

# THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION —  
A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

DEC 21 1951

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*"One of the Encouraging Things About Architects  
is Their Ability to Roll With the Punches  
Their Flexibility  
They Always Are Worried About Something  
But  
They Always Manage to Get Through"*

NORMAN J. SCHLOSSMAN, Second Vice President  
The American Institute of Architects  
Before The North Central Regional Conference  
Chicago, November 3, 1951

## THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

Official Publication

WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION  
A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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## PRESIDENT HERBST APPOINTS CONVENTION COMMITTEE

President William G. Herbst has appointed Arthur O. Reddemann, Program Chairman for the Milwaukee Division, of the Annual Convention of the Wisconsin Architects Association to be held February 8 and 9, 1952 at the Plankinton House, Milwaukee.

Assisting Mr. Reddemann on Arrangements and Program, are Committee Members Leigh Hunt, Frederick J. Schweitzer, Roger M. Herbst, and Stanley A. Rypel.

Walter Winding, President of the Producers' Council, Wisconsin Chapter, has appointed Vice President James O. Mitchell, Program Chairman, the Producers' Council to have its displays as in former years.

\* \* \*

## HONOR AWARDS COMPETITION

All Corporate Members of the Wisconsin Architects Association have been mailed one copy of the PROGRAM OF HONOR AWARDS, which appeared in the October Wisconsin Architect, and two Entry Blanks. Those members desiring additional entry blanks are to contact the Chairmen, or Committee member, of their respective divisions who were appointed, each, by the Divisional Presidents.

They are: Madison Division, Mark T. Purcell, Chairman; William V. Kaiser, Joseph J. Weiler; Northeastern Division, Sylvester Stepnoski, Chairman; Sylvester Schmitt, Paul Kilp; Milwaukee Division, Anthony Wuchterl, Chairman; Fritz von Grossmann, Robert L. Potter.

\* \* \*

## MILWAUKEE DIVISION ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Milwaukee Division of the Wisconsin Architects Association will be held Friday evening, December 14, at the City Club, 756 North Milwaukee Street.

Following the dinner at 6:30 o'clock, President Alvin E. Grellinger will call the meeting to order to hear reports of the Secretary-Treasurer and Committee Chairmen.

Officers of the Milwaukee Division will be elected as well as two Divisional Directors to serve on the Board of the Wisconsin Architects Association.

\* \* \*

## DIVISION MEETINGS

Seventy members of the Wisconsin Architects Association attended the November meeting of the Milwaukee Division on November 15, at the Joe Deutsch Cafe to hear Otto C. Heyer of the U. S. Forest Products Company at Madison, speak on "Relation of Forest Products Laboratory Work to the Building Field." Mr. Heyer gave a most interesting talk which he illustrated with slides and samples of the work performed at the laboratory.

A copy of Mr. Heyer's talk will be published in the December Wisconsin Architect as well as that of Turpin C. Bannister, Head of the Department of Architecture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill., at a dinner meeting of the Madison Division scheduled for Wednesday December 5, at Pipersville, near Watertown.

## RESUME OF NORTH CENTRAL STATES REGIONAL CONFERENCE CHICAGO CHAPTER, A.I.A., HOST, NOV. 2, 3

BY ELIZABETH SCOTT HUNT

The Chicago Chapter, A.I.A., piloted by its President, Morgan L. Yost, combines to make an excellent host. They're so completely hospitable and thorough those Illinois folks, that the North Central States Regional A.I.A. Conference at the La Salle Hotel in Chicago on November 2 and 3, couldn't have been other than the success it was.

Quoting Emerson, President Yost said in his "welcome," "This time, as any other time, is a very good time, if we know what to do with it."

They knew what to do with it, and it was "a very good time." Very constructive, from start to finish. And very entertaining.

G. Clair Armstrong and John Reinhold Magney of the Minneapolis Chapter opened the Discussion Topics Friday morning, their subject, "The Renaissance of Timber Construction."

Explaining that Minnesota is used to using wood, the two showed slides illustrating timber constructed buildings, which, although not done under restrictions, still are especially applicable to today's building, in that they run into no steel or other critical materials.

