

Northern Pipeline

I would argue that we should pay more attention to the Yukon, but we seem to have forgotten that there are 540 miles of pipe which will run through northern British Columbia. The problems inherent in the pipeline construction are just as important in British Columbia. The native population can be affected just as adversely in British Columbia as they can in the Yukon. Yet this government did not remember that the environmental impact and the sociological impact could be just as disastrous to British Columbia. The government seems to have forgotten that this area is one of the most remarkable parts of the country. It is the great beautiful northern frontier in British Columbia, in fact British Columbia's last frontier.

When we look at the Lysyk inquiry and the Berger report, we will regret that we embarked on this project without accepting and adopting the total recommendations, particularly those included in the Lysyk report. The chance that we have in our last frontier to deal with the native population in a unique and civilized way makes us somewhat proud as Canadians. In fact up to now people from western Europe have tended to exploit the aboriginal peoples wherever they have come in contact with them. Our record in Canada is not spotless but I suggest it is better than that of the United States.

What Mr. Justice Berger, and Dean Lysyk to a lesser extent, asked us to do was to take another look at the problem to give us a new opportunity to define ourselves as Canadians and develop northern Canada. We can develop our last frontier and we can develop it in a civilized way. We can also develop it without tripling VD rates and without creating an alcoholism problem all over the north by avoiding these sociological problems.

Neither Dean Lysyk nor Justice Berger suggested we should put a fence around the north and create some kind of museum. They said we should develop the north in co-operation with the native people. We should ensure that the native people play a meaningful part and thus have pride in their culture. They can maintain the skills and work in which they excel. We will then not have a problem of the native people trying to emulate a white culture and in the process taking several generations before they have pride in themselves as a people.

When Mr. Justice Berger suggested that we should use the native people to guide and run a northern park, it is because they do those tasks better than we do. When I was in Inuvik looking at the Mackenzie Valley route, I remember sitting in a beer parlour with an Inuit who suggested to me he wanted to see the pipeline built because he had welding skills. He also said to me, "If you and I go out on the ice, I will come back alive and you will die because you cannot survive." He said, "Please do not take that away from us because then you do not leave us with anything. You do not leave us with pride in our culture". The result is the massive problem of alcohol as well as the problems we have in our prisons where the number of native people is far out of proportion to the population as a whole.

Because the proposals of Dean Lysyk, which were to some extent more modest than those of Mr. Justice Berger, were not accepted by the government—they have not been accepted in

the treaty—I intend to vote against this bill on second reading. This bill is not acceptable to me.

What were those proposals? Let us think of some of the key ones. One was the \$200 million which would be available to the government of the Yukon in terms of the sociological impact of the pipeline. That money is not available. Let us not forget we have been conned completely out of that \$200 million. That \$200 million was to be up front money, not money to be borrowed. It was to be plus money, and the typical little switch—

An hon. Member: Little!

Mr. Leggatt: All right, it is a big switch. "Here is the \$200 million, but we will put it up front and take it off at the back end." The \$200 million is a big round zero as far as this deal is concerned, and the minister knows that. It is not \$200 million at all; it is nothing.

● (1712)

There is something else. I am sure this has been dealt with by the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen). It is important. What will happen to the Yukon in terms of present federal government financing when that money starts to roll in to the Yukon council? Will the federal government then be in a position to say they are doing great, they are now on their own and it does not need to help them any longer? The pipeline will be in and there will be the tax flow. The Yukon council may be rubbing its hands now, but it could be disappointed down the line when it sees how much money goes into the Yukon after the money comes in from the pipeline.

Mr. Nielsen: It still will not give us responsible government.

Mr. Leggatt: I happen to think that is a matter for Yukoners to decide. I am pleased that additional revenue will go into the Yukon. It may help in terms of developing their own responsibilities and provincial status. However, I am not going to stand in this House and tell the people of the Yukon what they should do in terms of their style of government. That should be a matter for the Yukon to decide.

I do not think that anyone in this House should try to tell the Yukoners, except perhaps the representative of that area who may have more intimate knowledge.

Mr. Nielsen: I wouldn't dare.

Mr. Leggatt: This may bring self government or provincial status closer to the Yukon. However, let us not kid ourselves about the amount of revenues, the \$200 million and the fact that down the line the federal government will probably back out of its present financial commitments to the Yukon as a result of the pipeline proposal.

There is reference in the Lysyk report to the Dempster spur which was proclaimed by this government to be a fantastic deal. After all, that line could ultimately tap into the Mackenzie gas reserves. Let us examine again the question of the