

The CONSTRUCTOR

BUILDINGS HIGHWAYS AIRPORTS  RAILROADS PUBLIC WORKS

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The National Publication of The Associated General Contractors of America, Inc.

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In This Issue

• Roundup of 1948 construction volume forecasts by Departments of Labor and Commerce, Federal Works Agency, F. W. Dodge Corporation, Producers' Council, shows increase expected. Many uncertainties, however. Materials outlook seems favorable for a larger volume of construction.

• Potentials for 1948 and review of 1947 construction problems outlined by H. E. Foreman, managing director, The Associated General Contractors of America.

• American Bankers Association's voluntary anti-inflation program would tighten up on loans which do not lead to increased production of goods and services. Mortgage loans for "non-essential" building to be discouraged.

• Preliminary estimates show about nine per cent more lumber would be exported than in 1947 under European Recovery Program as currently conceived. Steel exports would total about six per cent of 1947 total production. Steel industry committee will work out possible voluntary allocation program.

• President's State of the Union message reiterated policies reminiscent of the Roosevelt administration, which Republican Congress will not accept. Indirectly asks T-E-W housing bill passage, wants more authorities like Tennessee Valley Authority.

• Fifty-two A.G.C. chapters and branches by January 1 had signed agreements to sponsor reserve construction units in Army Engineers' affiliation program. Army regulations revised to open enlisted reserve to non-veterans. Corps of Engineers offers heavy equipment operation courses at Fort Belvoir to engineer reservists.

• A.G.C. requests broadening of exemptions of executive, administrative and professional employees with respect to application of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

• 29th annual convention, A.G.C., at Dallas, to consider uncertainties this year in maintaining large construction volume. Outstanding speakers scheduled.

• Carolinas, Branch, A.G.C., undertakes to raise \$100,000 endowment fund to be earmarked for construction engineering at North Carolina State College.

• The value of prequalification of contractors in obtaining better construction at lower cost is discussed by R. C. Keeling, state highway engineer, Kansas State Highway Commission.

• Residents of Texas City well on way toward rebuilding blasted property, pledge to build "a greater Texas City."

• A.G.C. study shows construction costs have risen less in two postwar years than wholesale prices of all commodities. Chart illustration.

• Importance of construction power to air power described.

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In This Issue

• A.G.C. presents recommendations to Congressional committees for permanent, long-range highway program of substantial size to insure most efficient rate of construction. Dwight W. Winkelman tells Senate Roads Subcommittee how the highway contractor can do the job that lies ahead.

• A.G.C. managing director reports to 29th annual convention on increased accomplishments and effectiveness of the association in past year. Discusses factors which will influence construction volume in 1948.

• President makes third request for 10-point anti-inflation program in transmitting Economic Report to Congress. Report anticipates 35 per cent increase in annual national output within 10 years. Says development of natural resources needs expansion. Cites highway improvements as major task.

• Joint Committee on Housing winds up country-wide hearings with sessions in Washington and starts work on report to Congress. Chairman says findings should "prepare way for new national housing policy." Problems of materials producers as presented to committee are summarized.

• Senator Flanders recommends that Congress make federal loans available for large-scale residential construction projects utilizing mass production techniques.

• Soil Conservation Service's all-inclusive attack on flood loss through watershed method of treatment is described by chief. Services of contractors will be needed in carrying out flood control program.

• Design engineers and general contractors are parts of a team working toward the same objective, Dwight W. Winkelman, A.G.C. president for 1948, tells members of Construction Division, A.S.C.E. at their annual meeting. Outlines points of cooperation between engineers and contractors.

• Largest public works expenditures in history are asked of Congress in President's budget for fiscal year 1949. Total recommended appropriations are \$2,222,185,681. Estimated expenditures come to \$3,159,333,986. Breakdown of funds by agencies and types of work tabulated.

• Scarcities of important items of construction equipment, uncertain delivery dates and possible impact of foreign aid program on equipment were discussed by Joint Cooperative Committee, A.G.C.-A.E.D. at its second meeting. A.E.D. members pledged cooperation in A.G.C.'s apprenticeship and accident prevention programs.

