so  
23 they got some kind of they call it kukta or some kind of  
24 a bucket made out of a seal. They put the fire in there  
25 so they keep holding it till they bring it to their  
26 houses.

27 At that time the following  
28 year when everybody get good, one family came and they  
29 took us there, daughter-in-law with her son, they take  
30 away from his parents. She says the families when they

1 | get around springtime, everybody used to spread, and  
2 | they know where to go to fish in the lakes, all the  
3 | families they used to split like that and each family  
4 | sometimes they know the best place where they want to  
5 | stay, so the family went there and the rest keep doing  
6 | that at that time.

7 |   She said when the ice go away  
8 | from the lakes they start to wait for the land to dry up  
9 | before they start to go out hunting. She said that's  
10 | the way they lived; and when the mud and niggerhead or  
11 | springtime when the snow go away, you could walk in the  
12 | mud, you know, and you cant pull out your feet, you'd  
13 | get stuck so they wait for the mud to dry up before they  
14 | start going inland for hunting, because they say they  
15 | never live in the coast in the summertime in the old  
16 | time, they live inland.

17 |   Where they used to cook in the  
18 | summertime, they call a shelter like that with rocks, so  
19 | they got what you call it, softstone cooking pot at that  
20 | time. When they finished cooking that, they put a rock  
21 | on top of the ashes so the rock stay there; and when  
22 | they start moving out they took that rock out, they took  
23 | that really dry ashes or bits of wood, really dry wood,  
24 | they put it away so they could use it on their next  
25 | cooking again.

26 |   At that time when summertime  
27 | comes they were happy because it's not really cold in the  
28 | summer. Every time when they start reaching the creeks  
29 | or deep creeks, so the pack dogs they took their pack  
30 | back, packing away, the men carried them across so that's



1 | the way they crossed creeks like that. When they crossed  
2 | creeks, everybody sit down before they put the pack on  
3 | the dogs, so they start to eat from the dogs' packing, so  
4 | they take the lacing off, it's got little holes in it so  
5 | they tie them like that.

6 |   After they finished their  
7 | eating from there, then they start travelling again.  
8 | They travelling until they reach the caribous, and when  
9 | they get caribous they just kill the first one and bury  
10 | them, and left them there, so they put rocks and moss on  
11 | top of it so they could prevent it from wolves or foxes  
12 | so they couldn't get at it. So they left it behind and  
13 | start travelling again from there. They just take  
14 | enough for what they need.

15 |   Those kids, when they see  
16 | caribous they left them behind with a dog, pack dogs,  
17 | and the men they start going to the caribous. She says  
18 | when their hunters, they take a long time to come, they  
19 | start crying, most of them, because they say they get  
20 | left behind or something. When they are crying  
21 | sometimes they start showing up from the hill, they know  
22 | they were carrying caribou, they get really happy and  
23 | start laughing again, them kids, because they got fresh  
24 | caribou meat and so on.

25 |   They call it Poiplikmiot, the  
26 | natives from Coppermine. They used to travel in this  
27 | island too across the sound, and from here the people  
28 | when they meet together, those people they start to have  
29 | a feast and dancing drum dances. At that time the  
30 | people, even though they come from long ways, they don't

1 | feel tired and they start drum dances right away when  
2 | they meet two different tribes, I think the Coppermine  
3 | region and Victoria Island region.

4 | Her memory keeps fading right  
5 | now, she has hard time to remember.

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: Well,  
7 | ladies and gentlemen, we'll adjourn now but I want to  
8 | thank the older people for telling us about the old  
9 | days. The past helps us to understand what is happening  
10 | today and what it may mean to us tomorrow.

11 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

12 | THE COMMISSIONER: So we will  
13 | adjourn now and I understand that there is to be a  
14 | wedding and celebration tonight, so we won't have the  
15 | Inquiry tonight, but we'll meet again here tomorrow  
16 | morning at 10, and we'll hold our hearings throughout  
17 | the day, tomorrow morning, tomorrow afternoon, and  
18 | tomorrow evening so that anyone who wishes to speak may  
19 | be heard.

20 | All right, we'll stand  
21 | adjourned then.

22 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED TO MARCH 3, 1976)

23 |

24 |

25 |

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27 |

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30 |

1 Holman, N.W.T.

2 March 3, 1976

3 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 11 A.M.)

4 THE COMMISSIONER: I'll call  
5 the hearing to order -- I'll call the hearing to order  
6 again, ladies and gentlemen. I'm sorry to be late but  
7 it was a nice morning and I went out for a walk.

8 (WALLACE GOOSE RESUMED AS INTERPRETER)

9

10 JIMMY MEMOGANAK resumed:

11 THE INTERPRETER: Jimmy come  
12 around here when he was a young man. There were hardly  
13 any games around at that time. There was quite a few  
14 foxes when he come around, and the polar bears, as far  
15 as he remembers. The first time when he came around  
16 here the snow came around and the land freeze. The  
17 surface was becoming ice and the caribous and the  
18 muskox, they were dead. The caribous and muskox start  
19 to come back.

20 He said he's been travelling  
21 around Victoria Island lots of times, he knows the  
22 country real good since then. He's got trapline around  
23 there.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: You're  
25 saying that one of the colored lines on that map there  
26 of Victoria Island is Mr. Banksland's trapping line, is  
27 it?

28 MISS ALLISON: Yes, the blue  
29 lines represent the places that he has travelled on this  
30 island.

1 THE WITNESS: There's another  
2 line north.  
3 MISS ALLISON: This one?  
4 THE INTERPRETER: Down to the  
5 Glenelg Bay.  
6 MISS ALLISON: This one?  
7 THE WITNESS: No.  
8 MISS ALLISON: Maybe it will  
9 work better if Jimmy does it. This was another fox  
10 trapline. You can do it if you like.  
11 THE INTERPRETER: He was  
12 trapping around there when he was trapping at that time  
13 to that Glenelg Bay. There was hardly any foxes. He  
14 travelled that trapline with a dog team at that time.  
15 That's his trapline he's pointing out from Holman Island  
16 down to Prince Albert Sound.  
17 THE COMMISSIONER: That's this  
18 here?  
19 THE INTERPRETER: This here,  
20 yes.  
21 THE COMMISSIONER: That is for  
22 fox?  
23 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, he says.  
24 THE WITNESS: Another one long  
25 ago.  
26 THE INTERPRETER: That's this  
27 here trapline down there quite a few years back; but  
28 this year he have trap on that, no foxes so he pull out  
29 his trapline, and right after Christmas he moved his  
30 trapline down towards Prince Albert Sound, north of



1 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, scour  
2 the bottom of the sea. He's really afraid of this kind  
3 of thing, once they start drilling.

4 He said when they went to this  
5 time of the year they used to have cracks out there open  
6 and close. Once it start oil spill and the oil spill is  
7 going to travel all these cracks where the seal  
8 breathing, no breathing grounds or where they feed,  
9 that's why they got breathing holes.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Breathing  
11 holes?

12 THE INTERPRETER: Yes,  
13 breathing holes in the cracks. He said the currents  
14 travel really on those cracks. If there is an oil spill  
15 and the oil spill flow through these cracks, six-foot  
16 ice right now in some parts, even inland if there's  
17 something blowout or anything like that, it would travel  
18 through the valleys and kill all the fish through the  
19 creeks, and the oil could travel down these valleys.

20 He wanted to make an example  
21 about that oil. Last few years ago one of those big  
22 tanks spilled, go right down to the beach here in the bay  
23 and then since then that bay never got any fish any more.

24 THE COMMISSIONER: What tanks?

25 THE INTERPRETER: One of those  
26 community tank here, big one there.

27 THE COMMISSIONER: That holds  
28 fuel oil?

29 THE INTERPRETER: Yes. They  
30 make a ditch right close to the beach down there and

1 some people were collecting some oil there. I don't  
2 know how many barrels were filled from there this time  
3 of the year, until springtime. From that it was an  
4 example, that's how the oil could travel, right down to  
5 the permafrost. Even today in summertime when the  
6 weather get warm, you can see that oil still coming out  
7 on the shore.

8 He want to talk about the  
9 pipeline, and he knows that if the pipeline laid out  
10 inland or underground, he thinks that the pipeline, it  
11 wouldn't stay in the same place. He said he knows he  
12 used to see a big chunk of rock on top there, first time  
13 when he came around here it was just barely showing, and  
14 right now he said it's practically on top of the  
15 surface.

16 THE COMMISSIONER: The same  
17 thing would happen to the pipeline?

18 THE INTERPRETER: Yes, that's  
19 what he's thinking. That pipeline, he thinks it's going  
20 to rise, same as that rock, you know that big boulder.

21 THE COMMISSIONER: Yes.

22 THE INTERPRETER: He want to  
23 talk about that settlement of land claims should be  
24 first before anything, oil companies start to work. He  
25 said we're just like nothing, we're Eskimos, and oil  
26 companies start coming around and do their own work  
27 before sometime notifying the people. Every time the  
28 oil companies start coming around for their meeting,  
29 they were telling the same stories all over again. He  
30 said they were trying to make the people, they get

1 | used to that same story so they think sometimes it's  
2 | not really dangerous, they were trying to make them get  
3 | used to that same story, and then the people lay down  
4 | and said, "Go ahead, it's not that dangerous anyway. Go  
5 | ahead and drill."

6 | That's all he has to say for  
7 | the time being.

8 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
9 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

10 |  
11 | ALLEN JOSS sworn:

12 | THE INTERPRETER: This is  
13 | Allen Joss. He want to talk about his trapline in the  
14 | first place.

15 | THE WITNESS: I was born in  
16 | Coppermine, and I was small in Coppermine. From there I  
17 | move over to Reid Island, so I been in there for 25 or -  
18 | -

19 | THE COMMISSIONER: Moved from  
20 | Coppermine to where?

21 | A Reid Island. I could  
22 | show on the map.

23 | THE INTERPRETER: He want to  
24 | go to the map.

25 | A Down here, so I been to  
26 | point down there, so I move over to Reid Island there,  
27 | So I been there for a long time, so I start trapping  
28 | from there.

29 | THE COMMISSIONER: Reid Island?

30 | A Yeah.



1 THE COMMISSIONER: All right.

2 A I been in there for  
3 trapping, hunting; but I never go to school, there was  
4 no school, no nothing. I just learning from my father,  
5 you know, how to talk. So I was still learning by the  
6 Eskimos, and from there I start trapping with my mother,  
7 learning how to trap, learning how to hunt everything.  
8 So this green line here, I travel around and start  
9 trapping from there down here, that's my trapline for  
10 foxes. I had another one down here, there's still  
11 foxes, you know. I tried to find out through the woods  
12 which one's a good place for foxes. So every maybe  
13 four or five years I moved down here to a trapping area  
14 that would be better, so I start trapping steady there,  
15 and this place closed down. No more be . All the  
16 people move out to Coppermine, to Cambridge Bay and  
17 Holman.

18 So I moved to Holman with a  
19 few families by dogs. All these lines here travel by  
20 dogs before I get a skidoo. So after I move here it was  
21 springtime, June, to Holman and start sealing, out  
22 sealing straight out. At that time seal price up, it  
23 was 11-12, 11.50 top price, so I keep on sealing.

24 When the fall time come up  
25 would start go fishing to Fish Lake where there is a lot  
26 of fish. When trapping time comes up, start trapping,  
27 this area here.

28 Then I come back and down to  
29 Minto again trapping, that green line there, I'm trapping  
30 all that, too. The same year I start go out hunt

1 | bear, go outside Holman.

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: Hunting bear?

3 | A Hunting bear, Just go out  
4 | here. From Reid Island I know this place, I used to go  
5 | up to here hunting bear too, you know. From there I  
6 | know this place and I would go from here to here. I  
7 | could see these islands here, I know where I live, you  
8 | know, go some place.

9 | So the same thing here from  
10 | Holman go hunting bears, look for bears all over with  
11 | dogs, no skidoos. Same thing to sealing camps, hunting  
12 | seals. So some time we come out from here down to  
13 | Coppermine sealing too, all these lines here from  
14 | hunting caribou down to Coppermine in the wintertime.

15 | When the spring come up and I  
16 | go sealing in summer down Coppermine area too, same  
17 | thing here. Hunt caribou in the winter. Spring come  
18 | up, go sealing.

19 | I don't know what else to say.  
20 | I think that's all I've got to say about trapping areas.  
21 | I'll sit back over there.

22 | THE INTERPRETER: I was  
23 | telling him if he wanted to try and speak his own  
24 | English, or Eskimo, it's up to him.

25 | THE COMMISSIONER: Right.

26 | THE INTERPRETER: He said he  
27 | think about this country where our hunting ground in  
28 | Holman was one of the best in Northwest Territories.  
29 | Once they come with these oil companies or whoever  
30 | start coming around, big game will starting to be

1 | extinct, he knows that. He says the oil companies, when  
2 | they start coming around here, we will have a really  
3 | hard time to get jobs because we're not really -- some  
4 | of the people not qualified to do the work and we're the  
5 | ones who are going to be having a hard time to make a  
6 | "Living around this country, once these oil companies  
7 | start coming around.

8 |   He knows that some of the  
9 | people around here, they never been in a school and they  
10 | are the ones who are going to have a really hard time to  
11 | get a job from these oil companies.

12 |   He said we're living real good  
13 | around here without these oil companies because we got  
14 | good hunting areas around here. We make a good living  
15 | at the moment until today. He said when oil companies  
16 | start coming around, the oil companies or whoever it is,  
17 | are going to make a hard time to make a living.

18 |   He said he want to talk  
19 | about offshore drilling. He said he been living by  
20 | hunting, we know that -- we look at guys who go out  
21 | sealing and that's when we start really moving, it's a  
22 | really powerful current around here when it start  
23 | drifting. He said oil companies tell about their oil  
24 | rigs. He said they're real good oil rigs and so on,  
25 | and they get everything prepared for this kind of  
26 | pressure and he knows that these machine sometimes  
27 | nothing to these big currents because coming around  
28 | they're going to be pushed around; but even thought  
29 | these oil companies say they got No.1 rigs and big  
30 | ships and so on, but he knows that there is going to

1 | be very difficult for them to drill offshore because  
2 | there's huge currents of ice broken and so on, and  
3 | they're going to push them around.

