

We cannot confine ourselves under that statute to one State, for example, we even have to reach out beyond a State line in many areas of the West to find a prevailing wage rate. We cannot confine ourselves to the District of Columbia, for example, in establishing wage rates for this metropolitan area. And we do not do so; we reach out beyond the District of Columbia.

So, it is in deference to that need for flexible applications under the Davis-Bacon Act that we have used what we believe to be a more realistic word when we use the word "locality." A question might come up, how would we construe that word? We would construe it, I would believe, in terms of metropolitan areas in the first instance; I believe it would be most convenient administratively, for example, to take what they call the standard metropolitan statistical area comparable numbers of people in the same types of jobs to which the contracts on the base relate.

Senator JAVITS. In other words, really, you are telling us that because of the nature of this business, you need a standard which is more administrable?

Mr. DONAHUE. That is correct. As a matter of fact, we ran into fairly sharp criticism in investigation a couple of years ago in the House of Representatives because we did not literally apply the Davis-Bacon Act.

One example was Quantico, Va., the Marine base there. We determined it was the equivalent of a city by itself and that there was enough construction there so that the Quantico rate was the prevailing rate. We were criticized because Quantico was not a State or a political subdivision, for example, but I think it was a realistic result we reached.

Senator JAVITS. You do not intend to come in for changes in the Davis-Bacon Act itself, do you?

Mr. DONAHUE. Not at this time, Senator, and we did not consider it advisable to attempt to open up that statute in this way at this time. As I said to the committee before you came here, the building trades are very sensitive to any amendments which may affect that same way as it has been amended by the courts under the Healey Act?