

MR. ROGERS, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 I will say that it was something of a surprise to me
2 to be hearing about this because I thought they were in -
3 - it suggested that they -- I thought they had reasonably
4 robust financial circumstances, and if they didn't have
5 the cash, they had the ability to borrow. Going back to
6 our discussion on cost overruns, I felt that was secured
7 by the ability to borrow if not by their cash resources.
8 So I found this mildly surprising.

9 Q. Was -- did you ever see any indications through the
10 piece that in fact, Curragh's intention had always been
11 to establish a good looking mine and the flip it?

12 A. No, I may be an innocent abroad, but that had never
13 crossed my mind.

14 Q. We have seen correspondence from Premier Buchanan to
15 Mr. Frame at about this point in time asking for his
16 personal assurances that he wasn't intending to flip it.

17 A. No kidding?

18 Q. You weren't aware of that at the time?

19 A. Absolutely not.

20 Q. What impact would it have had if the mine had been
21 sold? What were the pros and cons for your Department?

22 A. Well, it's pure speculation, but what would come to
23 my mind first off, is that you have a reliable operator.

24 Number two, there would be a high degree of
25 suspicion as to what their -- what they had been talking