

The second objective of H.R. 1264 is to permit the correction of unsafe conditions even when they involve the structure of a building. It doesn't make sense to permit the administrators of the Act to correct certain kinds of unsafe conditions in a workplace and to forbid them to do anything about other kinds of unsafe conditions. As long as they are carrying out the proper and lawful purposes of the Act, they should have the authority to take the action necessary to assure safe workplaces for District workers.

The third and badly needed objective of H.R. 1264 is to increase the penalties for violations of the Act. We believe that, to serve as effective deterrents, the penalties could well be considerably larger than those provided in H.R. 1264; but the increases are a step in the right direction. The provision that the prosecution of cases involving personal injury can no longer be avoided by forfeiture of collateral is a big improvement. Particularly as a construction union, we feel that gross neglect leading to death or injury should involve somewhat more inconvenience and penalty than the mere forfeiture of a few hundred dollars.

In conclusion, we strongly support the objectives of H.R. 1264 and its companion bill S. 1168. We trust that the Congress will soon take favorable action so that all workers in the District of Columbia will receive the kind of protection of their health and safety that they need and deserve.

Mr. SISK. With that then, unless there is other testimony to be offered, the hearings are closed, but the record will be kept open for additional material which we have requested.

With that then, the Committee stands adjourned, subject to the call of the Chair.

(Thereupon, at 11:45 o'clock a.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned, to reconvene subject to the call of the Chair.)

