

Now, I would be very glad to answer any questions which members of the committee or their staffs may have concerning it.

At the threshold I have been told that there is some curiosity as to why we did not simply take the Davis-Bacon Act and extend it so that it would cover service contracts as well as construction contracts.

I think perhaps that there are several answers to that question, the first of which is that at the time this bill was first being considered, that approach was thought of. In fact, there were in the House of Representatives at least several bills which took that approach to covering service contracts under the Davis-Bacon Act.

We did not take it at that time and thereafter did not take it, because, as the Senators will recall, about 1962 when this measure was first introduced, the Davis-Bacon Act was under very thorough investigation in the House of Representatives and there seemed little intended exception was misconstrued by some as meaning that we were applying the Davis-Bacon Act.

I believe the complaint was that we were excluding maintenance and repair work from the Davis-Bacon Act and putting it under another statute. We were not doing that and we changed the language here to insure that that would not be misunderstood in any way.

I just cite that to show that there is a certain amount of real sensitivity as to any amendment which affects the scope and purpose of the Davis-Bacon Act confined as it now is to the construction industry.

Another answer to that question is, that in principle, without mentioning it, we have followed the Davis-Bacon Act. I address myself to the provisions on page 2 of the bill as it was reported in the House of Representatives, paragraph No. 2, which provides for the determination of prevailing wage rates by the Secretary of Labor on the basis of those prevailing for service employees in the locality.

Now the word "locality" is comparable to the words in the Davis-Bacon Act; city, town, village, or any other political division of the State in which the contract work is to be performed.

We have found in the administration of the Davis-Bacon Act that we cannot give a technical construction to those specific words in the act. For that reason, we have substituted the word "locality" for