

APPENDIX "F"

AN ACCOUNT OF CIRCUMSTANCES
OF ALTERED TESTIMONY

For The

STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENCE

In June 1966

By

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I intend only to discuss the background of the circumstances surrounding what I first described as "censorship" of an unclassified brief which I had prepared for delivery to the Standing Committee on National Defence 23rd June, 1966. I had used the word "censorship" believing it would indicate that portions of the brief I had intended to deliver had been altered, or deleted and in some cases other wording substituted in place of my words. I used the word censorship because I thought it would be clear to most people that I wished to convey the point that the alterations were made without my consent, and that the changes were made so as to change the emphasis, or the meaning, or the information I wished to convey to the Committee.

I now see that according to parliamentary law the expression "tampering with evidence" is perhaps a more accurate way of describing what I meant by censorship. At the outset, then, let me emphasize that I thought the changing of my brief was morally wrong, that it was not done to assist the Committee, quite the contrary, that it was done to deny the Committee information, opinions, or suggestions which I thought should not have been changed. For example in the manpower section I had said—"I am *desperately* short of naval personnel required to meet my immediate commitments". The removal of the word *desperately*, in my opinion, changed what I intended to convey. Insertion of the word *immediate* again changed the sense of the statement. In this brief I will invite your attention to all the differences between the original brief and the amended brief to simplify your researches.

First, however, let me provide you with the official background which brought me before the Standing Committee on National Defence.

On 7th June, 1966 I received a message from Canadian Forces Headquarters under the Date/Time Group 071945Z. A copy of this message has been attached to my brief as Appendix A. This message began with the following directive—

"Standing Committee on Defence have asked for a briefing on organization and mission of Maritime Command at 0930, 23 June '66 with preliminary briefing for Minister at 0930, 21 June.

2. Briefing to be unclassified between 45 and 60 minutes with 30 to 45 minutes for questions. Commander and briefing team are to be responsible for presentation and be prepared for questions.