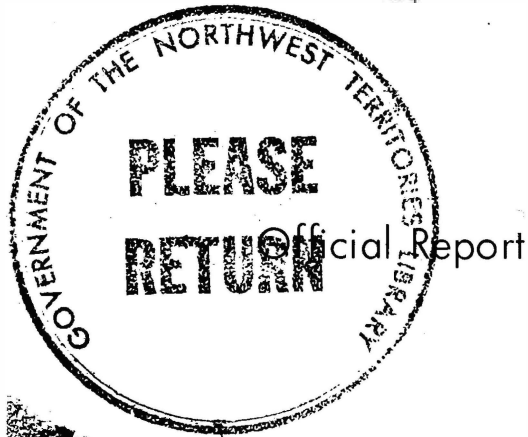




LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
DEBATES

62nd Session

8th Assembly



TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1977

Speaker The Honourable David H. Searle, Q.C.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

10 May 1977

	<u>PAGE</u>
Prayer	9
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of:	
- Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry	9
Report of the Committee of the Whole of:	
- Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry	29
Orders of the Day	30

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1977

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Stewart, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Lyall, Mr. Whitford, Hon. Arnold McCallum, Mr. Evaluarjuk, Hon. Peter Ernerk, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Pudluk, Hon. David Searle, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

ITEM NO. 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. David Searle): Gentlemen, the motion yesterday by the Hon. Arnold McCallum was to the effect that all items of business be stood down temporarily and that this House immediately resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of the Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, which is the first item under Item 13 of the orders of the day.

This House therefore will resolve into committee of the whole for consideration of the Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

ITEM NO. 13: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS, RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE, INFORMATION ITEMS AND OTHER MATTERS

MR. STEWART: Mr. Speaker, because of the importance, particularly with regard to this report I would hope that I would have an opportunity to leave the chair at some time, if I should need to do so.

MR. SPEAKER: I would rather expect that everyone is in the same position. Certainly we will leave it to you to indicate some point when you would like to do that.

MR. STEWART: Thank you, sir.

---Legislative Assembly resolved into committee of the whole for consideration of Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry with Mr. Stewart in the chair.

PROCEEDINGS IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO CONSIDER REPORT OF THE MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE INQUIRY

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The committee will come to order to discuss the Berger report. Inasmuch as it is a very detailed report, probably if it is your desire, we should start with comments of a general nature and then it can develop as you wish later. Is that your desire, to make comments of a general nature at this time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Any comments of a general nature? Mr. Minister, Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Background On Mr. Justice Thomas Berger.

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of comments of a general nature on this report and first of all I think we should try to find out the circumstances under which the Commissioner, Mr. Justice Thomas Berger was chosen, the circumstances that surrounded his choice, or the choice by the minister of that time. In doing so we will then be able to appreciate properly why the results of the Commissioner's inquiry were so predictable. We have to recognize that of course this is basically a political document rather than a technical one. I would suspect that Mr. Justice Berger is a fairly conscientious individual and obviously fairly competent but he would be expected to deal with much of the technical aspects in Volume Two of his report, which will probably be in actual fact the most useful of the two.

Now, I think it is correct to say that when Mr. Berger was chosen at that time the government in Ottawa, the Liberals held power only because they received support from the socialist party, the NDP and I strongly suspect that one of the terms that the NDP partly imposed on the Liberals at that time, in order to give them their continued support was that their man be made Commissioner. Of course everyone is fully aware of Mr. Berger's socialist background and the sort of things he has been up to during the whole of his career.

Now, I was of course expecting that Mr. Berger would have to come out with something that would be an embarrassment to the Liberal government, and this is all part of the politics of the situation. This presumably is why people wanted to put him in there in the first place. This is only to be expected, he had to come up with something of potential embarrassment to the government. This is all well and good in its own way, but what really disturbs me about it is that it appears that Mr. Berger is quite prepared to sacrifice a whole generation of our young people in the Northwest Territories to attain this very ephemeral goal, that will be used today and probably forgotten about a few weeks down the road.

I think that the whole Berger fiasco, if I can use so strong a term, is a classic example, Mr. Chairman, of someone who comes into the North, who comes here, studies us, looks at us, presumably listens to what we are saying, and then goes away again and comes up with one of these reports or recommendations that purports to tell us what is best for ourselves. This has been going on time and time again and this is just another illustration of that type of thinking and that type of attitude on the part of people in Ottawa.

Mr. Berger of course does not have to live with his recommendations, he can go away again and if they do not turn out right he can go and do something else. He does not have to live here, he does not have to live with his mistakes and we, of course, do.

Method Of Presentation Of Report.

I am very concerned, Mr. Chairman, with the theatrics that surrounded the inquiry, the way it was carried out, the way the report was finally presented. I do not personally think that that is the right way of going about it. I do not like the fact that Mr. Berger, being the master of public relations which he is, with all the press there, all the television, all the radio, this whole thing was very well orchestrated, well put together, and it left out parliament; the whole thing must have been a terrible embarrassment to Hon. Warren Allmand, and although I, as I am sure most of the other people here do, disagree at times with the Hon. Warren Allmand and the policies of the federal government, they do of course respect that they are Canada's choice for that position and I am sure that none of us here would go to those lengths to embarrass a cabinet minister.

I am sure that no such thing as the Berger Inquiry would have been allowed in the provinces, the provincial governments would have said no, they would not put up with this type of thing. They are quite prepared to study something, have recommendations made, but they would not engage in this theatrical approach.

I would strongly suspect that Mr. Berger, who as I said is a master of public relations, but I am sure that he is also a master of manipulating public opinion, and that is self-evident. I strongly suspect that he will, in the near future, go back into politics. Maybe that would be a good idea and then he could express his views openly instead of hiding behind his judicial robes.

