



Bulletin

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PIPELINES AND POLLUTION - THE PROBLEM OF ARCTIC OIL

The following passages are from an address by Mr. Jean Chrétien, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to the 1971 Symposium on Petroleum Economics and Evaluation in Dallas, Texas, on March 9:

...The Canadian northland is not just big, it is immense. The Northwest Territories covers 1.3 million square miles; the Yukon Territory, 200,000 square miles. Together they make up 40 per cent of our country. Their southern boundary is at the Sixtieth Parallel, 1,200 miles north of New York. From there to Cape Aldrich on the northern tip of Ellesmere Island is a distance of another 1,500 miles. That's the distance from Galveston to Boston....

In contrast to its vast area and large resource potential, the Canadian North is underpopulated. It has only 60,000 people, over half of whom are Indians and Eskimos who live around the edges of the northern ocean and deep in the northern forests. These people are going through the difficult process

of adapting themselves to the modern technologies and ways of life being introduced from southern Canada while at the same time attempting to maintain their own identity and their own culture. This period of transition from one way of life to another is very difficult but in many ways unavoidable. Our task is to ensure that the effects of such a change are positive, not negative, and herein lies the challenge.

NO BARRIERS AGAINST OUTSIDERS

The greatness of Canada has been its openness as a country. We have no desire to build walls between ourselves and the outside world. In Northern Canada, we have benefited by major foreign investment from United States, French, Japanese, British, German, and Belgian concerns.... We shall continue to require large amounts of capital to maintain our pace of development and expansion. While much of this investment will come from within Canada, a significant part of it will have to continue to come from outside our country.

In addition to Canadian, French and German interests in the area of oil exploration, we have represented in the North all the large integrated major U.S. oil companies and many of the intermediate and smaller companies. All of these firms are at present spending large sums of money in the risky business of exploration. About ten years ago, exploration expenditures throughout the whole of the Canadian North were in the order of \$10 to \$15 million annually. This year expenditures may jump to a total of \$100 million and we expect the figure to go beyond this in the next few years, particularly if the expenditures are followed by commensurate successes.

...At the present time, some Canadians are asking themselves if there are ways of increasing their own investments in their own economy, or if the present controls are adequately protecting Canadian

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