

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 Q. All right. We have had evidence that the
2 establishment, at least with public support, of a mine in
3 Pictou County would have been contrary to a Federal
4 policy that had come into being at about 1987, which was
5 the Mineral and Metal Policy of the Government of Canada
6 which stated that the private sector was the best place
7 to allocate resources among alternative activities and
8 investments. Was that policy in your consideration at
9 all?

10 A. I heard about it after the project got going. I
11 just read you this morning they were able to find money
12 out West to assist the coal industry there, and that was
13 in 1988. So I don't know if they applied that policy
14 across the board. I know, by reading the press, that
15 they spent a great deal of money supporting the coal
16 industry in B.C., building the rail lines to get it to
17 the ports to Japan. I don't know if that was included in
18 the policy or not.

19 Q. So your awareness as a member of government in those
20 days, you were not aware of this federal policy until
21 after the Westray Mine was established?

22 A. Well, it was part of the debate that the Federal
23 Government come out -- you know, I guess the way I look
24 at it, the Federal Government decided -- that department
25 decided they were going to scuttle this project, so they