

File No. 1017B Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

7866

"Referring to your contract for the Baltimore City Jail, and more particularly to the steel fronts of the cells, I write to ask you to submit a proposal for fronts formed of tool-protected steel bars throughout, as indicated and fully described in the drawings and specifications, but re-placing the panel between the transom bar formed by the locking-device and the floor with a solid panel of tool-protected steel in lieu of the tool-protected bars as now drawn and specified.

Please advise me, with as little delay as possible, for what additions or deductions for the original contract you can make this change."

(Italics ours.)

To this letter the contractor replied, under date of March 26th, to Mr. Preston, as follows:

"In compliance with the communication from Mr. Theodore T. Pietach, Archt., dated yesterday, on the matter of changing cell fronts and locking device from the original plans and specifications, substituting 3/16" thick solid Bessemer steel plate panel, made escape proof by means of riveting to the back of said plate panel, on the inside of cell, Van Dorn White Diamond burglar proof steel channel bars, " &c.

and offering to make a deduction of \$1520, and on the same day the architect, by letter to Mr. Preston, refers to the two letters just mentioned, with his approval, saying:

"These changes meet with the requirements and approval of the Warden and the President of the Jail Board, and are recommended."

Under date of March 27th, by letter from Mr. Preston to the contractor, the changes are accepted.

You also asked Mr. Van Dorn to furnish you with a copy of his original bid to the contractors. He has sent this to us, and we now send it to you, with the request that it be preserved and returned to us at your convenience. It is under date of October 14th, 1906. In his letter to us, enclosing it, he says: "Attached find certified bids to seven parties, all of which are duplicates."

There is, however, a still further view of this matter, which we wish to call to your particular attention. Even if there should be a question as to whether Mr. Preston should have adopted the use of the White Diamond steel under the specifications, the city is in no position to make any such point as against the contractor, nor is the contractor in a position to make any such point against the Van Dorn Company as sub-contractor. In all building contracts of this size, it is indispensably necessary and is uniformly customary for some one