

of competition of private building programs with Government programs is one of the most important parts of it.

Mr. GIBBONS. You do the Government building in the winter and private in the summer; is that right?

Mr. BONE. Well, there is a great deal of the private which is in summer. Of course this is something that we can't control because the private industry year ends the end of the year. They get their annual statement about April and then they sit down and say, "What are we going to do this year?" Which means that if they have to do some building, they start in the beginning of the summer, whereas really the proper time to start is the beginning of winter.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Steiger.

Mr. STEIGER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Bone, I wonder if you could expand a little bit on the statement you make on page 3 on the unemployment insurance benefits under the Canadian social security program.

You said perhaps upwards of a third of those claiming the benefits were classified as construction workers. At what point is that today, for example?

Mr. BONE. Well, I think the construction workers are about 20 to 25 percent of the unemployed.

Mr. STEIGER. Still at this point?

Mr. BONE. Yes, but we have it pretty considerably I would say.

Mr. STEIGER. Do you know in your capacity as the chairman of the National Joint Committee on Wintertime Construction whether or not the Associated General Contractors in this country have come to you and asked for any information and guidance and whether or not this same type of joint committee could be established in this country?

Mr. BONE. They haven't come directly to us as a committee. I think they have been talking to the Canadian Construction Association as an association to an association, but there have been no representations to our committee as a committee.

Mr. STEIGER. Did I understand you to indicate on pages 8 and 9 of your testimony when you talked about the joint committee itself, that the impetus for this came from the Federal Department of Labor when they asked for the establishment of a joint committee?

Mr. BONE. Well, actually we asked them to do something about it and finally they asked us to form the committee. We provided the office space and the secretarial help and the permanent chairman. I am the second chairman. There was another chairman for a few years and I have been chairman for the last several years.

Mr. STEIGER. In other words, the contractors' association in Canada provides the funding for the joint committee?

Mr. BONE. Yes.

Mr. STEIGER. And is it established as an independent organization of the Department of Labor in Canada, or is it part of the Department of Labor?

Mr. BONE. The Department of Labor and Department of Immigration and the National Housing are associate members, and they sit in actually at our meetings now. The original meetings were very much promotional on our part to needle them to do this and do that. Now they submit to us a report of what happened the previous winter, what their plans are for the following winter.