Mr. Armstrong showed wood constructed churches with plywood ceilings and exposed trusses, stained and varnished. A school, with its playroom, 42" wide with 9x28" laminated flat beams, 9x28-14' o.c.; purlins, 3x12-4' o.c. Roof deck, 3" cement. Classrooms, 24' wide, with wood trusses. A school gymnasium with a 60' span, wood trusses, 4'-0" o.c., cement ceiling.

"These jobs," Mr. Armstrong said, "are not entirely, but practically fireproof, and we feel there is an economy in their construction."

"If we are going to use wood, we must be honest about it and leave it exposed," Mr. Magney said, in conjunction with the showing of slides of timber churches and schools designed by his office. "There is the conduit problem with exposed ceilings, but we have found that exposed conduit looks very nice." Judging from the slides, it does indeed.

Incidentally, instead of the long pointer which in the hands of a spirited orator can completely wreck a screen, the Minnesota men used an ordinary flash light for spot illustrating.

Every one from Wisconsin will remember Darl Coder Taylor of Holsman, Holsman, Klekamp & Taylor, who gave such a fine talk last February before the Regional Conference in connection with the Wisconsin Convention. Again Mr. Taylor was on hand to give another fine illustrated talk on Chicago apartment house jobs of no plaster, dry wall construction, which are being done by his firm.

The talk on "Concrete Masonry Units" by W. W. Wallace of the Portland Cement Association will be published in the December issue of the Wisconsin Architect as well as that given by James Kittleman on "Successful Practice and Good Management" during the luncheon discussion.

Not just to be loyal, but the Wisconsin delegation had every right to be proud of its part in the program, a talk by Richard W. E. Perrin, Executive Director of the Milwaukee Housing Authority, on "The Architect's Place in Prefabricated Construction," printed in full in this issue.

Boiling it all down for the meatiest dish of the entire offering, Saturday morning's session was the piece de resistance.

Today, architects are burrowing feverishly like busy weevils trying to ferret out the how's of obtaining government work. Those attending that Saturday morning session were most enlightened by the talk of John R. Fugard (published in this issue), augmented by remarks by the experienced Howard Cheney and others from the floor. Then questions and answers.

It was grand meeting the very personable Norman J. Schlossman of the Chicago Chapter who is Second Vice President of The American Institute of Architects, and Wilbur Henry Tusler, North Central States Director, who contributed so greatly in making the conference the success that it was, and Paul Gerhardt, former Regional Director.

Our president, William G. Herbst, in attendance at the Conference, offered a resolution which was carried with a slight amendment. This will be published in the December Wisconsin Architect.

Wisconsin was well represented. Those attending with their wives were Edgar H. Berners, Leonard M. Schober, Joseph J. Weiler, Mark F. Pfaller and Leigh Hunt. And in addition to President Herbst and Mr. Perrin were Maurey Lee Allen, Urban Peacock, Harry Ollrogge, Robert Chase, Walter M. Trapp, Allen Strang and William V. Kaeser.

So there you are. A most successful Regional Conference. But there's one thing that sets you wondering. Why is it that when the Chicago Chapter is host, Mother Nature starts out smiling benignly until the last day? Let that last day come and the erratic, cantankerous old lady whoops it up outrageously.

You recall the A.I.A. Convention in May. Perfect weather. Then the deluge. Ditto the last day of the conference. Only this time snow. Wild, blustering, blizzarding snow.

Come to think of it, maybe it's those Chicago chartered busses, that Mother Nature's down on. They drew up to the Edgewater Beach Hotel in May to transport the visiting architects and their ladies to the Navy Pier. Came the rain. Buckets of it.

Just so on that third day of November. An inspection tour was planned. Busses. The blizzard. But one thing's sure. Come rain, come snow, always the busses go through. Passengers and all. Perhaps that'll show the elements they just can't win. In any event, not when Chicago's the host.

### JOHN TOPZANT MOVES OFFICE

John Topzant announces the removal of his office from 424 East Wells Street to 8320 West Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee.