4 |                                       He said he heard about also  
5 | these oil companies want to go and start drilling in the  
6 | ice, even though they doesn't know how the pressure  
7 | starts. Once they start the big pressure starting they  
8 | going to have it very difficult to drill in the sea,  
9 | Beaufort Sea or on the coast around here. He knows that  
10 | he been around here, all last year they come around here  
11 | like this year, some of them 12 feet long and huge ice--

12 |                                       THE COMMISSIONER: This is the  
13 | old ice?

14 |                                       THE INTERPRETER: Old ice,  
15 | yes.

16 |                                       THE COMMISSIONER: 12 feet  
17 | high?

18 |                                       THE INTERPRETER: Yes, just  
19 | showing on top of the water's surface, that's what it  
20 | means. A small part is floating, but he used to go out  
21 | sealing, sometime he touched the bottom, he scraped the  
22 | bottom like something, I don't know what it is, but I  
23 | could try and -- he was pushing ground under there,  
24 | under the sea bottom.

25 |                                       THE COMMISSIONER: Like a keel?

26 |                                       THE INTERPRETER: Like a keel,  
27 | yes. He said he's pretty sure once you get an oil  
28 | spill, those icebergs going to push around the oil all  
29 | over on the bottom because the current was so strong  
30 | that iceberg travels all over, dragging the oil

1 all over.

2 He used to work for the oil  
3 companies here not too long ago. Sometime they spill  
4 oil here and there and that oil starts spreading right  
5 away, when he start working with these oil companies.  
6 He was working for them on an oil rig not too far from  
7 here.

8 He wants to mention that he  
9 thinks the same thing is going to happen under the  
10 bottom of the sea.

11 He wants to talk about the  
12 pipeline, what he heard about it. He said that he  
13 wanted to mention that they heard about quite a few --  
14 just now he's been hearing about pipeline. He says once  
15 they start building the pipeline underground or on the  
16 surface, always some ice maybe, like he was mentioning a  
17 while ago, iceberg going to scrape the bottom of the sea  
18 and keep doing that, and that pipeline is going to get -  
19 - going to be pushed around. It won't stay in the same  
20 place.

21 Even on the surface on top of  
22 the ground, the land keep moving all the time and some  
23 places start to rise in the cold weather, and that  
24 pipeline is going to be moving also.

25 He been travelling in the  
26 land in cold weather sometimes, he's seen in land  
27 big cracks in cold weather which happens, he thinks the  
28 pipeline is going to be damaged by that crack which that  
29 crack pass through or crossing like this might damage  
30 the pipeline. In winter we know that that ice, when the

1 lake start freezing close by, and the ice start pushing  
2 up, there's a time when it get cold weather it cracked  
3 really deep in there.

4 He want to talk about the  
5 Coppermine people who were employed by the oil companies.

6 THE COMMISSIONER: He wants to  
7 talk about what?

8 THE INTERPRETER: The  
9 Coppermine people.

10 THE COMMISSIONER: Oh, Coppermine.

11 THE INTERPRETER: He been  
12 visiting very often there, you know, according to what  
13 he heard from the oil employees from Coppermine. Every  
14 time when they go to Coppermine these people talk about  
15 the burning the oil on top of the surface in land, and  
16 burn up the gases, and also he heard they only want to  
17 talk about these things. He said once they start to  
18 burn this gas, the land start really shaking. He said  
19 that's all the oil employees talk about. He said  
20 sometime they get scared it burn so fast that they think  
21 they're going to crack when they start burning oil.

22 Even when they're close to  
23 some place like Tuk or any other place, they get the  
24 people from Coppermine for employees, these Coppermine  
25 people they get really happy because they were making  
26 good money from the oil companies. He say as an  
27 example, if the Coppermine people and the seismic  
28 crew, they were close by them, and they were -- they  
29 start hiring not from them but like Tuk or any other  
30 places, they wouldn't be very happy about it because

1 | they were happy because they were long ways from them,  
2 | some of them they think like that. Just for an example,  
3 | if the oil companies start coming around close to  
4 | Coppermine, if they start to work there, I'm pretty sure  
5 | he said these people's not going to worry about it for  
6 | their country.

7 | The same thing all over, even  
8 | here, it's really a dangerous thing for the oil companies  
9 | to start working all over in the country, I mean in the  
10 | Arctic. He said right now at the moment he's got nothing  
11 | else to say. Once he thinks of something else to say  
12 | he's going to come around here again.

13 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
14 | Mr. Joss.

15 | (WITNESS ASIDE)  
16 | (SIMON KATAOYAK SWORN AS INTERPRETER)

17 | PAUL PAGOTAK sworn:  
18 | INTERPRETER KATAOYAK: First  
19 | of all, Paul Pagotak would like to talk about his  
20 | trapline and where he have travelled in the island here.  
21 | Just where you saw his finger from Holman Island to the  
22 | end of that bay there, Prince Albert Sound, when he was  
23 | on the other side of the bay there on the bottom that's  
24 | where his main camp was before he moved to Holman, and  
25 | you saw his finger going up to that lake up there, that  
26 | was his other trapline when he was in that area. Reid  
27 | Island, you saw his finger going down that little  
28 | colored line there, that's where his trapline was when  
29 | he was in Reid Island. He's going down to the other  
30 | side of the mainland to get caribous. You saw

1 his finger when he pointed his camp there, he used to  
2 go to the lake around that area to get caribous. From  
3 that same camp, that little line there where he was  
4 hunting polar bears, he was in Cook, you saw his finger,  
5 going up that other big lake again for his trapline. He  
6 was moving around that area before he was trapping and  
7 getting caribous at the same time.

8 Right now trailing up from  
9 Holman Island up to Kuujjua River, that's where he used  
10 to hunt caribous too, long ago with dogs. He used to  
11 hunt bears around that area in the mouth of Prince  
12 Albert Sound. That's as far as he can remember right  
13 now.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
15 very much.

16 THE INTERPRETER: He was  
17 saying he just pointed out when he was a child he  
18 remember that himself and his parents used to walk, just  
19 walking on that land, going across that bay on foot  
20 hunting caribous. That's the place where a lot of bears  
21 are. That's all he has to say for that map.

22 He would like to say a little  
23 bit about how he thinks about his land, and he thinks he  
24 knows as a fact that he himself and the other hunters and  
25 the hunters' children would be using this land for a long  
26 time, and they been using it that way, and they think  
27 that he doesn't want to give up the land, just like  
28 without thinking. We don't make fortunes in this land  
29 but the only means of our survival is the land, so he  
30 thinks that the land should be carefully thought about



1 | before anything else should happen.

2 |                                   THE COMMISSIONER: The land  
3 | should be carefully what?

4 |                                   THE INTERPRETER: I guess he's  
5 | talking about the oil companies, about, you know, I  
6 | think before they make any moves of how what damage can  
7 | h done because the Eskimos themselves, they don't have -  
8 | - they don't make their own jobs. They live off the  
9 | land. The oil companies usually come and ask permission  
10 | for drilling or seismic, so forth, but he thinks that if  
11 | there's a spill it will do a lot of damage. He know for  
12 | a fact that the ice, even though there's no wind, the  
13 | currents can move it so fast that you don't know what's  
14 | going to happen. When the ice starts moving there's no  
15 | stop to it because the ice is so heavy that once it  
16 | moves, it's going to keep going, otherwise it breaks  
17 | itself.

18 |                                   He knows that if there's a  
19 | spill, if the current is so strong that you can't stop  
20 | it, it's just going to spread. He knows for a fact that  
21 | the ice is thick, it looks solid, but once the currents  
22 | move and it breaks the ice, you know, it doesn't stop.  
23 | The ice just doesn't stop just because there's something  
24 | on the way, but it, you know, breaks up and sometime  
25 | there's no end to it. It just moves around all the  
26 | time.

27 |                                   He thinks that there shouldn't  
28 | be any oil companies drilling until they are 100% sure  
29 | that all these are preserved, all the safeties of  
30 | pillage and so forth. He wants to see the Eskimos



1 THE INTERPRETER: He got  
2 married there too, he was born and married there, in  
3 Berkeley Point.

4 From Berkeley Point they moved  
5 to Holman Island. You see where he was making a trail  
6 there that's where he was hunting caribous. He goes  
7 fishing there every year and traps from Holman Island to  
8 where you see the trail going up that land area. He  
9 still traps in the same area when he was in Berkeley  
10 Point. When he was in Holman you could see where he was  
11 making a trail, that's where he used to hunt bears on  
12 the ice, Prince Albert Sound area, on the bottom side.

13 You see where he was just  
14 moving around his finger here, that's where he used to  
15 hunt seals. Hunting the seals while they are bathing in  
16 the sun, around that area, that's the place he used to  
17 hunt seals.

18 He used to trap around that  
19 area too. A few years back he chartered a plane from  
20 Holman Island to Glenelg Bay. He was trapping there and  
21 hunting bears at the same time for half a year. When he  
22 find out that there was not enough foxes and very  
23 little: -- not enough polar bears, you see his trail  
24 going back by dogs, whole family, all the way back to  
25 Holman Island The other little line there with a  
26 horseshoe shape, that's where he used to trap too.

27 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

28 MISS LANE: Roy, could you  
29 point out if you've ever caught any whales? Have you  
30 ever caught any whales?

1 THE INTERPRETER: At the point  
2 he got two, him and his brothers, they went last summer,  
3 they got two.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: Two whales?

5 THE INTERPRETER: Two whales  
6 at Berkeley Point.

7 THE COMMISSIONER: Do people  
8 in this village often catch whales, or is that unusual?

9 THE WITNESS: It was an  
10 accident for two years. Last year and the year before  
11 and this year it were just accidents when the whales  
12 come in. They never usually come around this area.

13 THE COMMISSIONER: The experts  
14 at Inuvik said they didn't come this far.

15 A Pardon me?

16 THE COMMISSIONER: I'm just  
17 telling you, I'm just saying that for the last January  
18 and February we were hearing scientists who were giving  
19 evidence at Inuvik and they said the whales didn't come  
20 this far. I accept it when you say that some of them  
21 did make it all this way.

22 THE INTERPRETER: He wants to  
23 say a little bit about oil companies trying to drill,  
24 and for his own feelings he doesn't really want the oil  
25 companies to go ahead all right, this land, because he  
26 wants to hunt for a long period of time yet. He's still  
27 young.

28 THE COMMISSIONER: Could you  
29 move your microphone a little closer to you?

30 THE INTERPRETER: Like this? O.K.

1 He doesn't really know what to  
2 say or think about oil companies.

3 THE COMMISSIONER: Well, we've  
4 got lots of time, so just take the time to collect your  
5 thoughts.

6 THE INTERPRETER: Even though  
7 I'm interpreting, can I say something too?

8 THE COMMISSIONER: Sure.

9 THE INTERPRETER: Is it open  
10 to anybody that wants to speak?

11 THE COMMISSIONER: That's  
12 right.

13 THE INTERPRETER: O.K. Do you  
14 want to say something first or do you want me to go  
15 first?

16 (WITNESS ASIDE)

17 SIMON KATAOYAK sworn:

18 THE WITNESS: When I was a kid  
19 I still had a baby bottle while I was still travelling  
20 with my dad. I remember how he used to treat me, and I  
21 used to love those days. Nowadays you don't do that any  
22 more. Life is getting too easy.

23 Ever since I came back from  
24 Aklavik from school I started learning my language again  
25 and the way of life, and I really enjoyed it ever since  
26 I've get back to my own tongue and travelling the way I  
27 used to; but not any more because I'm a working man now,  
28 I don't travel any more, that's why you don't see my  
29 places on the map here.

30 I used to travel with my dad

1 | hunting caribou bulls here, caribous there, fishing in  
2 | this area. I'm an expert on fishing so I fish a lot  
3 | around those places, all these little lakes I tried  
4 | every one of them. I've fished in Fish Lake and I  
5 | followed this area, and I work at Muskox Mines around  
6 | here, seismic. You notice that some oil companies or  
7 | some miners come and go ahead and do whatever they want  
8 | without consulting the village, and right away as soon  
9 | as they were set up they hire some people from here, and  
10 | I happened to be one of them.

11 |                             They never clean that place up  
12 | because they were bankrupt. There's a lot of garbage up  
13 | there that's never been cleaned. You know, if you  
14 | charter a plane up there and just take a look at Muskox  
15 | in the summertime you see everything. There's barrels  
16 | there that shouldn't be laying around there. There's  
17 | sign tents that have never been taken out. You see,  
18 | those kind of advantages that are taken up there, I  
19 | don't feel too good about Muskox Mines and Grand Roy  
20 | because they were not cleaned up.

21 |                             THE COMMISSIONER: That's what  
22 | they called the company, Muskox Mines?

23 |                             A        Muskox Mines and Grand  
24 | Roy Some of the camps around there too, they were doing  
25 | seismic, they didn't clean up their places either. They  
26 | just left everything there. So you see, that's why we  
27 | are scared to say "Yes, go ahead and drill." We can't do  
28 | that because these people didn't clean up at all. I got  
29 | this place cleaned up the last time, that's where they  
30 | were drilling.

1 I have seen around there,  
2 around here, I don't know any other places where I --  
3 you know, we talk about oil spills and so forth. I'd  
4 like to say a little bit about it because it's going to,  
5 if there's an oil spill it's going to involve Holman  
6 Island and all this part of the area because the  
7 currents following that to Holman.

8 You see, if an oil spill  
9 occurs it's going to spread, that's for sure, you know  
10 that. Well, seals is not going to die right away, we  
11 know it. It takes a long time to get rid of. The only  
12 thing we're going to get rid of first is the shrimps,  
13 what they eat, what the shrimps eat, and the shrimps eat  
14 and all that. Seals are going to live for a little  
15 longer time but what the fish and whales eat are the  
16 things that are going to be first to be killed. Then  
17 the seals are going to be killed.

18 So you see, they never study  
19 much. They have to study a lot before they're sure  
20 "Sure, and say they can say, there's enough food for  
21 seals in the ocean that a little oil spill can't do any  
22 damage." No, sometimes a little spill can do more damage  
23 than a big one.

24 So you see, they have to study  
25 hard to prevent these things first before they ever go  
26 ahead because there's little -- they call them amogoak,  
27 you know those shrimps, there's a lot of them in the  
28 water. That's what the seals, you find them in their  
29 stomach, amagoaks, and even whales.

30 Last summer I was hunting seals

1 | around here some place.