Another thing that we must bear in mind, Mr. Chairman, is that all the time that Mr. Berger was here, he never really met the people. I know, and I am as guilty of this as everyone else, on the couple of occasions I have sat down and had dinner with Mr. Berger, I have always had it in the back of my mind that he is the Commissioner and whatever I say is guarded, and I am trying to put my views across to him fairly discreetly, I hope. I am sure that that is the way that everybody else who he talked to here treated him, he never really met people as an equal, as one of them, he was always the Commissioner and because of that I do not think he could really have found out what people were thinking. You have to live here for several years in order to be able to do that, to find out what the innermost views of people are. Of course, he could find out a number of facts and had he been here for two years resident in the area, he certainly would have picked up enough information for instance for him to be able to take part in an election in the territories. He would have that amount of information, but he would not really be able to advise Ottawa on the deepest things that people in the territories are thinking.

Manipulation Evident At Hearings.

When he travelled around the Northwest Territories the whole orchestration, the whole manipulation was very evident. This was especially evident in the community hearings. I think that when he was in Yellowknife here in the formal hearings it was of course evident then and people prepared their briefs and did it in a very businesslike manner and presented their views in a formal manner but we can not forget that when he did go around the settlements those hearings were every bit as put together in advance as the hearings were in Yellowknife. Because of this I find it would be very difficult for Mr. Berger to really find out what the people, especially the native people of the territories are thinking.

This difficulty he would have I think explains in some way why in his report he concentrates on this frontier versus home concept. He tries to differentiate between the white point of view and the native point of view. He refuses to accept the fact that the people who came to the Northwest Territories 10,000 years ago or just 20 years ago or maybe even two or three years ago can really work together. He just could not accept that fact. I have always said that if the white people and the native people of the territories could not get along together where did all the Metis come from?

Now, what of the report itself? I do not want to get into detail here because I think we can do that later but I would say that there are some good things in it, especially the technical aspects. Where Mr. Berger has confined himself to technical matters he has done a reasonably good job. It is impossible in listening or reading the evidence that was presented to deny the fact that a pipeline could be built down the Mackenzie Valley with practically negligible environmental effects and of course Mr. Berger has had to say that otherwise he would not have been credible. He has done a good job maybe in outlining certain areas; the whale breeding grounds in the Delta where you have to tread with a great deal of caution; he has done a good job in that respect, but where he has not really done a good job as far as the people of Canada or the people of the Northwest Territories are concerned is on the political aspects and you will see that it is very partisan in the report, it is very one-sided, it does not present a range of alternatives that might be presented to the policy makers as is common in this type of report and in my opinion as far as the political aspects are concerned, Mr. Chairman, the report is not to be believed and is of no, or very little value to the people of the Northwest Territories.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Hon. Dave Nickerson. Comments of a general nature on the Berger Inquiry? Hon. Arnold McCallum?

Concern About Presentation And Tabling

HON. ARNOLD McCALLUM: Mr. Chairman, I would like to address myself to some comments of a general nature as well on the report. I believe that the report can not be condemned in total nor can it be accepted. I have various concerns about the manner in which, as the Hon. Dave Nickerson says, it all began. I am very much concerned with the manner in which it has been brought to the public and tabled. It would seem to me that a commission set up by the federal government by a minister of the crown that the report would have been given to the minister responsible and not set up as a publicity stunt all across Canada and even outside of Canada.

I have a concern that Mr. Berger, as I read it, attempts to set this institution, this Legislative Assembly down, an institution that I believe so far has had a unanimity of purpose, that of responsible government.

It seems that Mr. Berger sees a different kind of structural institution than that which we presently have. I believe that during the inquiry Mr. Berger listened to a great deal of unsolicited testimony and both the Commission counsel as well as the Commissioner, Mr. Berger himself in his report, went to great lengths to knock both this government and the federal government. I am very much concerned as the Hon. Dave Nickerson has indicated with Mr. Berger's attitude and condemnation of those of us who have lived in the North and are not of native extraction by implying and stating that we have done everything wrong and we did everybody wrong.

I believe the report contains a great number of things that this Assembly has come head to head with, Mr. Chairman, and I see in a number of instances no way of reconciling these confrontations. At the same time I believe that Mr. Berger in his report does make sound judgments. I do not think it is correct to say that we have accepted either collectively or individually the report or condemned the report. I, of course, as well as others, am concerned primarily with what I would term the constitutional aspects of the report because I believe that this Assembly that represents everybody in the Northwest Territories is the forum, the vehicle by which we can attain the goal that we are striving for and I use the term "we" to describe everybody in the territories.

Environmental Position Of Report

There are aspects to Mr. Berger's report in which he has taken a very strong stand, a very strong environmental position and some of these obviously make a great deal of sense. There are others where he suggests there should be preserves that, one, if there is to be a pipeline it may have to hop, skip and jump over an area to get the resources out. I think, Mr. Chairman, that the report emphasizes and of course deals with two basic areas, that is the protection of the environment and the future of government in the Northwest Territories.

As we go along, Mr. Chairman, I would, of course, want to refer specifically to various parts, but I want to emphasize again that although there were areas in Mr. Berger's report that I can not come to agreement on or concur with, there are definitely areas in the report on which I do have an agreement with Mr. Justice Berger.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further comments of a general nature on the Berger report? Mr. Pearson.

MR. PEARSON: Mr. Chairman, I find it a little difficult at this time to make too many comments on a report which was tabled yesterday, a report which I think is probably one of the most interesting and important documents to be compiled on the Northwest Territories in many a long year. I have had very little time in which to examine it, as have my colleagues and the Inuktitut version has just been circulated to the Eskimo speaking Members of the chamber a few minutes ago.

