

1 the political controversies surrounding the mine and were
2 in fact influenced by those controversies. And I'm just
3 going to review them briefly:

4 Albert McLean, you remember, he finally took steps
5 to talk to the safety representatives at Westray, not
6 because it was something he should have been doing all
7 along, but because an opposition politician was attacking
8 Premier Cameron over safety concerns at the mine.

9 John Smith admitted in the interview he gave to the
10 Commission that the political sensitivity of Westray may
11 have affected the way he carried out his duties.

12 Claude White systematically altered minutes of
13 meetings involving government officials and mine
14 operators to remove any references which might be
15 embarrassing to the government, the company, or to both.

16 Don Jones warned Gerald Phillips that the government
17 was coming under increasing pressure because of roof
18 falls at Westray and it might be forced, and note that
19 word "forced," to do something unpopular. Although Mr.
20 Jones apparently forgot that he made that statement, it
21 is recorded in minutes at the time and was recalled by
22 other witnesses who testified before you.

23 Pat Phelan fretted about the "spin" put on Westray
24 controversies by senior officials in the Federal
25 Government.