

the building and if they said to the private contractor, "We want this building built and regardless of the weather conditions we want you to cover it in" this would be another added effect because there is a tremendous amount of building around here that during the winter-time just laid idle and these are Government jobs under Government contract and being done by private organization.

I have seen them around here and I suppose you have in your travels seen them just laying idle during the winter weather. There might be a handful of men on the job but these are not in the sense erecting the building. They are just coming in an hour or two a day to maybe wander around and take a little shot at something but if you can keep the full crew working the Government would certainly profit by it.

Mr. O'HARA. Mr. Meeds.

Mr. MEEDS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Murphy, I am wondering if any studies have ever been made of the effect not only on bricklayers or carpenters or some other trade but also on the total economy of a given area.

When the bricklayer is out of work during the winter he is not buying as much bread down at the bakery and so on.

Mr. MURPHY. Exactly, sir.

Mr. MEEDS. I am just wondering if these studies ought not take that into consideration. It would seem to me that it would be a big economic factor in areas where construction lags during these seasons.

Mr. MURPHY. I cover that in my statement, sir, that it would increase the availability of manpower in an area and consequently their wages would be a factor to buy the goods that are produced by every other part of the economy plus the fact that it would eliminate their unemployment insurance.

As soon as the weather gets bad the average building trade mechanic immediately files for unemployment insurance and it is the idea that he would say, "Well, it might get better next week or next month so that I will stay on unemployment insurance until the weather gets better."

Mr. MEEDS. I have areas in my district where the unemployment rate will vary from 2 percent to 11 percent between summer and winter when loggers are employed and can't get into the high country because of snow. That is an example of seasonality in perhaps a different sense. It would be hard to cover for the whole North Cascades but on the other hand I think it shows clearly the effect on the economy.

Skagit County, Wash., for instance, has an economy that runs an unemployment rate between 2 and 11 percent and in the winter Skagit County, Wash., is dead because of the unemployment problem brought on by the snows in the high country.

In a construction area this could have the same effect.

Mr. MURPHY. Imagine what would happen if they couldn't work in the woods in bad weather and there was building construction in town where they could be available to work on those jobs. That would reduce your unemployment situation out there because these men are looking for work.

If they don't work in the woods apparently they go on building construction sites and if they are also tied up because of bad weather condition then the whole system breaks down.

Mr. MEEDS. It seems to me, Mr. Chairman, that with the consideration of this bill certainly the Secretary ought to do something in