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TransAlaska Pipeline Hearings, August 29-30, 1969, Patty Gym, University of Alaska

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Notes: Original on 7 inch reel. Master copies CD.

This recording continues the speech of University of Alaska student Ronald Andersen from 02-00-61A CD 3. Mr. Andersen believes wilderness areas should be put aside now before more development is even thought of. He says wilderness is a natural, non-renewable resource. Wilderness does not need to be developed, only set aside. Being in wilderness is an emotionally refreshing experience. He says we are co-inhabitants of Earth with the animals. He discusses the discovery of oil on the Kenai Peninsula. It was claimed that the Kenai oil field was second [in quantity] only to Saudi Arabia. He asks how many state personnel were on the North Slope to make sure that environmental regulations were carried out. He discusses authority and says that the authority to shut down seismic exploration on state lands in the arctic was under the control of the department of fish and game. Bob Weinhold [sp?], an employee and biologist for the Department of Fish and Game working under Ben Hilacker [?] and commissioner [Augie] Reetz was delegated the authority. Early in May Reetz deemed it necessary to shut down operations of geophysical companies because of thawing. Reetz flew north to look at the thawing and countered the closure and seismic operation continued. Commissioner Reetz was a political appointee and he did not have the expertise that Mr. Weinhold [?] had. Andersen says the state of Alaska could save a lot of money by firing all of their employees and letting the "expert" commissioners do all the work. He believes the development of parts of Alaska is a national concern because Alaska contains the last parts of undisturbed wilderness which is mostly unprotected. Mr. Andersen brings up the statement about there being enough problems in the Lower 48 to keep the conservationists busy for a long time. Andersen says he wants to make sure that the problems in the Lower 48 do not become reality in Alaska. Andersen discusses having the Corps of Engineers taking on a larger role. In closing, Mr. Andersen says he is not against the orderly development of Alaska and he believes Alaska needs a sound economic base. Mr. Andersen thanks the panel. Secretary Train thanks Mr. Andersen.

At 6:08 George Gilson, Mayor of Valdez, Alaska, is called to testify. Mr. Gilson is not present. The next witness is John Miller, ESRO station director, Fairbanks, Alaska. Mr. Miller is not present. The next witness is Dr. Ronald Smith, Fairbanks, Alaska. Dr. Smith is not present. The next witness is Mr. Lawrence R. Mayo, Fairbanks, Alaska. Mr. Mayo is not present. The next witness is Charles Herbert, Anchorage, Alaska. Mr. Herbert is not present. The next witness is Terry Worrell [sp], Fairbanks, Alaska. The next witness is John Chelsea [?], Anchorage, Alaska. Mr. Mayo begins his testimony at 8:00. John Chelsea is the President of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. There are offices in Juneau and Anchorage, Alaska. His home is in Valdez and he wishes to testify as President of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce. He was born, raised, and educated in Valdez, Alaska. His father was born in

Juneau, Alaska 1894. His grandfather practiced law in Juneau as early as 1890. The state chamber organization is composed of some 450 business organizations in Alaska. From pulp mills in Southeastern, to retail merchants in Anchorage, to doctors, lawyers, teachers and just plain people. As diverse as their interests are, his members have two things in common: an interest in the development of Alaska and all the members are users of land. He says his organization is vitally concerned with anything that will affect the development of Alaska and the usage of the lands. The proposed pipeline does both. He says people agree on two principles: that we cannot have it both ways and we feel that the construction on TAPS can be included to building up Alaska. He discusses the mistakes of the past and the superior technology used today that can do a better job than previously. He discussed the Kenai Moose Range and the oil development there. His next topic is regulation. The suggested regulations will provide the necessary safeguards for the pipeline system. Certainly this list developed as it was by state, federal, and private citizens should adequately protect the public interest. The state and federal government protect the public interest. He is concerned with the level of scrutiny the state and federal government have undertaken. As in any other major development, cooperation is the key. Both state and federal agencies have dual responsibility. He says he feels the state of Alaska should be charged with the primary responsibilities. He says he is aware that the state is not properly staffed to meet requirements but he says neither is the federal government. He says the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce will support all necessary measures to support all of the Alaska personnel and expertise needed. He says he invites people's attention to the vast existing pipelines in sister states. He says they are examples of successful projects. He discusses Alaska's history of the last 100 years and the struggle involved. He says he fails to see any merit in calling a halt to the forward movement. He says he requests that Secretary Train and panel urge the timely issuance of the right away pipeline permit to allow early construction of the system. It has been previously pointed out that dollars delayed are dollars lost. Secretary Train thanks Mr. Chelsea. He says he will submit the testimony just provided within the 15 day limit.

The next witness is Peggy Wayburn from San Francisco, California. Mrs. Washburn is not present. Secretary Train asks if Eben Hopson is in the room. Mr. Hopson is not present. Secretary Train says this concludes the testimony or presentation at least according to his records of all parties who registered a desire to be heard. He asks if there are any others who wish to be heard at this time.

