

DK-6, "Vietnam Era Production at AVCO"

Transcript: p. 4

Text portion for pop-up/audio alternative

Time-Line location: Local/National, 1969, August 5, "AVCO-Lycoming..."

DK When I came to work in 1959, Avco had a total work force probably of about 6,500 employees, as I recall. There was some... there had been major layoffs from what I understood in 1957, '58 after the Korean War. John Kennedy was elected in 1960 and shortly thereafter Avco started getting busy. They were making the products, Kennedy started spending money in the defense for helicopters. They believed in counter insurgency warfare and they used the helicopters in Vietnam, the Huey Cobras and the Bell helicopters. We made all the engines. So we made about 350 engines a month which was a huge output of engines. The engines would come back during the Vietnam War sometimes, there were bullet holes in them and everything, for overhaul and repair. There was a slight layoff in 1963. By 1964, however, with the beginning of the escalation of the war in Vietnam, Avco started to hire again and got very busy. Its peak was in 1969. There were about 12,000 employees.