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they were leaving it for nothing. So why could they now sell it, when they didn't even try to sell it. I think that the government had that.... And I don't think that there was much money involved.... We had no opposition at all. None in Cape Breton. It wasn't like a management-union fight at all. It was management-union-community against this foreign ownership. So it was easy to mobilize 100% support.

So that made it very difficult for the government. You know, the government had to respond. So there was quite an effort of working together to try and find the solution. Without anybody knowing what the solution was. I'm sure they had no idea what they were going to get into. Maybe it was better that they didn't! (Maybe it would have been better, did you say?) No, I say, not "would have been better," but it's better that they had no idea what was down the road, or they would never have made that decision.... Now, what happened in January of 1990, and everything that happened in between, wasn't the fault of the takeover. Many wrong decisions were made, from '68 until '90. Because what is happening over there (modernization) was recommended long ago. Not necessarily the exact same redevelopment that you have today. But a modernization was recommended way back in the '60s. Fr. Hogan, and Harry Weisblatt wrote this paper on the Sydney Steel. And it would have been, I would say, early '60s. And there was no question about--whether they called it, exactly, modernization, I don't know. That might be a more recent term. But that's the implication of it. They were talking about different types of fur-

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Hearth. The old system of Open Hearth and Blast Furnace that we had, they were
saying years ago that should have been replaced. There's nothing new in that. And
they were very much in favour (of modernization).... You see, Sydney Steel was a
fairly strong steel plant, comparatively speaking, during the war and after the war.
Right up until the '50s. And STELCO and Algoma, they just modernized, and kept
modernizing. And Sydney stayed still. And the handwriting was on the wall, by
people who really knew. "You can't do this forever." Even though we might not have
been aware of it. "Now, you either fix up the steel plant or you're going to run it
out." And some of these people recognized that, and they were promoting the
idea of a modernization program, in the late '60s and in the '70s. (So the province
took over a plant that needed modernization.) Yes. Absolutely. Yes. (But it did not
modernize.) It did not modernize. (And some- THE BEAR PAW GIFT & CRAFT
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