

these practices by making money come available only during peak periods of construction demand.

Basically, the problem is one of insufficient attention to the possibilities of year-round construction and the benefits which could be gained by promoting such policies.

We turn to the Federal Government to relieve the situation, because it is a national problem requiring a national solution. Only at the Federal level do we find the resources assembled to properly handle the research, the technological, and the educational aspects of the problem of relieving seasonality in the construction industry.

H.R. 15990 and S. 2938, cosponsored by Senator Prouty, offer this country an opportunity to remedy a situation that is increasingly burdensome and increasingly unnecessary in modern America.

Passage of either of these bills and their implementation will contribute to the body of public understanding of the problems of seasonality. By so doing, demand for year-round construction activity could increase to the point where a significant change might be felt by the construction worker and the public.

By calling for Federal Government assistance in this vital matter, the building trades department does not mean to suggest that the construction industry is not attempting to help itself.

The Masonry Industry All-Weather Construction Committee is a good example of an industry self-help program, which promises to help alleviate seasonality problems in at least one portion of the construction industry.

We take great pride in the forward looking and innovative thinking that led to the formation of this group and extend to them our warmest good wishes for their success. We wish to point out, however, that the masonry construction industry is but one small portion of our whole industry and they cannot alone bear the burden of solving the problem of seasonality.

The benefits of eliminating seasonal fluctuations in construction activity are so extensive and so broad in their implication as to strain the imagination. The promise of a more efficient use of skilled manpower alone, in our minds, justifies the investment of time and resources in this problem.

The buyer of construction work will enjoy additional profits arising from his ability to take possession more quickly. Finally, it will make it possible for our construction industry to undertake a higher volume of construction within a fixed time period since the industry will not sit idle for long periods during each year. We are convinced that all of these factors together will contribute to reducing the cost of construction in the United States to the great benefit of all of our people.

We do not necessarily suggest that a program of subsidies, such as many other nations have developed in this area, is appropriate for the United States.

However, should such a program be tried, it is our feeling that it would more than pay for itself: First, through increased tax collections generated by higher annual earnings on the part of both construction workmen and construction companies; second, through savings to the unemployment compensation system, by virtue of the limitation or elimination of seasonal shutdowns in construction work; and