

This situation has been dealt with very lightly for a great many years. It became the accepted thing that a bricklayer or stone mason and his helper was going to pack in in October and November depending on the area that he lived in and not do anything until April.

I don't know, gentlemen, truthfully how many of you are thoroughly familiar with the construction industry and in a time of plenty in this country there have been many people in the construction industry without, and we are talking about skilled mechanics who have the ability in the area that I come from to earn \$6.40 an hour, and these men should be utilized to their fullest.

We talk about the lack of interest of apprentices in the craft, and we sponsor tremendous training programs in conjunction with the Federal and State programs, and one of the big drawbacks in interesting young people in the program is the seasonality in construction, the lack of full-time employment.

We talk about the economically deprived which is an area of great concern for both industry and Government at this particular time, and we are trying to stimulate job opportunities for people who have been unfortunate in this regard, and we are faced again with the same problem of seasonality in construction.

You might say for someone who has no type of training or job that half a job and half the training might be good enough, but I personally and my committee and my association don't believe that that is good enough.

It is a positive pleasure for us and for me personally to find that your committee has taken this matter to heart. We as a contractors association and I as chairman of this committee—and it's a labor of love—will go anywhere to talk about this and produce as much technical information as is possible. I would like to put on a full-scale program for this group. I know that you can't do this with this type of hearing. It is really—an overworked phrase—a problem of education.

Sometimes I get tired of hearing it, but it is true that in order to overcome the problems that have beset the construction industry as far as seasonality is concerned, it does become a problem then of education.

I don't know how much the Federal Government and its various construction agencies are also involved with your committee. I have worked with many Government agencies who are totally dedicated to eliminating some of these problems, having done a lot of work with the Corps of Engineers for a great many years, having been associated with the housing program myself some years ago. We know that these buildings that are contemplated by the Federal Government and by private industry, not a line should be put on paper unless there is a need for these buildings and if there is a need for these buildings they should be built, and if they are going to be built, they should be built with all possible dispatch so that they can be occupied for the purpose for which they were intended, and I am sure the same thing holds true in private industry.

In order to get the most available use from the existing manpower and to encourage into the trades new people, new blood, we have got to have some direction on a Federal level, gentlemen. We talk about the protection of buildings. You may have noticed that briefly in my