

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 puts it. You see, no, I don't think I'd go that far.

2 Q. Well, you tell me how -- I shouldn't say "laid  
3 back," but how much of a reduction from that standard you  
4 think our Ministers should have?

5 A. Well, I believe very strongly in the public service.  
6 I think we have, by and large, a good public service, not  
7 perfect, but a good public service. And I think you have  
8 to be very, very cautious that there is the separation  
9 between the political side and the public service side.  
10 And the Minister has to understand where that line is.

11 And yes, you want to be as knowledgeable as  
12 possible, but all the details, the important details that  
13 you need to make a decision, I would expect a Minister to  
14 be able to have those in his head. I just simply don't  
15 think that that's the way it works. The people would  
16 have to decide that they would like experts on each issue  
17 that we need in Cabinet if you're going to have that  
18 situation, and that doesn't happen.

19 Q. Let me go to the Deputy Minister for a few moments,  
20 and using again, just by way of example, Deputy Minister  
21 of Labour, for example, in relation to Westray. Should  
22 we as a Province be able to expect that a Deputy Minister  
23 would be of sufficient abilities that he would have a  
24 fairly good technical grasp of the project, not as an  
25 expert, but an overall technical grasp of the project?