Effect Of Pipeline On Eastern Arctic

However, I would like to state that coming from the Eastern Arctic, the effect of the pipeline, if there were to be one, would not be as great on our region as it would on the Mackenzie. However, from what I read into the report, it gives me hope that this country, and this Government of Canada will not charge headlong into the development of resources without giving first due consideration to the wishes, views and needs of the people who live in the North.

I think from this point of view it is an historical document. There have not been many occasions in the history of this country when the native people have been consulted to the extent that they were consulted on this issue. There are already criticisms being levelled that it was a very small number of people that Mr. Berger spoke to. I think compared to matters that have gone on before there were a great number of people who were asked, whose opinions were sought, and obviously whose opinions have been respected by a man who was chosen by the government of this country to look into this matter.

Now, whether this Legislature feels it has been pushed aside, whether provincial governments in this country would have tolerated it, I do not think is important as it happened. I think we can look forward in the North to development of the resources, but more particularly to the development of the people who live here. I have for a long time advocated a closer working relationship, better understanding of the people we represent.

Responsibility Of Legislative Assembly

I represent the native people of the Northwest Territories, the native people voted for me as a representative person on this body and as mayor of the community in which I live, and I consider that I have a responsibility to them, so that they may one day be able to run their own affairs, to become fully responsible to take on the burden of responsibility of running their own land. Hopefully, we can provide that, this Assembly can provide it as this Assembly can provide the leadership in the area of education as it still has yet to achieve that, but it is this Assembly's responsibility.

Again I would wish to repeat that I have had very little time to examine the report; I think it is very exciting; I think it lays a blueprint that heretofore did not exist, a blueprint that we can examine very carefully and see in it, as I see in it, some very exciting things.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Pearson. Any further comments of a general nature on the Berger report? Hon. David Searle.

HON. DAVID SEARLE: Mr. Chairman, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the Hon. Dave Nickerson. I think that I would like to say that the concern he has expressed for the showmanship that went into this is a concern that I have had as well, something which you only see if you have lived here through it, something you would not see presumably if you were living in the Eastern Arctic. However, be that as it may, it is important now I think to try and deal with the matter in a balanced way pointing out the good points, because there are indeed many.

Style Of Writing Of Report

The treatment given by Judge Berger on the environmental issues, the concerns expressed with respect to the building of the line and the frank admission that it is almost inevitable and can be done safely, I think is a credit to him. The first volume, and I think I would just like to mention, as this follows from a comment made by Mr. Pearson, but the first volume is a difficult one in many ways to come to grips with because it is not written in the normal form of a series of recommendations set out distinctly, clearly and then followed by an explanation or discussion of the point. This is written more as a best seller, if I may say so, and it is therefore at times difficult to just pick out of it what the exact recommendation is, if indeed there is any.

The only guide I can give as to how you should treat this volume, and what you might look for in terms of Volume Two is found under the heading "Table of Contents", right on the inside cover, and it says "This is Volume One of a two-volume report. It ..." presumably referring to Volume One: "deals with the broad social, economic and environmental impacts that a gas pipeline and an energy corridor would have in the Mackenzie Valley and the Western Arctic. In it certain basic recommendations are made." I assume that is essentially the ten year moratorium recommendation. "Volume Two will set out the terms and conditions that should be imposed if a pipeline is built." In other words, Volume Two I take it is the volume that deals with the terms of reference essentially of the inquiry, as I understand those terms of reference to be, which were to set out the terms and conditions that should be imposed if a pipeline is built. Volume One, apart therefore from certain basic recommendations presumably is gratuitous advice, so to speak.

Economic And Constitutional Areas

Now, by way of general comment I would like to say that my reading of this gratuitous advice would indicate that the weakest areas of the report are obviously in the economic and the constitutional areas. The economic area particularly in my view is simply a socialist economic doctrine. It is the stuff that the Waffle wing of the NDP is made of. The constitutional side is equally weak. Those, Mr. Chairman, are the remarks of a general nature that I would like to make at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Hon. David Searle. Are there any further comments of a general nature? Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman and my fellow colleagues, in appreciation of the remarks of my colleagues I would wish to say thank you because they just took the words out of my mouth. I have taken a couple of notes here, just to guide me in my talk so I can go on record and say that I speak from the top of my head and not from a prepared statement.

With no disrespect to Mr. Justice Berger, and in all sincerity I am saying thank you to him. I do know, and realize the good work that he has done in the North, the interest he has shown as he has patiently sat in many communities listening to what must have been in some instances embarrassing and tiring tirades of well organized comments. Just looking at that alone, that makes me appreciate Mr. Justice Berger, for the kind of man that he is. I also appreciate Mr. Berger's report, although I did not read it in its entirety, nor have I had the time to study it, but briefly in the areas that I felt would affect the people who I represent, and they are in the majority native Indian and Metis people.

I appreciate this report, although I am shocked to realize that perhaps Mr. Berger had more of an environmental impact on my people than all the proposed developments up to date. I do not think that many of these people will recover mentally, or environmentally, socially in every aspect of native life as a result of the shock that has come down over our communities. In his report, in the lines that I have read, he continually referred to native people without specifically spelling out who the native people are. He has not made any attempt to define anything and yet, there are many people, our young people, for instance, who are today travelling all over the country with no assistance in pursuit of wages and employment, while their counterparts are travelling all over the country at the expense of the government.

Moral Fabric That Constitutes Native Life

One of the things I looked for in the report was the moral fabric that constitutes native life in the Northwest Territories, and it is not in there, and briefly for the sake of the public in the North, how many times do we sit in cafes, over a cup of coffee or while walking down the street, how often do we see native people disillusioned and in a drunken state of mind? Then, we go on further, coming down to the fundamentals and we see the root of their problem that we see as alcoholism, but is it really alcoholism? That is merely a symptom of something else, and no man has anything to do with it, and no man on the face of this world can be blamed for that but the individual himself.