2 |                               MISS LANE: Simon, when you  
3 | mention places, there is no lines on the map for you, so  
4 | could you say the names of the places that you go?

5 |                               A       Where I go?

6 |                               MISS LANE: Yes, because the  
7 | reporters are putting these words down and "over there"  
8 | doesn't mean anything when it's just written down.

9 |                               THE COMMISSIONER: Just say,  
10 | at the mouth of Prince Albert Sound."

11 |                              A       118 degrees, 70 from the  
12 | island. 118 degrees , 30 on the map there, because we  
13 | got no name here, but there is Holman Island -- oh, the  
14 | islands, yeah, O.K. But you know, when you travelling  
15 | in the ocean something like that, it's nice, it's calm  
16 | weather, what happens when you look in the water you  
17 | could see those little creatures that are this long,  
18 | they're just like jelly and they've got a red head and  
19 | they're moving like this all the time. Well, that's  
20 | what whales and seals eat. So if an oil spill occurs,  
21 | if that thing slows up or if it's drifting around,  
22 | that's the first things that's going to be killed. So  
23 | they got to know how to prevent those things before they  
24 | know how to.

25 |                              They tell us they know how to  
26 | drill, sure, we agree because they're experts. But do  
27 | they know how to do the safeties? They haven't tried  
28 | it.

29 |                              I wonder if the people could  
30 | break for lunch and come back at one o'clock, 1:30?



1 THE COMMISSIONER: What do you  
2 say, 1:30?

3 (WITNESS ASIDE)

4 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 12:10 P.M.)

5 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 1:45 P.M.)

6 THE COMMISSIONER: Good  
7 afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

8

9

10 ISAAC ALEEKUK sworn:

11 THE INTERPRETER: Isaac Aleekuk  
12 wants to tell about his trapline.

13 THE WITNESS: I'd like to  
14 introduce myself. My name is Isaac Aleekuk, I spent all  
15 of my life en Holman Island, I was born here at Holman.

16 Sometime my memory is not that  
17 good, but I'll tell you about it the best I know.

18 I just don't know how to start  
19 out. First of all I'd like to tell you that I've never  
20 travelled with my dad, my dad passed away when I was just  
21 a kid about 1960 or so, and so I don't really know where  
22 to start from.

23 THE INTERPRETER: He's going to  
24 start out with his trapline.

25 THE WITNESS: Well, I'll start  
26 off with my trapping. First my color here is all brown.  
27 I first started trapping real close on Holman Island I  
28 started up through these small lakes and fished the  
29 round trip, all these were round trips here, then up this  
30 way I used to have traplines here. Most of them were

1 | more than once I used to more than once own the few lines  
2 | here, that's when I was a young man, still single.

3 |                                 First I started travelling with  
4 | dog teams. I had my own set of dog teams, just a few  
5 | dogs. That was around the 1960s. Then I did some  
6 | fishing here in Fish Lake and I used to go up this way by  
7 | dog team to hunt caribou along here, along here, then in  
8 | later years I went this way to hunt caribou there, at the  
9 | end of Minto Inlet and then up this way towards the  
10 | mainland.

11 |                                 Then in later years I went  
12 | trapping, go up the present powers over this way at  
13 | Prince Albert Sound along the coast to the point, right  
14 | now this way. That's all using skidoos, and when I first  
15 | started travelling, I travelled with dog teams which I  
16 | don't do any more. I come up with skidoo. Well, that  
17 | just about covers everything there. I haven't got so  
18 | much to say on the map here, although I did quite a bit  
19 | of travelling with my folks and myself.

20 |                                 Then I did some sealing, a lot  
21 | of sealing in summertime.

22 |                                 THE COMMISSIONER: Sealing?

23 |                                 A     Yes, sealing. In the  
24 | springtime we mostly go around here, during my early  
25 | days around close to Holman, out anywhere along here.  
26 | Now I mostly go to Minto Inlet in summertime and have  
27 | my camp here at Kuujjua River, at a place called Kugaluk,  
28 | and in springtime it's mostly along Minto Inlet ice  
29 | here, all over the place here, and sometimes over  
30 | here. In summertime go out anywhere this way or there,

1 | but now I mostly do my sealing at Minto Inlet.

2 |   It wasn't until recently just a  
3 | few years ago I started hunting bears from off Holman  
4 | Island and mostly go towards Prince Albert Sound, as  
5 | far as these islands here, up here, or out here  
6 | sometimes.

7 |   In the springtime I do a lot of  
8 | fishing in these lakes here in the surrounding area of  
9 | Holman; and in the fall time I fish at Fish Lake,  
10 | mostly fish in these small lakes I mostly fish for lake  
11 | trout.

12 |   In the springtime we do a lot  
13 | of duck hunting as well, I've been doing that for a  
14 | while. It's mostly close to Holman here, on Holman  
15 | Island just about five miles that way south.

16 |   About last summer at my summer  
17 | sealing camp we caught some whale there and I was one of  
18 | the people that helped get some whale off the inlet  
19 | there. Well, that's about all I could think of off this  
20 | map right now. If there's anything else I'll come back  
21 | later.

22 |   THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
23 | What time of year do you hunt seal?

24 |   A       Well, we mostly start in  
25 | the spring around June or May, somewhere around there.  
26 | That's where I hauled them seals, and then after the ice  
27 | breakup we do it most of the summer just before freezeup  
28 | or freezeup time.

29 |   Right now some people are  
30 | hooking seals. I haven't done that myself yet. They're

1 | hooking seals right now, hooking them by breathing holes.

2 | THE COMMISSIONER: Oh yes.

3 | Thank you.

4 | THE INTERPRETER: I was  
5 | explaining the story of how Isaac was telling the story  
6 | about trapping an hunting.

7 | THE COMMISSIONER: I see.

8 | THE INTERPRETER: He want to  
9 | say a little hit more about hunting ground, really  
10 | explaining it better.

11 | THE WITNESS: I would just like  
12 | to say that as far back as I can remember, I've already  
13 | told you that I never travelled with my dad before  
14 | because he passed away when I was just young, and I've  
15 | never had anybody to teach me how to live off the land  
16 | and do some hunting. What little I know has been done by  
17 | myself since I been old enough to try and do everything  
18 | myself, and from what my mother tells me.

19 | I first started travelling with  
20 | my brothers and my brothers-in-law when I was about 14 or  
21 | so, I was kind of late but due to the fact that my dad  
22 | passed away when I was very young sometimes it's hard,  
23 | this life we're leading, the Eskimo people at Holman is  
24 | not very easy. It has a lot of bad times and yet has  
25 | some good times as well.

26 | I haven't got very much to say  
27 | right now. I just haven't thought of anything much to  
28 | say. But I just want you people to understand that the  
29 | way of life I'm leading is very important to me and I'd  
30 | like to keep it and use it to the best of my knowledge.

1 I don't want it to be taken away from me or from anyone  
2 else here living in Holman.

3 Most of the people around here  
4 have the reputation of taking care of themselves, taking  
5 care of their families, with no outside help. Everything  
6 is on their everyone is on their own. Sometimes they  
7 might get help from a friend or so, like you always need  
8 a partner to go out hunting now, especially when you've  
9 got snowmobiles running.

10 Hunting in Holman Island has  
11 always been very good around here, and everyone gets  
12 plenty to eat and what they need, and the main sort of  
13 income for most of the people in Holman is the seal hunt.  
14 That's the big part, it's the most important part to us,  
15 I guess, and the way I feel is I wouldn't want any  
16 blowouts or things like that to happen during the oil  
17 exploration or anything like that, any noisy activity or  
18 things like that that would be happening around our area  
19 because the ocean is, we would say, very sacred to us.  
20 It's important because we mostly get income from sealing,  
21 doing our sealing in summertime, in the springtime, and  
22 we wouldn't want all the seals to be destroyed. There's  
23 always got to be a place somewhere for the seals to  
24 produce the calf of their young, always coming, not just  
25 for this decade or so, they used to come after that.

26 Our caribou is just the same  
27 thing, it's our main source of food in the wintertime, or  
28 most of the year around. I feel that they'd have to be  
29 protected from oil companies or things like that, that do  
30 seismic work on the land, that they co-operate with the

1 | people and do everything they can do to protect the  
2 | environment, our environment.

3 | I just can't really think of  
4 | any more to say, so if I have anything more I'll speak up  
5 | later, if you don't mind.

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: How old are  
7 | you, do you mind telling me?

8 | A I was born in '52, I'm 24  
9 | years old now. I've already been married four years. I  
10 | got married at an early age, and I do feel strongly about  
11 | this, my way of life and the way I'm living it. Of  
12 | course, I want my children to live that way if they want  
13 | to. I'll teach them what I know and I still want them to  
14 | keep this land long after we're gone, and I'd just like  
15 | to thank you people for coming here to Holman Island to  
16 | listen to what we have to say. Thank you.

17 |  
18 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

19 |  
20 | ROY INUKTALIK resumed:

21 | THE INTERPRETER: Roy would  
22 | like to do some more explaining the way he used to hunt,  
23 | since he started hunting when he was a little boy.

24 | He started hunting, when he  
25 | learn how to hunt he says he enjoyed hunting in his life.  
26 | He never go on a job all his life till today, even though  
27 | some people they go out on a job working for. the oil  
28 | companies or other opportunity for working; but himself,  
29 | he really like to go out hunting, so until today he was  
30 | just a hunter and trapper.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Goose,  
2 until today he was a hunter and trapper --

3 THE INTERPRETER: Yes.

4 THE COMMISSIONER: -- you mean  
5 he still is?

6 THE INTERPRETER: He still is,  
7 yes. I am sorry, I mean to say that.

8 He says his life was hunting,  
9 trapping, and polar bear, sealing and fishing. He say  
10 that's his life. He no work all right, but always his  
11 income was coming from seals, polar bears and trapping  
12 and fishing. That's the way he lived till today.

13 His dad never stayed around big  
14 settlements, always he stay away from settlements, lived  
15 in Berkeley Point quite a long time, and his dad used to  
16 teach his sons how to hunt and how to live off t land.  
17 He say that his dad show him how to hunt and today he  
18 start showing to his son himself, what he learned from  
19 his dad.

20 He learned from his dad, his  
21 dad hand him what he knows and then till today he's still  
22 using his dad's experience how to hunt and fish and polar  
23 bears and so on. He said once he learned and he get his  
24 own family, he went away from his dad and what he learned  
25 he keep always very important to him what he learned from  
26 his dad.

27 He said sometimes the oil  
28 companies or any other companies like prospectors or any  
29 other, they looking for a man to work for them, but he  
30 said himself he never get interested in getting a job

1 | because he really go for hunting. He say that's his  
2 | life. He don't want to change his life because he make a  
3 | really good living, he got nothing to worry about.

4 |                               He said he's still good hunter  
5 | for himself, he could still make a living off the land,  
6 | that's why he doesn't care for employers at all, till  
7 | today, since he was starting hunting. He make a pretty  
8 | good living, even though it's not really but it's good  
9 | enough for him. That's all he have to say until now.

10 |                              He want to know if you could  
11 | tell about the oil companies or anything like that?

12 |                              THE COMMISSIONER: Sorry, what  
13 | was that again?

14 |                              THE INTERPRETER: He wanted to  
15 | get permission he could tell about oil companies or any  
16 | other prospectors and so on?

17 |                              THE COMMISSIONER: Yes, he can.

18 |                              THE INTERPRETER: He says since  
19 | he started hearing about this oil offshore drilling and  
20 | oil blowout, all these things he heard about since last  
21 | few years, and he said this really worried him about  
22 | these things. As far as he know about hunting in the  
23 | sea, when the currents start getting strong in the  
24 | springtime, the currents get really strong and go over  
25 | the islands and all over the bays, so he thinks once  
26 | there's a blowout it won't take long to spread the  
27 | oil. He said if there's any blowouts and the oil company  
28 | said they're going to have -- they're going to try and  
29 | clean it, even though he said himself he thinks even they  
30 | can't clean it because the oil really spread so fast





1 | the whales come to Reid Island every year?

2 |                                   A     Yes, pretty near every  
3 | year, when I was living there. We would take three or  
4 | four out of there sometimes.

5 |                                   Q     What was that?

6 |                                   A     We would take three or  
7 | four out of there, whales, you know.

8 |                                   Q     You would catch three or  
9 | four?

10 |                                  A     Yes. These whales always  
11 | come every year, sometimes in July and June. The people  
12 | think they came from the west, from Baillie Island, from  
13 | Tuk. So there was usually nothing in Coppermine, so I  
14 | was there last year and before I go there right in this  
15 | bay here there was 30 whales come along, seemed to be  
16 | coming around from the west. The people say whales must  
17 | be getting more and more over east, now they were west  
18 | and even the Minto start coming last year.

19 |                                  MISS LANE: Allen, could you  
20 | say the name of the bay?

21 |                                  A     Minto.

22 |                                  MISS LANE: The bay down below.

23 |                                  A     Klengenber Bay.

24 |                                  THE COMMISSIONER: What do you  
25 | call it?

26 |                                  A     Klengenber Bay. This is  
27 | Coppermine here, so these whales start coming and there  
28 | could be more whales, it's hard to tell. It's a shallow  
29 | place around here and around Reid Island

30 |                                  Q     What place?

1 A Shallow places. There's a  
2 lot of shallow places around there.

3 Q The whales are looking for  
4 shallow places.

5 A Yes, eating fish, they  
6 always come ; in the deep part down Holman, not too many.  
7 They start coming maybe two years \*\*; if they keep  
8 coming, I don't know.

9 That's all I have to say.

10 MR. MARSHALL: Mr.

11 Commissioner, I wonder if the witness knows what kind of  
12 whales they were? Where they belugas?

13 A Belugas, yeah.

14 THE COMMISSIONER: Mr. Joss,  
15 those were belugas, were they?

16 A White whales, yes.

17 THE COMMISSIONER: Just for the  
18 record, Mr. Joss indicated that belugas coming from the  
19 west were to be found in Dolphin and Union Strait, and in  
20 fact were found in Klengenber Bay, which is just south  
21 of the easterly end of Dolphin and Union Strait. He  
22 indicated that they were to be found in the vicinity of  
23 Reid Island and in the strait most years. I think I  
24 am summarizing that fairly.

25 Did I summarize that fairly?

26 THE WITNESS: Yeah.

27 Q What about black whales,  
28 bowheads, I take it you're talking about bowheads, do any  
29 of you want to comment on that? Anything to say about  
30 finding bowhead whales in that area?