• Pattern for other industries in setting up voluntary controls of scarce materials is seen in Steel Producers Advisory Committee appointed by Secretary of Commerce.

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In This Issue

• 29th annual convention, largest in A.G.C. history, took positive actions designed to make improvements in the fields of labor and long-range public works, and to promote economy and efficiency in all construction. A feeling of tempered optimism as to the outlook was evident. Texts of addresses by leaders in government, industry and labor, and texts of resolutions.

• Plan for a National Joint Board for the Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes ratified by A.G.C. called great step for construction industry. Texts of plan, and addresses by National Labor Relations Board Counsel Robert N. Denham and Richard J. Gray, A.F. of L. Jurisdiction of N.L.R.B. in construction clarified.

• Suggested Guide to Bidding Procedure recommended for use when competitive lump sum bids are requested, endorsed by A.G.C. Text of document.

• Reports to the convention summarize important developments of interest to the construction industry in legislation, specifications, apprentice training, market development, public relations, labor relations and accident prevention.

• Contractors' survey shows substantial work coming on the market. The general situation in labor, materials, equipment and costs outlined.

• A.G.C. reaches three-quarter mark toward goal of sponsoring 100 reserve construction units in Army Affiliation Program. The association, in cooperation with the Corps of Engineers, has placed construction industry program far ahead of any other industry program. Units beginning to be activated.

• Encouraging progress in development of cooperation between highway engineers and highway contractors, and in modernizing specifications reported to Joint Cooperative Committee of American Association of State Highway Officials and A.G.C. Similar committees on state and regional levels being formed.

• Two-year highway program with 500 million annual authorizations seems likely to be recommended by House Subcommittee on Roads.

• Joint Cooperative Committee of National Association of State Aviation Officials and A.G.C. recommends principle of prequalification of contractors.

• Associated Equipment Distributors report easing of most types of construction equipment.

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• The last of the federal controls over construction industry has been discontinued, but industry may be enjoying an "Indian summer" before another winter of controls or diversion of needed materials to other uses. Voluntary controls still in picture. ERP and larger defense program could mean large materials drain.

• House Public Works Committee's three-year highway program seems assured of House approval. Commissioner MacDonald says national security now must influence the planning of highway improvements, favors contract method for secondary roads.

• Senate committee was expected to report out T-E-W housing bill favorably. Senator McCarthy objects to public housing features. House expected to take its time in considering bill.

• A.F.L. Building and Construction Trades Department selects its trustees after ratifying plan for the National Joint Board for the Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes. Contractor, labor trustees expected to start board functioning May 1. John T. Dunlop, Harvard professor and labor consultant, expected to be appointed chairman of the board.

• A.G.C. Assistant Managing Director J. D. Marshall discusses effect of Taft-Hartley Act on construction, other industries.

• At least 78 reserve construction units sponsored by A.G.C. chapters and branches under Army Affiliation Program by April 1, 14 units activated. Interest continues high.

• Economical performance of general contractors praised by Bureau of Community Facilities head in carrying out Veterans' Educational Facilities Program at lower cost than originally was estimated.

• College and university officials want to spend \$2,650,000,000 on new classrooms and dormitories in next two years, almost doubling present plant value. Colleges jammed with 2,340,000 students.

• Navy spurring reserve construction battalion activity, invites A.G.C. support.

• Phenomenal rise in American population seen as powerful factor in keeping up construction demand and costs in the future.

• Methods of Bureau of Labor Statistics in estimating private residential construction activity described.

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In This Issue

• Federal agencies act on A.G.C. recommendation to avoid lettings on Mondays and days immediately preceding or following recognized holidays. Move under way to coordinate bid opening dates of federal agencies, possibly states and municipalities too.

• Board of Trustees announces procedures for requesting decisions by the National Joint Board for the Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes, adopts stipulation to be signed by employers, encourages local contractors' associations to use facilities.

• Japanese contractors' association reorganized with Army guidance along democratic lines, utilizing The Associated General Contractors of America as a pattern.

