

is what this guy said, this is what is happening to this woman over here. I am your witness, I am your eyes, this is what I am trying to tell you, what I saw.

Now I know there were those this morning who said there is no such thing as objectivity, and I think that is bunk. I have always said that is bunk. Yes, there is no such thing as pure objectivity, but there is in our gut, we all have some recognition of more subjective or less subjective, more objective or less objective, and it does make a difference when a reporter goes out and tries to toss away all the baggage, all the biases, all the preconceptions. They don't succeed, but they try -- to tell you what they saw. It is a very simple thing, I always thought, what I was sent out to do and bring back and report. But the question is what happens when you have situations in crises, in wars, how does this witnessing work, how does this reporting work? If you take as a given that even in normal times any government, any opposition, any interest group is going to want to slant a little information a little bit. I mean we all do it. Sometimes maybe even push that little parameter of truth a bit.

If all of this takes place in peacetime, what about in wartime? In wartime, the stakes are high. In wartime, if somebody loses the game the consequences are greater. The pressures for deception, the pressures for changing a little bit about the truth of events, the temptations to do that, as you know, it's no surprise, are greater than at any other time. In war, there is also on either side a tendency toward self-deception, where one side wants to think that they are doing alright, that they are winning. There is this wishful thinking. In war, there is a change, a pace of events that takes place very fast. How does one witness, how does one find the truth with all of these deceptions and self-deceptions and rapid change? Do we rely upon officials, leaders, whether its with External Affairs in Canada or State Department in the United States. Do we rely upon experts? When we may be have difficulty witnessing things, do we step back and rely upon those whom we are told know something?

Well I must say again and again, when I would go out and cover stories, there was no question. Do I rely upon officialdom anywhere, and the answer was always no. I would learn, I would listen, I would ask questions, but time and time again, what set