

Senator HOLLETT: Yesterday I was interested in the figures in the statement made by the Minister. I was wondering if Mr. Dymond could tell us as to whether they have made any estimates of the additional costs of doing winter work as compared with summer work.

Mr. W. R. Dymond, Assistant Deputy Minister, Program and Development, Department of Citizenship and Immigration: We have not gone into this very thoroughly departmentally. However the Canadian construction industry did a survey, particularly on the commercial and industrial building sector and the additional winter costs in that kind of construction, and they found that the winter costs for large buildings were very, very small, about one or 2 per cent—

Senator HOLLETT: Two per cent?

Mr. DYMOND: Less than one per cent for that kind of building. Now I do not think that is typical of all kinds of construction work. For housing, my impression would be that there has been a little more work done on this in the industry and by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, but it would appear to be somewhat higher than that, although it depends to a great extent on the year, and the kind of winter and even to a greater extent on the capabilities of the contractor and whether he plans his work effectively ahead and makes the necessary provisions. Much depends upon him and upon his equipment and how good a job he does.

There are, of course, other kinds of construction work that you get into such as paving which is very expensive if you want to do it in wintertime. Then there are other jobs that can be done better in the winter; bridge work, for example, so far as putting in piers and that kind of thing you can do better in winter because of the ice. A lot of trenching work can sometimes be done better in winter because the ground is frozen and you do not need to make provision for holding the walls up with boards and so on. So that there is a very mixed picture in terms of additional cost during the winter depending upon the type of work, the climate and the skill of the contractor—a number of variables like that. We do not have any details other than this large building sector in figuring our additional winter costs.

Senator RATTEBURY: These costs are increased in wintertime or if a job is projected for wintertime working. Jobs like bricklaying or machinery work—the daily average goes down in wintertime although we are devising means to combat wintertime construction by encasing construction in balloons.

Mr. DYMOND: That is right; it is very difficult to get a true picture of this cost question.

Senator RATTEBURY: The original prices are predicated on the scheduling of the work.

Mr. DYMOND: And it depends a lot on the type of construction.

Senator KINLEY: You are interested only in new construction? You do not do any remodelling or fixing up older places that can be very cheaply put into good shape?

Mr. DYMOND: Are you talking about housing now, senator?

Senator KINLEY: Yes.

Mr. DYMOND: We have not got into any direct incentives for the renovation field in housing. We have quite a campaign as part of the "do it now" campaign that emphasizes the desirability of doing renovation work in the winter months. We have had a lot of co-operation from the building supply industry particularly in this campaign, and their sales since this campaign has started have doubled and tripled. They have really moved ahead in the winter months as a result of this emphasis.

Senator RATTEBURY: Their sales have evened out on the 12-month basis pretty well.