

Of course, it is a picayune thing. But the very idea that you have to go out and contract for \$1,500—it is a very picayunish thing.

Mr. KITCHIN. Let me ask a question right there. What was your result?

Colonel ALMAND. The result showed that Oklahoma City was slightly lower than the national average, and that Midwest City was slightly lower than Oklahoma City.

So it proved the reports that we were getting to be erroneous. And based upon that we had no basis to go to the mayor or the city fathers—

Mr. HARDY. It still wouldn't have been a proper basis for letting the contract.

Mr. KITCHIN. Did that form any basis upon which you could draw into a closer proximity the personnel that was living at 50 and 75 miles from the base?

Colonel ALMAND. What we were trying to do is to make it attractive to live close by. But in the face of these rumors and indications that it was more expensive to live close by, there was no reason for the people who want to live in close—

Mr. KITCHIN. I know. But you say this report nullified those accusations. Did that, as a result, give you any authority or any leeway to bring that personnel in closer, since you had not substantiated these accusations?

Colonel ALMAND. It enabled us to tell our work force that there was no basis to these rumors.

Mr. KITCHIN. Then what was the result of that? Did you get them in closer or didn't you?

Colonel ALMAND. We certainly used this as an argument why they could live in closer and save the time that would be consumed in coming back to the base when they were called. We did do that.

Mr. KITCHIN. Maybe I don't make myself clear.

As a result of this and using this as an argument, did you finally get any of those key personnel in closer to your facilities?

Colonel ALMAND. We feel we did, sir.

Mr. KITCHIN. In Midwest City or in Oklahoma City, or otherwise?

Colonel ALMAND. We feel we did, yes, sir.

Mr. KITCHIN. Well, do you have anything to substantiate it?

Colonel ALMAND. I don't have a rundown of that kind—

Mr. HARDY. It would take another contract to get that.

Mr. HÉBERT. You can get another contract to find out whether you did or not.

Mr. KITCHIN. In these questions—I don't want to seem facetious about it. But it seems to me if you get a contract in an opposite state and then you get as a result of the operation of that contract a report, that we should show some compensable reason for having initiated the contract to start with.

Secretary IMIRIE. Well, we are in a difficult area, when we get into these things. This happened in 1958, I believe. It is a judgment factor. And we talked to the commander concerned.

And whereas I don't know the circumstances personally of the contract and what happened before and after, I know the commander, who incidentally has gone upward and forward. He is Tom Gerrity—General Gerrity. He is a very able man.