

All weather construction will help put our industry's house in order for the bigger building challenges which lie ahead. As industry which is accustomed to having labor shortages at one time of the year and high unemployment at another, which endures delays in the delivery of materials at one season and swollen inventories at another, which has too few bidders for work in the spring and too little work for bidders in the winter, is hardly in a position to meet greater demands for its services.

Mr. MURPHY. Fine.

As I indicated, I am president of the Bricklayers & Masons Union and our members suffer more from seasonality, along with the laborers, than any trade that I know of.

We are exceptionally concerned about the winter construction but we are not unknowledgeable about the heat of the summer, too. I don't want to go into too far about air conditioning buildings but I think it essential in the wintertime because of the fact that when you go around buildings in this country you will find that they are almost at a standstill because the basic trades needed to erect the buildings are unable to work because of job conditions caused by weather.

We think it is a simple thing to cover the buildings in and I was grateful for a comment from Walter Heller, the late President's chief economist, who said at the University of Minnesota he was amazed and somewhat surprised that he was in his office and looking out at building going under construction at that time and the weather was 20 degrees below zero.

Yet the bricklayers were covered in and the job was done without any delay because of that sort of coverage. So that I think is almost essential that in the area of not only public but private construction we can find that by covering in the wintertime we lengthen the building season, increase the productivity of the bricklayer, and provide a mortgage financing that is not so costly because of the delays in construction.

It is an essential concern on our part. Naturally we extend the work-week or year of the bricklayer and this will give him added income, reduce his applying for unemployment insurance during the wintertime, and save the public expense in that regard.

The productivity of the bricklayer is known. He is fortunately or unfortunately the only man in view you might say because he is steadily at work in one place on the scaffold.

Without finding fault with other trades when you walk around a job in the wintertime you keep warm but when a bricklayer is stationed in one spot, as he must of necessity because of the type of work, he has a tendency to get colder and as the day progresses his productivity lags.

He cannot, in a sense, increase his productivity because he is at the height of it during the entire part of the day. So that while activities of men in construction trades would lengthen their time of employment because of their activity on the job, standing in one place as a bricklayer does almost makes it impossible for him to endure the cold weather.

It is essential that some method or means be done by public construction authorities such as the Federal Government to lead the way in having private construction follow.

We have an argument with our mason contractors who are firmly convinced that this is an answer to all-weather construction by clos-