

1 safety issues or the distortion of those complaints in  
2 the reports produced by Albert McLean? And what else  
3 would explain Claude White's decision to change the  
4 minutes of a meeting with the company to make it appear  
5 as though a lengthy discussion of the Guptill case had  
6 never taken place? While there is no direct evidence  
7 that the Department and Westray conspired to silence the  
8 Guptill complaints, there is reason, Mr. Commissioner,  
9 for deep suspicion.

10 But one thing is clear, if the Department's  
11 intention had been to discourage any miner from coming  
12 forward with concerns about safety at Westray, it could  
13 not have handled the Guptill case any better.

14 About six weeks after Carl Guptill came forward,  
15 Albert McLean had another opportunity to hear directly  
16 from Westray miners about safety concerns and that's the  
17 evening, you recall, when he met with three mine safety  
18 representatives. They talked for an hour. They talked  
19 about many of the same hazards Carl Guptill had  
20 identified, gas, excessive gas, dust, diesel equipment  
21 travelling throughout the mine, the use of torches,  
22 untrained miners and unqualified supervisors.

23 But instead of taking any action, Albert McLean  
24 produced a memo for Claude White that hid the fears of  
25 the miners. The memo contained no reference to the