

third, of course, by the savings inherent in bringing construction jobs to fruition as productive facilities in a shorter period of time.

Recently, the building trades have been severely criticized for the magnitude of their wage settlements. An impression has been created, in the public mind, that the construction worker is rewarded for his efforts at a rate unduly higher than that of other workers.

I regret to say that this impression has even been fostered at the highest level of the Federal Government by the pronouncements of a Cabinet committee appointed by the President of the United States.

We wish to point out that, when all facts concerning the eroding effects of seasonal employment are taken into account, you cannot sustain such an idea.

In their last report on employment and earnings by industry, the Department of Commerce showed the average gross earnings of the construction worker, in 1966, at \$7,016. This was lower than four of the other 11 major industrial categories reported on, and certainly is not an unduly high income when you consider the amount of skill and effort the construction worker brings to his job. We suggest that there is very little purpose in criticizing the level of construction settlements without doing something to ease the strain of seasonality which has the effect of cutting in half wage gains realized from collective bargaining agreements.

For all of these reasons, the building trades department strongly supports H.R. 15990. We urge the Congress to pass a seasonality bill this session, and bring to a speedy end a condition that is an undue and unnecessary burden on our members in the industry and on our country.

Mr. Chairman, I have a statement from Peter Terzick who is general treasurer of the Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners. May I submit that along with my statement?

Mr. O'HARA. Without objection, the statement of Mr. Terzick will be entered in the record in full at the conclusion of your appearance here today.

Mr. Haggerty, I find that the testimony seems to indicate to me that I didn't go far enough when I introduced this bill, 15990. I am coming to agree with you that we already know enough to effect a substantial improvement in the seasonality pattern of the industry and that the principal reason we have not done so is not a lack of knowledge but is a lack of will to go ahead and do it.

I find this at all levels, and the blame doesn't rest solely with any particular group in this respect.

I don't think Government, those who let construction contracts, and the construction industry generally, have placed a high enough priority on this and it seemed to me that perhaps we might move a little faster than this bill provides for us moving.

I became aware yesterday that there had been some discussion of a possible Executive order within the administration which would provide for the creation of a Construction Contract Scheduling Committee or Council which would have considerable authority with respect to the timing of Federal construction contracts.

Do you think such a development would be feasible and useful?

Mr. HAGGERTY. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

One of the great problems we have, I think, in the construction industry is the matter of timing by the sponsors of these large projects