

1 priority to production than to safety.

2 We submit you should find that the management of
3 Westray Coal was more concerned with meeting its
4 production commitments than in protecting the safety of
5 its workers.

6 Now the extent of the coal dust problem should have
7 been no surprise to the operators. They were working on
8 a coal floor and the vehicles they selected for use in
9 the mine were bound to add appreciably to the dust
10 levels. Yet, Mr. Commissioner, the evidence is that
11 Westray management did not take stone dusting and the
12 removal of coal dust seriously. And the stone dusting
13 that was done was largely cosmetic and served to hide the
14 dust rather than deal with the problem. Don Dooley was
15 under direct orders from Roger Parry not to take men from
16 production in order to stone dust. And Fraser Agnew
17 believed that he would have been fired if he'd assigned
18 production crews to stone dusting.

19 Even with the Department of Labour issued its orders
20 on April 29, Roger Parry was still determined not to
21 sacrifice production for dust control. Instead of
22 directing miners to stone dust, he had a mechanic put
23 together a sprinkler system, something which was of
24 questionable effectiveness, but which did not take men
25 away from production.