

the gateway

Thursday, December 7, 1972

Edmonton, Alberta vol. 63 no. 26



... The SUB Flame ...

photo by Don Spence

BOREAL SELLOUT ALLEGED

by Candace Savage

A report opposing the Mackenzie Valley pipeline proposal has been "suppressed" because the U of A's Boreal Institute is "afraid to antagonize the oil industry," according to one of its former research associates.

Larry Stucki, now teaching anthropology at the University of Nebraska, said in a telephone interview yesterday that his report on the social impact of an arctic gas pipeline had not been released because the Boreal Institute, chronically short of funds, hopes in the future to receive research contracts from oil companies.

But R. S. Jamieson, acting director of the Institute, said yesterday afternoon that Stucki's observations are "trite" and that the decision not to include the results of Stucki's work was made by the project's management committee.

"It would be premature and unfair to say publically why that choice was made," Jamieson said. He admitted to being "quite disappointed with the way this thing has gone."

"No one expected any of the researchers to do anything so much outside the terms of reference of the research. At the eleventh hour, just before he was ready to go to Nebraska, Stucki turned in a 400 page report that was not compatible with the rest of research."

Stucki's research was part of a \$100,000 project done by the Institute for the Canadian Gas Arctic Study Group, a consortium of oil and gas companies which is applying for permission to build the Mackenzie Valley

Pipeline. The Institute's final report, which was completed about three weeks ago, contends that the pipeline will benefit the north by providing 200 permanent jobs for native northerners. R. S. Jamieson, the acting director of the Institute, has refused to make a copy of the report available to the *Gateway* until after the consortium has made its formal presentation to the application hearings which will probably be held in January.

Jamieson holds that since the consortium paid for the research, it is mere "courtesy" to allow them to use the report before it is released to the public.

Stucki protests that last winter campus opposition foiled the consortium's attempt to introduce a restrictive contract which would have "sealed the lips" of the researchers. In fact, he said yesterday, since no final contract was ever signed with the consortium, Jamieson is not subject to any legal restrictions in the publication of the report.

This opinion is collaborated by G. A. Holmes, Research Grants Officer for the university who insists that it is against university policy to enter into any research the publication of which might be restricted.

Stucki concludes that Jamieson and former Institute director J.J. Bond were influenced by their backgrounds in government. "That's the way the government acts," he maintains. "They suppress information that isn't too popular."

Stucki became suspicious that his research would be ignored when the Institute failed to keep in touch with him

after he left for Nebraska, in spite of the fact that consultation was necessary for the completion of his work. But he wasn't surprised "because my report was somewhat controversial and the Institute had already decided ahead of time that the pipeline was a good thing."

Unlike the Boreal Institute's final report which, according to Jamieson, "was done on the assumption that the pipeline would be built", Stucki's opposes the proposal on both ecological and sociological grounds. He maintains that even if the 200 permanent jobs went to northerners they would have virtually no effect on the unemployment crisis in the north.

In a paper which he gave last Friday to the American Anthropological Association, Stucki said that only 1,500 of the north's 4 to 5,000 member labor force have permanent employment. And on the Pointed Mountain pilot project for the pipeline only 9% of the work force is native.

Stucki predicts that unless dramatic changes take place "angry young leaders" will appear in the north and the situation in Northern Ireland will be "replayed" again a few years hence in the land of the midnight sun."

Part of the solution to the unemployment and welfare syndrome might be a railroad, which could carry liquified gas, Stucki suggests. Not only would it be more flexible transportation than a pipeline, it would be less costly and less ecologically dangerous than a gas pipeline and the one or two oil pipelines and the railroad which will follow it, he said. Besides, it would provide many jobs

which are easy to learn and which would center on traditional northern towns and villages.

Stucki concludes that "the only special interest groups that have anything to gain in the long run by the building of a northern pipeline over a northern railroad are the various oil and gas companies most of which are owned largely but not exclusively by American stockholders and the closely allied pipeline construction companies.

The consortium which bought the Boreal Institute research included Atlantic Richfield, Humble Oil, Standard Oil, Trans-Canada Pipelines, Michigan-Wisconsin Pipeline, Natural Gas Pipeline Co of America, Alberta Gas Trunk, Canadian Pacific Investments, Columbia Gas System, Gulf Oil Canada, Imperial Oil, Northern Natural Gas, Pacific Lighting Gas Development, Shell Canada, and Texas Eastern Transmission Corp.

cs

Next Tuesday,
the regular edition
of the gateway
will be pre-empted.
In its place, we will feature
A CHRISTMAS ISSUE.
The gateway will return
January 9, same time,
same channel.