

MR. CAMERON, EXAM. BY MR. ROBERTS

1 recall saying something to that effect?

2 A. No. What I said was, if we allowed the strip mine
3 to go ahead, they would have abandoned the Southwest
4 section and continued to drive the tunnels north, and
5 they wouldn't have been in the Southwest section. And,
6 of course, we know that's where the explosion was.

7 Q. Because the timing is wrong, yeah.

8 A. Right.

9 Q. They were already there.

10 A. Right.

11 Q. And you were blaming politics for the reason why
12 they weren't able to mine the --

13 A. I think some --

14 Q. -- strip mine --

15 A. -- of my colleagues --

16 Q. -- fully?

17 A. -- believed it to be a bad political decision to
18 make to allow them to go ahead, even though we allowed
19 other strip mines to operate. I think some of my
20 colleagues said, "This isn't good politics." I said to
21 the Minister at the time, "You do what's right. Listen
22 to your officials, do what's right. And if you can,
23 that's fine." I just regretted that we -- that that
24 decision wasn't made in the opposite direction. They
25 never would have been in the Southwest section then.