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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE CALLED BY THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES. CHICAGO, MARCH 2nd and 3rd - 1921.

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WHEREAS, the public, due to conditions arising out of the War, is suffering from lack of homes, schools, hospitals, and all other classes of public and private construction; - the construction industry, the largest next to agriculture, is virtually at a standstill, causing serious loss through unemployment and waste of over-head; - most of the other industries of the country, including transportation are greatly reduced in activity, - all of which would be materially bettered by improvement in the construction industry, and

WHEREAS, New construction is now discouraged by fear on the part of buyers and lenders of further decline in the current costs thereof, thus preventing the expenditures of available and procurable new capital in this field,

NOW THIS CONFERENCE HAS DISCLOSED THAT:

(a) Current costs of construction materials still remain much and erratically higher as compared with pre-war costs and compared with the average of all other commodities.

(b) Current construction labor costs have not had proper adjustment to accord with present conditions.

(c) Practices and conditions surrounding financing of building construction require modification.

(d) Relations between employers and employes call for improvement and stabilization to secure continuity of operations in all building construction, and full rates of production.

(e) Employers and contractors have not proceeded to the needed extent in effecting reasonably prompt deflation of values throughout the construction industry (and all stages thereof from raw materials to finished products), including their own over-head and profit.

WHEREAS, This conference is serving to inaugurate a systematic study of all the facts and to point the way to action by all con-

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WHEREAS, Stabilization on a properly deflated basis of many important elements in building construction (such as steel, cement, lumber, brick, fuel, transportation, etc.,) require both local and national solution.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED:

Building Materials

1. That it is necessary to the revival of construction activities that early steps be taken to inform the public fully as to the situation with respect to building materials. To that end, manufacturers, producers and distributors of building materials are urged to take such further deflation at this time as may be possible, and based thereon, to announce selling prices in which the public may be justified in having confidence, and that, having established such prices, that the respective manufacturers prepare promptly definite statements to be used to explain to the public the elements of increased cost over which the manufacturer has no control, or which the conditions require him to pay and which justify such increase as there may be in his selling price over pre-war basis.

Wages Production Profits

2. That contractors, builders, employers, and others interested are called upon to proceed promptly to the creation of a basis of labor cost which will be in conformity with present conditions and requirements, for the re-establishment of industry. By this it is intended that wages shall be properly readjusted; irregularity of work and instability of labor, such as caused by jurisdictional questions and sympathetic strikes shall be eliminated; that rates of production and efficiency of labor shall be improved; that methods used by contractors and other employers shall be so altered and improved as to eliminate waste of effort, and make possible maximum production with minimum expense; and that employers readjust their over-head expenses and their profits to conform with present conditions.

Financial

3. That while universal deflation is in progress, the financial interests from whom loans are made to enable building to be undertaken are called upon to do their part in accepting a properly proportionate recession in profits and should, in view of the vital place in the national welfare occupied by the construction industry furnishing as it does a barometer to general business activities in the United States, make a specially liberal provision for financing building construction in the communities which support them and their allied financial institutions.

Saving Funds

4. That it is the sense of the conference that savings banks and similar institutions, which have the use of and safeguard the savings of the mass of such people, should devote the maximum percentage of the funds within their keeping to the purchase of local mortgages.

Transportation

5. That the lack of construction work on the part of the transportation agencies of the country and the high rates charged for transportation are both seriously detrimental to the prompt revivification of the construction industry. It is therefore urged that the transportation companies, and such Federal, State and Local Agencies as have responsibility therewith, take such prompt steps as are necessary to eliminate all inefficiency in operation and to reduce expenses to the minimum, to the end that the transportation companies may actively proceed with necessary construction work and reduce transportation rates on construction materials.

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Fuel

6. That as fuel, like transportation, forms an important item in construction costs, the mine owners and operators are urged to improve their methods in mining and marketing wherever possible; to eliminate waste and secure a maximum of efficiency; to adjust labor rates to accord with present conditions; to the end that the cost of fuel may be substantially reduced.

Government Economy Taxes

7. That the Government of the United States and its many agencies, the respective states and the several subdivisions thereof, are urged to eliminate all unnecessary expense, secure the greatest efficiency from those engaged in necessary functions, and to practice the greatest public economy in order that there may be a material reduction in the tax burden which all must share, a reduction necessary before there can be substantial, sound and permanent industrial prosperity, including that of the construction industry.

Public Confidence

8. That it is the sense of this conference that in order to insure and retain the confidence of the public, all organizations and individuals associated with the construction industry in any manner must exercise the utmost care that the industry may be developed in a way primarily and distinctively to the best interest of the people as a whole. To carry out this purpose this conference calls upon all organizations and individuals connected with the industry not to enter into or make agreements, arrangements, or commitments of any nature, which will directly or indirectly tend to the injury of the public or to unnecessarily increase the cost of construction.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED TO PROVIDE FACILITIES AND METHODS FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL ACTIVITIES:

Local Conferences

1. That this conference call upon local Chambers of Commerce or similar community organizations to enter upon activities, to make effective the purposes for which this conference was called, that is, to secure a restoration of activities in the construction industry upon a sound economic basis.

Central Direction Committee

2. That a Central Direction Committee be appointed by the National Federation of Construction Industries, of which its President shall be Chairman, to act in a directive and executing capacity with regard to the several declarations of this conference. This committee shall contain, as far as possible, representation of the several large elements entering into the construction industry. It shall prepare a plan for local conferences throughout the United States and shall cooperate as far as possible with local committees in carrying out the purposes of this conference. It shall co-operate with the national organizations in the construction industries and shall take such other action and do such other things under the direction and approval of the Board of Directors of the National Federation of Construction Industries, as may seem, in its judgment, necessary to promote the revival of construction activities.

Printing Proceedings

3. That the proceedings of this conference be promptly printed, including such parts of the Philadelphia Conference proceedings as the Central Direction Committee or its Chairman deems desirable, copies of which will be sent to all of those in attendance at this conference, and to others interested.

4. That this conference recommends that all national and local organizations co-operating in the movement outlined in these resolutions, join in
Expenses bearing the expenses incident thereto, and which must of necessity be incurred by the National Federation of Construction Industries in the performance of the functions hereby laid upon it.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO SPEAKERS:

That this conference hereby expresses its sincere appreciation to those who made addresses before the conference, including the representatives of labor, as well as to those who took part in the general discussions.

RESOLUTION ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT-ELECT HARDING:

Be it resolved that this National Conference representing the construction industry publicly expresses to President-Elect Harding a sincere appreciation of his telegram approving the purpose for which this conference is held and the assurance of his efforts to secure governmental cooperation in the revivification of the construction industry. Be it further resolved that this conference does, upon the eve of the inauguration of Mr. Harding to the presidency of the United States, extend to him its sincere good wishes and genuinely tenders to him and his administration the offer of its full and complete cooperation in all matters where its services may be helpful or desirable.