1                                   A     Black whales usually come  
2 around, too, what you call them here?

3                                   THE INTERPRETER:  Bowheads.

4                                   A     Yes, a few years ago.

5 It's quite a few years they would stick around for one  
6 week just out there, six, seven, eight mile out, they  
7 just travel around and go back again, you know; and after  
8 that they never come back till two or three years.

9                                   THE INTERPRETER:  Yes, quite a  
10 while.

11                                  A     I don't know where they go.

12                                  THE COMMISSIONER:  I think I  
13 should just say for the record that the evidence we heard  
14 in Inuvik wouldn't indicate that there were any bowhead  
15 whales in this area.  However, we have your evidence on  
16 that.  Maybe when Simon speaks again he could discuss that.

17                                  THE INTERPRETER:  That's all he  
18 has to say to you right now.

19   (WITNESS ASIDE)

20                                  THE INTERPRETER:  I was  
21 explaining that anybody who has got a story to tell about  
22 this land, our way of life and that, I tell them don't  
23 hesitate to come here and talk about it.  I'll do the  
24 same thing right now.

25   BILL GOOSE sworn:

26                                  THE WITNESS:  First of all I'd  
27 like to introduce myself.  It doesn't really matter, but  
28 I live in Holman Island and I was born in Holman Island.  
29 I did all sorts of things in Holman Island.  I hunted and  
30 I worked out of Holman Island.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Can we  
2 have your name?

3 A Yes, Bill Goose is my  
4 name. It's good to see your group, your Inquiry coming  
5 to Holman Island to hear the concerns of the people  
6 since we're a part of the Inuit people that are going  
7 to be concerned about the development of the north, of  
8 our area, the change that's going to happen from the  
9 pipeline, the change that's going to happen from the  
10 environment happenings. By that I mean the animals,  
11 the sea, and the things will gradually change after a  
12 major impact has come into the north.

13 Like I told you before, I was  
14 born here and raised and did a little bit of hunting, not  
15 like the rest of the people here who are hunters, because  
16 I went to school instead, had schooling for five years in  
17 Aklavik and a year in Inuvik and a year at Yellowknife,  
18 and I did some of my grades and I was able to get a job  
19 then. I landed a job with the Hudson's Bay company and  
20 later on I ventured out into Yellowknife and worked for  
21 the mining companies, and later on went to work for the  
22 Canadian Railroads, C.N.R., and --

23 THE COMMISSIONER: Was that  
24 the Great Slave Railway?

25 A Yeah, out of Hay River,  
26 and I worked for them for a while, and also worked for  
27 the Department of Fisheries out of hay River, and  
28 worked close to Coppermine. I worked at different jobs  
29 until now when I was able to land a job with the people  
30 here in Holman Island. I work for the government,

1 | I work for the people, I try to get the people's ideas  
2 | out to the government as much as I could because I feel  
3 | that they have to have somebody representing them or to  
4 | get their concerns out to the government, and I try to  
5 | do that my best.

6 |                                   Bringing you back to the  
7 | people's concerns here, a lot of the hunters, they talk  
8 | about how they spent their lifetime hunting and fishing  
9 | and trapping, in this whole area. I feel as you feel  
10 | that a lot of our people depend on the sea and on the  
11 | land, mainly on the sea because a lot of their income  
12 | comes from the sea. These people, they didn't have any  
13 | schooling like I did to get to land odd jobs, to get jobs  
14 | down south or wherever they want to go to be able to get  
15 | jobs, they don't have the schooling, so therefore. they  
16 | really depend on the sea.

17 |                                   I have my concerns for these  
18 | people because it's -- we cannot push them to schools to  
19 | learn a trade or something like that. It's their  
20 | livelihood and it's their mother, they can call it their  
21 | ocean and their land, and if a lot of pollution comes  
22 | into the sea all the life that's going to be dead in the  
23 | sea, well then the people go also with it. So the same  
24 | thing with the land, and we have -we've been having a lot  
25 | of meetings with oil companies or different people that  
26 | want to work in this country. They try to make the  
27 | people feel that they have concern for their point of  
28 | view, but always not really trying to get down to the  
29 | main facts to protect the environment, They -- we have  
30 | always had meetings with different oil companies or

1 | mining companies. They say they want to work and yet  
2 | when they get back out on the land they forget about  
3 | what the people are asking them to do, and what not to  
4 | do.

5 |                                 So I think this Inquiry is  
6 | going to help us a lot in one way, where we get Legal Aid  
7 | and that the concerns of the people will be made known a  
8 | lot more stronger than in the past. Even though we're a  
9 | community of only about 260 or 280 people, yet we have a  
10 | voice that could be heard from the people down south,  
11 | because these people, they depend on the sea and that's  
12 | their concern.

13 |                                 Also I'd like to comment on the  
14 | offshore drilling that's going to take place next summer  
15 | in the Beaufort Sea. We all understand that there's  
16 | going to be two wells that's going to be drilled next  
17 | summer and my beef on that is that there's not enough  
18 | known by both sides, which I mean more study has got to  
19 | be taking place, more research and tests to prove that  
20 | they are able to stand the impact of the Beaufort Sea, to  
21 | stand the impact from the ice, the current and the  
22 | weather.

23 |                                 Like I say, we've got to  
24 | understand a lot of the facts from both sides, which I mean  
25 | the company, the Canmar, I believe they are the ones who  
26 | will be operating in that ocean, and also the people who —  
27 | the Tuk people who will be mainly hit by that operation,  
28 | and also the delta people and also the Sachs people and  
29 | \*\*Pal2latuk and Holman Island are the people that should  
30 | have the main points, main voice in that objection to it.

1 | There should be more tests and more facts that should have  
2 | been carried out.

3 |   I'd like to bring you back to  
4 | what I read in the magazine "Oil Week" that has been put,  
5 | out, I guess, every month, and I read an article in it  
6 | about the operation in the Hudson Bay and Eastern Arctic  
7 | where I think there was a ship, drilling ship that tried  
8 | to drill in Hudson Bay and on account of the weather over  
9 | in Hudson Bay they had to quit, they had to terminate the  
10 | operation because of the weather. I think those two,  
11 | going back to those two, the Canmar operations, they're  
12 | going to have the same problem because the weather up  
13 | here is a lot worse than I believe in Hudson Bay,  
14 | although I don't really have the proof of it but I  
15 | believe it's the same kind of weather the two ships will  
16 | be facing.

17 |   So I don't know why that has  
18 | not been known to the people or to have the people hear  
19 | about it, or they've never taken into consideration that  
20 | operation in Hudson Bay because I believe a lot of the  
21 | stuff is similar to the operation that's going to happen,  
22 | have been hidden from the people, facts like that, I  
23 | believe, are in danger to the companies that are going to  
24 | operate.

25 |   I'm trying to get to the fact  
26 | that the Inuit people who are living on the ocean and  
27 | living near the ocean should have a lot of facts to look  
28 | at both sides before they can say, "O.K.," because there  
29 | is not enough known and also from the other point of view  
30 | from the government and from the oil companies.



1 I was thinking for a while  
2 that maybe some form of a committee should be recommended  
3 to carry on -- what I mean is a fact-finding committee, a  
4 committee that finds the facts on both sides, facts from  
5 the government, facts from the Inuit people, and facts  
6 from the oil companies or the mining companies or whoever  
7 is going to operate in this area should have a committee  
8 formed to find the facts on both sides and then relate  
9 them to the people, and have another sort of Inquiry  
10 like this where you get the full facts on both sides.  
11 Then maybe people can understand what they are getting  
12 into.

13 Also I have something on the  
14 animals and the sea, the mammals, the belugas and the  
15 white bowhead whales that have been discussed before. A  
16 lot of times when I come to think of those things more or  
17 less these whales are drifting over this way because of  
18 all the commotion on the west side from the delta, and  
19 this, I believe, is another fact why they are being  
20 driven to this area, because of the commotion over  
21 there. I believe that's going to take place more  
22 heavily after the two ships are in the sea. The Tuk  
23 people will mainly be hit harder because those two  
24 operations in the water that will take place will  
25 probably drive out all life from the sea there.  
26 Therefore giving the Inuit people a future that's unknown  
27 for quite a while.

28 I think I have -- that's all I  
29 have to say for a while.

30 (WITNESS ASIDE)

1 MISS IDA AIVEK sworn:

2 THE INTERPRETER: Ida is the  
3 next to explain. She want to talk about her life.

4 As far back as she can  
5 remember, when she get old enough she go out hunting with  
6 her step-father, that was old Charlie. He have no son.  
7 He adopted her from his step-son called Paul Pagotak,  
8 since then she started to go with his dad as far back as  
9 she could, going with his step-father for hunting.

10 She started to, as far as she  
11 could remember, started to go with his stepfather  
12 wherever he go for hunting and trapping and sealing and  
13 so on. She came today so he can't travel any more, his  
14 step-father start hunting close by only by herself. She  
15 said even right now he still go out fishing and fishing  
16 in the lakes and close by hunting caribous, also.

17 She says she's trapping right  
18 now on grey lines from here with skidoo and they never go  
19 out for camping any more. That's all she has to say till  
20 right now.

21 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
22 (WITNESS ASIDE)

23  
24 ROY GOOSE sworn:

25 THE WITNESS: My name is Roy  
26 Goose, and I plan to make a presentation on behalf of the  
27 Hunters & Trappers Association of Holman Island, and on  
28 behalf of myself and my concerns also for the land.

29 The presentation I'm going to  
30 make is statistics only of their annual catch and annual

1 | kill to show that how much the people here in Holman  
2 | Island use the land.

3 |   First of all I'm going to start  
4 | off with the caribou kills that the people killed in  
5 | Holman Island this year, and after that will be their  
6 | catch in white foxes, their catch in seals, and other  
7 | animals that come around that are not usually around,  
8 | that they use for their own selves.

9 |   Up to date there has been  
10 | approximately 200 to 225 caribou killed in Holman Island  
11 | since October of this year. That's an average of six per  
12 | family, and the furthest that they've gone for caribou  
13 | hunting would be approximately 60 to 70 miles in the fall  
14 | of the year. That caribou is used by the people  
15 | themselves for food, for clothing, and also for later  
16 | uses that they store the caribou away into the Ice House.

17 |   Most of the people in Holman  
18 | Island, the ones without the jobs, are professional  
19 | hunters and trappers. They are the people that know the  
20 | land, that know the ocean, that know everything relating  
21 | to the environment. This is all they know, how to hunt  
22 | and trap; and up to date the white fox catch is  
23 | approximately 900 by approximately 25 serious trappers.  
24 | These people never ever had welfare given to them.  
25 | They may have a little bit of help from the  
26 | Territorial Government and from other government  
27 | agencies. They are very self-reliant and self-dependent  
28 | people.

29 |   From their seal catch up to  
30 | date would be approximately 1,700 ringed seals, and

1 | those ringed seals were caught --

2 |                                   THE COMMISSIONER: Excuse me,  
3 | Mr. Goose. Just will you go back to the white fox for a  
4 | minute? You said 900 taken by 25 trappers. Is that  
5 | since October last year, or just since the beginning of  
6 | this year, or what is it?

7 |                                   A     These statistics I'm  
8 | giving are for beginning this year in November, for the  
9 | white fox up to date

10 |                                  Q     That's when you're allowed  
11 | to start, November?

12 |                                  A     That's when the trapping  
13 | season opens, on the 10th.

14 |                                  Q     That's November 10th, 1975.

15 |                                  A     Yes.

16 |                                  Q     When you said caribou, 200  
17 | to 225, that's since November 1st or since October 1st  
18 | last?

19 |                                  A     Since October of this year.

20 |                                  Q     Wait a minute, October, yes  
21 | you mean last October.

22 |                                  A     October '75.

23 |                                  Q     O.K. Would you start with  
24 | the seals again? I missed that.

25 |                                  A     Up to date there has been  
26 | approximately 1,700 seals caught, mainly for their pelts.  
27 | Their pelts averaging out to \$35. apiece when they were  
28 | sold at that time. But it has come to my understanding  
29 | that the price has gone up and they're getting better  
30 | prices now.

1 Q 1,700 seals have been  
2 taken since when?

3 A Since let's say last year,  
4 last spring, last summer, mostly in the summer by people  
5 who are out in their summer camps at Minto Inlet, Berkley  
6 Point, and Holman Island and vicinity. What I mean by  
7 "vicinity", maybe 30-mile radius of Holman Island, the  
8 Settlement of Holman Island.

9 Now their income from the seals  
10 would be approximately, putting it to round figures,  
11 would be \$60,000, and their income from the white foxes  
12 putting it again to round figures would be approximately  
13 \$39,000. As you can see from these figures put forward  
14 from white foxes and from ringed seal, that's not  
15 counting the polar bear that they've killed in town,  
16 they're very wealthy people, they're well off, they're  
17 happy. The full use from the land and from the ocean  
18 that these people have can be shown from their income and  
19 from the way they live. They're very happy people, and I  
20 think that if these things are to be altered -what I mean  
21 by "altered" is that development comes and with  
22 development brings jobs and these jobs will be offered to  
23 the people, and some of them will take advantage of it  
24 for a few months, a few weeks, a few days to make some  
25 more money for them to gather more equipment: to help  
26 them to harvest the land and the sea, I think that they  
27 won't be happy people any more as they are in the  
28 present.

29 Now to go over to the fishing,  
30 the people do all of their fishing in the fall of the

1 year, in October when the snow comes over and the ice  
2 freezes over on the lakes enough for them to travel to  
3 the Fish Lakes, which is approximately 35 to 40 miles  
4 away from Holman Island, its a three-chain lake and those  
5 chain lakes empty into the Minto Inlet, and there is a  
6 lodge that utilizes the mouth of the river in the  
7 summertime and that lodge flies out of Big Bear Lake.  
8 They harvest some of the fish but the numbers that are  
9 harvested by these tourists are unknown to me, so I'm not  
10 able to comment on what they would harvest.

11                         The approximate pounds per  
12 hunter that are harvested from the Fish Lakes would be  
13 approximately 300 pounds, 350 pounds of Arctic char per  
14 family. This is what it averages out to. Some people  
15 may get more fish than others, but it all averages out to  
16 approximately 300 pounds. So that's 5,000 to 6,000  
17 pounds harvested per year. That's used for themselves  
18 only, or once in a while somebody comes to town, an  
19 outsider he comes around and he wants to buy some Arctic  
20 char. So they sell some Arctic char.