It is the very fabric of the homes of native people that results in the behaviour which we see in the streets and public places and this is sad. If we are to be people representing the government this is one of the basic requirements of just and honest decision making, to see your own people have the morals that we carry and it is I believe with such intent that each one of our session openings is done with a prayer.

I believe that because of Mr. Berger's report we are forced, each member of our communities to look in his own back yard, to look at himself and ask himself, "Am I honest? Am I representing my community honestly and justly or am I just going to go wishy-washy like all other reports that are coming out of the North and base my life on very few documents that are nothing more than the opinion of one man?"

Loyalty To Each Other

I believe that we owe loyalty to each other, to one another and I am certain that this first and initial report of Mr. Berger does not talk about it. I have trusted in the wisdom of the man who has recommended to a government that represents us all, that has the very power over our lives, that the government has the wisdom to select a man who would have drawn an accurate picture of what we call home, thus alleviating our individual problems to unite us as northerners and go forth from here and explore the unknown areas on the experience that we have had which is not very good and that experience affects us today, tomorrow and God knows, into the future. Instead we are faced with ten years of uncertainty for our children, ourselves, and I do not accept it, that I have been put in the position as a native person, born at the village of Fort Simpson to have my grave in some other part of the world or some other part of Canada because of one man's report or because one element of a society that I have found myself in feels that they should dominate me. I will not stand for that, so help me God. I served this country, Canada, in the military service and I do not think that I would have to bow down to any man.

Of course Mr. Berger was sincere in his effort to help us, but in that effort he turned the tables around to embarrass us and to place the native people of the Northwest Territories in a critical and embarrassing situation for which we are not to be blamed. We aspire to be equal in a Canadian society, to be involved in the evolution of our country, to be involved in its industrialization, to educate our children so they can be what they want to be, to travel where they may as Canadians, not to seek permission from one group in my area that I call home.

Subsidizing Traditional Lifestyle

I have so many times talked truly and honestly reflecting the viewpoints of my constituents including Indian people who desire economic reforms in the North because they know very well that the lifestyle or food-gathering society that had existed when I was a child is no longer a viable economic base on which to build a society. Today these things are carried on simply because there are people sitting around this table who make it possible, to exercise the authority and to establish these authorities, to assist these people to carry on their traditional lifestyle because we subsidize these people to carry on this lifestyle.

If it had not been for our welfare system, for our governmental policies, these people would be unable to go out hunting and this is on the positive side or the negative side of the northern native people. Not to paint a bad picture there is also a good side but seemingly the good side is only enjoyed by a very small minority group within the native community and society which differs greatly from each other and I feel that the preliminary report should have at least shown this very fabric of northern life, the actualities of the existence of men in the North.

To conclude my own thoughts, I personally feel without any reference to my colleagues that Mr. Berger overstepped his bounds. He has perhaps not only embarrassed the native people, the Metis particularly, but also those people who aspire to his philosophy. I think it is a discredit to the majority of the northern people.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Comments of a general nature on the Berger report? Mr. Minister, Hon. Peter Ernerk.

HON. PETER ERNERK: Mr. Chairman, I will not be saying too much now because I have not finished reading the report yet but however, maybe I will say a few words. Regarding Mr. Berger I would like to say that he has reached a lot of people including the native people and especially the people of the Mackenzie Delta. He has been able to get the people of the Mackenzie Delta's point of view, that is the hunters', the trappers' views and other people who are seeking employment opportunities. He has heard the voices of those people through gatherings. I feel that at least he did the right thing by getting the people together, going from community to community and listening to their views. However, the young people who are going to school today, they were the ones that the people were most concerned about. They were given the opportunity to speak to Mr. Thomas Berger concerning their children and their future and we, of course, in the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly were elected by our constituents and we say what we think is right for our constituents. We try to do this at all times.

Inuit People In Eastern Arctic Not Heard.

Now, what has been said through this Berger Inquiry, I am sure is written in the best representative report as possible. I think that if we are to see what the feelings of my constituents in the Eastern Arctic are we will have to be giving some consideration to hold similar hearings. Now, one thing I might say about this report is that looking at the book itself it might increase the amount of tourism throughout the Northwest Territories this coming summer and for years to come.

I will be concluding my remarks and it was not too long, but I know today the Keewatin Inuit Association sent me a telex, and also it was reported through CBC in which they ask me to make a remark on the Berger report, asking me to support the report. Right now I can not really say I will support it or not support it because I must read the report and really understand what it is all about and then I will make my remarks. But the way I feel right now I think the whole report is a Western Arctic oriented report. For this reason I would support a similar inquiry in the Eastern Arctic. Because it seems evident that the way of thinking between the West and East is so different. That is where I stand right now.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further comments of a general nature? Mr. Pudluk.

Consideration For The Land

MR. PUDLUK: In Inuktitut, not in Keewatin style. Mr. Chairman, my remarks will be short and I am trying to read this particular report but as yet I have not finished reading the report. I finished a few pages but I am sure that the remarks that were most interesting to me were the ones about wild game in the Arctic and as I say I have read some of the report but have not read all of it yet. It is obvious now that the Arctic, the surface of the Arctic, is not as it used to be before, but however from our point of view, if we look at it, look at the surface of the land we are on, I am sure some of the land is not the way it used to be.

I think that what has been destroyed on the land should be dealt with before but, however, I am not against the pipeline but I think it would be a better idea to make up for what has been broken before and try and do something about the land before getting into the idea of building a pipeline. It will be quite a difficult job to try and repair some of the broken surface of the earth and I am sure it would take a long time to do such a job.

I am not criticizing the pipeline, but what I am talking about is what I have seen and I am sure, as I have gone into quite a few communities and have been into different communities and I am sure that all kinds of scientists are working in the Arctic. There are different ways, of course, of doing scientific work but we will be living in the Arctic forever and I am sure there will be a place in the Arctic for us forever because the Arctic is our homeland. I think it would be better to give it very serious consideration, and then stop criticizing each other. I do not really have much to say and that is all I have to say for now. Thank you very much.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Any further comments of a general nature? Mr. Lyall.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Pudluk. Any further comments of a general nature? Mr. Lyall.