• American Institute of Architects and A.G.C. establish joint cooperative committee to consider building construction problems.

• Round-up of hospital construction programs, shows more new institutions to be built this year than in any past year. Bid advertising schedule for veterans' hospitals, and list of approved applications for federal aid hospitals.

• Stepped-up defense program and foreign aid still pose control and allocation problems. President's economic advisers want controls. Set-up of top-level defense planning groups described. A.G.C. may be consulted by National Security Resources Board on questions of plant relocation and industry war potentials.

• Production of synthetic fuels from coal, shale oil and natural gas showing signs of rapid development. Would result in new construction market of potentially huge size.

• American business, excluding agriculture, plans to spend nearly 19 billion dollars on new plant and equipment this year, over 15 per cent more than last year. Proportion of expenditures for plant expected to be higher during first six months than during same period last year; nearly one-third of total.

• A.G.C. President D. W. Winkelman outlines improvements that could be made in specifications to reduce highway construction costs, in address to American Society of Civil Engineers—"Eliminate non-essentials, the finer for appearance's sake."

• Most federal agencies stop requiring weekly payroll reports on federal work, but two hold out.

• Highway Research Board reports on need for higher highway engineer salaries.

• Dodge statistical methods and Bureau of Labor Statistics construction employment estimates.

• Summary of legislation affecting construction.

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• D. W. Winkelman, president of The Associated General Contractors of America, calls use of more and improved machinery a key to greater efficiency and economy in construction. Preview of construction equipment, adaptable to all types of work, to be exhibited at the Road Show in Chicago next month.

• Five federal agencies agree to coordinate bid opening dates on their large projects of similar types. A.G.C. agrees to obtain information on large non-federal construction scheduled in order that similar federal projects can be advertised without conflict.

• First union security election in construction held in Western Pennsylvania by National Labor Relations Board. A.G.C. Assistant Managing Director J. D. Marshall and Ralph A. MacMullan, secretary-manager, Detroit Chapter, A.G.C., present statements to Congressional Joint Committee on Labor-Management Relations regarding practical problems created in the construction industry by union shop authority election requirements of Taft-Hartley Act.

• Construction activity sustained at high level. Revision of statistics now indicates about 14 billion dollars of new construction completed last year.

• Largest appropriation in history of Bureau of Reclamation starts its way through Congress as House votes nearly \$211,000,000 for construction on the bureau's projects in the coming year.

• Senate Public Works Committee cuts annual authorization for federal aid in a future highway program to \$400,000,000 (\$500,000,000 voted in House) and reduces period of program to two years (three years voted in House).

• A.G.C. presents progress report to Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall, indicating 84 reserve construction units had been affiliated and 33 pledged during first eight months of association's participation in the Affiliation Program.

• Mid-Continent Pipe Line Chapter, with headquarters in Dallas, receives charter from A.G.C.

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In This Issue

• "Blue Book" directory of more than 4,700 leading general contracting firms performing major part of building, highway and heavy contract construction throughout the nation, constituting the membership of The Associated General Contractors of America. Listed alphabetically, and by states and chapters. Officers, staff and committees.

• Special section of articles by representatives of leading management, engineering, architectural, labor and equipment organizations in the construction industry, outlining work now in progress and suggesting future fields of cooperative action to improve industry conditions.

• The contract construction industry is in a healthy condition today, a mid-year survey of chapter secretaries and managers and elected directors of The Associated General Contractors discloses. Looking at the results of the survey on a national basis, a large volume of work of all types is coming on the market. Labor, equipment and materials supplies are improving or adequate in many areas. Contractors are demanding and getting firm prices on most materials. While construction costs are still tending to move slightly upward, an approaching balance between supply and demand could mean stabilization at or near present cost levels.

• How the National Joint Board for Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes functions; outline of its work since inception.

• Congress appropriates \$573,242,000 for flood control and river and harbor projects by Army Corps of Engineers, 158 millions more than record appropriation of last year. Complete listing of 277 construction projects in 44 states and Alaska with amounts allocated by Engineers.

