

MR. ROGERS, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 strandboard plants, as an example, because there was  
2 adequate capacity in the country.

3 The regional development agencies had particular  
4 things they wished to do in these areas and would propose  
5 projects that would then be the subject of Cabinet review  
6 and discussion because of the conflict between the stated  
7 policy and what they preferred to do. And, I suppose,  
8 sometimes it was resolved in favour of the regional  
9 agencies if the amount -- if the investments were small.  
10 In most instances, from my memory, the Cabinet policy  
11 would be sustained and the regional agency would be told,  
12 "No."

13 Q. If projects would come up from the regional agency  
14 to your Department, who would take the lead in trying to  
15 work it through the Federal Government system to see if  
16 the local project would, in fact, be sustained? Your  
17 Department would have been sometimes opposed to it on  
18 policy grounds. What role would your Department have as  
19 far as taking the lead or quarterbacking it?

20 A. I'll have to provide a context before I answer your  
21 question directly, if I may. Individual ministries, of  
22 course, have responsibility for their own budgets as  
23 approved by Parliament.

24 Within the framework of what is approved, Ministers  
25 have authority up to a limit, at that time, of \$10