Effect Of Ten Year Moratorium

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, first of all I would like to say that with the inquiry I was very surprised that Mr. Justice Berger would go all across Canada, down south and to the cities and towns down south and then fail to go into the Central and Eastern Arctic to consult the people of the Northwest Territories because he does say he talked to over 1000 people in 35 different communities, and the people of Coppermine will be greatly affected by the result of this inquiry. The people of Coppermine rotating job-wise have about 75 jobs there, and that is because of the oil exploration which has been going on at Tuktoyaktuk. I personally, when I was talking to the people of Coppermine who work on those oil rigs, they told me to go and get in there and get the pipeline starting and a ten year moratorium for development of the pipeline I think is going to greatly affect all the people of the Northwest Territories, not only the people in the Mackenzie Valley.

Also, a ten year moratorium -- the oil companies which have been working up in the Arctic, they are not going to give them any incentive at all to keep looking for minerals or oil or whatever but every time I hear people talk they talk about the pipeline breaking and spilling oil all over the Mackenzie. As I understand it the pipeline they were going to build was a gas pipeline and if there was a breakage it would just go into the air. Now, looking at the Alyeska pipeline, the pumping stations would know within about three seconds if there was a leak in the pipeline and automatically they would put batts on both sides of the break and there is hardly anything spilled out of the pipe.

The way I see this report also he is greatly going for one group of people only and not for the whole of the Northwest Territories. He does not recognize this body which if you look around consists of every ethnic group represented in the Northwest Territories. He talks of people living in the Northwest Territories, four different nationalities, and seven languages. That has got to be some kind of a mistake he has made or he is trying to tell a lie to the rest of the world because right in town, and all over there are Germans, Italians, and I tell you there are more than seven Eskimo languages alone if you want to count the dialects.

Report Does Not Represent All Northerners

I think that Mr. Justice Berger did us a great injustice by putting out his report in that manner, in the manner in which he has put it out. I will not support this report as it stands and I think, someone here mentioned that people from the South come up and do a study up in this country and come out with the idea that they are talking for the whole of the Northwest Territories when they go back south which is not true. I think that saying that over 1000 people, northerners, maybe some of the northerners might have spoken but I know of a lot of them who spoke for somebody down south, I saw it, you can see it right through this. Do you see all the advisers they had going around with them, all of the advisers going around with the native groups? I can not understand why he did not go into the Central Arctic and inquire there about what we think about the pipeline. If he could go down south to all the cities down south and towns I do not see any reason why he could not do the same thing in the Central and Eastern Arctic and I think that this has happened time and time again in the settlements. I heard somebody mention not very long ago that they visited all the Central Arctic communities and then I said to him, "I know you did not go to Pelly Bay," and he said, "We were weathered out at Pelly Bay," but he failed to realize that there are people in Bathurst

Inlet and also in Baychimo which he never visited. So, he said he visited all the communities and got an opinion but he had missed three communities in the Central Arctic. Anyhow, in closing I would just like to make it clear that I will not support the whole contents. I would support some of the contents but I will not support all contents of this report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

--- Applause

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Lyall. Any further comments of a general nature? Mr. Whitford.

Living Off The Land

MR. WHITFORD: Mr. Chairman, I really have not completely read the Berger report. This report, portraying the life or destiny of not only myself and my children, but, in fact, my constituency which is predominantly native, the largest perhaps in the North and, at the same time, the most or the highest unemployed constituency in the North with very little industry, in fact, I think just one, if we could call that one industry, and that is Resolution with the sawmill. At the same time, the constituency is going back to the land, but not in a way that Mr. Justice Berger spells it out here, that we trap and hunt and survive off the land completely, 12 months a year, but rather for a few months in the fall, that being three or four months, and then back in for a month or two and back out again and back in for the spring and summer. My concern, even when I went to school in Resolution, in the convent there, we were brought up, or educated to be able to one day run this country or play a role in running this country. Mr. Justice Berger says in part here that we have got to go back to the land to hunt and trap. It is very unfortunate perhaps that I went to school because I am sure that the students now in Sir John Franklin, or in Inuvik, or at Fort Smith, or at Pine Point are a little bit uncertain about their future in terms of what they are going to do when they get out of school. I am not just talking now for the natives, but as well for Northerners in this country.

The point I am trying to make is that we have to have development because the land can not produce enough animals, birds, fish, wildlife of all kinds, to be able to support the number of people growing within the communities or, in fact, in my constituency. The people in Resolution last week were very upset that the problems at the mill had not been resolved as quickly as they could in order that they could employ the 20 or 25 people who are working there.

We have had for the last six months in Rae itself a housing program, the building of homes and that employed roughly about 20 people at its highest point, but these are still makeshift programs. It is much like the Lac La Martre community and they are building a big community hall as well as building a warehouse to be able to do crafts in and at the same time they are building a little motel, restaurant and cafe and that is in one of the books here, the brief that each of the Members have. These kinds of programs it is very difficult for the people to understand why they are getting paid three dollars and fifty cents an hour when they should be getting six dollars like anyone else employed and not realizing that this is a makeshift program under STEP, the Subsidized Term Employment Program.

Economic Future Of Rae

My greatest concern is that the economic future of the Northwest Territories for the people that we have presently in Rae, currently 300 unemployed, is going to continue for another ten years according to what Mr. Justice Berger says here in his report. We will go on having makeshift reports but it will still end up in one little package known as welfare.

