

MR. ROGERS, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 approve it at some intermediate level. You can approve  
2 it as it stands. Those are basically the three options  
3 that any reasonable person would suggest exist on a  
4 proposition like this.

5 Q. When this started, what was your own personal  
6 position as to whether this proposal should be accepted  
7 or not or modified?

8 A. I think I told you in my testimony that the one  
9 person who had to ride the -- ride the horse without a  
10 saddle was me. I could not reveal to my own staff or to  
11 anybody else that I was favourably disposed or  
12 unfavourably disposed. Because to do so would  
13 disqualify me in terms of project -- the project  
14 leadership role that I had been asked to assume. So I  
15 simply maintained an optimistic view with respect to the  
16 proponents and a -- at the same time as I was challenging  
17 them, and would undertake the discussions with Minister  
18 MacKay or Minister Cameron in as even-handed a fashion as  
19 I possibly could, because to do otherwise would destroy  
20 my own credibility and, therefore, my effective  
21 leadership of the case that I had been asked to assume.

22 Q. That was then when that objectivity and that neutral  
23 position was critical. I'm interested now, in hindsight,  
24 knowing your own position. And I'll tell you that Mr.  
25 MacKay in his interview with me, and we'll hear evidence