

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1       embarrassment. I look at the hurt that's been caused to  
2       the people in this Province over this issue, and a little  
3       bit of political embarrassment wouldn't have been very  
4       hard to take if we could have avoided the kind of hurt  
5       that's going on and still going on.

6       Q.     In hindsight?

7       A.     Yeah. Hindsight is always perfect, though, isn't  
8       it?

9       Q.     What else should have been done differently in  
10      relation to Westray, from your view?

11     A.     Well, I mean, clearly, the negotiations were just --  
12     it was just a disaster, and I think that had -- that had  
13     a major effect. We should have had the courage to allow  
14     the strip mine to go ahead when they wanted to. We  
15     should have recognized that what they needed was to  
16     supply that contract and, again, they would have closed --  
17     -- they committed to close the Southwest section. And if  
18     we, as a government, allowed that strip mine to go ahead,  
19     I believe 26 men would be alive today.

20     Q.     Why didn't we?

21     A.     Why didn't we do it? Politics again. You didn't --

22     Q.     This is --

23     A.     -- want to talk about politics earlier, but that's  
24     the hard, cold facts.

25     Q.     This is the thing that's troubling is that this is a