

CONTRACTING-OUT PROCEDURES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1961

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
SUBCOMMITTEE FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10:15 a.m., the Hon. F. Edward Hébert (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. HÉBERT. The committee will come to order.

Members of the committee, this morning we will continue with the presentation of the Air Force. And we have the pleasure of having the Assistant Secretary with us again today.

Mr. Imirie, you have a prepared statement?

Secretary IMIRIE. I do, sir.

Mr. HÉBERT. You may read your statement. The committee will not interrupt you until after you have finished.

Secretary IMIRIE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the information presented today on Air Force policies and use of contract services will be of value to the committee in its consideration of the subject of "contracting out."

In developing our testimony in response to your letter of May 3, it is our understanding that the area of concern to the committee at this time is the use of all contract services in the past 3 years with the exception of research and development and housing maintenance. The discussion will be limited accordingly.

It is also our understanding that the committee is interested in Air Force policy and practice within the framework of directives issued by higher echelons. In connection with this and the other data requested, it is pertinent to discuss this point in order to place our more detailed information in proper perspective.

When the Air Force became a separate department, it did not have and has not since developed an inservice arsenal system to manufacture military products. The Air Force was also called upon in this early time period to rapidly expand its capabilities to meet the requirements of international conditions, particularly the Korean conflict. Under these circumstances, the Air Force found it desirable and necessary to make significant use of contracting to perform many support activities. We have long operated on the concept that there is a positive role to be played by contract services in getting the Air Force job done.

The committee's letter requesting this hearing mentioned two specific directives applicable to the Air Force. BOB Bulletin 60-2 deals with commercial- and industrial-type activities, and favors contracting for such activities except for reasons of national security,