

*Third*—That they should not consider a loss of identity for the navy inevitable and so become apathetic about it.

*Fourth*—and this is most important—that they wouldn't ask to be retired because they couldn't accept the theory of unification. I pledged that if their viewpoint was ignored that it would be I alone who would take appropriate action in protest.

*Fifth*—That for the information of people outside the room the purpose of our meeting was to discuss morale.

Now, it goes on, Mr. Chairman, to some statistics on a number of people present and reference to two similar meetings that occurred subsequently in the month of August, and then to a reference to my reporting these actions to the Chief of Personnel on August 23 after the third meeting.

The CHAIRMAN: Does that cover your point Mr. Forrestall?

Mr. FORRESTALL: It does Mr. Chairman. Thank you, and thank you Admiral. I would like now to relate that back to what appears to me to be indicated from the letters and mail I have received from these men; that—quite the contrary to the position you were left in, Admiral, by certain innuendo, or procedure by innuendo, and remarks by spokesmen in the Minister's office, and contrary to that general, very unsatisfactory feeling that was left—you indeed did everything in your power to advise these people and to encourage them not to jump to conclusions about what might be going to take place. Quite the contrary—you left them with some encouragement; you tried to sustain their morale and indeed you, and perhaps you alone—and I do not like to impute motives to you—perhaps stopped what could have been a mass exodus from the RCN in the eight or nine months prior to your dismissal and subsequent to it. Am I way off base in drawing that conclusion?

Rear Admiral LANDYMORE: No sir, you are not way off base; generally those were my motives. I felt very strongly that I simply could not allow the fibre of the Navy to be destroyed by something that might not be necessary. It has not yet been decided whether the armed forces will be unified, so it seems to me that in the summer of 1965 it would have been very premature for any officer to become so disillusioned at that stage that he would retire for that reason.

In addition of course as I said yesterday, throughout the whole of this thing my motive—and it probably sounds holier-than-thou at this stage of the game—has been a concern for the defence of my country, and since I alone was charged with the responsibility for the maritime defence of Canada, obviously I would have been derelict in my responsibility had I not taken steps at that time with my officers to bolster morale, and had I not later on brought this matter to public attention. I am very hopeful today, and have been all along, that your Committee will see fit either to shelve this matter indefinitely and so support the viewpoint that I expressed there, or amend the bill sufficiently to remove at least the most unpalatable aspects in the hope that we can restore the confidence of our naval officers and men, and thereby restore our maritime defence in the way it should be restored.

Mr. FORRESTALL: Is my time up now? It is 1 o'clock, I think?

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, it is almost 1 o'clock—