

# BP Chairman Says He's Conservation Minded

By HELEN ATKINSON

FAIRBANKS, (SPECIAL)—British Petroleum Oil Corporation officials stopping in Fairbanks today after an inspection tour of North Slope operations were: Mr. Eric Drake, chairman of the board; Mr. Clive Hardcastle, president of BP North America; Mr. Geoffrey Larminie, area manager for Alaska; Mr. David Henderson, manager Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS); and Mr. Dudley Knott, public relations man from New York.

It was Mr. Drake's first visit to Alaska and he said, "I am fascinated with it—it is wonderful—but a bit cold." (It was minus 35 with a 15 knot wind at Put No. 1 wellsite).

The chairman said BP was delighted to include Alaska in its worldwide operations because it is easier to work in an American country since "We speak the same language and have the same democratic principles."

In regard to conservation Mr. Drake replied, "We are very sensitive about looking after the resources of a country and looking after the animals and birds. We are in touch with Peter Scott, a famous naturalist, and will be sending an authority to Alaska soon to assure that every good conservation practice is maintained."

He said that in their own small country of England the natural woods and fields are carefully preserved and that BP is very much concerned with conservation.

When asked if BP had any administrative policy in regard to allowing their employees to hunt on the Slope, Mr. Larminie said that the men work 12 hour shifts seven days a week and are generally tired and don't have time to hunt.

They would have to comply with all of the game regulations and hunting laws. Besides he said "rabies are endemic to many arctic animals such as the fox and the leming" and all of the BP employees have been warned not to make pets of the animals.

"Will the pipeline prevent caribou migrations?" a reporter asked. Whether the pipe is buried or run above ground it will have to be insulated. Above ground if a gravel cover is used it will slope enough to allow the mountain running caribou to pass over easily.

With some humor Mr. Henderson said, "If we use a commercial insulation on the pipe it may just be the type of food that caribou like!"—Which would create additional problems.

The 800 mile long pipeline will be built by Trans Alaska Pipeline System, which is 37½%

owned by BP, 37½% owned by Atlantic Richfield, and 25% owned by Humble Oil.

BP will be the operator for TAPS and Mr. David Henderson will be used in Anchorage and in charge of the pipeline construction.

Pipeline may be shipped to Alaska in 48" diameter 40 foot lengths, or, it may be fabricated in Alaska. Mr. Drake said, "We have gone out to tender for the pipe"—and explained that a tender is an "offer to do a job" and does not necessarily mean the lowest bid.

He said, "We do not know if it means fabrication in Timbuctoo, Alaska, Japan, or where."

The most important thing is the economics of operation. BP is investing some \$300 million in the line which will carry oil from the Arctic to a port on the Gulf of Alaska.

The pipeline will not be strung by helicopter but lengths delivered in place by road. A permanent road will be needed to the pumping stations, but only temporary road would be required for the pipeline construction should the route follow other than the ready-made winter-haul-road corridor.

When asked how many barrels of oil a day would be flowing through the pipeline, Mr. Drake smiled and said, "You do not think we would be building a 48 inch pipeline if we had nothing to put in it, do you?"