

REMARKS OF RUSSELL F. HUNT, SECRETARY AND
TREASURER OF THE AERO EXPLORATION
COMPANY

MADE AT THE FAREWELL LUNCHEON OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHOTOGRAMMETRY
SEMI-ANNUAL CONVENTION HELD IN
TULSA, OKLAHOMA, OCTOBER 7TH
TO 9TH INCLUSIVE

MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I first want to take this opportunity of telling you how happy we are that you attended the Convention and that we sincerely hope you have found it not only worth while but enjoyable. It has been a real pleasure to be your host and, in times like these, it is very gratifying to receive the cooperation we have from not only those in attendance but those members who expressed a real desire to be here but were unable to do so.

Secondly, I want to tell you what a real pleasure it is for me to have this opportunity of talking to you. My background and reasons for now being in this business are perhaps a little different from most of the membership and my outlook and ideas are not technical but of a general and policy making viewpoint. I was born in Oklahoma and have lived here during my entire life. I am a lawyer by profession and was engaged in the general practice of law prior to my connection and association with the Aero Exploration Company. It was my intention to be only an adviser to the company and not be actually engaged in its operations. However, the work became more interesting as time went on, the pioneering aspect of it was very noticeable, and the rapid growth of it made it necessary that I decide, once and for all, whether I wanted to follow the legal course or actively become engaged in the business of aerial mapping and surveying. The fact that I appear before you today gives you my answer.

Since becoming actively engaged in the business, I have, naturally, noticed and made notes from time to time on the points I believe improvements are needed. Since the Government is by far the biggest user of aerial photographs and maps, a relationship between contractor and Government is of vital importance to all parties concerned; there is no reason why there should not be a complete understanding between the two. To foster this further and to make this possible, I believe there should be a clearing house within the Government for contractors. We should be able to submit, without the slightest fear of being misunderstood, any suggestions that we might have and any recommendations. Next, there should be a thorough understanding on the part of the Government of the trials and tribulations of the contractors and the effort and expense they have gone to in order to serve the Government as required by them. There should be complete uniformity in connection with the interpretation of the specifications in the provisions of the contract. There should be complete confidence on both sides. It should not be possible for persons to bid when it is known that they are incapable of performing and of delivering the type of work required. There have been instances of this and it has worked to the detriment of both the Government and the legitimate contractor. It is true that by the process of elimination the so-called "fly by night" contractor has been eliminated but the Government should still see to it that the same situations will not occur in the future.

The existence of the present emergency should be recognized by the Govern-

ment and the contractors in so far as our line of business is concerned and there should be complete cooperation between the two, and the Government should take the initiative to protect the contractors in the way of priorities and other necessary assistance.

In so far as this Society is concerned, its very purpose consists of the promotion and continued improvement in photogrammetric engineering. The very basis for it being able to exist is the aerial photographs made by the contractors. It is, therefore, the duty of the Society to encourage and assist the contractor in every way it can. At the same time, the contractor has a real responsibility to the Society in that he should operate his business and conduct himself according to the ideals and standards set by the Society. There should be more time devoted to the contractors in the conventions of the Society. The contractors' meeting should not be held entirely independent of the general meeting and there should be a recognized Government representative to talk to and plan with the contractors and that representative should be in a position to plead the contractors' case in any disputed questions arising between the Government and the contractors.

Any business that has been so completely subsidized by the Government should have a closer association than now exists. The relationship should be more on a basis of subcontractor than independent contractor. Actually, the AAA is the contractor to furnish the materials to the Department of Agriculture and we, as contractors, should have a much better understanding of the reasoning behind all decisions made by the Government in connection with our work. No man or organization should be excluded from being allowed to participate in this program and to bid on Government contracts provided, however, that man or organization can meet reasonable or fixed requirements which should be made in justice and fairness to everyone.

In conclusion I wish to say that the Society has justified its existence and it should do all within its power, through its membership, to maintain its existence, to build it upon permanent ground, and to encourage its program from year to year. Its past officers are to be congratulated on the time and effort devoted by them and every member should so support the program of the Society and offer aid and suggestions wherever possible in order that the recognition of the strength of the Society will be greater from year to year.

Again let me say that it has been a pleasure to have you in Tulsa and to invite you back again, both individually and collectively.

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