

Mr. O'HARA. I might mention that Great Britain has made many more strides in getting year-round construction work than we have.

One other point and then I am going to quit and let Mr. Meeds take over and grill that fellow Washingtonian. One of the most interesting aspects of this you commented on in your statement. That is that, except for southern California, the pattern of seasonality appears throughout the country in pretty much the same whether it is a moderate or a severe climate.

Now, I wish you would amplify on that problem and speculate a little with us about why that is and what might be done.

Mr. FANCHER. Well, I think, Mr. Chairman, you will find and I am sure when I call this to your attention you will realize that seasonality, of course, we generally think of as a cold weather thing, that you can't work, but there are many other factors in seasonality. There is bad weather as far as rain and this sort of thing, and maybe I am sort of visionary about this sort of thing but that is why I say that I think once we get into this matter and do a sufficient amount of research that we are going to develop some really revolutionary methods and means by which you can work in any kind of weather.

I think that it is not only the cold weather. In some areas, of course, you don't have the really cold weather that you have in the northern parts of the country, but it is awfully disagreeable to work in rain, cold, and all of these other things, so that it isn't only the cold part of the weather. It is the rain and just the many other things that enter into it.

For some reason or other in our research into this matter—and perhaps Mr. Sheets could go into it just a little more—we find that weather doesn't have to be remarkably cold to stop construction workers from working. They sometimes just quit when it begins to rain a little bit, also.

So that there are many other factors rather than the cold weather.

Mr. O'HARA. Mr. Sheets.

Mr. SHEETS. Yes, sir.

In addition to weather entirely, this aspect of construction operations, we have become habituated to a working season in the construction industry and that habituation seems to affect operations in areas where it is not necessary to close down for climatic conditions or not as necessary.

Mr. O'HARA. Custom plays a large part.

Mr. SHEETS. Custom; yes. Bidding practices are adjusted to this. Most of your bids are offered or called for in the very early spring with starting dates in June on an assumption that there will be a close-down during the latter part of the year.

Of course, Mr. Foster yesterday in his testimony indicated that while much Government appropriation is going on on a no-year basis, that is, you get an appropriation for a project for its full life, that on the other hand these appropriations are normally made so that bids can be let at peak seasons, and I think that an examination of bidding practices on the part of public agencies would reveal that there is a substantial contribution here.

Basically, I think the problem is that the assumption that the working season in construction amounts to about 6 or 8 months and that