21                         All of these things that I've  
22 mentioned are all part of the livelihood that these  
23 people lead. This is all they know. This is all they  
24 have. happiness from, and without it they -- it would be  
25 sad to see them become a vegetable.

26                         I would like to comment on the  
27 belugas that were killed this past summer around Holman  
28 Island and around Minto Inlet. Belugas are not normally  
29 seen in Holman Island and in vicinity. For the past ten  
30 years there have been sightings of beluga whales coming



1 | killed and I don't know what sex they were.

2 |   A comment back to the seals, a  
3 | few years ago up to say ten years ago the people used to  
4 | harvest a lot of seals, and what I mean by "a lot of  
5 | seals", more than 1,700 seals per summer. The figures may  
6 | be approximately around the 3,500 area. It could reach  
7 | that figure. They used to harvest a lot of silverjars.  
8 | The silverjar seals are the young seals, the pups that are  
9 | just going into adulthood; but for the past years, for the  
10 | past few years all they have been harvesting were males,  
11 | old seals, or cows and there has been a growing concern in  
12 | this community because this is one of their biggest  
13 | incomes, is from the seals. The seals have been dropping  
14 | steadily, the numbers are going down. They have to go  
15 | further to hunt the seals, they have a more difficult time  
16 | to harvest more seals. It could be because of other a part  
17 | of our fine balance of nature up here has been disturbed  
18 | that they move elsewhere from this area, or it could be  
19 | just nature playing with itself.

20 |   This is all I have to say for  
21 | the time being. I thank you for your time.

22 |   THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
23 | Mr. Goose.

24 |   A       I'm also the official  
25 | wildlife officer in town. I failed to mention that, but  
26 | I think this is where I got my figures from.

27 |   Q       Mr. Goose, Mr. Smith, who  
28 | is with the Department of Fisheries, gave evidence at  
29 | Inuvik, he said that he worked with some of the people  
30 | here to count the seals. Do you know Mr. Smith?



1 | A Mr. Tom Smith?

2 | Q Tom Smith, and he said  
3 | that at Holman in a good year you might take as many as  
4 | 6, 7, 8,000 seals, You put the figure lower. Is his  
5 | figure wrong, do you think, or might there be a mistake  
6 | in yours, or --

7 | A Well, he has done a lot  
8 | more research than I have on sea mammals. My figure is  
9 | coming in from the seal skins that were bought by the Co-  
10 | Op and the Hudson's Bay. There could be a lot more seals  
11 | harvested but some of these seals are put away for dog  
12 | feed or simply that their hair is not good enough to  
13 | sell.

14 | Q I see.

15 | A His figures are more  
16 | accurate than mine are. Mine are from the furtraders'  
17 | summary of the year, how much sealskins the people sell  
18 | to the Bay and to the Co-Op, and from the export permits  
19 | that are issued, seals and white fox.

20 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

21 | Thank you very much, sir.

22 | Maybe we could just take a break for a minute or two to  
23 | stretch our legs, and we'll take ten or 15 minutes and  
24 | then hear from some more people.

25 |

26 | (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 2:55 P.M.)

27 | (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 3:30 P.M.)

28 | THE COMMISSIONER: We'll resume  
29 | again, ladies and gentlemen, and hear from those who are  
30 | at the table. Carry on, Mr. Goose.

1 | A I'll carry on my  
2 | presentation from just before we had the break. I'm  
3 | going into the polar bear section now and I think that my  
4 | last item was belugas.

5 | The Settlement of Holman Island  
6 | has a quota of 16 polar bear per year to be taken by  
7 | the hunters, and these 16 -- say 99% of the polar bear  
8 | quota taken this year was taken within a 25 to 30-mile  
9 | radius of Holman Island, and the quota was killed in  
10 | approximately one to 1 1/2 weeks hunting time. They  
11 | didn't have to put very much effort to killing their  
12 | polar bears because they seemed to be coming in closer.  
13 | There seemed to be more polar bear with each year as the  
14 | year progresses.

15 | There also was a few nuisance  
16 | polar bears that have been coming around to the  
17 | settlement and up until about 10 to 15 years ago it was  
18 | not too common to find a few polar bear coming into the  
19 | settlement , and these fortunately weren't polar bears  
20 | that were terrorizing the people at Holman. The income  
21 | from these polar bear would be approximately seven to  
22 | \$800 per hide this year. Since the Japanese went polar  
23 | bear crazy a few years ago --

24 | THE COMMISSIONER: They went  
25 | crazy about buying them?

26 | A What I mean by "polar  
27 | bear crazy" is that they upset the fur market and made  
28 | the rise -- made the polar bear price up, they raised  
29 | the price right up to two or three grand in some cases  
30 | for a hide, and that was only for one year. Then after



1 | of all the income from the land, from the ocean, would be  
2 | in the near figure of rounded off to 100 grand per year  
3 | for the Settlement of Holman Island, and that's the  
4 | income only from fur-bearing animals. That's not  
5 | counting the other monies that they make from handicrafts  
6 | and/or carvings.

7 | THE COMMISSIONER: And you  
8 | didn't allocate anything to the value of food, caribou  
9 | and fish that you obtained just so there's no  
10 | misunderstanding about that.

11 | A Well, I -- the value of  
12 | the food and caribou-wise and fish-wise, I haven't come  
13 | to a figure yet as to what the value of the animal,  
14 | caribou, and/or Arctic char would be, but that would come  
15 | to quite a number, probably reach the five figure mark.  
16 | That ends my -

17 | Q What I'm saying is to buy  
18 | the equivalent in beef and fish imported from the south,  
19 | for instance, would be -- I'm not asking you to work it  
20 | out because it's probably impossible to do but it seems  
21 | to me it would be important, that's all.

22 | A Well, the number of  
23 | caribou taken every year and the number of fish, the  
24 | number of migratory birds, ducks and/or geese, putting  
25 | them altogether would be like spending a lot of money in  
26 | a supermarket where you would go to buy beef, but it's  
27 | very impossible to put a value on what these-- on these  
28 | polar bear, on the caribou meats and on the Arctic char,  
29 | and on the migratory birds.

30 | Q Yes.

1   A        But it's a good thing we  
2 don't have to buy beef, otherwise they'd spend all their  
3 money on meat. The caribou and the Arctic char are their  
4 main diets. Without it they'd -- it's very difficult to  
5 say how they would live.

6   That's all I have to say.

7   (WITNESS ASIDE)

8   MRS. ANNIE GOOSE resumed:

9   THE WITNESS: I'll introduce  
10 myself. My name is Annie Goose, and I'd like to talk about  
11 the concern of the people on the drilling and the pipeline.  
12 In the past I attended meetings from the oil companies and  
13 most of the meetings the people are concerned about the  
14 drilling and they don't want no drilling done. The last  
15 meeting we had, they did not want any drilling done when  
16 they were asked for their permission or their concern, or  
17 what they thought, but I'd like to ask you, you came here  
18 to hear what the people think and their concern. Are you  
19 going to say "yes" or "no" to the pipeline after you hear  
20 what the people say?

21   THE COMMISSIONER: Well, I'll  
22 make a report to the government of what the consequences  
23 will be if a pipeline is built; but it's up to the  
24 government to say whether the pipeline should be built or  
25 not. They're elected by the people of all of Canada to  
26 make important decisions like that, and that's their job.

27   My job is to make sure that the  
28 understand the consequences, that they are fully informed  
29 about what will happen if a pipeline is built, so that  
30 they can make an informed judgment, so that they can

1 | make the best judgment. The National Energy Board -- I  
2 | know this is complicated, but I didn't make it that way,  
3 | I'm just trying to explain it -- the National -- let me  
4 | start over.

5 | My job is to tell the  
6 | Government of Canada what the consequences will be to the  
7 | people and the environment, the economy of the north if a  
8 | pipeline is built.

9 | THE INTERPRETER: Could you wait?  
10 | (INTERPRETER TRANSLATES)

11 | THE COMMISSIONER: The National  
12 | Energy Board, which is a government Board that holds  
13 | hearings in Ottawa, they have to tell the government how  
14 | much oil and gas there is here in the Arctic and then  
15 | they have to decide whether the people who live in  
16 | Southern Canada and the United States need it badly, and  
17 | then they have to decide how much it would cost to take  
18 | it all that way in pipeline, they have to decide whether  
19 | they should sell any of it to the United States. So the  
20 | government will have my report that tells them about the  
21 | north and what the consequences will be to the people of  
22 | the north. They'll have the Energy Board's report which  
23 | tells them how much gas there is, how much it will cost  
24 | to deliver it to people in Southern Canada, and then the  
25 | government has to decide.

26 | Now I know it's complicated but  
27 | that's how it is.

28 | I would just add something else.  
29 | In the past when somebody wanted to go ahead with a  
30 | project on the frontier, no one ever had an Inquiry like

1 | this. But this time the Government of Canada said, "No,  
2 | before the pipeline goes ahead we'll send Judge Berger to  
3 | the north to find out what those people up there think  
4 | about it, and tell us what's going to happen up there if  
5 | we let it go ahead."

6 | So the government has sent me  
7 | here to find out what you think about it, and that's why  
8 | I'm here listening to you today.

9 | A We thank you for coming here,  
10 | but also we'd like most of the people here have heard what  
11 | they had to say in other meetings like Arctic Gas and  
12 | committee that was here a few weeks before you came.

13 | Q Arctic Waters Oil & Gas  
14 | Committee.

15 | A Yeah, that's the one. They  
16 | were here and they were asking the people if they wanted -  
17 | - they wanted to know what the people thought of the  
18 | drilling that was going to be done over in Tuk area. A  
19 | lot of times the government rush so many things on the  
20 | Inuit people without letting us -- letting the people get  
21 | to know what the projects or whatever they going to do.  
22 | they always rush too fast on us all the time, and for my  
23 | concern and the people's here, they know that we never  
24 | wanted any drilling done close in our ocean because all  
25 | the Inuit of the Territories live off the ocean like you  
26 | head before, and a lot of them make living out of that,  
27 | out of what they hunt, and if ever the pipeline is to be  
28 | built, it will really affect the way of the people's  
29 | living.

30 | We've heard of the ones in

1 Alaska, how it affected the people and in the Territories  
2 the Inuit doesn't want that to happen to their way of  
3 living. We have a lot of younger people that needs to  
4 live off the land since the price of foods is gone way up,  
5 the way we hunt our own food is a lot of help to our way  
6 of living.

7 The committee that was here,  
8 they told us that they were going to listen to what the  
9 people thought in Holman about the drilling that they  
10 wanted to do over in Tuk, but all the time they had only  
11 -- they don't ever have a native person on the committee  
12 that the Minister in Ottawa, he appoints them and we  
13 Inuit elect him, and yet when he wants things done he  
14 always has committees made of other people, not ever any  
15 native person on there, and I've also asked him why they  
16 don't have a native person on their committee, and the  
17 only answer they gave us was that the Minister elects --  
18 appoints the people that are to be on the committee.

19 So we Inuit always don't have  
20 very much voice because we've never been given any chance  
21 to go on any committee that the Minister has to listen  
22 to.

23 I'd like to clearly tell you  
24 again that -- about the pipeline -- that the people of  
25 Holman, their concern is that they don't want a pipeline  
26 built and I know that you have to tell the committee of  
27 the government that, and I hope that they will listen to  
28 what the Inuit people say. A lot of times they just go  
29 on with what they want and we've never had a very big  
30 voice to show what we feel and what we want to tell them.



1 Most of the times they just go on their own and they say,  
2 "We have to have the oil."

3 They tell us one time, "If  
4 you people want oil, you have to either say yes, or if  
5 you say no well then you can't do anything about it."  
6 That clearly shows that they want to rush us all the  
7 time.

8 That's as far as I could say  
9 for right now.

10 (WITNESS ASIDE)

11  
12 MRS. MONA KUNEYUNA sworn:

13 THE INTERPRETER: This lady is  
14 Mona Kuneyuna. She wants to talk about this land first.

15 THE COMMISSIONER: Go ahead.

16 THE INTERPRETER: Rymen Point  
17 was where she was born, that's where she first started  
18 living. The first time when she was living there she was  
19 living with her step-parents. She wasn't old enough to  
20 remember too well about her stepparents at that time.

21 Once she got older she begin to  
22 know better when her step-mother got into the hospital.  
23 From there they moved to Reid Island and on Reid Island  
24 she started following her step-father when he was  
25 travelling. From that time they were in Reid Island her  
26 stepfather was hospitalized in Camsell, so she went back  
27 with her step-mother to Rymen Point and she travelled  
28 alone at that time hunting and trapping.

29 When she got older in those  
30 days she knew that she sees whales every summer and



1 | pipelines. Even though she's no longer a hunter, she  
2 | would like to say a few words on behalf of the hunters  
3 | and the children that are here. But she doesn't like the  
4 | offshore drilling to go on just yet.

5 | THE COMMISSIONER: I'm sorry,  
6 | she doesn't want what?

7 | THE INTERPRETER: She doesn't  
8 | want the offshore drilling to go on. Those animals,  
9 | fish, seals and caribous and polar bears are like  
10 | vegetables to us because we don't have vegetables around  
11 | here, as they do down in the south. That's the reason  
12 | why we like to protect them as much as we can. It's a  
13 | main resource for the people and that's where the whales  
14 | travel. Then only the people of Holman are using the  
15 | ocean that we have around here. It's the people involved  
16 | in hunting, and the whales, the seals are the main  
17 | resource of the people. She knows very well that when  
18 | they want to eat something they get it from the ocean.  
19 | That's the reason why she doesn't want the offshore  
20 | drilling to go on.

21 | We know when they say that they  
22 | are experts on drilling, but if they do make a big  
23 | mistake and if they cannot solve the problem, then it's  
24 | going to cause a lot of trouble for the native people on  
25 | their livelihood. In case of a blowout, we know that the  
26 | ocean is never really clear of ice, and the ice travels  
27 | so fast sometimes before anything could be stopped, the  
28 | oil could spread it in any direction, and it's going to  
29 | be hard for the livelihood to protect it.

30 | She doesn't like the oil

1 | companies to start drilling just yet because she's scared  
2 | that the hunters will have no more place to go if the  
3 | blowout occurs, and all the animals in the ocean starts  
4 | to -- they are harmed and they start to decay. If that  
5 | happens, she feels that the white people won't give them  
6 | any funds to start buying groceries from outside or  
7 | anything like that, so that's the reason why she's  
8 | commenting on that.

