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HUGH FULTON, CHIEF COUNSEL

## United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING  
THE NATIONAL DEFENSE PROGRAM

January 4, 1944

*Truman Com.*

Dear Senator Kilgore:

There is being returned herewith copy of communications addressed to you by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the contents of which have been carefully noted.

Of interest, the Committee has a lengthy memorandum prepared by Stefansson outlining his viewpoints, some based on fact and some on hypothesis, which explain many of the factors entering into the location of the Alcan Highway.

This memorandum can be made available to you if you so desire.

Very truly yours,

*Hugh Fulton*  
HUGH FULTON  
Chief Counsel

Enclosures

Honorable Harley M. Kilgore  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON  
67 MORTON STREET  
NEW YORK 14

October 29, 1943

TRUMAN COMMITTEE and CANOL

Dear Senator:

This follows up our telephone conversation of last night.

I have admired the work of the Truman Committee. So I was worried by press rumors about their relation to Canol; for it looked as if this time the Committee were getting off on the wrong foot. I wanted to reach you about this when I was in Washington last time; I have considerable knowledge of oil matters in the Mackenzie and Alaska regions and thought I could perhaps be of help. I failed to reach you; but I did reach my friend Henry H. Collins and suggested he communicate to you my view that, while wrong, Canol is not wrong for the reasons which the newspapers seemed to forecast as the probable Truman verdict; Canol is wrong for an entirely different set of reasons.

According to what we said on the telephone, I am enclosing a list of some men in Washington and in Ottawa who know that I have opposed Canol from the time I first heard of it. Some of them know also that I had presented to the Government, long before the Canol project came into public view, plans quite other than and inconsistent with those of Canol.



Senator Harley M. Kilgore,  
Senate Office Building,  
Washington, D.C.



SOME MEN WHO HAVE MADE A STUDY OF CANOL

ARMY: Brigadier General Walter B. Pyron. I had several conversations with him and sent him a number of memoranda.

Lieutenant Colonel John H. Leavell (Room 3D676, Pentagon, Republic 6700, Ext. 2612): He consulted me in the early part of some special studies he made of Canol which included journeys north.

INTERIOR: Secretary Harold L. Ickes. I had one personal interview with him, which dealt mainly with my opposition to Canol. He placed me in contact with various officers of his Department, to some of whom I sent memoranda.

Dr. Ruth Gruber. She is one of those who, on behalf of Secretary Ickes, have made some study of Canol, which has included going through memoranda written by me.

WAR PRODUCTION BOARD: H. LeRoy Whitney, a special agent of the Board, has made what I believe to be one of the most thorough studies of Canol. I respectfully suggest that the Truman Committee call him as a witness.

OTTAWA: Dr. Charles Camsell, Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources. He furnished some of the information on which I have based my opposition to Canol; we have had a number of conferences.

PRIVATE OIL MEN. Both as representative of the Government (Office of the Coordinator of Information) and privately, I have consulted several representatives of Standard Oil of New Jersey, among them Vice Presidents Eugene Holman and Wallace E. Pratt.

CONTRACTORS: The firm of Bechtel-Price-Callahan, Canol contractors, are aware through their representative Paul Grafe that I opposed Canol from the start. Such opposition is indeed known to all the men listed on this sheet.



Vilhjalmur Stefansson



## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

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## SYMBOLS

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SENATOR HARLEY M KILGORE=

SENATE OFFICE BLDG WASHDC=

REFERENCE OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION HAVE ALWAYS OPPOSED BOTH ALCAN HIGHWAY AND CANOL PROJECT DESIRING INSTEAD ROAD AND PIPE CONFORMING WITH TOPOGRAPHY CLIMATE NATURAL RESOURCES AND PRESENT DEVELOPMENT WHICH MEANS SUBSTANTIALLY PLAN ADVOCATED AT LEAST SINCE 1940 BY GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA THROUGH MINISTER FALLOW OF PUBLIC WORKS UPON WHICH I ASSUME TRUMAN COMMITTEE IS SECURING FULL TESTIMONY. REGARDING PETROLEUM I FAVORED ASCERTAINING CAPACITY OF NORMAN AND OTHER CONVENIENT MACKENZIE FIELDS AND THEN LAYING PIPE OF APPROPRIATE DIAMETER FROM OIL FIELD TO REFINERY LOCATED WITHIN ALASKA PRESUMABLY NEAR EAGLE OR FAIRBANKS WHICH MEANS THAT IF WARRANTED BY MACKENZIE OIL PRODUCTION I FAVORED LARGE PIPE LAID WITH SMALL CONSTRUCTION COST ACROSS LOW LAND IN DIRECTION OF TOKIO WHILE CANOL IS DIMINUTIVE BUT COSTLY PIPE LAID ACROSS MOUNTAINS IN DIRECTION OF SEATTLE. AS PROMISED AM MAILING TOMORROW PARTIAL LIST OF MEN PROMINENT IN WASHINGTON AND OTTAWA WHO KNOW THAT I HAVE NEVER FAVORED CANOL PROJECT=

VILHJALMUR STEFANSSON.

CANOL CANOL IN BOTH PLACES 1940.