

Mr. MORGAN. There were quality problems with some of the Radiant launchers, yes.

Mr. DAHLIN. Did you run into any contract disputes or anything in winding up those contracts? Were they still pending in any sense as of this competition in 1967?

Mr. MORGAN. I don't believe so.

Mr. TASSIN. There are no disputes pending with Radiant.

Mr. DAHLIN. But there had been disputes or quality problems at the time of the earlier competitions? That is, in the production under those contracts that were competed?

Mr. TASSIN. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. Excuse me. Radiant wasn't in competition. You are not suggesting that, are you?

Mr. DAHLIN. Radiant is the only other one who ever produced.

Mr. ROBACK. Excuse me. Don't let us get the record distorted. The Radiant contract was on a sole source contract; were they not?

Mr. TASSIN. Yes, sir.

Mr. DAHLIN. Was that to produce a second source?

Mr. ROBACK. They were sole source contracts. They were not competed. Those contracts were not competed. The Radiant contracts were for what? Seven-rounders?

Mr. LUMAN. LAU-32.

Mr. ROBACK. Will someone explain why you went to Radiant when you had been sole sourcing Chromcraft to death?

Mr. TASSIN. Radiant had produced launchers previously, and Radiant was considered to be a qualified producer of launchers. Accordingly, when competition was permitted, or we had time to secure competition, Radiant had been out of production for some time, but we still felt that if they desired, they could still compete for it.

Mr. ROBACK. My understanding is that you didn't compete Radiant, you merely awarded them a sole source contract.

Mr. TASSIN. That was in the early years of this study that is being made, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. How many contracts did Radiant get? They got three contracts?

Mr. TASSIN. Three contracts.

Mr. ROBACK. And each on the basis of what? Public exigency?

Mr. TASSIN. All of them were exception 2.

Mr. ROBACK. So they were not competed. You said you went to Radiant as a likely producer, and you said, "Here is a contract." Now you said that Radiant was out of business. They had been in business back in 1955 or 1956, right?

Mr. TASSIN. They had not produced a launcher for some time is what I said, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. Will you explain to me how the public exigency allows you to go to a man who no longer has a production line and say, "Since you were in business before, why don't you get in business again?"

Mr. TASSIN. I didn't say that. I said in 1965 we asked Radiant, as one of six firms, if they cared to submit a proposal for the LAU-3/A launcher. Radiant did not submit a proposal. That is what I said, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. Oh. Well, what are the circumstances under which Radiant got sole source awards?