The people in the North and in particular my constituency I am sure feel now that there is a little bit more room so that they are able to go ahead and to study or try to come up with a better land claims proposal. Now, I also know there are people in my constituency who feel they are going to be able to get this land claims money very soon. According to what I have heard on the radio from some of the leaders that this is going to be extended for some period of time, perhaps ten years, 20 years and by that time those people who are expecting their cheque now may not be around any more.

The other part of it is that the longer the prolonging of land claims and I believe we have reached the figure now of \$13 million spent on the investigation of land claims, etc., will have perhaps doubled or quadrupled. Therefore, all of this money being taken for the sake of land claims is coming off each and every native of this community is returned whatever the compensation may be and there has to be a certain amount of compensation in terms of cash.

Lack Of Alternatives

The report, like I said, does not spell out what kinds of alternatives there are to the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. I have to somehow be dismayed at the facts that with Mr. Justice Berger travelling through constituencies and especially mine, going through and he was told over and over that they did not want a pipeline that he did not come up with any alternatives to this kind of thing. We like to think, I would like to believe that the going back to the land is still being done by dogteam or whatever, but no we are going back to the land with Twin Otters. At this point in time this is perhaps what we are getting used to, but I still believe that the support or the recommendations to the Berger Commission were for the purpose of the settling of the land claims so it would be settled soon and that why did Justice Berger not then put alternatives, those other organizations who feel that they want to take part in the development of the North with the moneys or revenues from the land claims.

Major development in the North, at this point in time a pipeline is perhaps frightening to my constituency, even though the pipeline is a long way away from our community, but also other developments. I was in Lac La Martre most recently and the people there were talking about mining. They would like to learn how to become prospectors. They wanted a prospector's course and this then would enable them to play a part closer to home.

We have got in Rae right now prohibition. Is it working? Well, to a degree it is in the sense that the violence has come down, the community is more relaxed in the sense that the people are not going around from house to house and bothering one another but rather they are in Yellowknife. The people here in Yellowknife know that there is a lot of our youth that is coming to this community now because of prohibition and staying here, not going home for two or three days at a time. We are now going to continue with this kind of thing. People who have gone to school or people who want to work have to leave home because there are no alternatives in that particular community and that part is very sad.

Like I have said before, I have not had time to completely read the document, but at a later time and I am sure in the Assembly, we will be discussing this further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): We have very little time before coffee break and I have had a request from Mr. Lyall about a point he forgot and he would like to bring it up with your consent.

MR. LYALL: Mr. Chairman, I would just like to make a very general comment that was brought to my attention before we came to this meeting. We are always trying to get together with the press and the CBC trying to get coverage. I notice that there is no person behind us who is going to be reporting back to the communities in the Eskimo language which is quite surprising. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: (Mr. Stewart): The hour is 4:00 o'clock p.m. and we will adjourn for 15 minutes for coffee.

---SHORT RECESS

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): The Chair recognizes a quorum and calls the committee back to order. We are dealing with general comments on the Berger report. I have two Members who have yet to speak, does either of them wish to speak at this time? Mr. Kilabuk, please.

MR. KILABUK: Mr. Chairman, I have very few things to say at this time and I have the report in front of me. Once again, Mr. Chairman, I would like to say a few words and this is the first time I have had the Berger report in front of me, when I sat down at the table here and I do not really know what is in the report but I have a pretty good idea. I would like to say that you are very touched in your hearts right now for the people who understand that report. I have not read this and I have not heard the chairman say anything on it and also I would like to thank Mr. Tom Berger for making this report. I feel that it has opened up the ears of the people in the Northwest Territories and also a lot of people will be reading this material in other parts of Canada. We have never seen this kind of a report before and I feel this is the first time that anything like this we have seen. I would like to thank Mr. Berger for his report. I am not saying that I am supporting this, I am just saying that I am grateful to Mr. Berger for writing this report. I have not thought about a lot of things that he said on this paper and also the majority of the people in the North.

Also I feel it is for only the Mackenzie and also to the Inuvik region and also I think that in the Baffin region I feel that we should be all together with this. I think that if this is going to be happening in the Eastern Arctic maybe it would be better than this report.

Ten Years Too Long

Also, Mr. Chairman, there were 1000 people that Mr. Berger went to interview and as I said before we will be hearing a lot about this report, that it is good. Also the wildlife and also the people of the Northwest Territories and the thoughts of some people who he talked to and also about the proposed pipeline. I know that everybody talks about this and also there may not be a start to it for ten years and we have to be thinking about this. I think that we do not have to rush to do this. Also I think that ten years is much too long. For the people from the North, the animals and the wildlife, we all know that we do not have as many as we did before. Also everybody wants to have employment these days and there are not too many jobs. We have been thinking a lot about some of the things that are in this report, I know, and I can say that some of my colleagues do not like some things that are said in the report. Maybe I would like to say that the Inuit have been saying that we have never seen any reports from the government on the taking of resources and have said that every time they come to see us we say we would like to see something like this written down for the people of the Northwest Territories. I feel we will be much more together on this and will be thinking about this and this was brought up before, but I think we will be learning a lot from it because we will all talk about it but I can not say I completely agree with this but if everyone is very much openminded on this report, and after I have read the report, perhaps I could have more to say and will do so at a later date. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Evaluarjuk.

No Input From Baffin Region

MR. EVALUARJUK: Mr. Chairman, I have only a few words to say and my first

point is that we have been talking about the situation where things are happening in the North, in the Northwest Territories mostly, and we have said that we should go to the people before we decide to do anything and there should be something like this, and we have been asking for this all the time. Now, I see that in this case they have gone to the Inuit, the Indian and probably the Metis as well, and I would like to support the fact that it was written for the people and also the Inuit people will be reading this material and they will probably learn something from it, but Mr. Berger said he went to all the communities but I did not see him come to the Baffin region. It probably does not have anything to do with the Eastern Arctic people but I feel that they should know about it, and if they are building a pipeline through the Baffin region or through the Keewatin area, the people should know something about what will be going on.

