

DECISION



**THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES**
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20548

50842

FILE: B-183710

DATE: June 30, 1975

97134

MATTER OF: Clarence L. Stevenson

DIGEST:

Where mistake in bid on item in surplus sales contract was alleged after award, and bid for item contained a discrepancy between the unit price and total price, contracting officer knew or should have known of the mistake and should have requested verification before award. GAO will not object to administrative recommendation to delete subject item from contract.

By letter of April 17, 1975, the Acting Assistant Counsel for the Defense Supply Agency (DSA) recommended to our Office that we approve DSA's proposed deletion of item 22 from Sales Contract No. 31-5217-086, awarded to Clarence L. Stevenson.

On January 3, 1975, the Memphis Defense Property Disposal Region (DPDR) issued an invitation for bids on 99 items of scrap materials, item 22 being 20,000 pounds of miscellaneous scrap metals. The current market appraisal (CMA) for item 22 was \$0.12 per pound. The bids were opened on January 3, 1975, and were ranked as follows:

BIDDER	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
086 (Stevenson)	.127	2540.00
039	.037	740.00
099	.032	640.00
006	.021	420.00
112	.02	400.00
079	.0189	378.00
043	.01559	311.80
068	.01255	251.00
111	.0111	222.00
041	.01	200.00
120	.0073	146.00

On January 13, 1975, the sales contracting officer (SCO) awarded item 22 to Stevenson. On the following day, however, Stevenson

B-183710

informed the SCO that he had intended to bid \$254 and not the \$2,540 stated on the Notice of Award. At this point the SCO rechecked Stevenson's bid on item 22 and noted that, although he had bid a unit price of \$0.127, the "Total Price Bid" column showed \$254. Because there was a discrepancy between the unit price and the total price, the contracting officer was on notice of mistake at the time the bid was accepted and a valid and binding contract did not come into existence. B-179886, November 13, 1973.

Accordingly, item 22 may be deleted from contract No. 31-5217-086 as administratively recommended.


Deputy Comptroller General
of the United States