

[Telegram]

ASPHALT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA, INC.,
Winter Park, Fla., February 20, 1968.

HON. WILLIAM C. CRAMER,
Rayburn Office Building,
Washington, D.C.:

The hot plant mix asphalt industry of Florida represents an equipment investment of \$43,750,000. During our last fiscal year the annual payroll was \$22,500,000, with 4,000 employees. This industry used raw materials that included 91,250,000 gallons of liquid asphalt, and 6,300,000 tons of crushed aggregate. This raw material required considerable payroll. Today our operation has been cut in half due to lack of highway funds. Any further decrease in available funds can only cause more damage to this industry, increase unemployment in Florida, and a failure to supply badly needed highways can only increase traffic death tolls. This association will appreciate any steps you are able to take that will prevent any further reduction in the highway funds.

JOHN C. DICKERSON, *Executive Director.*

State road department of construction by Florida contractors

1965 -----	\$120,000,000
1966 -----	200,000,000
1967 -----	100,000,000
1968 (less than \$100 million if cut back enforced) -----	38,000,000

One contractor in Tampa area had 400 employees 1 year ago with a \$40,000 per week payroll. Today he has 286 employees with less than \$30,000 per week payroll.

Contractors in Florida working at approximately 35 percent capacity.

MR. KLUCZYNSKI. Mr. Chairman, do you want to make some remarks?

MR. FALLON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I could not agree more with the statement of Mr. Cramer, if I had made it myself. I think, as these hearings progress, not only will we be able to do the things that are necessary, which were stated by the gentlemen from Florida, but I think there might be some which will be implemented in many ways. I might say I have a number of communications from the highways departments and the Governors of a number of States, and we intend to read them over. There seems to be many of them that are repetitious and many of them are explaining their own personal problems.

I will ask permission, Mr. Chairman, to insert in the record the ones that I think will help the committee in its deliberations on this subject.

MR. KLUCZYNSKI. Hearing no objections; so ordered.

(Subsequently, on May 15, 1968, Chairman Kluczynski telegraphed the highway departments of each state. The replies received may be found beginning on p. 795.)

MR. KLUCZYNSKI. The gentleman from California, Mr. Clausen.

MR. CLAUSEN. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

At the outset, I want to extend my own personal compliments to the chairman for initiating these hearings, and also to concur with all the comments made by the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Cramer.

Recently in California I had an opportunity to meet with our own highway officials, and I can't tell you how concerned generally they are about this overall cutback program. They have indicated that it seems to place them on a stop-and-go position, and almost as though they are on the end of a string, like a yo-yo.