After several to's and fro's between the Navy and the General Accounting Office, the Navy promised a reply on February 3, 1967. On February 9, they wrote the GAO and said on February 2, the day before the reply was due, they had been informed by the Justice Department to avoid future contacts with the company.

Assuming that you in fact had a draft ready to answer the General Accounting Office's questions, we would like to see that, if you could submit it.

Captain McMORRIES. May I ask one question, Mr. Roback?

Earlier you asked I think whether any extension of delivery times or the RFP—I assume you mean did we extend the opening or the closing date of the RFP.

Was that your question?

Mr. ROBACK. I think that Mr. Tassin remarked that the delivery time was extended on the RFP. Are you referring to the actual delivery time of the items; is that right?

Captain McMORRIES. No, I have that. We will respond to that.

Mr. ROBACK. I think you had better include that information too.

Captain McMORRIES. All right.

Mr. ROBACK. So we will get a picture of that time sequence.

PROSPECT FOR FUTURE COMPETITION

Mr. DAHLIN. Captain, is it the case at the present time that you have pretty well given up on the idea of getting any new competitor in this field just by bidding, rather than by getting some kind of a development effort? If so, are the only potential competitors on the horizon—as far as the Navy is concerned—from the quality qualifications standpoint the two competitors, the two contractors that are working for China Lake?

Are they the only two other possibilities here? What does the Navy have to look forward to for new competitors to get into this area?

Captain McMORRIES. I would address that particular question this way, sir.

Upon successful development of the 70–71 version and adoption of it by the Navy for Navy-Marine use, on any subsequent requirement, as indicated heretofore, we do not anticipate a fiscal year 1969 requirement. Assuming that we would have requirements in 1970, we would compete among all interested sources for that particular requirement, on the basis of that data. I do not know that there is any limitation necessarily to the concerns who have participated to date in the fabrication of model hardware, if you will, the six or eight models being fabricated.

We have had considerable interest, or at least enough responses in an informal solicitation to indicate that there is a reasonable base for adequate competition.

Mr. DAHLIN. What is your estimate of the leadtime between the production of a set of data at China Lake, if you get one, and when you can qualify a new contractor who can pass all of your rather detailed tests of performance that are required for this type of hardware?

Captain McMORRIES. To address that with a complete data package, I would say that from date of contract award, if you will, until the