

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. MERRICK

1 A. Well, we continued to review and alter legislation  
2 all the time and, clearly, the coal mines legislation was  
3 out of date. So that's clearly something we should be  
4 doing. We should make sure on an ongoing basis that all  
5 our legislation, especially in some very sensitive areas,  
6 should be monitored and changed.

7 And the legislation that I speak on occupational  
8 health and safety, I'm willing to guarantee that it will  
9 be changed in five years. Nothing stays still. So you -  
10 - that's part of the role of the Government. You must  
11 continue to introduce new legislation for the  
12 circumstances. But, clearly, the Coal Mines Act was a  
13 perfect example where it should have been updated.

14 Q. Why didn't we realize that or begin to do it back in  
15 1987 when it became apparent that it was probable, or  
16 possible at least, that we were going to have to do it?

17 A. Well, I can't answer that. And, of course,  
18 hindsight is -- certainly that -- with hindsight,  
19 certainly that would have been the time to do it, in the  
20 mid-80s.

21 Q. But how do we ensure that it won't happen again in  
22 some other area that we haven't thought about so --

23 A. Well, this has been a very tragic situation, and  
24 from that tragedy I think we're going to learn some  
25 lessons. And that -- I'm sure efforts have been made