

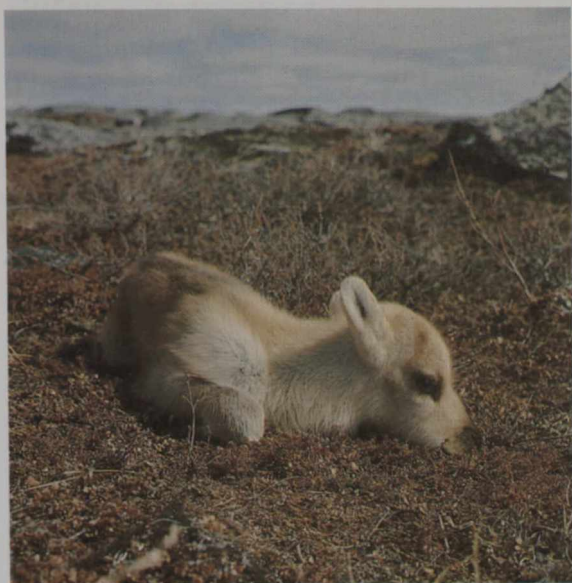


*Caribou can outrun wolves. Within days after birth, young caribou can keep pace with the herd.*

Commission of Inquiry conducted hearings on pipeline construction and concluded, among other things, that it posed a serious threat to caribou in the Mackenzie Valley of the Northwest Territories.

"Caribou are disturbed by any unfamiliar sight or noise. Low-flying aircraft may cause the herd to run and even to stampede, frights that use up great amounts of energy. The animals are disturbed by people, machinery and sudden noises, such as blasting, and when these annoyances are repeated, they can be driven from their ranges. Dr. Peter Lent, a biologist from the University of Alaska, explained that the migratory barren-ground caribou is a wilderness species that can survive only in a wilderness where it has virtually untrammelled access to a vast range. Lent said that when other caribou populations have shrunk, they retreated from peripheral ranges, but they persisted in returning to the same calving grounds. He therefore urged the protection of the calving grounds and the post-calving area on the coast."

The Berger commission proposed that a nine-million-acre refuge be created in the Yukon, north of the Porcupine River. Oil and gas exploration would be banned, and only the native people would be permitted to fish or hunt there. The Canadian park would join the existing nine million acres of the United States' Arctic National Wildlife Range in Alaska. "Together these two areas would constitute a magnificent area large enough to provide for the long-term well-being of its wildlife, especially of the Porcupine caribou herd



*Birthing is brief and the calves are able to stand and walk in less than one hour. This one, resting, is one day old.*

and the snow geese," Justice Berger said.

Last July the Canadian government did reserve 9,600,000 acres in the Yukon for a possible national wilderness park. New sales of surface rights, new staking of mineral claims and new exploration for oil and gas were banned. Public hearings will soon be held in Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service and the US Department of the Interior are now developing a joint management plan for the herd.