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Keith Van Cleve, Edwin Crittenden

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First part of this reel is a continuation of the Ecological impact of Arctic development panel.

Keith Van Cleve said he would like to bring up several points. The oil industry is supporting a research project in cooperation with UA that deals with problems associated with damages to tundra and taiga surfaces. In brief the study is involved with the evaluation of procedures which may be employed in reconstructing areas where surface, vegetation and organic matter have been removed during construction activities. Experimental sites have been set up at five locations between the Yukon River and Prudhoe Bay. Additional sites will be established between Fairbanks and the Yukon. While not all habitats can be covered in this proposed study the sites were selected to represent major vegetation/soil complexes in these regions. He said the treatments, laboratory evaluations of soils, growth potentials of native and possible introduced plants, and the use of artificial amendments to stimulate plant growth and surface recovery hopefully will provide some critically needed answers to questions about land surface restoration in these arctic and subarctic areas. He said a great deal is known about the dynamics of soil/plant/animal systems in the arctic tundra. He hopes this work will be extended to other areas of the arctic. A similar research program is needed in the taiga to bring together many of the fragmented but interrelated research activities now being carried on here. He asked if there was anyone in the audience who has information on the rates of degradation of petroleum in marine environments.

The chairperson asked for any questions. Unidentified person commented on Dr. Evans and Dr. Weeden's presentations. Dr. Weeden talked about areas that should be preserved. He said some biological inventory has been undertaken. He believes that private interests should also be involved in these areas. Sam Wright said he is a resident in the Brooks Range and he commented on studies having an impact on his area. He asked if it is possible to create a program to preserve the Brooks Range. The chairperson asked for a hand vote to preserve wild or natural land in this area.

The rest of the papers of the Ecological impact of Arctic development panel can be found in the Proceedings of the Twentieth Alaska Science Conference (Q 180 U5 A66a 20th 1969).

Special symposium: Planning communities in the North.

Chairman commented on the importance of community planning in the changing North. He introduced the members of the panel and talked about changes in the panel.

Edwin Crittenden: a Pictorial presentation of Alaskan, Canadian and other communities of the North. Edwin Crittenden said there are various definitions of the North. What is important are the facts of isolation, temperature, population, and culture. Communities shown in the slides are located from 61 degrees N to 71 degrees N. Villages at 61 degrees North may be far more Arctic than villages further north. Villages in southwestern Alaska are more remote and isolated than communities located at the top of Scandinavia. Tree line and the line of permafrost and the end of highways and railroads are more definitive of the far north. Air transportation has changed some of that at least for the government employee and resource extraction crews. He said he will show slides from the east and west U.S.S.R., north Finland and Sweden, Canada, Barter Island and Bethel Alaska. There are Native villages, resource camps and administrative communities. He started his slide show. He showed slides demonstrating communities and construction from Russia, Sweden, Norway, Greenland, Canada, and Alaska.