• Approximate apportionment of federal aid highway funds to states under the two-year, \$450,000,000 annual authorization provided by the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1948.

• Progress report of The Associated General Contractors of America to Secretary of the Army Kenneth C. Royall on activities of A.G.C. chapters and branches in sponsoring and organizing the principal reserve construction units under the Army Affiliation Program. A.G.C.'s 100 unit goal now 85 per cent complete.

• Pattern of cases involving construction under the Taft-Hartley Act. Most court cases and National Labor Relations Board actions aimed at secondary boycott.

• First meeting of new Joint Cooperative Committee of the American Institute of Architects and the A.G.C. Public invited to submit problems for study and action.

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CAPACITY

The CONSTRUCTOR

BUILDINGS HIGHWAYS AIRPORTS  RAILROADS PUBLIC WORKS

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In This Issue

• August new construction volume estimated at \$1.-785,000,000, marking third successive month in which activity surpassed all previous dollar peaks. . . . It is evident available supply of some important building materials will have to be stepped up sharply during rest of year if demands are to be met. . . . But some segments of lumber industry, in face of not-so-optimistic lumber production picture, request that certain lumber items be removed from export control.

• General contractors of Pacific Northwest took prominent part in dramatic fight against summer floods. Pictures of operations to save towns.

• Members of Advisory Council for Senate Committee on Trade Policies announced, and early meetings planned to determine effects on industry of Supreme Court decision outlawing multiple basing point, delivered price system in the cement industry. Walter L. Conase, Detroit, will represent general contractors on council.

• Limitations on personal services of Bureau of Reclamation will cut still further bureau's force account work, Kenneth Markwell, assistant commissioner of reclamation, tells Association of Western State Engineers.

• American Society of Civil Engineers and The Associated General Contractors of America announce formation of a National Joint Cooperative Committee to study matters of mutual concern to civil engineers, general contractors and the public.

• Preparing unit price bid forms so that they will reduce the contractor's hazards instead of being a "mathematical nightmare" discussed by E. B. Rothschild, San Francisco civil engineer.

• General contractors address Western Association of State Highway Officials' annual meeting to which Portland Chapter A.G.C. was host. . . . A. C. Clark, chief, Division of Construction, P.R.A., reports on progress of federal highway program.

• New plant construction should be located in less populated, less industrialized areas to provide maximum security against possibility of future atomic bomb attacks, National Security Resources Board says.

• Cases before National Joint Board for the Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes are listed, with future hearing dates, decisions already made by Board of Trustees or Joint Board panels.

• Federal government plans largest investment in history in civil public works, with \$2,500,000,000 earmarked for federal and federal aid construction programs of all types. . . . In addition military construction funds will total around \$183,700,000. . . . A paper by Colonel Ray Adams, assistant chief, Construction Operations Division, Military Construction, Office of the Chief of Engineers, outlines Army's plans.

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In This Issue

• Governing and Advisory Boards of The Associated General Contractors of America study effects of abandonment of basing point price systems on the construction industry, many other current national and international factors which are adding to complexities of construction operations.

• William Simon, general counsel of Senate Committee on Trade Policies, discusses the meaning of the price system decision to general contractors and the rest of the industry. A.G.C. to continue watch on developments.

• Supervision of civil public works by Army Engineers is of extreme value in training the military engineer for national defense, keeps him abreast of latest developments in methods and machinery by close cooperation with civilian contracting organizations, Corps of Engineers civil works head points out.

• Complete report of A.G.C. Managing Director H. E. Foreman on association activities during past eight months reveals many significant developments affecting the construction industry, indicates the broad scope of A.G.C. work.

• Stoppages of work because of jurisdictional disputes at new low since establishment of National Joint Board for the Settlement of Jurisdictional Disputes in construction. A.G.C. participation continued.

• Adolph Teichert, Jr., Sacramento, Calif., and Walter L. Couse, Detroit, Mich., nominated for 1949 president and vice president of A.G.C., respectively.

