

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1           And here's my problem: We have to deal with the  
2 merits of the causes of the explosion of May 9th, not  
3 politician partisanship in this Inquiry. Political  
4 partisanship interferes with the ability to deal with it  
5 on the merits.

6           I'm going to suggest to you that it interfered with  
7 the contribution that you could make to us, and the  
8 reason I'm making this comment at the very beginning is  
9 because it suddenly brought home to me crystal clear that  
10 that is a very underlying, all-pervasive feature of Nova  
11 Scotia leadership life. Because I tried to vision you,  
12 sitting in your various offices, and your compatriots on  
13 both sides of the political spectrum, imagining how you  
14 would be dealing with the merits, and I couldn't get the  
15 image out of my mind that you would have been dealing  
16 with this mine, and whether it should be set up, and how  
17 it was to be regulated, with the same interference coming  
18 in from political partisanship as I think was displayed  
19 in your opening comments. Now that's a long-winded  
20 opening question. Do you want to respond to that?

21       A.    Was there a question in that --

22       Q.    Yes.

23       A.    -- or is that just a statement of fact?

24       Q.    It's a statement, and I would ask you to respond to  
25       it.