I have not finished reading this material so I can not really say much more on it at the moment. From the parts I have seen the people have been very concerned and have said that if there are any oil spills in some of the communities that it would be very dangerous for the wildlife and the environment.

Like I said before, I can not really say I agree with this report or not as I will have to go to my communities before I can really say much on it. After I find out what my constituents say about this and also after speaking to the various associations, like on the land claims, we will be talking to them about this report. I will also talk to the people who elected us to this Legislature. We will be talking to our people first and from there we will find out if we agree with this or not. I feel that we should wait for the land claims to be settled before any pipeline is built. I am not making this up myself, but this is what the people have been saying at all times and also we have heard of this from the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada on the CBC and everyone must know by now that nobody wants to have a pipeline before the land claims are settled.

No Coverage In Inuktitut

Right now we can not really say if we disagree with this report or agree with it, I do not feel that the people would appreciate it if we said that the Assembly disagrees with the report. I feel that we should all go back to our communities and find out from the people who elected us and also, what Mr. Lyall said, we have heard that there is no coverage in Inuktitut at the moment and I would like to support Mr. Lyall on this. Perhaps we should at least have somebody from the Baffin region to report on the sessions that we have.

MR. PEARSON: Hear, hear!

MR. EVALUARJUK: Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Thank you. Now, everyone has had a chance to speak on the Berger report in a general manner and is there anyone who has not spoken? I would suggest to you, with your permission, that I now be allowed to leave the chair and make my comments of a general nature and I would suggest that when I have concluded that we may consider adjournment for today so that we can complete further reading on the report as we do have Members who are not here and I would like to try and pick up tomorrow and let them make their comments of a general nature before we get into this thing piece by piece. Do I have agreement on that suggestion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

THE CHAIRMAN (Mr. Stewart): Is it agreed?

---Agreed

Hon. Dave Nickerson, would you mind ...

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Dave Nickerson): Mr. Stewart.

No CBC Coverage Of Legislative Assembly Discussion

MR. STEWART: Mr. Chairman, I have not completed reading the Berger report. Certainly there are some things I have read that I am in agreement with, but there are many things that I have not. However, before I deal with the Berger report, I think it is worthy of note that this body, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories meeting to discuss the Berger report has no coverage of CBC television. The cameras that were in here belong to CTV and they will, if shown anywhere in the Northwest Territories, be shown only in Yellowknife. So, as well as not being covered by Eskimo reporters the CBC again is doing what I consider a complete injustice to this Assembly. They have cameras all over the Northwest Territories and have been playing this thing up for two days and yet the elected people, when discussing this matter, do not appear to be of any particular concern to CBC television.

I have heard several Members thank Mr. Berger for his report. I would like to add my congratulations to the wonderful depth, but I really have to give my thanks to the Canadian taxpayer who paid one million dollars to produce it. If you hire a socialist to do a study you can expect a socialistic report, and that is what we have. Really it far exceeds the terms of reference as I understand them, and covers much more ground.

Now, Mr. Berger indicated in his report that he spoke to somewhere close to 1000 people in the Northwest Territories to come to his decision. Now, this type of a decision is so important, because I am not so sure the percentage of people is really sufficient, especially when these people were orchestrated by the Indian Brotherhood, etc., all pressure groups to be there and to give opinions that were the same as the organizations they represented. To be fair I must also say that business was there on the same basis and that the oil companies were there. However, the people who spoke to this inquiry for the most part had an axe to grind of some sort or another, and the silent majority, the other 44,000 people of the Northwest Territories are not in this report.

Ten Years Not Long Enough To Settle Land Claims

A moratorium for ten years, and Mr. Erasmus, the president of the Indian Brotherhood has indicated that this is not enough time to conclude the land claims, and I believe this to be true. I feel that you have such a mixture of different ethnic backgrounds, I think we too often are inclined to think of an Indian as an Indian, but we have Chipewyans, we have Hareskins, we have all the different evolutions, and these are all different tribes and possibly 100 years ago they were shooting one another. Now, here we are in a very short period to come to some sort of land claims settlement and I do not think it is possible. Certainly we do not want to make the mistake of arriving at a land claims settlement that our children are going to have to re-do and their children are going to have to re-do. This should be a land settlement once and for all and be concluded fairly with all the groups involved.

However, to think that this country can last to this type of timing, even ten years, without economic development means that you have nothing to look forward to but a welfare state. On economics, Mr. Berger suggested modernization of the traditional way of life, hunting, fishing and trapping and says it would do more for the country than building the pipeline and the spinoff industries and the exploration that would continue after the pipeline is built, and undoubtedly, the further pipelines that would eventually be built to connect into the main one, but he certainly did not have too much knowledge of the area where the pipeline is going through. Certainly there are traplines that, when worked properly, can produce incomes of \$25,000 and \$30,000 a year, for

three, four or five people in a given area but you dump 100 people in there and you are going to do one of two things, the people will either starve or you will wipe out the animal population and your danger to environmental problems is far greater than any pipeline.

North Not Contributing

I suppose, and this is actually just an estimate that I made, and it may not be exactly right but I think it is reasonably close, and perhaps the Honourable Minister could correct me, however, it would appear that our school systems now are turning out about 500 graduates and dropouts a year with no jobs to go to. We are educating people to live in the 20th century but we are saying "Oh no, we want the country to remain in the 19th century". I do not see any native organization that does not have electric lights on their buildings and in their homes, who are not burning fuel oil or not burning gasoline. This stuff does not appear out of nowhere, this comes out of southern Canada, where they have had to have pipelines that they did not particularly want and their supplies are running low. They need our supplies and yet we have so many people here who say they are quite prepared to accept everything from the South; government, give us more money, give us more this and give us more that, but when our turn comes to be of some use to Canada we say, "No, not for ten years". Mr. Erasmus says that is not long enough.