9 |  
10 |                                 The reason why she's commenting  
11 | is that the only way the northerners live is by eating  
12 | and living off the land, and if that happens then they  
13 | don't know what's going to happen if the animals are  
14 | extinct. That's the reason why it's so important for the  
15 | people to keep the land unharmed.

16 |                                 She got nothing more to say for  
17 | now.

18 |                                 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
19 | very much.

20 |                                 (WITNESS ASIDE)

21 |                                 SAM OLIKTOAK sworn:

22 |                                 THE INTERPRETER: This gentleman  
23 | here is Sam Oliktoak. Right now he wants to tell you a  
24 | little bit about the background of his mother's stories.  
25 | Why he is telling you about his mother is that his father  
26 | died before he was old enough to know what's going on.  
27 | She used to tell me about the livelihood of the people  
28 | in those days. In those days the people had no tools  
29 | or any sort of weapons to survive, like they didn't  
30 | have thimbles and needles in those days. They make

1 needles out of caribou bone from the leg, that little thin  
2 part of the buttock. They used to make needles out of  
3 copper when they can find it. In those days some people  
4 used to have copper knives. Some of them used to have  
5 caribou-handled knives. In those days they used to have  
6 hardly any tools, but they used to have some tools made  
7 out of rocks, using it for hammer, or sometimes they used  
8 to make their own home-made drills out of muskox ribs.  
9 They used to have some sort of a file out of rocks,  
10 certain kind of rocks they find in the land that is good  
11 for sharpening knives and ooloos.

12 In the summertime they go up  
13 inland and they hiflit\*\* caribou in groups, not just one  
14 or a couple at a time. They used to go in groups to hunt  
15 caribous. They used to, in those days when they used to  
16 hunt caribous, when they sight caribou herds they used to  
17 make a man-hole in the ground, just where they think the  
18 caribou is going to go by, and they used to make  
19 scarecrows out of rocks and that's how they used to hunt  
20 caribous.

21 From there when everything is  
22 all ready to get the caribous running in one position, so  
23 that they can be -- they can kill them is when the women  
24 and children and the dogs go by on the far end and  
25 chasing them in one direction so that the other hunters  
26 can get them. When they do that, they make sure they  
27 don't get too close to the caribous when they chase them  
28 towards the men that are in the man-hole, and they yell  
29 as loud as they can so they distract them to go to the  
30 hunters that are hiding, and when they get in the range



1 no dogs. Some lucky ones used to have one or two dogs  
2 and when they travel, they used to load up their little  
3 sled with their belongings and the women used to be in  
4 the front leading and pulling, and the dog beside them,  
5 and a man has to be, the man is pulling, he's the power  
6 man so he has to stay in the back and pull the sled.

7 Before nightfall when it's time  
8 to camp they used to leave their wives behind with their  
9 belongings and look for a place to build a snow house.  
10 They find out when her mother tell her all those stories,  
11 and now when she got older -when he got older, I'm  
12 sorry. Now he'd like to talk about people in the  
13 village.

14 As I got older I started  
15 supporting myself, we used to travel and hunt for  
16 ourselves. In those days we didn't have much white food,  
17 white man's food, so we used to live off the land most of  
18 the time. The ocean. Even though we used to suffer in  
19 those days, we used to survive; but nowadays they don't  
20 suffer any more.

21 Now they don't suffer any more  
22 because they got proper weapons, they got proper tools to  
23 hunt with, and they can feed their family better that  
24 way. Right now we plan all kinds of activities we can  
25 do. We used to -- we never used to plan in the. old  
26 days but now we always planning what we want to do for  
27 the next day. Now we start thinking and planning for  
28 ourselves, and now the oil companies are coming in. I've  
29 got a feeling that the people after us are going to  
30 be the ones that are going to suffer because we might

1 | have to go back to the old days of hunting.

2 |                                 Now we start thinking about  
3 | those things because we don't want our children and our  
4 | children's children to suffer because our ancestors have  
5 | suffered a lot, and we come this far and that's the  
6 | reason why we shouldn't have any oil drilling for around  
7 | here.

8 |                                 The people in Canada work, the  
9 | native people start working for oil companies sometimes.  
10 | Sure, they make a lot of money but that money doesn't  
11 | last. It finishes. Now we start beginning to see that.  
12 | The villages are growing, the people are growing, there  
13 | is more people coming in, and we know that too the  
14 | animals are doing the same thing. There will be more  
15 | animals that way it keeps up the livelihood. The more  
16 | people there is, the more animals there is, and we have  
17 | more to eat.

18 |                                 If the pipeline, is built and  
19 | it's going to be left on the land, it's not going to be  
20 | moved anywhere else, it's going to spoil the land it's  
21 | on, and if one oil company starts working, the other oil  
22 | companies wants to go too, so if one goes, then everybody  
23 | is going to go later. That's going to harm the country.  
24 | It's just like if one -- I guess he's putting it this way  
25 | -- if one person can set traps and get fox for a living,  
26 | everybody else can do the same thing.

27 |                                 If an oil spill occurs it's  
28 | going to do a lot of damage and the animals will be  
29 | extinct in the ocean. Even on the land if the spill  
30 | is not stopped in time, most -- some part of that land is



1 | going to be sidled for good and it won't grow again. I  
2 | am thinking now that the reason why I said that is  
3 | because if those things starts, then the Eskimos that are  
4 | after us will have to go back to the. old way of living.  
5 | Even though we don't want them to drill, we know that  
6 | they're still going to go ahead anyway. But at least  
7 | we've said our point, knowing that we've tried. That's  
8 | the reason why we're trying to help our neighbors like in  
9 | Tuk and Paulatuk and Sachs, that are using the ocean too,  
10 | that if the oil company starts working they should be  
11 | very careful of what they're doing to the ocean.

12 |                                    If the oil companies are  
13 | working -- are going to be working, they should plan and  
14 | should really study everything before they ever go ahead.  
15 | They always tell us that they know every trick to stop  
16 | the blowouts and all that, but they should know  
17 | everything before they make their step.

18 |                                    We help each other, but the  
19 | only way we can help each other is by talking and that's  
20 | the only strength we have is our tongue. That's all he  
21 | have to say.

22 |                                    THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
23 | very much.

24 |                                    (WITNESS ASIDE)

25 |                                    JIMMY MEMJ, resumed

26 |                                    THE INTERPRETER: Jimmy  
27 | would like to say a few more words. I never work in  
28 | any big business all right, but the only time I work is  
29 | in the summertime with Tom Smith. My job is to help  
30 | Tom Smith study the seals to see if they're in good



1 | A Two years ago, yes.

2 | Q And that was a bad summer.

3 | A Yes. When we find out  
4 | that they were poor, we used to go to the rough ices and  
5 | we used to listen to them from there. When we are  
6 | listening to them in the rough ice where they have  
7 | feeding areas, you can hear them constantly fighting and  
8 | the ones that are poor always loses out. WE find some  
9 | seals that are dead in their breathing holes. Those are  
10 | the ones that lose out on the fight, runs away and never  
11 | moves again from a seal hole. We find a few like that  
12 | last two years ago.

13 | They went to Coppermine four  
14 | years ago to study there, but they didn't have any luck  
15 | because they went there when there was no seals. The  
16 | only time they can study is when they get seals, and the  
17 | only seals they get they find that they've got germs and  
18 | sickness in their lungs. When they came back from  
19 | Coppermine they take samples of only the young seals, and  
20 | those young seals were the ones who had the same kind of  
21 | sickness they had in Coppermine.

22 | Last year the seals, the  
23 | carcass, lungs, heart, and livers were really in good  
24 | condition. This year is the same thing, it's been good.  
25 | This summer in Minto the seals were extremely good.  
26 | They take specimens of all the seals that they get in  
27 | Minto, and here. When we got to Minto that summer,  
28 | last summer we arrived just in time to take specimens  
29 | of the two whales they got. They were both females,  
30 | but they didn't have any young.





1 | they it in those days is because they never used to trap  
2 | an they never used to travel much. The only source of  
3 | living they used to do was sealing. In those times when  
4 | it get warm in the springtime, that's when he was young  
5 | that's the first time he saw his first white man. The  
6 | first white man he ever saw was Billy Banksland and his  
7 | partner, Mr. Steffanson. That's the first time they saw  
8 | a match being used by white people, and they were really  
9 | happy when Steffanson gave them a hunting cans.

10 | THE COMMISSIONER: Gave them  
11 | what?

12 | THE INTERPRETER: Hunting tin  
13 | cans. Snow knife, I'm sorry.

14 | THE COMMISSIONER: What was that?

15 | THE INTERPRETER: It was snow  
16 | tin knife, not hunting cans. I misunderstood him. That  
17 | was the first time they ever saw or were given matches  
18 | and snow knives.

19 | THE COMMISSIONER: Snow knives?

20 | THE INTERPRETER: Snow knives.  
21 | Real knife, you know, not a copper or antler knife, but the  
22 | first time they ever seen a snow knife, made of steel.

23 | That time he remember the only  
24 | knives they used to have was the antlers of the caribous.  
25 | I guess I don't remember very well, probably the following  
26 | year or the year after another white man came with Charlie  
27 | Klengenber. That time when Charlie was here he been  
28 | trading, he been buying some clothing, caribou and seal  
29 | clothes, and when he went back, I don't know --  
30 | when he went back to his camp, I guess, he been



1 take too long.

2 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
3 I believe we'll stop for supper  
4 now. We'll come back at 7:30 and then these gentlemen  
5 who are at the table, we'll hear from you then, if that's  
6 all right.

7 (WITNESS ASIDE)  
8 (PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 5:15 P.M.)  
9 (PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 7:55 P.M.)

10 THE COMMISSIONER: I'll call  
11 the hearing to order again

12  
13 GEORGE OKHEENA sworn:  
14 THE INTERPRETER: George  
15 Okheena says he wants to say what he thinks. He wants to  
16 say a little bit about oil drillings and offshore  
17 drillings, even though it's a little bit short he want to  
18 make a comment on it.

19 Also these old-timers they been  
20 telling stories all day about you know everything from  
21 their background from our ancestors, and so himself, he  
22 want to make a comment about this oil drilling and offshore  
23 drilling. He said that someone announced so many times  
24 about this offshore drilling, what you call, seismic crews  
25 and everything and so on. He said it doesn't seem to be  
26 the way they talking about it, these Oil Committees and so  
27 on. He thinks to himself that offshore drilling really a  
28 dangerous thing to do in his own mind, he said he is going  
29 to talk about it, even though he's not really expert.  
30 He said around this country on



1 Victoria island people always they make a living off  
2 hunting same as the way people are in Holman Island, they  
3 make a living off hunting and fishing. He said even though  
4 nowadays we don't use any dog team any more, but skidoos  
5 really expensive nowadays, and going up the prices and we  
6 can't afford to pay them, sometime we have to go a long  
7 ways to go out in search for foxes or seals, even though we  
8 get sometime really hard time to find where to go out  
9 hunting.

10 He said also if this activity  
11 took place in our country they going to spoil everything,  
12 our hunting areas and we got no jobs at the present time,  
13 and we going to get a really hard time ahead for us, I  
14 think, in this country.

15 Another thing he said, we going  
16 to get hard time to find food. The native food around  
17 here, the wildlife like caribous and fish, even we never  
18 get anything for himself. We make our living off the  
19 land as it is today. He said if a blowout occurs in  
20 where they are drilling in offshore drilling there's a  
21 lot of things that seals in the springtime, there's all  
22 kinds of cracks, and the ducks, all these animals will be  
23 extinct. I mean some ducks, the first ones that's the  
24 ones that will die off right away if the oil start  
25 floating in these cracks in the current.

26 He said every time some people  
27 from the south came in here to have meeting about all  
28 kinds of equipment they have, and they start explaining  
29 that, they get good equipment to clean up the gas or  
30 anything like that, but he say that's the kind of thing



1 | coming, they will be really expensive to buy from the  
2 | store. He was very glad you people come in from south to  
3 | hear us what we have to say, even though we didn't have  
4 | very much to say, and now he got nothing else to say so  
5 | far.

6 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you,  
7 | sir.

8 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

9 |  
10 | JOHN KUNEYUNA sworn:

11 | THE INTERPRETER: John Kuneyuna  
12 | is the next. He said also he want to talk about that  
13 | offshore drilling. He heard about it also quite a few  
14 | times, he heard about this oil offshore drilling from the  
15 | people from the south. If any blowout occurs, he said  
16 | that he's pretty sure that all sea mammals will die off  
17 | right away as soon as the oil starts to spread all over  
18 | the ocean.

19 | He was saying every summer that  
20 | comes, all the people in Holman Island they go out  
21 | sealing. That's also their main resource, that's what it  
22 | coming from, seals. Every summer around the first week  
23 | of July he go for char fishing around the coast, and he  
24 | knows that two or three years ago, or four years ago,  
25 | that time there was a Power House overflow in the tank  
26 | and that oil go into the bay from up there, and when the  
27 | summer comes we had hard time to get fish in the first  
28 | part of July from that little oil spill.

29 | He said that time, that same  
30 | summer the people have to go a long ways to go for

1 fishing, like about 20 miles, 30 miles from settlement.  
2 He wanted to really support the people, even though they  
3 are not close from here, those from Tuk people, I think  
4 they do the same thing, they make a living off the sea  
5 fishing and whaling, and also he like to support these  
6 people because they know how it is, because those natives  
7 they live off the land, most of them at Tuk too.

8 Also he heard about when the  
9 Western Arctic people come around, he used to hear about  
10 lots of whales in Tuk, like Tuk and Richardson Island.  
11 Since then last few summers, this summer he saw first  
12 time in his life he see big bunch of whales close to the  
13 main shore of Victoria Island. As an example he thinks  
14 that they getting away from where they used to be from  
15 Tuk, I think he said those seismic crew, they started  
16 chasing these whales this way. He heard about the Tuk  
17 people, they are mainly fishing, that's their life in  
18 Tuk.

19 He say also that once a blowout  
20 occurs, all these fish and the whales and seals will be  
21 really affected by oil. That's all he have to say for  
22 now until what he thinks about later on.

