

MR. CAMERON - OPENING ADDRESS

1 whole paper was concerned about DEVCO and the great
2 disaster that this mine was going to cause on DEVCO.

3 And then, of course, it's a very good time to get
4 involved in this because everyone knew that we were in
5 the middle of an election campaign in '88, and so it
6 became an election issue. And, again, I hear all these
7 allegations that this was just an election issue that we
8 used and didn't care about anything else. And,
9 especially me, that it was just an election issue to get
10 myself elected. And I think you've heard that over and
11 over again and people referring to that.

12 I think it's important for us to look, really, who
13 used this in the 1988 election campaign. Well, in Cape
14 Breton, the Liberals used it to their advantage, and they
15 said things like, "Mine proposal stupid." They said,
16 "Area Liberal candidates found in opposition to proposed
17 mine." "`Mine idea insane,' says Liberals." You know,
18 the papers were full of that.

19 Now if you look to those articles, it wasn't that it
20 was stupid because they didn't think it was safe. It was
21 stupid because they wanted to protect DEVCO. And that's
22 not strange to think that you're trying to protect jobs
23 in your own riding. So that's not shocking. But the
24 strange thing was, when you come across the causeway and
25 you got to Pictou County, then the very same party had