A. First of all, I wouldn't be able to sign the agreement in that short of time. I'd have to get the Cabinet and -- and I couldn't sign it without Cabinet approval.

Q. In any event, it's your office -- I take it that you agree that it was your office calling to set a time and a date for a meeting, and the time or date was set just two days' hence?

A. Yes, and I'm --

Q. It sounds like a certain amount of --

A. -- I'm sure that --

Q. -- pushing to get on with it?

A. I'm sure that they were pushing for a meeting, so we found a date we could meet.

Q. And it's your -- is it your position that you gave him no -- nothing at all by which he could conclude that you were keen to finalize an agreement and that if the Feds didn't come through, that you were prepared to sign an agreement by week's end?

A. I -- that wasn't my understanding, no.

Q. All right.

A. I was keen to have -- to resolve the issue with the Federal Government and go the normal route. But we certainly were looking at going alone and seeing if it was possible financially.