

similar system with greater emphasis on national manpower policy if implemented by other Government agencies involved in construction would make considerable strides toward minimizing any deleterious effects of weather on the construction work force.

VI. OTHER SUGGESTIONS

GSA will welcome an opportunity to contribute to the proposed study by the Secretary of Labor in any way that we can. In this vein, we would like to offer certain suggested areas for consideration which might prove profitable in the study.

It might prove effective to develop a mechanism for coordination at the local level of construction project work starts among the various levels of government.

Let me depart from my prepared statement here, Mr. Chairman, to say that although I have not looked this up in recent times, a few years ago I had occasion to check the number of public entities that do construction in the United States and it was something in excess of 50,000, when you include all of the State and local agencies and special authorities that have bonding authority and construction authority.

It is envisaged that this coordination mechanism would be established in major cities or metropolitan areas and would consist of a cooperative effort between Federal agencies, State agencies, and the diverse local agencies performing public construction in the area. Through a continuing exchange of information, each agency could, within limits, voluntarily schedule its projects in a manner least conflicting with the then existing schedule of other projects. Such an intergovernmental cooperative effort might better measure at the local level the real impact of seasonality on employment in the construction trades and take more immediate action to alleviate any imbalance.

It is believed that there is a need for continuing an increased research and development in the materials, equipment, and construction methods adaptable to adverse weather. The primary emphasis might well be on cold weather construction, but due attention ought to be paid to construction in areas of heavy rainfall, high prevailing winds, and the like. It may well be that the added cost of embracing new methods or materials can be reduced to a point where they will be the economic choice. This research effort ought to be undertaken in consultation with organizations representing both construction labor and construction contractors.

Most construction appropriations of Federal agencies are now of the no year variety. Funds are available to the agencies concerned until expended, thus relieving them of any necessity to "use or lose" before the end of a given fiscal year. It is suggested that those few appropriations which remain on a fiscal year basis be made no year so far as they apply to capital construction.

Action is already underway at the instigation of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations to study possible standardization of building codes in the United States. This undertaking could be effective in simultaneously removing any artificial barriers which may exist to the employment of adverse weather construction procedures or materials.