

There is no point in saying in my division of the specifications, which is masonry, that if the temperature is 25 and falling no work shall take place without such and such precaution being taken or if the temperature is 28 and rising the job may proceed under certain conditions, and that is what it will say, but it doesn't say that I should do this and it doesn't say that the general contractor should do this, and it does not say that the plumbing or heating contractor or anybody else shall do this, so that who is going to do it?

A subcontractor in bidding his job can only make his best judgment as to when that job is going to proceed. In the normal course of events in bidding work if a job came out for bid today and was bid today you would assume that within 30 days the award would be made on that particular job.

The general contractor should and would I presume in his bidding procedure for that job have formulated some schedule as to when he was going to do a particular piece of work.

This information is not necessarily available to all of the subcontractors who are interested in this particular piece of work. Therefore, they are gambling that they are going to do it in a particular time, and if a latent soil condition, for example, should develop on the job, a shortage of a particular material, revision of design delays that project or any phase of it for 2 weeks, 3 weeks, 3 months, the entire projected weather schedule now has been changed so that where is the area of responsibility?

So we can come down to some clearcut definitive programs here. I had the pleasure of addressing a group here in Washington a couple of months ago representing my industry, the National Academy of Sciences, relative to this particular matter, and there are many engineers there.

I did remark that day that we spend so much money in the construction industry preparing particular methods and procedures and progress schedules for jobs that there is no reason why this money couldn't be spent prior to the bidding of the job and the cost of it incorporated in the job study prior to bid, so when the job comes out for bid—and this is without taking away from the contractor or the contractors involved in the job the right and the exercise of judgment on how that job should be operated and built—but as a guideline that the job will start, award will be made such and such a date or within so many days of bid and the job will start at such and such a period of time, excavation or site clearance to proceed at once and a guideline of when the various trades who are involved in a particular project are going to do their work.

To me this is a very, very simple matter. It may never get done, but I would hope, gentlemen, that you would understand that this would simplify some of the problems in seasonality in construction.

Is there anything else?

Mr. GIBBONS. What should be the role of the Federal Government in all of this?

Mr. VELARDO. Well, the Federal Government could be a leader. It seems sad sometimes to think that some of the problems which beset our private industry are allowed to drift to the point where they have to have direction from the Federal Government, but it seems that it becomes necessary when there is no initiative from any other source.