

on in Ottawa last winter - the Mooretown housing development. The Ottawa and Hull Trades and Labour Councils conceived the plan of constructing a low rental housing project to provide winter employment and to show that winter construction of homes is feasible. The city of Ottawa co-operated by purchasing \$44,000 worth of shares in the company, representing the 10 per cent necessary for the builders to get a federal loan for \$444,000. The project, consisting of 13 buildings containing 44 family dwelling units, kept 40 men employed throughout the winter, and the builders found that costs were even lower than normal because supplies were delivered more promptly during the slack season.

Yet another example of winter construction in Ottawa was a commercial office building which rose to its full height of 10 storeys in spite of last winter's severe weather. The survey showed that a great many employers have to the problem and were developing techniques for stabilizing employment. Certainly it has been fairly generally established that by the adoption of new techniques, the use of new materials and equipment, and above all with careful advance planning, there is no real barrier to carrying out construction activities during winter months. I might point out here that the Building Research Division of the National Research Council is at present preparing a technical bulletin on winter construction which will be available shortly.

Through the Department of Public Works, the Department of National Defence and other agencies, the Government of Canada is itself an employer in the construction industry, and I can assure you that we are trying to plan our construction work to provide more winter jobs. The National Employment Committee recommended to the Government that it should undertake a study of ways and means whereby the letting of government contracts might be better timed so as to offset as much as possible the seasonal variations in construction activities.

This has been done by a working committee established by the Minister of Labour. This Committee has worked closely with officials of federal departments and agencies in a position to contribute to winter employment. As a result of their discussions a number of contracts for new construction and for maintenance and repairs were carried out last winter. My own Department, for example, made special arrangements to undertake clearing operations in Banff National Park during the winter in anticipation of highway construction this spring and summer.

I think I have made it clear, then that the federal cabinet is not only well aware of this problem but that it has been attacking it over a period of years. At the same time I can disclose here today that our thinking has recently been crystallized in a cabinet directive laying down the lines of our policy.

This document has gone out to all departments and agencies of the federal government which would be concerned with it. Its objective is to do everything possible to use government spending programs to create the maximum amount of employment in the winter months. It states frankly that while progress has been made in this direction, it is not enough.