tively. This past year, fiscal year 1968, about $70 million was obligated for construction and approximately $85 million for R. & I. However, with recent and necessary budgetary constraints drastically limiting our fund availability, particularly in the new construction area, we expect annual obligations to decrease significantly for the next year or two.

As another index of the magnitude of our construction effort, in the 10-year period between fiscal years 1959 and 1968, GSA completed 21.5 million square feet of office building space throughout the United States. The cost of these buildings amounted to approximately $675 million.

I would like to insert at that point although it is not in my prepared statement, Mr. Chairman, that these statistics would probably surprise my boss if he reflected on them because this is a rather special extract. We completed this amount of office building space. We have many other types of buildings and have a lot more under construction. The figure would look a little small to my colleagues but I thought I would synthesize this net figure out for the committee this morning.

Although we believe we have a certain diversity in our work, all of it—with a few exceptions—has a common factor; all is concerned with buildings. We must defer to others for experience in what I will call "outdoor" work such as highways, airfields, and bridges, for example. Unlike these forms of construction, a relatively sizable portion of our work is done indoors, particularly with respect to our repair and improvement projects and consequently climatic conditions have a lesser effect on our programs than those of the "outdoor" projects.

III. GSA EXPERIENCE IN EFFECT OF SEASONALITY

Recognizing this limitation, it is believed of interest to report to the committee that we have been unable to identify any significant change in levels of activity between winter and summer. Using dollar expenditures as a measure of work placement, we find that in the months of July and August 1965, 1966, and 1967, our work placement for all types of projects totaled $35.6 million, $48.4 million, and $38.3 million, respectively. In January and February 1966, 1967, and 1968, comparable figures were $41.1 million, $39.4 million, and $32.1 million.

These simple statistics, however, do not necessarily tell the whole story. We recognize that the normal geographic distribution of public building projects places a fair share in Southern and Southwestern States, where seasonal variations of weather are not so severe. It is also conceded that such a statistical comparison is valid only to the extent that initiation of work is spread more or less uniformly throughout the year. Obviously, this is not always the case. Although most of the construction appropriations with which we deal are "no year" funds and thus not subject to expiration on June 30, there is a seeming tendency toward placement of more construction contracts in the spring and early summer than in the fall. This very fact alone indicates a conscious effort on the part of program managers, as well as construction contractors, to get a new building project underway and closed in before the snow flies.

Another factor which influences seasonality statistics in the building construction effort is the ability to effect sizable expenditures in the