

Mr. BOTHWELL. Yes, this item is not incorporated in the launchers we are now buying, as I understand it.

Mr. ROBACK. It is a patent on the detent?

Mr. BOTHWELL. Firing contacts.

Mr. ROBACK. That would not be the detent? The detent is what supports the rocket in the casing.

Mr. BOTHWELL. It is not the detent.

Mr. ROBACK. The firing points, right?

Mr. BOTHWELL. The firing point. That is the only patent.

Mr. ROBACK. What is the logic of the patent? Is that an accelerated firing?

Mr. MORGAN. No, it is a spring-loaded detent that takes up shifts in tolerances in the manufacture, the location of the detent in the tube and so on to avoid putting excessive force on the firing contact as the rocket is installed, and the contractor has—that is included in his patent claims. But I do not believe that it is patentable because years ago we had a spring-loaded contact quite similar to that in a practice rocket launcher developed for us by Century Engineers.

Mr. ROBACK. This is a patent pending?

Mr. MORGAN. Yes.

Mr. ROBACK. It has not been granted?

Mr. MORGAN. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. BOTHWELL. No. There is a patent. The patent has been granted, the one I am speaking of.

Mr. MORGAN. I do not know that. I thought we were investigating this.

Mr. BOTHWELL. There is an existing patent.

General ANDERSON. I have been supplied a copy of a patent which may be the patent or the only patent which Chromcraft has and it is patented April 25, 1967. It has a number.

Mr. ROBACK. And this is on the thing that Mr. Morgan was talking about?

General ANDERSON. I am not sure.

Mr. ROBACK. We do not have to pursue it. We are not interested in evaluating it for the Patent Office again.

FUTURE NAVY ROLE

Mr. DAHLIN. General Anderson, what is your understanding of the relationship between the Army and the other services with respect to taking over this assignment? Is it your understanding that it has been given as a phased basis or there are some conditions to cleaning up some areas or what is your understanding of what you have been given?

General ANDERSON. Yes. We have an understanding or an agreement with the Navy that they will continue to handle the legal aspects of the difficulties with Chromcraft vis-a-vis their suspension and so forth.

Mr. DAHLIN. Only that part?

General ANDERSON. That is the principal part. Now in negotiating the changeover, just for example, we would let them continue to administer procurements that they have already made. I would expect something like this to occur. We have already reserved development