

agreed that a pipeline along the Mackenzie would have to follow the least difficult terrain, avoiding when possible areas with high ice content. Richard Hill points out, however, that the pipeline right-of-way, including access roads, gravel sources and pumping stations, would occupy only 40 square miles of land, or $\frac{1}{500}$ of one per cent of the total land in the Canadian North, and he believes that "with proper environmental engineering this small fraction of the region will recover from the construction disturbance, and there will be little effect on the renewable natural resources."

Nevertheless there is concern that a pipeline might interfere with the natural habits of caribou, moose, grizzly bears, wolves, muskrats, waterfowl and fish. For instance, when the pipeline crosses areas of high ice content on piles (to prevent permafrost thaw), it could form a barrier across caribou migration paths. Hill contends that such an adverse effect would be slight, since caribou

roam over vast stretches of land and the pipeline barriers would affect limited areas.

Hill believes that the greatest biological problem created by the pipeline is likely to be the fact that it will provide hunters and trappers with easier access to isolated areas. "If environmental care is taken during the construction and operation," he says, "it can be expected that natural phenomena such as drought and forest fires will cause considerably more disruption than the industrial activities."

For additional information on the Northwest Territories, you may wish to write to:

Mr. J. J. Otes
Director of Information,
Government of the Northwest Territories,
Yellowknife, N.W.T. XOE 1H0

Pipelines can be built on stilts to protect the fragile Arctic ecology.