At 18:30 David Klein introduces himself and he says he did request to be heard and he wrote to Mr. Pat Ryan in Anchorage. He says he did sign up yesterday morning but his name was called last evening. Mr. Klein is a resident of the college area. He is a professional ecologist and has lived in Alaska for 19 years. He lives on Yankovich Road. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Conservation Society. He is speaking to the panel as a private citizen. Construction of the pipeline will result in widespread ecological disturbances. Because of the unique nature of the pipeline and the usage of engineering techniques previously untested in the arctic and subarctic the magnitude of the ecological disturbances that will result cannot now be adequately assessed. Knowledge of ecosystems in the North American arctic and subarctic is scanty at best. The past two decades have seen great advances in the Antarctic continent research while basic knowledge of north arctic and subarctic have been sadly neglected. In the absence of the basic ecological knowledge necessary to thoroughly build the pipeline,

he asks the Secretary of the Interior to consider the pipeline right away application with extreme caution and application. If the pressures for urgency and haste which are common in the oil industry in general and in this instance for the planning of the pipeline are followed then there will not be sufficient time for studies necessary to provide minimal guidelines to protect natural resources that will be affected. Pressures should be resisted. Responsibility for added risks should fall squarely on the TAPS. The resources involved in the construction which include land, the waters, the fish and water life, the scenic and recreational values are the rightful property of all Americans. While it may be in the best interest of the oil industry or Alaska businessman, such haste is not in the interest of Americans. The pipeline will bring in money but it will also create intolerable pressures on the residents of the affected areas through the shortages of housing, schools, and low prices. He says the following problems associated with the pipeline be thoroughly examined and provisions made for their solution: the establishment of multiple transportation routes between Fairbanks and the north slope will create far more problems of environmental degradation than if these things were designated to a single corridor. Secretary of Transportation Volpe stressed the advantages of this concept in a statement he made last week. The winter haul road from Livengood to the North Slope proves this point. The section from Livengood to the Yukon River will soon be duplicated by an all season road in construction with the pipeline routing. This region is characterized by low hills with numerous drainage systems with permafrost. By late summer severe erosion was occurring on sections of the road that traverse these north slopes. This is the result of degradation of the permafrost because of the removal of the insulating vegetative cover. Slumping and flowing of these light extremely fine grained soils is occurring and now threatens siltation of the many streams in the area. In addition unsightly scars are being created on the landscape. Number two, several areas along the proposed pipeline route have extremely high recreational values. These places include the Keystone Canyon, the Gulkana River Area, the Richardson Clearwater, Grayling Lake, and Galbraith Lake. Additional such areas are also known to BLM specialists. The value of these places is a result of their water and scenery. Natural features of the area would be significantly altered. Grayling Lake completely occupies the narrow mountain valley in which it occurs. It is apparent that insufficient space exists for a construction of a road and pipeline without endangering the area itself. Number three, mountain sheep populations occur around the pipeline route in the Brooks Range, particularly in the Atigun [?] River Valley. Mountain sheep are known to be traditional in use of their mountain habitat. To avoid the problem in the Brooks Range, disturbance of sheep via pipeline and road should be avoided. Pump stations should be located as to minimize sheep disturbances. He says thank you and is thanked by Secretary Train. Mr. Klein's testimony is marked as exhibit 49.

At 28:20 John A. Carlson speaks. Mr. Carlson is chairman of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. He says he was not available yesterday evening when his name was called. He says he has been requested by the FNSB to appear and testify in support of the pipeline. He says if we are to accomplish anything we are to approach the problem with an open mind and a goal. Alaskans realize there are safe and unsafe ways of doing everything. Knowledge of doing things safely is gained by experience and the people of Alaska have this experience and knowledge. The FNSB approves of the goals of pipeline and supports the immediate approval of a right away permit. He thanks the panel. Secretary Train thanks Mr. Carlson. Secretary Train volunteers Mr. Carlson's statement as exhibit 50. One of the panel members

says he believes there will be letters of expression that were not considered testimony but it was desired that they be considered part of the record. Mr. Secretary says that the hearing record will be held open for a period of 15 days or until September 15, 1969 during which time written statements or presentations will be received for inclusion of the record of this proceeding. Any such statement should be filed with Mr. Patrick Ryan, regional coordinator for all interior agencies at 636 6<sup>th</sup> avenue room 410 Anchorage, Alaska. Mr. Secretary says copies of the transcript of this proceeding can be obtained by making arrangements with the court reporter Mrs. Kling [?]. Copies of the statements or other documents that have been received for inclusion with the record can be obtained from either the Washington office, the Fairbanks office, or the anchorage office of the BLM by making arrangement with those offices.

