

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 A. Uh-huh.

2 Q. For example, do I take it from your comment that you
3 would agree with the proposition that your bureaucratic
4 officials should be directed to deal with projects on
5 their merits and give more credence and credibility to
6 what they are saying to you, rather than overriding it at
7 the political level?

8 A. Well, you're elected to do a job and you have
9 officials to get advice from and -- but, in the end, you
10 are the Government. The people elected you. And they
11 have to have a right to make a choice if they like those
12 decisions or not. If you put all decisions down to civil
13 servants' level and the public are not happy with that,
14 an election comes and there's no way to pass judgement on
15 that. So a fair amount of the decision-making process
16 must remain at a political level for the people to pass
17 judgment on it.

18 Q. But I'm trying to grope here through the fog,
19 because this is a tough issue. I can see two different
20 factual situations: one where a political leader says,
21 for political reasons, exercising political prerogatives,
22 "I would like to explore the merits of putting a coal
23 mine in this area because I think it would be good for
24 the Province and good for a whole bunch of reasons.
25 Please, Department officials, assess that, tell me what