Environmental Damage Exaggerated

The report deals greatly with environmental damages. The caribou, I think all of the Members were in Prudhoe Bay and saw the caribou wandering around the pipeline and getting their backs scratched by the pumps and it did not seem to bother them in the least and yet caribou, that is a grave problem. Utter nonsense that the pipeline is going to in any way, a gas line is going to affect the caribou. How in God's name he got into the bird business I am not sure. I approve that the report is rather strictly for the birds, but I am not sure how he arrived at this bird proposition, that it would do great damage to the waterfowl and all of these things.

Now, if these things are really true, Alaska has built a pipeline, it is in place and it is in operation. All of the native groups in Alaska support the building of another pipeline by El Paso. Surely if this environmental damage is so great, they have many areas that are very, very similar to ours and they have permafrost boils, they have all of the rest of the dangers of building in the Arctic yet they have built it there. Now, either the people of Alaska, including the natives, are completely irresponsible or else this report is not right.

The people of the North want all of the benefits of the 20th century and are not prepared to put something into the 20th century. You can not have it both ways and not be men. You can not figure on living off the South forever and if we do not get something going in this country and all we have basically are minerals, oil, gas and if we are going to say, "No, we can not do anything about these, sorry," then we must be dependent completely on our southern neighbours and the welfare that follows, the loss of character of our people by having to live on handouts rather than being able to earn their own living, that is what is wrong with this country today, there are no jobs for anybody. You will see your alcoholism and all of your other problems drop drastically the moment you have work for people. We even know this to be a fact in Hay River when we operated Work Arctic for three years. It cut our problems down ten per cent and yet when there is a chance to do something they can not do it.

Costs Of Land Claim Settlement Paid By Natives

What about this period of time for the native land claims, the money that is being spent, are the Indian people fully aware that this comes off the top of their land claim settlement, that they are paying this bill and it will be taken off the top? This is not a grant that these people are working with, that is part of the agreement, so the Indian people themselves have set up a bureaucracy of their own that is spending their money and with the delay tactics that they are using this could go on forever and many of the native people who are present today will not be around to collect any cheques at all. It is a very sad story but that actually is the way it is.

Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Never A Reality

Mr. Berger indicates that in ten years we can build a pipeline. All of a sudden these environmental things are going to disappear and the caribou are not even going to be scared of the pipeline anymore and by that time are they going to give them a book or something to read up on pipelines and birds are not going to be bothered and the pipeline can go in ten years? I can tell you one thing, with the fuel shortage in North America nobody is going to wait ten years and once the pipeline is built and if this continues in the manner that it is going now there is no doubt it will be the Alcan route. The thought that a second pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley may become a reality in ten years, you are hoodwinking yourselves, you are dreaming, because the line will go up the Dempster and connect with the Alcan route. There will be no Mackenzie Valley pipeline, period.

There will be no way out for our fuel supplies and there are several oil supplies around Fort Providence and other places that may be developed if there was a method of transportation. So, many people have got a preposterous idea of what a pipeline is and it is really only a mode of transportation to move something and it is the least damaging of any of the modes of transportation that we have today other than possibly the airplane. Oil is damaging in a road. I conclude from Berger's report that we can not build a road in many places and this is one of the great concerns and so I presume this cuts out mining because if you are going to open up a mine you have got to get a method to get your minerals to market. So, indeed, what you have said is the Northwest Territories stand still for ten years and if there is anything left to deal with at that time, if alcohol has not got to you and welfare living has not completely ruined those of you who are left, then I do not care if you build a pipeline. I can not thank Mr. Berger for a report of this nature. I think it is a great disservice to the Northwest Territories and all of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN (Hon. Dave Nickerson): Is there anyone else who wishes to speak, speak for a second time on general matters relating to the report? Apparently not. Is it your wish, gentlemen, that the committee now report progress?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Dave Nickerson.

Report Of The Committee Of The Whole Of Report Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry

HON. DAVE NICKERSON: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been discussing the Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry and wishes to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Gentlemen, am I to understand that carrying on from what Mr. Stewart said that in view of some of the comments indicating a desire to complete the reading of this report and in view of the fact there are a couple of Members who are still away, specifically Mr. Butters and Mr. Steen, that we should at this point in time discontinue our discussion of the Report of Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry and take it up in a day or two when the other Members arrive and when I have ascertained that you have completed reading the report. Is that agreed?

---Agreed

Tomorrow we could plan to go on with the normal business of the House and that would start presumably with replies to the Commissioner's Address. Now, we do not have to do that because that is open for a week and in fact I think Mr. Butters is the one who is on first so we might not be able to start that off even.

Is it your wish that we recognize the clock?

---Agreed

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM NO. 14: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Remnant): Orders of the day, 9:00 o'clock a.m., May 11, 1977, at the Explorer Hotel.

1. Prayer
2. Replies to Commissioners's Address
3. Questions and Returns
4. Oral Questions
5. Petitions
6. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
7. Notices of Motion
8. Motions for the Production of Papers
9. Motions
10. Tabling of Documents
11. Introduction of Bills for First Reading: Bill 1-62, Bill 2-62, Bill 3-62, Bill 4-62, Bill 5-62, Bill 6-62
12. Second Reading of Bills: Bill 1-62, Bill 2-62, Bill 3-62, Bill 4-62, Bill 5-62, Bill 6-62
13. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills, Recommendations to the Legislature, Information Items and Other Matters: Report of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Inquiry, Bills 1-62, 3-62, 4-62, 5-62
14. Orders of the Day.

MR. SPEAKER: Recognizing the clock as being 5:30 o'clock p.m., this House stands adjourned until 9:00 o'clock a.m., on the 11th day of May, 1977, at the Explorer Hotel.

---ADJOURNMENT

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