

MR. ROGERS, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 Expansion were totally opposed to this project, and that
2 they were stonewalling, and that they were preventing it
3 from progressing.

4 It got to the point that my own Minister raised with
5 me whether or not MacKay was being as objective as he
6 should be in the management of this file. And I quickly
7 concluded that there was a momentum on attacking the
8 messenger developing and that I had to remove him from
9 the direct line of responsibility in order to ensure that
10 he didn't get -- his career didn't become savaged as
11 result of these attacks.

12 So the only option I had was to substitute myself
13 for him, and I did so with my Minister's agreement, and
14 so that's how I came to be the project lead.

15 Q. There was nothing to the suggestion that he was
16 removed because he did oppose it and you wanted the
17 opposition removed?

18 A. No. To restate what I said, he was likely to suffer
19 from a reputational impairment that would make -- render
20 his effectiveness in that position -- It would render him
21 ineffective. And I wanted to be sure that that did not
22 happen as a result of the management of one case. I
23 think that if you look at the testimony I have given, the
24 amount of opposition to this and the range of issues we
25 were managing was not in any way restricted to one