

Mr. SCHULTZE. You are quite correct, Mr. Curtis. I agree that legally we can abrogate the contract, you are quite correct.

Mr. CURTIS. Or you can stretch it out.

Mr. SCHULTZE. Oh, we are doing that.

Mr. CURTIS. You still won't put this in the list of uncontrollables.

Mr. SCHULTZE. What I am saying is that what we do is take the items that are just beginning, for which we have contracts coming up. In other words, if you notice in most of the public works programs, the deferrals occur when the contracts are renewed. What we do is stretch those contracts out. What we don't want to do is take a contract that is only partly completed and cancel it, except under very exceptional circumstances.

Mr. CURTIS. My point is that none of these items should be called uncontrollable. Every one is subject to review and when you present this to this committee and just say, "Well over here is something we have no control over," this is what I am quarreling with.

I can agree on some of these that for good economic and other reasons you might want to cut those back, but I remember that this committee a few years ago decided to cut back even on contracts in-being in the highway program in order to let our revenues catch up with us. I thought that was good.

You say you already are doing some of it but then——

Mr. SCHULTZE. No, all I am talking about is that on contracts in public works where there are renewals we do stretch them out.

Mr. CURTIS. You are not looking over the ones that are in-being now to see where you might——

Mr. SCHULTZE. To cancel them before the end of the contract?

Mr. CURTIS. Why not? In World War II we cut back on practically all public works, didn't we?

Mr. SCHULTZE. We are not in World War II.

Mr. CURTIS. We cut back on practically all public works.

Mr. SCHULTZE. Yes, we did. We cut back this year too.

Mr. CURTIS. Not the way you did in World War II. I am only illustrating the point that to some degree you can easily go to the people involved in public works, Congress. Just as you are going to the taxpayers through us and saying you want more money out of them, you could go to these people in public works because of this tight squeeze of a war and say, "We are going to have to cut back some of these programs," right?

Mr. SCHULTZE. May I explain, Mr. Curtis, how we do it, if I might?

Mr. CURTIS. Sure.

Mr. SCHULTZE. That is precisely what we did in this year's budget on public works. Last year, I think, in the Corps of Engineers, adding what we proposed and what the Congress added on, there were 60 some new starts. In this year's budget we put in nine new starts. In addition, we took all the projects that were ongoing and stretched them out as much as we could. We did not cancel contracts when they were underway, but we did stretch out where we could.

This is what I am saying.

Mr. CURTIS. Each time, Mr. Schultze, you say, "As much as we could." I respect your judgment, but what I am saying is the Congress has a right to be in on this policymaking. So do the people.