Our voracious appetite for more and more energy has sanctioned the largest, most costly project known to man—the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline. This 7 billion dollar project is the product of our inflationary times and will ultimately be financed by the average automobile owner through higher and higher cost for gasoline. Seven years after the first discovery of oil, work is finally surging ahead full throttle on this 800 mile giant steel boa that will stretch from the oil's source at Prudhoe Bay to the southern port of Valdez, Alaska. As of August, 1975 there were some 20,000 workers employed on the pipeline from all over the "lower 48" states. With the average worker's salaries ranging from $900-2000 a week, the "black-gold rush" is on, but not without causing severe inflationary problems, unemployment, crime, and a whole range of other social ills that the state of Alaska has never known before. The virgin land of Alaska with it's once sparsely populated areas, known as "the last frontier" of America, will never be the same again. As one oil man said: "this is oil country now."

The boom in Alaska is not to be compared to any other place in the world. This is the price we're paying for "energy independence," a sacrifice that the oil companies promise to be well worth it in the long run.

Although Alaska is a long way from Ohio, Ohioans have a vested interest in the pipeline and the oil that has been promised to flow directly into their state. Standard Oil of Ohio now owns 54% of the 9.6 billion barrels of crude oil at Prudhoe Bay Trans-Alaska pipeline. Most of SOHIO's ad campaigns touting their involvement in Alaska are intended to re-assure Ohioans that "SOHIO is working (in Alaska) to keep you on full."
of recent publicity both pro and con on the Alaska pipeline piqued the interest of the MONTAGE film unit of WKYC-TV. In the summer of 1975 the MONTAGE unit traveled to Alaska to film an overview of construction activities on the trans-Alaska pipeline and the social/environmental impact brought about by this immense undertaking. The result was a documentary entitled: "Oil--From God's Bedroom" telecast on WKYC-TV, Cleveland, September 18, 1975. The curious title, "Oil--From God's Bedroom", was inspired by one man's statement describing his love for the pristine beauty of Alaska. His feeling for the land is not unique, it's a common feeling shared by the 300,666 residents of Alaska. It came as no surprise to MONTAGE to find that many Alaskans think of the pipeline as a dirty word, something that has altered their land and their way of life forever. The underlying questions then that are central to the film, "Oil--From God's Bedroom" are these: Does one way of life have to be sacrificed so that another can live? And when those sacrifices have all been made, and the pipeline completed, who shall benefit--Ohio? the nation? the world market? or the giant oil industry?

"Oil--From God's Bedroom was written and produced by Howard Schwartz, filmed by Dennis Goulden, edited by Dick Mrzena, and narrated by Scott Osborne.

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TO: Those Listed  
FROM: Kay Smith

DATE: September 5, 1975
SUBJECT: MONTAGE #440, "Oil--From God's Bedroom"

Our voracious appetite for more and more energy has sanctioned the largest, most costly project known to man—the trans-Alaskan oil pipeline. This 7 billion dollar project is the product of our inflationary times—largely financed by the average automobile owner through higher and higher costs for gasoline. Seven years after the first discovery of oil, work is finally surging ahead full throttle on this 800 mile giant steel box that will stretch from Prudhoe Bay to the southern port of Valdez, Alaska. As of August there were some 24,000 workers employed on the pipeline from all over the "lower 48" states. With the average worker's salaries ranging from $500-2000 a week, the "black-gold" rush is on, but not without causing severe inflationary problems, unemployment, crime, and a whole range of other social ills that the state of Alaska has never known before. The virgin land of Alaska with its once sparsely populated areas—"the last frontier" of America—will never be the same again. As one oil man said: "this is oil country now." The boom in Alaska is not to be compared to any other place in the world! This is the price we're paying for power, and although Alaska is a long way from Ohio, Ohioans have a vested interest in the pipeline both in oil and natural gas.

On September 18, 1975 at 7:30PM, MONTAGE will present an overview of construction activities, and the social and environmental impact of this immense undertaking when MONTAGE telecasts, "Oil--From God's Bedroom". Viewers will get a unique opportunity to visit above the arctic circle at Prudhoe Bay where there is an estimated 9.5 billion barrels of oil awaiting its release via the trans-Alaska pipeline in 1977. MONTAGE also filmed up and down the pipeline route from the Yukon River to the oil pipeline's terminal at Valdez.

Discussing the environmental impact of the pipeline will be Mr. James Kowalsky, Alaskan member of the Friends of the Earth, as well as Mr. Gilbert M. Zemasky, Environmental Engineer at the University of Alaska.

Reverend Donald P. Hart of Fairbanks and Lt. Richard R. Wolfe of the Fairbanks Police Department both discuss the social issues and impact of the Alaskan pipeline.

Mr. Peter DeMay, Vice President Project Management of the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, and Mr. Charles E. Spahr, Chairman of the Board of Schio will discuss their company's involvement in the construction of the pipeline itself.

Also appearing will be Congressman John Seiberling of Ohio—Chairman of the National Parks and Recreation Sub-committee. He will address himself to the subject of oil allocation as well as the outlook for the Alaskan environment.
"Oil—From God's Bedroom" was written and produced by Howard Schwartz; Dennis Goulden is Executive Producer/Cameraman; and Dick Mrzena is Film Editor.

Neal Van Ellis  Joe Varholy  Joe Weber  John Schimpf
Dennis Goulden  Dick Trembath  Howard Schwartz  Kay Smith
Steve Lorton  Bob Miller  Jeff Bell  Com/Serv.
Jayne Boyd  Sheryl Hutton  Cliff Ford  Alex Young
Jim Lindsay  Dick Mrzena  Joe Ondrick  Mary Sue Gaudio
Sandy Sieman  Pam O'Neal

Bob Miller  Sheryl Hutton
Diek Mrzena  Joe Ondrick