

Commencing with the winter of 1958-59, the Federal Government made available to municipal governments grants equivalent to half of the payroll cost of certain municipal projects incurred during the designated winter period.

Most of the Provincial governments also picked up part of the payroll cost so that the municipalities' share averaged only 25 percent (in Quebec it is only 10 percent) because the Provincial government pays 40 percent.

This municipal winter works incentive program has been expanded in scope from time to time in the light of experience and is now a built-in feature of many municipalities' construction programs.

The Federal share of payroll costs was increased to 60 percent in 1963-64 in areas with high wintertime unemployment conditions. In the 10-year period, some 57,300 projects have been included, with an estimated total cost of \$2,323 million.

Over 35 million man-days of work have been provided and it should be noted that most of this work would formerly have been scheduled in the so-called building season. The total cost to the Federal Government to date for this 10 years has been \$282 million.

Other programs involving the joint financing of public works projects have—on a smaller scale—contained winter works incentives. For example, the Federal Government offered to pay half of the labor cost of picnic and camp grounds built during the winter alongside highways by the Provincial governments.

Much of the seasonal unemployment in the building trades has been in the housebuilding sector. As an incentive to encourage wintertime housebuilding, a bonus scheme was introduced for the winter of 1963-64 whereby the purchaser of a house substantially completed in winter received a cash bonus of \$500. That is, the purchaser of the house got it, which could be used as part of the downpayment.

While this program did not significantly increase the volume of housebuilding, it did have a very marked effect on the starting dates, from spring to the fall. Some 95,500 dwelling units qualified for the bonus in the three winters in which the winter housebuilding incentive program operated.

Because of a shortage of mortgage money, the scheme was not offered in the winter of 1966-67 but a somewhat similar effect was achieved by the Canadian Government by providing direct loans to housebuilders that fall.

It will be noted that these grants and bonuses are directed at the owner rather than offered to the contractor. This reflects the philosophy that the construction industry is not looking for subsidies itself and, indeed, should not require any special inducements—but is willing to provide construction services at any time of the year.

The Canadian Government, for its part, feels that the funds spent internally and externally on wintertime construction and promotion have paid off handsomely in terms of business activity and reduced outlays from the unemployment insurance fund and in unemployment assistance.

I should add in passing that our National Housing Act, like your housing legislation, provides for home improvement loans which they promote in the wintertime.

A few words about our National Joint Committee on Wintertime