

Mr. GORDON. I would like to ask about the bidders' list you submitted. You say here on the top of the bidders' list:

This list represents those organizations which are presently listed as bidders for drug products. The list does not purport to indicate the capability of the bidder, nor is it a listing of suppliers of drugs to DPSC.

Colonel SNYDER. That is true, sir.

Mr. GORDON. That is right on the list. However, the Armed Services Procurement Regulations; paragraph 2.205(b) says:

All eligible and qualified suppliers who have submitted bidders' mailing list applications or whom the purchasing activity considers capable of filling the requirements of a particular procurement shall be placed on the appropriate bidders' mailing list.

Is this that list?

Colonel SNYDER. That is true, sir.

Now, any firm can submit a form 129, which is a request for inclusion on the bidders' mailing list, by indicating those products which he feels he is qualified and capable of supplying.

Now, the only qualification that he must furnish at the time of that submittal is one as to his financial capability, which is a very broad thing, the number of employees, square footage, and so on. I am sure you are familiar with the form. We do not really investigate his capability and qualifications until such a time as he is the low bidder on a specific offer. And at that time the people from our technical division would investigate him as to his, the housekeeping, his manufacturing capabilities, capacity, his quality control methods, all of the things that go into qualification as a supplier to the Government.

Mr. GORDON. Does this list include eligible and qualified suppliers?

Colonel SNYDER. Using your word—

Mr. GORDON. That is what the ASPR regulation requires.

Colonel SNYDER. Using your word "include", it does, sir. It includes also those who, in my personal view, are certainly not qualified. We have no way of rejecting them until such time as a specific evaluation is made as to their technical, total capacity requirements.

Mr. Gordon, you must understand that anyone is eligible to participate in a Government procurement. We take their applications but we do not spend a great deal of money investigating each of these until such time as they are the low offerer.

Mr. GORDON. The regulation says that a list should be established which includes eligible and qualified suppliers, or the alternative, suppliers considered capable of filling the requirements.

Colonel SNYDER. Yes, sir.

Mr. GORDON. Now, is this such a list? That is what I want to know.

Colonel SNYDER. I haven't stopped beating my wife, either.

Mr. Gordon, you must understand that there is no facility—and we do not have the funds nor the ability—to evaluate every person who submits a form 129 unless he is the low bidder on a specific offer.

Now, it does include—include, using "include" in its very strict definition—all those eligible and qualified, but it also includes some who are not eligible and qualified. When we get down to the specifics of an examination of their plant—

Admiral ETTER. But it does include all those eligible and qualified.