

Mr. TASSIN. Public exigency. They were the only producer at the time the awards were made to them in 1961 and 1964.

Mr. ROBACK. One in 1963, one in 1964?

Mr. TASSIN. There may have been prior ones.

Mr. ROBACK. Your own sheet says 1961, 1963, and 1964.

Commander KATCHER. No, sir; it shows 1964 twice and 1961 once.

Mr. ROBACK. Excuse me.

Mr. SHILLITO. January 1964.

Mr. ROBACK. Because Chromcraft was up to capacity?

Mr. TASSIN. Chromcraft entered the game after Radiant had been a producer of launchers for some years, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. I know, but Chromcraft was in the game at least since 1957 with their first Air Force contract, as the chairman stated in his opening statement. It is true they were making a 19-round, but also they have been making 7-rounders, and nobody has yet suggested that the techniques are that different.

Mr. TASSIN. I am afraid I don't have the answer to that, sir. But on the LAU-3/A launcher, the first contract that Chromcraft got on this was a 1964 contract, I think.

Mr. DAHLIN. That was the contract in 1963?

Mr. TASSIN. September 1963; yes, sir.

Mr. ERLBORN. Mr. Chairman, might I ask a question here?

Mr. HOLIFIELD. Certainly.

Mr. ERLBORN. There are three sole source contracts that are rather close in date as to their award. December 9 of 1963—that is on LAU-32A/A, and that was awarded to Chromcraft. The next one, January 28 of 1964, less than 2 months later, the same item, the 32A/A, and that was a sole source contract awarded to Radiant. And then on February 14 of 1964, less than a month later, the same item was procured; it was a sole source contract, again to Chromcraft. So those three sole source contracts, all for the same item, were awarded within a period of just a few months.

Do I read your chart correctly?

Mr. SHILLITO. Yes.

Mr. ERLBORN. Can you explain why Chromcraft, in two instances, was considered the only one eligible to make this item under your procurement needs; and in another instance Radiant was the only one? There was no competition between the two, even though within this relatively short time span, three contracts for the same item were awarded. It looks to me that they were both producing the same thing at the same time, yet there was no competition between them.

Mr. SHILLITO. Can you answer that, Jim?

Mr. TASSIN. I don't think I can answer that question, sir. I will have to supply it.

(The following information was furnished for the record:)

Question. Explain the reason for the three contracts (two sole source to Chromcraft, one sole source to Radiant) issued within a period of 3 months, including unit cost differential.

Answer. Contract 64-0190, issued December 9, 1963, covered the purchase of 3,840 LAU-32A/A launchers from Chromcraft, for the Air Force, at a unit cost of \$131. This was the first procurement of this 7-round, metal skin, disposable launcher fabricated in the Air Force version, without radiation hazard barriers. This launcher was a new Chromcraft development. Contract 64-0233, issued January 28, 1964, covered the purchase of 7,500 LAU-32A launchers from Radiant,