

There is one other comparison to explain: Did we select a less-adequate facility in terms of space and function when we shifted to a more economical type of construction? The Beckett design (fig. G-4) is a permanent and esthetically pleasing type of construction. It's beautifully done, as you see. But the actual space in that building is 20,500 square feet of net space. The comparable space in the alternate or prefabricated structures is 20,800 net square feet, so we are able functionally to do at least as good a job as we could with the other building.

I think the committee might like to see how the tour volume fluctuates by months. A high-quality tour business depends upon precisely trained escorts who cannot easily be dropped or hired depending on sudden fluctuations in volume. Tourists, however, accept Florida's welcome mat on a seasonal basis. July and August are peak months. As soon as Labor Day arrives, the bottom drops out temporarily. Then it builds in December, drops back a little in January, and then builds up steadily until Easter. It will drop drastically just after Easter and then rebuild rapidly as soon as the children are out of school and the families visit Florida. We have quite a seasonal operation here.

These people come from all over the United States and the world. We have no practicable way to identify the origin of everyone who comes in. We obtain statistics by analyzing the voluntary registration book. One-third of all the people who take the tour make it a point to register. That's rather interesting, because most of them don't register before they tour. They could. They make the tour first and, before returning to their cars, voluntarily go into the Exhibits Building, evidently to put into focus what they have seen here. There we have a guest book available, and about one-third sign it on their own initiative.

This sample shows us (fig. G-6) that in the past 7 months, approximately 31 percent are coming from the State of Florida, compared to 25 percent from the Midwest and 15 percent from the Mid-Atlantic States. It would be expected that Florida would be the best represented, particularly in the initial phase when our families have not previously had the opportunity to see where their fathers work.

Florida tourist statistics show that, as far as visitor volume is concerned, the largest number of out-of-State tourists come from New York; the second largest is Illinois. But, they come from every State.

Mr. WAGGONER. They may not be tourists; just be people wising up, looking for a better place to live.

Mr. SIEPERT. We are happy to have them come, in view of the present weather up North. They are what you might call welcome snowbirds.

Mr. WINN. It may be because people from the Midwest are well aware of the space program, too.

Mr. SIEPERT. We hope so. I also have the actual numbers from each State. It impresses us that so many come from places quite far away, particularly the representation from Texas and California is surprising. Perhaps the fact that the aerospace industry is heavily located there means they come to visit old friends who now work in launch services at the cape and Merritt Island, and so they come to see for themselves. We have also had many visitors from over 50 nations.