

UNDER

THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908

IN THE MATTER OF

**ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO
BUILDING FAILURE CAUSED BY CANTERBURY
EARTHQUAKES
KOMIHANA A TE KARAUNA HEI TIROTIRO I
NGA WHARE I HORO I NGA RUWHENUA O
WAITAHA**

AND IN THE MATTER OF

THE CTV BUILDING COLLAPSE

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF PAT TAPPER
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

DATE OF HEARING: COMMENCING 25 JUNE 2012

STATEMENT OF PAT TAPPER IN RELATION TO CTV BUILDING

1. My full name is Pat Tapper. I am the widow of Graeme Tapper. Graeme died in 2004.
2. I was married to Graeme for 49 years. Graeme was a qualified civil engineer and during the period of our marriage he worked in a number of different civil engineering positions, including work on the Benmore Dam, the wharf for the Manapouri Power Station at West Arm and the foundations for the aluminium smelter at Tiwai Point. He also worked at Southland County Council for approximately five years before we moved back to Christchurch. He then worked the Ellesmere and Paparoa County Councils before taking up a position at the Christchurch City Council.
3. I always thought of him as an "old school" engineer. While I was not really in a position to know how good he was as an engineer I thought it likely he was. I heard stories that he could be difficult and sometimes irascible, but I thought he was very rigorous and very honest.
4. Graeme was a person who never talked about his work at home. He had a father who had done this all the time and I think Graeme just made the decision he was not going to do this. The one exception was the CTV Building.
5. Graeme went on and on about the CTV Building. At first I thought this was related to Alan Reay, where there was a personality clash. However I soon realised that what Graeme was unhappy about was the building itself.
6. Graeme was never happy with the building. His view was that there were earthquake risks. It was not a question of if but when and when it happened he was concerned the CTV Building would not prove to be strong enough.

7. He told me he had not wanted to sign the building off at the Council, but he was under huge pressure to sign it off from Bryan Bluck, who was above him in the Council hierarchy. Graeme said he was concerned about his job.

Signed: 
P. Tapper

Dated: 11 April 2012