

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 Q. Agreed.

2 A. I mean, you just don't -- you get elected to help
3 people, not to hurt them. But we certainly don't leave
4 that impression as politicians. And politics has gone --
5 continued to move downward in that effect. Instead of
6 criticizing someone's policy, we want to destroy their
7 credibility. And that's very evident today, not only in
8 this country, but in the country I'm living in now. So,
9 clearly, politics has taken a turn downward.

10 But the delay clearly has affected the development
11 of the mine. But I -- the delay didn't in any way,
12 shape, or form affect the safety inspections or anything
13 like that. I can't make that kind of a connection.

14 In fact, because of the political smell that's been
15 around this because of the Opposition, if anything, I
16 would think that civil servants would be a little more
17 cautious. And I can't see trying to make the connection
18 between that. I -- after spending 20 years in public
19 life, it's a little upsetting, you know, to have people
20 to say, and continue to say over and over and over and
21 over again, "The inspectors didn't do their jobs because
22 there was interference by Don Cameron's government."

23 And I wish all of you would just reflect for a
24 second and think about this. Those inspectors were under
25 tremendous pressure. Tremendous pressure. The press