

MR. ROGERS, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 the long process that this proposal went through in the
2 Federal bureaucracy, it struck me that it almost had the
3 appearance of a rearguard action being fought against it.
4 Was this proposal one that was going to go through, and
5 it was simply a case of everybody who had an interest in
6 it getting the best little bit that they could? Or was
7 it one that legitimately was up in the air? It had a
8 tremendous amount of momentum by the time it got to you.
9 A. Unequivocally this was up in the air right until the
10 end. I mean, the extent of opposition to this was not
11 simply in the hands of a few intransigent bureaucrats.
12 There was extensive opposition from a whole range of
13 people.

14 And I'd like to return to a point that you made. My
15 own particular concern throughout this was that DRIE was
16 going to get saddled with the financial responsibility
17 for this project, and that this was going to disable an
18 emerging department that was moving rapidly away from
19 extensive subsidies to business and that this would be
20 seen as a -- as it would have been, totally inconsistent
21 with the objectives of the emerging new department. So I
22 can tell you where my own sentiments really were without
23 doubt.

24 Q. All right. And I assume that even at Cabinet, Mr.
25 MacKay's own colleagues, whatever they would have liked