

from them, each 30 days, a statement of what is going on and whether what they told us would go on is actually being carried on; so that when we come to the time of final approval or denial, we not only have the status of that community and the project at the time they made the application, but we have the progress of it during the time we have been processing it.

Mr. CLAUSEN. Approximately what amount of time elapses from the time that you have one of these so-called approvable applications until the actual grant is made? What is the average length of time?

Mr. O'MALLEY. It runs any place from 16 to 18 months. It depends on the size of the project, the complexity of the construction involved. And it takes some communities a little longer to get their projects ready to go to bid.

Sometimes we have had problems with overruns. We have had construction problems that we had to iron out, but generally it is running between 16 and 18 months before they actually get into construction. Some of the projects have been rather large.

Mr. CLAUSEN. On a project that is generally considered by those present to be approvable, it takes within 16 to 18 months to get an approvable application?

Mr. O'MALLEY. No, get into construction, I thought you were talking about.

We said when we file an application, we hope to have a decision, if it is approvable, within 90 days.

Mr. CRAMER. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. EDMONDSON. On that point of approvable within 90 days, on April 11 you informed the committee that you were establishing a reserve category, projects that had merit but where funds were not available to take care of them. Now we have been supplied an exhibit from the Office of Public Works indicating, as of October 31, 1967, there were only 17 projects that were identifiable as reserve category projects; is that correct?

Mr. O'MALLEY. That is correct. As of today, it is 18.

Mr. EDMONDSON. And so out of these hundreds of projects that have not been denied, and there are hundreds of pending projects that have not been denied, you only had 18 that you identify as reserve category projects?

Mr. O'MALLEY. At this time there are not hundreds of projects that have not been denied. A year ago there were approximately 1,000. As of the present time, we have less than 160 projects pending, project applications pending.

Now, the elimination of a great many projects, which were not at any point approvable, has reduced the ratio so that those projects which we have determined might, if we had more money, be approvable, have been put into that reserve category. But because we have reduced the number of pending projects, as we wanted very definitely to do, that ratio is not out of line with the number of pending projects we have.

Mr. EDMONDSON. You have only 160 pending, but you are expecting to approve 400 this year?

Mr. O'MALLEY. That is right, exactly right, because we will receive these in the process that I just described in detail, we will receive these as we go along. But by the time we actually take an application, we will have a very good preliminary judgment as to whether it is approvable.