Government Contract Policies Often Bring Complications

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York –(UPI)– The U.S. Government insists when it asks for bids for supplies there must be at least two sources seeking the contract.

Elmer Walzer

This brings in complications when a concern has an exclusive patented device and tries to get a government contract. In that case there could be only one bidder.

George Pandapas, founder and president of Electro Tec Corp. of South Hackensack, N.J., has run into just that predicament.

Pandapas holds that the government looks with favor on only one kind of monoply – the legal monoply over a production idea or a process that is granted to an individual or corporation by issuance of a patent.

Conflicting Policies

"It seems incongruous," he says, "that the procurement policies of the same government that grants patents should be in direct conflict with this system of protection.

"Surely the fact that a development – whether a better slip ring or the proverbial mousetrap – is worthy of a patent indicative of a certain measure of superiority.

"It is a sad and somewhat discouraging fact that government procurement policies are such that all too often the proprietary, patented product is shunned simply because it is proprietary and patented."

He holds that by insisting on two sources of supply the government "is depriving the defense effort of such equipment that could perform better with greater dependability."

Electro Tec Corp. holds a patent on slip rings which are essential in the making of missiles. There are others in the field but their product differs in performance from Electro Tec's.

A slip ring, as Pandapas explains it, is a precision rotary conductor of electricity between a moving part and a stationary one, "without which no U. S. missile would ever leave its pad."

Asks Investigation

Pandapas has asked for a congressional investigation of what he calls "policies, dangerous and deleterious to the work of our scientists in probing outer space and developing space programs."

Electro Tec was founded in 1945 by Pandapas on 450 square feet of space in Little Ferry, N.J., as an electroplating shop. He spent five years perfecting his slip ring which now is the company's major project.

The business has grown to where it now operates three plants – South Hackensack, N.J., Blacksburg, Va., and Ormond Beach, Fla. Pandapas estimates his 1959 volume "in excess of $5 million."

The company's rings vary in size from less than one-sixteenth inch to more than 16 feet with as many as 300 circuits.

Pure Gold Used

Manufacture of these complicated instruments, used especially in space vehicles, involves use of pure gold and pure silver.

The company is working on two separate million dollar contracts for the rings from General Motors and Raytheon.

Pandapas says his Greek name means "always going" and he feels that could just about describe U.S. space vehicles if only the procurement policies of the defense department could be modified to give more liberal consideration to patented proprietary products.

He says his case against government policy is being made not only for his firm but for many others with patented products.

Librarian Author Of Magazine Item

Omar Bacon, head librarian of the Public Library of Medford and Jackson county, is author of an article published in the February issue of the Senior Citizen magazine.

The magazine is a national publication serving the interests of older persons.

Bacon had been asked by the magazine to write an article on the book mailing program the Huntington, West Va., library offered for the use of elder citizens in that city of 100,000 persons.

He was head librarian at Huntington prior to coming to Medford last December. In a footnote to the article the magazine mentions that Bacon is now the head librarian here.

The mailing program, which Bacon describes in his article, consists of offering elderly persons the use of books through the mails.

Persons requesting this service are sent a book list by mail, they then request by phone and receive and return the books, also by mail.

Bacon pointed out that it cost from 4 to 6 cents to send each book due to the special mail rates on library materials.

He pointed out that the program was well received by the citizens of Huntington and said the library here is considering adopting a similar program if there is a need for it.

COTTON USE

Birmingham – The cotton plant has a part in producing four main fibers – cotton, rayon made from cotton fibers; wool and mohair from sheep and goats which have been fed cottonseed.

Sweetland Asks Reorganization Of Tax System

La Grande –(UPI)– State Sen. Monroe Sweetland (D-Milwaukie) Tuesday night called for a "reorganization of our Oregon tax system in order to effectively cope with the crucial demands of the next decade."

Sweetland said the State Tax Commission, the Legislative Interim Tax Committee and the governor should give immediate attention to "the urgent revenue needs of Oregon's local taxing districts and to the serious plight of some of Oregon's property taxpayers."

Sweetland, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, called "unfair" the technique by which Oregon has distributed the obligation of financing public elementary and secondary education. He said it "has literally starved local units of government such as schools, cities and counties at a time when public demand and need for their services has become most urgent."

He urged a greater portion of public school support be shifted from the local property taxpayer to the income and corporation excise taxpayer of the state's general fund. He also called for federal aid to education to help meet the problem of schools and taxes.

Sweetland spoke to the Kiwanis Club here.

Singler Station Sold to Messer

Bill Singler announced recently that he has sold his service station on the corner of Jackson st. and Central ave. to Bob Messer. The station will remain affiliated with Mobilgas, but the name will be changed to Messer Service Station.

Messer has been a resident of Medford since 1939. He worked in the station with Singler since 1950 with the exception of the past 3½ years when he was associated with Union Oil Consignees, Frizbie and Renner.

Messer is married and has four children.

Ike May Air Views on Defense

Washington — (UPI) — President Eisenhower may go on radio-TV to defend his military policies against criticism from what he considers politically motivated Democrats and money-hungry generals.

Eisenhower wrote Rep. Jessica McC. Weis (R-N.Y.) he was "carefully considering her proposal that he make a nationwide radio-TV report on the state of U.S. defenses. He said the suggestion "may well have merit." The congresswoman made public the President's letter Tuesday night.

In another phase of the defense controversy, the Senate Defense Appropriations subcommittee planned to question the budget directors of the Army, Navy and Air Force today.

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