23 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
24 (WITNESS ASIDE)

25  
26 SIMON KATAOYAK resumed:

27 THE INTERPRETER: Simon

28 Kataoyak is next.

29 THE WITNESS: One other thing  
30 I'd like to point out to you, when there's not much

1 speakers, another thing that makes the people proud on  
2 Holman island is the way they run their own Holman Eskimo  
3 Co-Op. It's another livelihood of theirs. They own it,  
4 and I'd just like to put in a few words on that because  
5 it's involved with the living of Holman Island.

6 In 1961 it started with six  
7 people, you know, these six people were the ones that  
8 started the Co-op, as members, and their goal was to make  
9 some products that could be carried out through the  
10 people, the people can make them and sell them. These  
11 six people find out that by working together, sticking  
12 together, they can support themselves.

13 In those days they had to think  
14 lots before they started that Co-Op because they had to  
15 start a Co-Op, otherwise they would be on welfare. These  
16 six people were too proud to go on welfare, so what they  
17 did was they started a little Co-Op by starting with  
18 sealskin tapestries.

19 THE COMMISSIONER: Starting with?

20 A Sealskin tapestries.

21 From there they didn't pay wages at all, they had --  
22 I don't think the workers ever been paid ever since,  
23 well, they started paying wages in 1964, after they  
24 pay up their loan and after they have enough money  
25 aside to start the operation. From there it started  
26 getting more members and it started, to grow, and  
27 right now it's on the size that it's well enough to  
28 support its members throughout the year. We are happy  
29 with that. If it wasn't for the Co-Op, I guess,  
30 most of the women would have nothing to do. Probably the

1 | only income they would have was their family allowance;  
2 | but with this they know very well that this Co-op is  
3 | their own and they make use of it, and they are proud of  
4 | it. That's one thing I'm proud to say because I worked  
5 | for them for ten years.

6 |   That's all I wanted to tell you  
7 | because this is another reason why Holman Island is proud  
8 | of itself because they are trying and struggling to stay  
9 | out of welfare. Thank you.

10 |    THE COMMISSIONER: Thank You.

11 |   (WITNESS ASIDE)

12 |

13 |    MRS. ELSIE MALGOKAK sworn:

14 |    THE INTERPRETER: Elsie

15 | Malgokak want to take about her life also. She doesn't  
16 | want to use her name 'Alikatnik' because there's a lot of  
17 | Alikamiks in this town. They always make a mistake when  
18 | they say Alikamik, her or the other one, that's why she  
19 | call herself Elsie Malgokak.

20 |    She's going to tell about --  
21 | she's going to make it short. She says since she start  
22 | to remember her parents, as soon as inland dries up she  
23 | used to walk around Victoria Island since she started  
24 | to remember, hunting caribous. She said when it's bad  
25 | weather once they go inland they used to go out to fish  
26 | traps and harpooning the fish. They made a fish trap  
27 | in the rivers when it's bad weather for hunting  
28 | caribous, and they used what they call it, jiggling  
29 | rod to make them drift out; and jiggle like this  
30 | to get fish. That's the way they make a living inland.

1                                 In the old time that time when  
2 they used to go inland, when they are ready, they wait  
3 for the fall time to go on the coast, they started  
4 getting ready for everything. She said also when the  
5 caribou start migrating north, everybody used to get up  
6 early in the morning and start killing some caribous.

7                                 She said when they are finished  
8 hunting caribou inland everybody gathered in one place  
9 and started to make clothing for the winter, and when  
10 they are finished making clothing, they started to head  
11 for the coast. At the coast everybody start sealing  
12 right away when they finished their snow houses, with the  
13 harpoons.

14                                They used to go out one place  
15 and then they go to the next camp, they look for where  
16 the seals are. Like in one place, and when they get to  
17 where the seals get scarce, they go a little bit farther,  
18 they leave the first camp and they make the next camp.  
19 Also when there are some people hunting, polar bear came,  
20 when they start hunting some people there had only two  
21 dogs, one dog they go out to Nelson Head to hunt polar  
22 bears. Once they get to the Nelson Head, the hunters  
23 they started getting polar bears and they started drag  
24 the meat home and some of them, they got only one dog,  
25 two dogs, even though the man have to drag himself,  
26 walking all the way down to Banks Island.

27                                Those hunters are in old time  
28 the people are really tough. They never seem to get  
29 tired, even though they have to walk long ways across  
30 to Nelson Head, and they usually only take one pair of

1 shoes to wear, and the other one, two pair of shoes  
2 actually they take, they only pack it, that's all they  
3 take, and their bow and arrows.

4 Her dad left to take maybe 10  
5 days or 12 days he stay away when he start hunting polar  
6 bears. She say herself sometime she start crying for her  
7 dad. Once they get through with hunting polar bears, all  
8 the hunters they have to go back, they have lots of polar  
9 bear meat and they bring lots of meat to the settlement.

10 She going to tell about her  
11 dad, how he tracked down one polar bear. She says early  
12 in the morning he started to track the polar bear when  
13 sun was start just climbing up and he caught up to that  
14 polar bear, when the sun start going down on sunset. She  
15 said that those people, even though they got not too many  
16 dogs that time, these people when they got polar bear,  
17 they carry big loads and they bring lots of meat to the  
18 settlement.

19 She says her memory is really  
20 bad, she keep forgetting the story. That's all she have  
21 to say right now.

22 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
23 (WITNESS ASIDE)

24 MISS LANE: Mr. Commissioner,  
25 while there's a pause I wonder if I could enter the land  
26 use map as an exhibit, please?

27 THE COMMISSIONER: All right.  
28 (LAND USE MAP OF HOLMAN RESIDENTS MARKED EXHIBIT C-249)

29  
30



1 WALLACE GOOSE unsworn:

2 THE WITNESS: I'd like to point  
3 out before the people came into Holman Island, in the map  
4 where they used to live at that time and since I came up  
5 from Coppermine since 1940, I'd like to point out where  
6 they used to live.

7 THE COMMISSIONER: All right.

8 THE WITNESS: At that time  
9 since I came up to Holman Island, at that time I was only  
10 18 years old when I get to Holman. I used D know the  
11 people who used to live maybe 30 miles east or west of  
12 here. Each little settlement, like two families in one  
13 place, and the other families, maybe four or five  
14 families lived together. I like to point out in the map.

15 I came up here to Holman  
16 Island, There were three families here at that time at  
17 Holman Island when I came into, and there was a family  
18 living --

19 THE COMMISSIONER: There were  
20 three families in Holman Island in 1940?

21 A Yes. There was only three  
22 families at that time in 1940, first time I get here. It  
23 was my parents and my wife's parents and old Mark's, he  
24 lives also at that time. Since then some people start  
25 living at Eiluk(?) near Paulatuk. They live around here,  
26 eh. They live in here in little ( ? ) that's these  
27 people they were at that time, all were spread out, eh,  
28 and around here, that old fellow around there he used to  
29 live there at that time.

30 THE COMMISSIONER: You're

1 | pointing to various locations on the perimeter of Prince  
2 | Albert Sound.

3 |                                   A     And some of them here in  
4 | Minto Inlet, there was about, Kugiak (?) right there,  
5 | Kugiak, that's the name of it on Minto Inlet, Also about  
6 | maybe six families live there in that time.

7 |                                   Another family they used to  
8 | live in here. Another, Roy, he was born here, that's why  
9 | he was just the only family there. All these, that's  
10 | where they used to live at that time.

11 |                                  Q     You're pointing to various  
12 | locations around Minto Inlet and Walker Bay.

13 |                                  A     Yes, Walker Bay, and then  
14 | there's one time the Hudson's Bay used to be there at  
15 | that time. When I came up in 1940 they were moving to  
16 | Holman Island, and by the time I get there they had a  
17 | little store up, they took it down from Walker Bay and  
18 | moved it here, with the R.C. Mission. There was only  
19 | two buildings at that time.

20 |                                  Afterwards I used to remember  
21 | at that time that me and my brother had hard time to get  
22 | shells. We have to save the shells, so even though I'd  
23 | have to get grouse, we'd start shooting around just for  
24 | nothing. According to what I know, old Mark there he  
25 | used to go out with three shots, go out sealing with  
26 | three shots. He used to come by with three seals. He  
27 | was a real good shot at that time. I know he was a real,  
28 | good shot with 30-30. I remember is rifle was a carbine,  
29 | Every shot I'm pretty sure he going to hit it, you know  
30 | when he started in -- old Mark.

1 He used to live way in here,  
2 eh. From there he went to this place to get married, so  
3 from there he live there for quite a while until the  
4 government told us to gather here if we want to get real  
5 housing, they call it, they want to gather us there at  
6 that time. But some of the people, they kind of  
7 encourage the government to build their little housing in  
8 here and there, where the good hunting ground is, so the  
9 government they told the natives, the people, said it  
10 would cost too much to bring the houses and the fuel, so  
11 they want them to be in one settlement so they say no  
12 problem to get the fuel from the south, so everything we  
13 need will be gathered there anyway.

14 Q They gathered you together  
15 at Holman?

16 A '63, right, they cross  
17 here in 1964, they moved the settlement. It was the  
18 first time, we call it match-box house, was started  
19 building across the bay. Then from there they move it to  
20 the settlement here.

21 Q Where did they bring you  
22 in '61?

23 A From across the bay,  
24 across the bay there.

25 Q Oh, I see.

26 A Because it was too rough  
27 across there, they told us to build houses, and not  
28 enough room. At that time the people were so happy,  
29 because they were all spread out and every time Christmas  
30 time or Easter time, they used to go for trading same

1 | time. We used to have a good time competing our dog  
2 | teams because there was some people had really good dogs,  
3 | and also myself, I used to have really good dogs, but  
4 | next to the best one too sometimes I used to race some of  
5 | my good dogs. We really enjoyed that time, there was no  
6 | booze, nothing at that time, we never seen about  
7 | anything, only the feast.

8 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

9 |

10 | SAM OLIKTOAK resumed:

11 | THE INTERPRETER: O.K., Sam

12 | Oliktoak again.

13 | That time again he used to live  
14 | from about maybe 30 miles or rather about 100 miles from  
15 | Holman Island, that's where he used to live before moved  
16 | to Holman Island. About here is where he used to live.  
17 | He got no white man at that time.

18 | He wanted to tell about Minto  
19 | Inlet, he used to live there ten years since he moved  
20 | before he moved to Holman Island. He said there was lots  
21 | of -- it was closer to hunting caribou at that time; and  
22 | the Fish Lake close by. It was one of the best place for  
23 | fishing, and the fall time when the freezeup, the Fish  
24 | Lake was right close by, that's why he used to live  
25 | there, last ten years. When he move around here since  
26 | Minto Inlet, every year it's getting harder to go out  
27 | hunting for him.

28 | At that time the people used  
29 | to live where they know is a good hunting ground, that's  
30 | why the people at that time used to be really happy

1 | before they moved to Holman. At that time on the trap  
2 | they used to have a good trapline. People used to stay  
3 | where they don't have to go far from their own  
4 | settlement, like Ameto Lake or Holyoak, the people they  
5 | got lots of room for traps, everybody was really happy at  
6 | that time.

7 | He say now really change  
8 | everything because the government order the people to  
9 | stay in the one place and he wouldn't go back to that  
10 | life again. Every year it's getting to be harder and  
11 | harder for them.

12 | That's all he have to say till  
13 | right now.

14 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
15 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

16 | GARY BRISTOW sworn:

17 | THE WITNESS: I just wanted to  
18 | say a few words about my relationships with the people  
19 | and some of the observations I have made of being with  
20 | the people.

21 | I've been in Holman -- I came  
22 | to Holman about over four years I've been in Holman, and  
23 | in that time I've done a lot of travelling with the  
24 | people and I've seen a lot of the country that the people  
25 | are talking about. I've been with the people hunting  
26 | seals, hunting ducks, trapping foxes, and I've seen the  
27 | way their life is. There's a possibility of an  
28 | oil spill from drilling in the Beaufort Sea; that has  
29 | possibilities of destroying the animals and birds and all  
30 | forms of wildlife. These people are very proud people,

1 | they are proud of their way of life. They're an honest  
2 | people, honest because the land is honest to them. Any  
3 | changes that will be caused by loss of wildlife on the  
4 | land will destroy the proud and honest qualities of these  
5 | people, and I do not want to see their free, happy life  
6 | destroyed.

7 |  
8 | Therefore I do not think that  
9 | enough thought and questions have been raised regarding  
10 | the possibilities of an oil spill.

11 | Thank you.

12 | THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
13 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

14 | CHARLIE KITOLOGITAK resumed:

15 | THE INTERPRETER: This old man  
16 | sat here because he wanted to -- he thought of some old-  
17 | time livelihood and he wants to say a little more about  
18 | it. He wants to tell the story, a little one about the  
19 | people that used to live in Prince Albert Sound. These  
20 | people that used to live, there were two tribes in this  
21 | story. One tribe is hunting seals, also the other tribe  
22 | was doing the same, but while the other people were still  
23 | hunting seals, these other tribe went to their -- to the  
24 | other's camp and when they see them, the children were  
25 | playing outside, and they, when they saw them they  
26 | thought they were their fathers so they went before them  
27 | to meet them. When the children reached these  
28 | hunters from the other tribe, they noticed that  
29 | they were different people from the other tribe, and  
30 | when they reached them the people that were hunting

1 seals killed the children that were the ones that were  
2 going to them by a mistake that they weren't their  
3 fathers

4 After finished killing the  
5 children they kept going to the houses and slaughtered  
6 the womens. When they first reached the houses, snow  
7 houses, they open the windows of all the snow houses and  
8 they harpoon them from the outside of the house. That  
9 was a big village, and they took almost a whole day to  
10 kill them all. They go from house to house, that tribe  
11 that was there, and when they get to the house they look  
12 through the windows first of the snow houses and anybody  
13 that's in the house, they killed.

14 They do the same thing again on  
15 the next houses they go onto, same thing; and when they  
16 get to the last house they went to two women that were  
17 living, and when they start opening the window of the  
18 snow house, this woman and her daughter, her daughter was  
19 the one that had the child at that time, at that moment  
20 of the slaughtering, those two were using the diapers of  
21 that child, burning them and trying to keep those men out  
22 of the house from getting killed. Every time the hunters  
23 want to go -- every time the hunters wanted to look  
24 through the open window, the women used their used the  
25 torch to keep those men out of the way from coming in;  
26 from making a torch of diapers and some of their  
27 clothing they were able to keep themselves from being  
28 killed.

