

of our people that we negotiate with say: "Well, there is probably going to be a little strike. We had intended to go on our vacation, anyway. The kids are out of school. This is a good time."

If we had our expiration date the week prior to Christmas, for example, there might be a different attitude. But this is a fact of life that most of our construction collective bargaining agreements expire in the spring, and this has been an operating thing that has existed.

I am very honest in saying that the changing of these may be a temporary disadvantage to labor's side of this industry. I even say that in my statement because I know this to be a fact.

Now, if we are going to do something about increasing the number of hours they work in a year by doing something about the bad seasons of the year, then isn't it just as honest and just as reasonable to say: "What can we do about not losing any time in the prime construction period?"

Mr. O'HARA. Except that the effect of that would be for us to throw our weight in on one side of the present collective bargaining situation. Obviously, it would be to the advantage of the employer and to the disadvantage of the labor organization and its members for us to get into the question of when that contract expires.

Mr. NAUMANN. No, but the point that I make is that it is worthy of study. Maybe there has to be a different kind of a solution other than just the contract expiration date.

Mr. O'HARA. I want to see you fellows working together, and I don't want to throw something in the pot that is going to cause you to start fighting when you get into this issue.

I am a little reluctant to even engage in it.

Mr. MEEDS. Would the chairman yield at that point?

Mr. O'HARA. Yes.

Mr. MEEDS. Let me say first that I was very impressed by your statement, until I got to page 5, and then it seemed to me that you are, in effect, defeating the purpose of the entire thing.

Assuming that you really want to be successful in this, what is going to be your prime season?

Mr. NAUMANN. Well, the prime season, without any question, is the period wherein there is not the problem of cold weather and in the areas that are affected by cold weather.

Mr. MEEDS. What are we trying to eliminate by this bill?

Mr. NAUMANN. We are trying to eliminate any cessation of construction in those periods where it normally ceases now by reason of the weather and the conditions.

Mr. MEEDS. If we were successful, there wouldn't be such a thing as a "prime season," would there?

Mr. NAUMANN. Well, there will always be a prime season, and I think the reason that there always will be is that the inconveniences and expense of solving the problem for the off-season will always make it least advantageous as a prime season than the same period when the additional costs and methods are not necessary.

Mr. MEEDS. This is what impressed me, Mr. Chairman, about the inconsistency of this statement.

Mr. O'HARA. I am sure that the labor organization would be happy to change the expiration dates if there were no prime season.