

Now who negotiated the contract? And who had the competence to negotiate the contract, unless Dr. Helson did it himself?

Dr. HUTCHINSON. We had then a review by our own staff. We certainly wanted to evaluate what we got from the review panel.

Determining then that this was a high-priority item, we wrote a purchase request.

This purchase request and worksheet then went to the AFOSR, that is, our Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Technical Panel—Technical Council, which reviews every contract or grant which goes out. And they have the authority to reject any proposal at this stage before it is negotiated if it has any defect of any sort.

Mr. HARDY. Now who has the authority to accept or reject?

Dr. HUTCHINSON. These are the directors of our technical areas in the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

Mr. HARDY. So then these decisions are actually made by people who are knowledgeable in the area, rather than just some contract negotiator?

Dr. HUTCHINSON. Well, this particular contract was initiated by Col. James H. Ritter, who is a full colonel in the Air Force, but also a Ph. D. in psychology from Ohio State University.

So we don't have anybody on the staff of our division who isn't fully competent. We had three people, all at the Ph. D. level.

Mr. HARDY. I notice that the document before me says that this grant was negotiated by A. T. Smith.

Who is A. T. Smith?

Dr. HUTCHINSON. He is a contract—a purchasing officer in our contracting office.

Mr. HARDY. What does he know about this kind of business? Is he a psychologist?

Dr. HUTCHINSON. He has—

Mr. HARDY. Then I take it, all he knows is figures?

Dr. HUTCHINSON. That is correct; he is a specialist in the purchase and negotiation of contracts and grants.

Mr. HARDY. Yes, but you had a proposal here—this was not something that was subject to negotiation, was it?

This is just one individual—

Dr. HUTCHINSON. He had nothing to do with the technical aspects.

Mr. HARDY. All in the world he did was listen to what you folks said and he just signed his name to it.

Colonel RECTOR. No, sir.

Secretary IMRIE. No, sir; it is more than that. There is the matter of establishing the technical detail of it, which is rightfully in the hands of our knowledgeable technical people.

From a straight procurement standpoint, you get into a phase 2, which has to do with how much can this fellow do the job for or how little should he do it for.

Mr. HARDY. Well, certainly Smith didn't have any competence to make that determination, like that; did he?

Secretary IMRIE. I believe so.

When you assess laboratories or laboratory competence, the cost of operating laboratories—Mr. Charles Meyer, who has been doing this kind of work for us is here this morning. I would like—if you would bear with me—for him to address himself to it.

Mr. HÉBERT. I would like to know the details.