

1 Commissioner, would be made at the expense of the
2 operator.

3 We submit your recommendations should take account
4 of the abuse to which the concept of internal
5 responsibility has been subjected in this affair.
6 Internal responsibility was never intended to promote the
7 abdication of responsibility by statutory agencies. Only
8 a regulatory authority is able to ensure the elements of
9 the system are functioning as intended.

10 Internal responsibility assumes an equality of
11 employee and employer in the work place, but in practice,
12 that equality is often a myth, especially in an
13 unorganized environment such as Westray. Only the
14 regulator has the power to ensure that public laws are
15 respected and enforced. Workers must be able to rely on
16 someone, Mr. Commissioner.

17 There is another interest that must be represented
18 here beyond that of the employers and employees, and that
19 is the public interest. The community, Mr. Commissioner,
20 has an interest in seeing that its men and women are not
21 killed or injured trying to earn a living. It has an
22 interest in seeing that people are not forced to choose
23 between working dangerously and being unemployed. And it
24 has an interest in ensuring its citizens do not suffer
25 the way the people of this community have suffered as a