At 32:10 Mr. Secretary Mech [?] asks if there is anyone else present who desires to be heard at this time. A man on the panel says that they have just contacted the mayor of Valdez Mr. George Gilson who had expected to be here and wanted to be here. Mr. Horton [?] has just talked to Mr. Gilson on the telephone. Mr. Gilson is having a little weather problem and it's uncertain whether he is going to be able to get here or not. The likelihood is that he will probably not make it. He says if he is unable to be at the meeting personally he assured the panel that Mr. John Chelsea reflected his views. Also, Gilson knew the sentiments of the people of Valdez and asked that this statement be reflected on the record. He will submit a written statement for the record within the next few days. Mr. Secretary Mech says he thinks the record should show that there has been no response to his question as to whether or not there is anyone else present who desires to be heard. Mr. Secretary Mech says he believes the Undersecretary would like to make a closing remark. A man on the panel says he sees Mrs. Wayburn has just entered the room so Peggy Wayburn will be called.

Mrs. Wayburn begins at 34:40 of the recording by apologizing for being so late. She comes from San Francisco California and she is a housewife and mother of four children. She says she wishes she was testifying as an Alaska because she loves Alaska. She says she didn't see Alaska for the first time until 1967. She says she was so taken with the state that she has been to Alaska each year since and this is her 3<sup>rd</sup> visit. During the three visits she has traveled east from the Canadian border, west to Dillingham, Nome, and Kotzebue. She has traveled north as far as Point Barrow and south as far as Ketchikan. She does think it's pertinent to say that she has flown the length of the proposed pipeline. She says she is familiar with the Chugach Mountains of the south. She has also seen the proposed [?] of the pipeline at Valdez. She has also flown the length of the winter road and visited both the Brooks Range and the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. She has seen many of the areas being discussed. Since she's been in Alaska she's walked the tundra, and rowed in the Toklat River. With her strong feeling for Alaska she is happy to testify in Alaska. She also wants to testify as a tax payer with a vested interest in the state of Alaska. She believes she has a vested interested in the oil industry as a tax payer. Out of all that she has seen in Alaska it emerges that Alaska is special in its location, climate, people, history, and economic problems. The congress tried to take this into account at the time of granting statehood to Alaska and in the constitution of Alaska there are many special things which have been arrange trying to meet a special situation. It appears to her that in building or attempting to build anything the arctic there are considerations that must be taken into account. She believes that it is not only in order for the federal

government to make stipulations she believes it is essential. She supports stipulations on any development or building or construction in the arctic. She can understand how Alaskans might feel that the discovery of oil in the North Slope and development of oil. The building of the pipeline was all a bonanza. She wishes she could agree that it is the bonanza everyone feels it is but being a Californian she cannot. It wasn't so long ago that California was looking for more people, more industry, more roads, more development and California got it. Somehow the economic bonanza that was supposed to come to California resulted in everyone paying higher taxes, for poorer and poorer facilities being provided by the government. The environment has deteriorated terribly. There is a great network of roads and they get in their cars to travel and it is almost impossible to get out of town because there are so many cars. The beautiful warm clear skies are a dream of the past. While they got what they wanted they've been paying for it ever since. She discusses the oil lead off of Santa Barbara. She personally opposes the granting of the application to TAPS. She urges all people concerned with the oil production people to look before they leap.

Mr. Secretary makes a statement that he first wants to express an appreciation to the department of the University of Alaska. His thanks go to President Wood who made the arrangements for the panel. He says he knows he speaks for all the members of the panel in saying that he believes that the hearing have been informative. He says as the panel has listened over the last day or so that the panel has heard a number that has tried to make people see the problem as all black or all white. He says he recognizes that it's not that simple. He certainly understands and recognizes that most Alaskans are concerned with the proper economic development of Alaska. He has also been impressed with the fact that the majority of Alaskans are also at the same time deeply concerned that the beauty and wilderness values be protected. The task everyone has is to develop guidelines for development which are compatible with the conservation of the best of the state. He says the panel intends to move forward as fast and effectively as they can to resolve any problems that may exist. He says yesterday he established a working group to get on particularly with the problems of the permafrost and soil stability that many feel are the most critical element in the pipeline matter. That group met last night and he says the group has made considerable progress. A further meeting has been arranged with the TAPS representatives later in the morning. He mentions this as only to point out a strong desire and sincere efforts of all involved in the matter to identify problems and deal with them and certainly not in any spirit of delay or destruction. He says the meeting has been constructive and he appreciates the involvement in Fairbanks. The meeting yesterday was 12 hours and he appreciates those who attended yesterday and today. He is not sure if there will be another meeting in Washington D.C. but he says that it is a possibility. He thank Mr. Mesh [?] for his very effective chairing of the meeting and he says the panel appreciates the help of the reporter and the panel looks forward to getting the record in the near future. The recording ends.