29 Finally the hunters couldn't  
30 get the last two, so they gave up on them. When they

1 | have killed most of those women on the other tribe, those  
2 | men give up on those two women and they decided to go as  
3 | far away from that camp, like running away along the  
4 | coast.

5 |                                   When the hunters of that tribe  
6 | reached home, they find their wives all killed except the  
7 | two. When they find that out they decided to follow the  
8 | tracks of those men that killed their wives, and along  
9 | the way they caught up to one of the pregnant women that  
10 | were with the men that were slaughtering the women. When  
11 | they catch up to that lady that was left behind from that  
12 | tribe, they killed her first and then they kept on  
13 | tracking those other men. When they caught up to that  
14 | women before they killed her, that women know she was  
15 | going to get killed so she told the men that she was a  
16 | good lady and was a good wife, but they never listened to  
17 | her, they killed that woman without listening to her  
18 | plea.

19 |                                   After they killed that woman  
20 | they continued tracking the men down that killed their  
21 | wives. When they finished tracking them down, when they  
22 | reach the camp they notice that they all gathered at  
23 | their Community Hall that was made of snow house, and  
24 | they were all dancing. All their harpoons was outside of  
25 | the snow house, you know, just laying. When they  
26 | reached that place they were dancing so much that  
27 | other tribe that killed the women, when they were  
28 | dancing they couldn't hear from the inside so what they  
29 | did was they start blocking the door by piling up snow to  
30 | make sure they can't get out. After they have blocked



1 | the door, they open the top of their Community Hall and  
2 | they start killing them, like they kill them the same way  
3 | they have killed their wives.

4 |                                 After they have killed all of  
5 | them and make sure that none of them was alive, after  
6 | they've done that they start going back the same way as  
7 | they track down their -- that other tribe. Those men,  
8 | after they killed that tribe, they went back to the two  
9 | women that were left from their tribe.

10 |                                 That's a little legend of one  
11 | of Prince Albert Sound.

12 |                                 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
13 | very much.

14 |                                 THE INTERPRETER: He's going to  
15 | tell you another story about a man named Migok.

16 |                                 This man used to wait for the  
17 | hunters around the house, and when they start coming in  
18 | with seals, he used to look for the ones that get the big  
19 | males, big male seals. Every time the hunters get the  
20 | big males, he used to take them away from the hunters.  
21 | He said one of the hunters that got one of those big  
22 | males saw that man coming, so he was getting ready for  
23 | him. Just before that man reach him, he stopped and took  
24 | one of the testicles of the male and he put it in his  
25 | mouth, so when he comes in he was going to do something  
26 | with it.

27 |                                 This hunter that took  
28 | the testicles out of that seal was so mad with  
29 | that man that was always taking the males from every  
30 | hunter that gets a male, he asked this man, "Look, I have

1 | one of my testicles in my mouth. Why don't you cut yours  
2 | and put it in your mouth too?"

3 |                                 So without waiting, without  
4 | even thinking, this man that always takes the males from  
5 | the hunters actually cut his own testicles and he put in  
6 | his mouth, and when he was trying to speak he couldn't  
7 | speak any more because he was running out of blood. So  
8 | that's the way he got rid of that male snatcher.

9 |                                 That's the end of that little  
10 | story.

11 |                                 THE COMMISSIONER: I guess  
12 | that's a story with a happy ending.

13 |                                 (LAUGHTER)

14 |

15 |                                 (WITNESS ASIDE)

16 |

17 |                                 BILL GOOSE resumed:

18 |                                 THE WITNESS: I said something  
19 | but. I think I missed out on a few of the things that  
20 | are really important to us Inuit people.

21 |                                 First of all I'd like to talk  
22 | about the way of life. I work locally every-day job five  
23 | days a week, but on the weekends I like to go out  
24 | hunting, I like to go out sealing, but I don't want to  
25 | lose this privilege of going out sealing on weekends.  
26 | During my holidays I like to go out on the sea ice and  
27 | also on the land to go hunting caribou, and I want my  
28 | children to do the same thing. It's a happy life to  
29 | live an Eskimo life, to be able to have a job and to go  
30 | out and hunt whatever is available around there, he

1 settlement.

2 I believe that if an oil  
3 blowout occurs in one of the offshore drills, this will  
4 create a big change. I want to be able to do the same  
5 thing that I'm doing now, like most of the Inuit people,  
6 to be able to have that free time to enjoy the nature.  
7 But the southern oriented people, the southern people  
8 they have a great push on the north for they intend to  
9 endanger this free time of our Inuit people, and destroy  
10 our privilege from taking our free time to go out  
11 hunting. I believe that -- and we all know that we live  
12 in an atomic age where there is, I believe, an inventor  
13 an come up with a different source of way to take the oil  
14 out other than having to build a pipeline.

15 The second thing is on the land  
16 claims. I believe I.T.C. was on their presentation to  
17 the government on the land claims proposal, and it's  
18 going to take some time before things start to happen,  
19 and this pipeline, I don't know when it's going to take  
20 place but my concern is that I'd like to see the land  
21 claim settlement first happening before the pipeline.

22 That's all I have to say.

23 (WITNESS ASIDE)

24

25 DAVID KANAYOK sworn:

26 THE INTERPRETER: Here is David  
27 Kanayok.

28 THE WITNESS: I've been listen-  
29 ing to the people talking here, the way they feel about  
30 their land, how it's going to hurt them if the oil

1 company comes. If the oil company comes, if they start  
2 putting the pipeline, everything is going to go upside  
3 down. If there is more people from the States, if they  
4 come they're going to bring some drugs and booze to the  
5 people here.

6 The people here, the trappers.  
7 they're really good trappers; but me, I don't trap, I  
8 just make living and work in the village here. They make  
9 more than I get here. I work for a seismic crew many  
10 times and I always run into men taking drugs in their  
11 camp, and they always want to treat the Eskimo for  
12 something.

13 My case is not only for the  
14 lands people, they're fighting over, for themselves too.  
15 They don't want to lose their life.

16 That's all I have to say right  
17 now.

18 (WITNESS ASIDE)

19 JOHN KUNEYUNA resumed:

20 THE INTERPRETER: Here is John  
21 Kuneyuna. I would like to make a little speech about  
22 land claims.

23 Another thing is I.T.C. came  
24 over a few times to explain about land claims and land  
25 settlements, and I have forgotten a little bit about  
26 that. I didn't make any speech on it before. I.T.C.  
27 was telling us how to mark our land how we used it, they  
28 wanted us to mark even the ocean, how much of the ocean  
29 we used and how much of the land we used.

30 That's the reason why I am

1 | saying this, because if the two holes that they are  
2 | planning to drill in Tuk, it might be the place where the  
3 | people are mainly hunting for bears or seals. The reason  
4 | why I'm saying this is because if Tuk people are using a  
5 | part of that country, if an oil spill occurs then what  
6 | will happen is the livelihood of Tuk is going to be  
7 | spoiled because if that oil spill is running loose and  
8 | it's not controlled, well the whales are the main  
9 | resource of Tuk, and seals, and the whales might move to  
10 | some other areas and it wouldn't be good because Tuk  
11 | would be out of whales and seals.

12 | He hasn't got much more to say  
13 | but he would like to thank Judge Berger for coming and  
14 | listening to us.

15 | (WITNESS ASIDE)

16 |  
17 | WALLACE GOOSE resumed:

18 | THE WITNESS: I'd like to say a  
19 | few words about land claims proposal. I've been involved  
20 | with this since the beginning of the I.T.C. in 1971.  
21 | Since then I've been all over Eastern Arctic and way down  
22 | to Ottawa quite a few times with these people,  
23 | Negotiating Committees. Even though I was sorry that  
24 | Robert wasn't here, he is Negotiating Committee, that was  
25 | his job to explain it. He was not here because his dad  
26 | got sick in Ottawa the last time when we were there. All  
27 | of a sudden he changed the climate and I think he got  
28 | sick, he was walking around the street just bare jacket  
29 | in the rain.

30 | It's a funny thing to see rain

1 around here when there was a 20 to 30 below zero, when we  
2 get down there it started raining. I was sorry to see  
3 that old man got sick there.

4 So I would like to say a few  
5 words about that settlement of land claim proposal that  
6 the people would like to see. The first thing, the land  
7 claims should be first before all these things happening  
8 in the north. Like pipeline, seismic crews, everything  
9 because to ensure our way of life after the settlement of  
10 land claims, that means we ensure our own way of life in  
11 the north. Even though we are not stingy for this, our  
12 country, this is a big country. This north is so rich we  
13 know we can't develop the country ourselves, and we need  
14 southern people to develop this country.

15 Also we would like to be  
16 involved when we start developing this country because we  
17 can develop with these southern people. We know that  
18 they need oil the same all over they're short of oil. We  
19 don't want to see southern people short of oil because in  
20 the wintertime some other places they are really cold  
21 too, I know, I been in south. All these people, we are  
22 Canadians, we should be involved in this country  
23 together.

24 So only way we can do it is  
25 unite together with Eskimos and Indians and white  
26 people, only way we can develop this country, because  
27 really rich country according to the scientists in the  
28 north, because there's all kinds of gas we heard about in  
29 Tuk, even Banks Island. We, are not stingy for this  
30 country. That's the trouble, because we really endanger

1 | our way of life.

2 |                                 Then we would like to see the  
3 | thing, right now the settlement of land claims before all  
4 | these things occurs. That's all I have to say for now.

5 |                                 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
6 | very much.

7 |                                 (WITNESS ASIDE)

8 |

9 |                                 SAM OLIKTOAK resumed:

10 |                                 THE INTERPRETER: This  
11 | gentleman wants to say a little more. His name is Sam  
12 | Oliktoak.

13 |                                 Nowadays when we are living we  
14 | heard about oil companies and we start thinking about our  
15 | future, our Eskimo future, and white man's future.

16 |                                 We know very well that we are  
17 | all using fuel oil. We are all using fuel, same thing.  
18 | Those two pipelines that are being, drawn on the map,  
19 | it's affecting both Indians and Eskimos' hunting grounds.  
20 | Right now when the people are hunting, they're having no  
21 | hard times, they are hunting on their free will and they  
22 | are doing a good job of it.

23 |                                 The reason why I'm saying this  
24 | is because I would like to see the white people, the  
25 | Indians and Eskimos, get together and work on this  
26 | situation. The reason why I'm saying this is that if we  
27 | all work together and look to the future the brighter  
28 | way, we all will live a better life, and we all know that  
29 | we don't live by ourselves, we live with the help of the  
30 | Lord, we always live. That's all I have to say.

1 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you.  
2 (WITNESS ASIDE)

3  
4 DAVID KANAYOK resumed:  
5 THE INTERPRETER: This  
6 gentleman here is David Kanayok.

7 THE WITNESS: Can I ask why you  
8 want to build a pipeline in the Arctic?

9 THE COMMISSIONER: They use a  
10 lot of gas in Southern Canada in big cities and to run  
11 the big industries, and they have found a lot of gas in  
12 the Mackenzie Delta so they want to build a pipeline to  
13 carry that gas across Canada to people who live in the  
14 south who need it.

15 Now, the Government of Canada  
16 says, "Well, if we build a gas pipeline to bring gas from  
17 the Arctic to Southern Canada, then we'll build an oil  
18 pipeline after that to bring oil from the Arctic to  
19 Southern Canada," and that's why they want to build the  
20 pipeline.

21 We're here to see what you have  
22 to say, you people who live here have to say about the  
23 project) and then the government, when they have got my  
24 report and the report of the Energy Board, will decide  
25 what to do about it. I have the feeling I said this  
26 before, but I'm trying to make it as simple as I can but  
27 if you say "Why do they want to build a pipeline from the  
28 Arctic?" that's why we're here.

29 My job is to make sure that the  
30 Government of Canada is in a position to make an informed



1 judgment about this. What you people have to say is  
2 important to me because whatever decision is made is one  
3 that you, who were born here in the north and will spend  
4 your lives here in the north, whatever decision is made  
5 is a decision that you will have to live with for the  
6 rest of your lives. It's important to you, and what you  
7 have to say is important to me.

8 A Thanks.

9 (WITNESS ASIDE)

10 THE COMMISSIONER: I think that  
11 we've had a very good hearing here yesterday and today.  
12 I want to thank all of you who spoke because I think I  
13 learned something from each one of you, and I know that  
14 all of us, all the people that came with me have enjoyed  
15 our stay here in Holman, and enjoyed meeting you and are  
16 grateful for your hospitality, and it's been a visit that  
17 we'll remember for a long time.

18 I have listened to what you  
19 have told me about your life and about the land and what  
20 it means to you, and I won't forget it. It's all being  
21 taped and written down, and everything that you've said  
22 at the hearings yesterday and today will be put into a  
23 book and that will be sent to you in the village so that  
24 you can read it when you wish to, and it will be  
25 available to me so that as we move along I can look it up  
26 and it's a way that enables me to remember the things  
27 that you said here, and the things that you've said are  
28 very important to me.

29 I just say that I won't forget  
30 the things you told me, that it's written down so I can

1 | remember it and we'll be sending it to you so that you  
2 | will be able to remember it too.

3 |                                 So let me just thank you all  
4 | again on behalf of all of us who have been your guests in  
5 | the last two days.

6 |                                 (APPLAUSE)

7 |                                 MR. KATAQYAK: Now, from the  
8 | people of Holman Island to the people of Judge Berger's  
9 | Inquiry and Judge Berger himself, from Holman Island --

10 |                                 (PRESENTS A GIFT TO JUDGE BERGER)

11 |                                 (APPLAUSE)

12 |                                 THE COMMISSIONER: Thank you  
13 | very much. Is it all right if I open this? I might say  
14 | it is addressed to:

15 |                 "The people of the Berger Inquiry from the Hol-  
16 | man Co-Op."

17 | I think that means I get to keep it.

18 |                                 (LAUGHTER)

19 |                                 Well, thank you very much,  
20 | that's really lovely. I don't know whether you can see  
21 | this or not. I want to thank you again and tell you  
22 | again how much we've enjoyed ourselves.

23 |                                 The Inquiry is adjourned until  
24 | we meet again in Sachs Harbour tomorrow afternoon, and  
25 | maybe those of you who would like to get a closer look at  
26 | this could come around. Thank you again.

27 |

28 |

29 |

30 |