

Mr. COURTNEY. Months ago.

General ELY. Months ago.

It consists of the contracts that were let by our seven technical services.

In many cases, as you can see, they are relatively small contracts in dollar value.

Mr. COURTNEY. Cumulatively.

General ELY. Cumulatively they add up to quite a sum of money; yes, sir.

Mr. COURTNEY. Yes, sir.

General ELY. I am not prepared, without going to each technical service and getting some of these answers.

Mr. COURTNEY. Do you have any specifics, General Bigelow?

General BIGELOW. I do have some specifics with respect to two of the contracts that we have been able to identify.

The third has not yet been identified; that falls in my technical service area.

Mr. COURTNEY. All right.

Let me go over, then—I think the second one you have reference to is to the same contractor.

General BIGELOW. The same contractor.

Mr. COURTNEY. That is a contract for \$62,811. The subject matter of the report—

Now, this information, Mr. Chairman, is all from the Department of the Army. We express no opinion on its content. The language is that of the Department of the Army.

Subject matter:

Project for conducting concept studies and preparation of designs for a new 81-millimeter mortar and a new 4.2-inch heavy mortar.

And this is reported as: No recommendations to date.

But the effort as of March 30—and this March 30, Mr. Chairman, was the return date on the information which the committee received. That is, March 30 of 1961:

Satisfactory progress in preparation of concepts study.

Now, General, can you tell us why the military could not conceive of the type of weapon most suited to it—this would be one question—to its needs?

And what capabilities this organization has to supplant the military mind and the military experience in the selection of a weapon?

General BIGELOW. This contract was let by Watervliet Arsenal.

Mr. KITCHIN. When?

General BIGELOW. The contract was entered into on the 18th of July of last year.

Mr. NORBLAD. Where is that arsenal, please?

General BIGELOW. Watervliet Arsenal is in the vicinity of Troy, N.Y.

One of their major missions is the research and development of mortars.

Early this year a study was underway, undertaken to revise and upgrade the military characteristics and the qualitative materiel requirements for medium and heavy mortars.

The arsenal has a very fine capability in this general area.