• Simplification of concrete specifications on some public work as recommended by A.G.C. Specifications Committee saving money for government.

• Draft deferment of building trades apprentices urged to permit completion of training.

• American Association of State Highway Officials told highway construction costs not out of line with other costs, urged to expedite contract lettings to make good showing in next two years.

• Del E. Webb Co. utilizes simple design, mass buying power, assembly line production to build large development of low cost houses at Tucson, Arizona.

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In This Issue

• Refusal of Supreme Court to reconsider its "overtime on overtime" decision emphasizes importance to contractors of adjusting their work-week and employment of workmen on Saturdays and Sundays to avoid as many penalties as possible. Legislation seems only possible relief to construction industry.

• Cases under Taft-Hartley Act involving construction: National Labor Relations Board studies important secondary boycott case; responsibility of union and employer for reimbursing employee discharged for not being in good standing with union; Detroit elections postponed.

• Bureau of Reclamation says limitations in its appropriation will force further cutting of force account work, will make construction job more difficult.

• Construction of hospitals by small communities gaining momentum. Construction work started under Hospital Survey and Construction Act.

• Status of federal aid airport construction program. N.A.S.A.O.-A.G.C. Joint Cooperative Committee recommends steps by CAA to assist sponsors of small airports in getting their projects under way, studies new specifications, prequalification.

• Small engineer companies and detachments available for sponsorship under the Army Affiliation Program. President spurs activity in building up reserve of armed forces.

• Construction apprenticeship loses its priority in Bureau of Apprenticeship activity as federal concentration shifts to other industries deemed especially important to national defense. Draft effect on apprentice training under study.

• Houston Chapter, A.G.C., calls its exposition most successful regional event of its kind with attendance over 330,000. How show was managed.

• Mid-South Section of A.S.C.E. features engineering in construction at meeting, hears A.G.C. President Winkelman, contractor-lecturers at University of Mississippi.

• Methods of constructing world's largest hangar in South Dakota.

• Text of A.G.C. booklet pointing out advantages of contract method of construction in public work.

• Producers' Council hears contractors' views of need for firm prices and delivery dates.

• Hints of what emergency controls are planned by the National Security Resources Board given in table of contents for the board's proposed Emergency Powers Act.

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In This Issue

• A.G.C. cites favorable prospects for 19 to 20 billion dollar new construction volume in 1949, lists conditions that must be met to insure record performance. Round-up of government, other private estimates.

• Business world is still in state of confusion over issue of delivered price systems arising from the Supreme Court decision in the cement case. Cross section of industry, mostly small business, piles up complaints against abandonment of basing point systems at hearings of Senate Trade Policies Subcommittee. Construction contractors, materials dealers and producers report actual, or anticipated, injury. Testimony of A.G.C. president, condensation of statements by representatives of construction industry.

• Important opinion of Wage and Hour Administrator obtained by A.G.C. indicates broader coverage of employees engaged in construction operations by Fair Labor Standards Act, changed position since withdrawal of previous official interpretations.

• New higher court decision holds that construction operations, even though local in nature, are covered by the Taft-Hartley Act if they affect the flow of interstate commerce. Important to contractors.

• Contractors' organizations would play big role in emergencies under ambitious plans proposed by new Office of Civil Defense Planning. Tentative program, not yet official, conflicts in certain respects with plans of other defense agencies.

• Cost control symposium. Contractor-engineers explain fundamentals of accounting and cost control, value to construction firms. Reclamation official describes new uniform system of cost classification developed by the Bureau of Reclamation, which may become model for other federal agencies in the heavy construction field.

• Picture stories of two unusual projects: Huge military air base at Limestone, Maine, and hydrogenation plant in Missouri.

• Apprentice training expansion faces tough problems in draft and national defense programs.

• Highway construction being seriously delayed in Southeast by shortage of engineers, steel and cement, A.A.S.H.O.-A.G.C. Joint Cooperative Committee finds. Secondary road program studied.

• CAA accelerates grants for airport construction. Status of Federal Airport Program. Aviation officials recommend steps to speed up construction.

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