

of any size. Some of the larger pieces, such as cranes, involve charges of hundreds of dollars per day. Each day such a piece of equipment remains idle costs the contractor considerable money from which he receives no return.

There are many, many factors involved in seasonality which have plagued the construction industry for generations. Weather, of course, is one factor which no one can control. However, proper planning and scheduling of construction can ameliorate some of the worst effects of bad weather. Getting projects under cover before bad weather sets in makes it possible for construction workers to carry on inside work during inclement weather.

Seasonality in the industry is partly a matter of custom. In bygone years it was impossible to pour concrete in cold weather. Improved cements have largely eliminated this factor, but the industry still sticks pretty much to the traditional pattern of working feverishly in the summer months and slowing down considerably in the winter season. This practice adds intangible costs as well as those mentioned above.

For one thing, unemployed construction workers draw unemployment insurance when they are out of work. This means that they are receiving money from the government instead of paying income taxes during winter months.

The problem of seasonality is not confined to the United States. The construction industry in Europe faces the same problem. However, many European nations have taken steps to eliminate the most drastic handicaps imposed by seasonality.

In Austria, the federal government provides special subsidies to municipalities for construction projects undertaken during winter months. In Canada, a similar incentive program is in operation to encourage municipalities to schedule their construction projects for the winter months. In Finland, special consideration is given to public projects employing full complements of workers during winter months. An incentive plan is also in effect in Norway and Denmark. In Germany, a subsidy amounting to 11% of wages paid is granted for all types of work on government-supported private housing sites.

Many nations also have one form or another of subsidy for private builders who do all or part of their work during the winter months. A notable example is Canada, where a subsidy amounting to \$500 per unit is provided to private owners erecting residential buildings during the winter months. This applies to structures containing as many as four units.

All the subsidy programs to encourage winter construction are too complicated to be presented in depth here. They are all spelled out in a study published last year by the "Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development." The study is published in book form and is entitled, *Reducing Seasonable Unemployment in the Construction Industry*. Even a brief perusal of this comprehensive work shows that the United States is lagging far behind European countries attacking the problem of seasonality in construction.

Therefore, we strongly urge that Congress promptly enact H.R. 15990, so that a start can be made in reducing the penalties which seasonality imposes upon contractors, the workers, and the economy of the nation.

Mr. GIBBONS. Now Mr. Allan Turner Bone, of Montreal, Canada, who is chairman of the National Joint Committee on Wintertime Construction.

Come forward, sir. We are glad to have you.

STATEMENT OF ALLAN TURNER BONE, B.S., MEIC, MONTREAL, CANADA, CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON WINTER-TIME CONSTRUCTION

Mr. BONE. Thank you, sir.

Mr. GIBBONS. We welcome you to our Congress and to this committee and look forward to your testimony.

Mr. BONE. Mr. Chairman, I am not promoting the bill or anything like that, because I am only here to give information.

Mr. GIBBONS. We understand that.

Mr. BONE. I hope that you will ask questions because I think in