

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 Once or twice a year my wife and I will have friends
2 in for a party in our house. Never once did we ever
3 invite Gerald Phillips to one of those parties. So it's
4 not that I don't like the man or -- I tell you, on
5 record, that I consider him a friend. But this idea that
6 we had some huge close friendship and that influenced
7 everything else, it's just the kind of street gossip that
8 really doesn't help us at all.

9 You know, you were told that all the tractors down
10 in the mine came from my farm. Well, that's the kind of
11 street gossip that you have to expect. And it's not
12 helpful. It's not helpful to -- it's not helpful to the
13 families that are still hurting and aching about four
14 years later, wondering what's happened. But it's not
15 helpful to the public to have that kind of gossip
16 swirling around. And they think, "Well, you know,
17 everyone that's elected must be some kind of sleaze bag
18 because, you know, they do all these kinds of things." I
19 don't know why people make those kind of comments.

20 Q. The evidence is --

21 COMMISSIONER I can go you one better on that, Mr.
22 Cameron. I was told that I got this appointment because
23 I was your brother-in-law. Put that in your pipe and
24 smoke it.

25 A. Well, I have a spare sister if you're interested.