

in the United States of America, we feel that you will have some very valuable insights into this problem that you may provide us and we are looking forward to your testimony.

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT B. FOSTER, JR., DEPUTY COMMISSIONER,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS SERVICE, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. FOSTER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We actually are not the largest by any means. We are a large builder it is true but, as my testimony will reflect in a moment, in the aggregate the work that GSA does is actually only about 1 percent of the annual work placement in the United States. As Secretary Reynolds reported to you a moment ago public construction of all kinds is about a third of the construction input and Federal construction is a third of that. We in GSA do about 10 percent of the Federal part. We do have some strong views on this subject which I would, with your permission, like to present, and I have a brief statement.

Mr. O'HARA. Please do.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chairman, I am Robert B. Foster, Jr., Deputy Commissioner of GSA's Public Buildings Service. It is a distinct privilege for me to represent the Administrator of General Services, Lawson B. Knott, Jr., and to present the views of GSA on the general problem of seasonality in the construction trades as well as on H.R. 15990, a bill which would result in an in-depth study of this problem. I would like to discuss first, our construction activities; second, our experience with seasonality and certain related matters; and third, some suggested areas we believe such a study might embrace.

II. MISSION AND PROGRAMS

The mission of the Public Buildings Service is to provide for the general purpose real property needs of the Federal Government through the acquisition and management of facilities. These facilities include Federal office buildings, courthouses, postal facilities, storage installations, and border stations. We also act as design and construction agents for many special purpose facilities funded by other Federal agencies, such as laboratories, medical facilities, and educational buildings. Our acquisition program includes the usual methods of providing space; that is, construction—including conversion and extension—leasing, and purchase. Through our management program we provide for the operation, protection, repair and improvement, and assignment of space in much the same way as a real property management firm.

We are concerned here this morning primarily with the type of work included under our construction and repair and improvement activities. Both of these activities are funded by direct appropriation to GSA usually in the case of general purpose space, and by transfer appropriation for special types of space. To give you some idea of the size of these programs, in fiscal year 1966 total obligations for construction amounted to \$132.7 million while \$88.4 million was obligated for repair and improvement. In fiscal year 1967 \$84.9 million and \$68.7 million were obligated for construction and R. & I. respec-