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WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1944

Mr. Hugh A. Fulton
Chief Counsel, Truman Committee
449 Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fulton:

I have your letter of April 21, 1944, Reference H-421-F, in which you make certain inquiries concerning the Canol Project and the Alaskan Highway.

As to Canol, the crude oil reached Whitehorse through the pipeline some days ago and I understand that tanks there are now being filled. On April 30 it is planned to start operation of the refinery first stage.

It is the plan to proceed with operation of the pipeline and refinery, including the second stage of the refinery which it is anticipated will be completed about May 31.

Exploration drilling in the area outside the proven Norman Wells Field was suspended some time ago and I understand that only such work is being done in the Norman Field itself as to assure continued production of 4000 barrels a day.

It is too early to give an itemized statement of the cost of production as this will require some experience when operation starts.

As I previously informed you, negotiations are under way with Imperial Oil Company, Ltd. and the Canadian Government which are not yet completed. If the negotiations reach consummation, as we hope, the cost of the petroleum will be reduced and this, of course, will affect the total cost of production.

It is requested that the Committee make no statement at the present time with respect to such negotiations.

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As soon as they have reached the stage permitting announcement, the Committee will be informed.

I shall obtain the information which you request concerning the highway and transmit it to you later.

Yours sincerely,

JULIUS H. AMBERG
Special Assistant to the
Secretary of War

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