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## THE ARCHITECT'S PLACE IN PREFABRICATED CONSTRUCTION

REGIONAL CONFERENCE, NORTH CENTRAL STATES,  
A.I.A., CHICAGO, NOVEMBER 2, 1951

By Richard W. E. Perrin, A.I.A.  
Executive Director, Housing Authority of the  
City of Milwaukee

In the welter of opinion concerning the status of the Architect and the nature of his services — ranging all the way from a practitioner of the fine arts to that of a social worker; or from interior decorator to an expert on pre-stressed reinforced concrete — his existence has been further complicated by the development of prefabricated construction and its effect on his professional usefulness. That there may be some cause for concern is obvious when we consider a case such as the public housing project currently in development which has been set up for prefabricated housing, but for which an Architect has been retained — being paid a regular fee — only to draw up a set of plans and specifications to follow very faithfully the plan and design of the prefabricated job except to show it as conventional construction to permit competition on the part of contractors desirous of so bidding.

It is platitudinous to say that prefabrication is here to stay. Actually it has been here for a long time but it is simply a matter of degree to which prefabricated construction methods have supplanted, and continue to supplant conventional custom building.

There was a time when the builder was required to chop down his own trees, saw his own lumber, split his own shingles, burn his own lime for plaster and mortar, and quarry his own rock or split his own field stones to construct a building. By a process of gradual evolution and of specialization, the builder has delegated functions to various types of manufacturers on the premise that such specialized work could be better performed in the factory under more highly controlled conditions and at a distinct financial saving to himself and to the consumer.

Within my own lifetime I have recollections of the carpenter also being the cabinet maker who constructed kitchen cabinets and other woodwork and I recall distinctly having lived in a house in which the sheet metal worker was obviously the craftsman who was responsible for the equipment that passed as plumbing fixtures.

Today, without even giving it a second thought, we accept factory made, that is prefabricated, kitchen cabinets and cabinet work generally, bathroom fixtures, doors and sash, factory finished floors, office partitions, and other component parts of buildings without feeling particularly restricted in the latitude that the Architect generally feels he must have in the planning of a building.

The process of prefabrication has now continued to a point where a class of buildings has developed for which all parts are factory made, or prefabricated, on a standardized basis to the extent that there is no latitude in the assembly of the parts which, incidentally, have been reduced to an absolute minimum. The Architect's place in this process has also been reduced to a minimum in that, as in the public housing case cited, he performs nothing more than a drafting function to permit conventional construction to be pitted against prefabrication purely on the basis of price.

A brief examination of the potentialities of prefabricated construction, and the Architects place in it, would seem to indicate first that totalized factory construction, being generally limited to private low cost housing, probably does not constitute much of an additional threat to the Architect's bread basket, since small house work — the bulk of private housing — eluded the Architect a long time ago only to be captured by the speculative building broker and his allies.

At this point I should like to state emphatically that I consider this abdication of the Architect in small house work about as totally unfortunate as anything that has happened in the history of contemporary American architecture.

It has happened because the Architect has entertained too many "snooty" notions concerning his own importance; fearing some sort of degradation or contamination by actively competing for this work on whatever level might be necessary to get it.

Look at your newer "small home" neighborhood.

Look at the horribly unimaginative 24' x 28' box, prefabricated or conventionally constructed, which predominates the landscape and passes for a dwelling.

Look at the site plan, if you can call it that, and the shotgun planning which completely disregards contour and other natural amenities, but which, nevertheless, has gained complete acceptance all the way from the city planning commission to the unsuspecting buyer.

Prefabrication is not going to make this situation any worse, but by the same token, it can hardly be expected to improve it unless some new attitudes are developed on the part of everyone actively engaged in the building business; not in terms of how additional profits can be wrung from an already bloodless turnip, but rather in terms of a genuine transfusion which will give new energy and real purpose to the house building industry.

It is true, of course, that volumetrically, a record amount of houses has been produced during the past several years and the building industry, so called, is screaming its head off boasting of the wonderful job it has done without any help from anybody — carefully avoiding any reference, of course, to the mortgage insurance and other credit aids which the government has provided to make such an operation virtually 100% risk-free, but making every taxpayer in the country the potential holder of a very large bag if the bottom should fall out.

As an Architect, I am left with a very hollow feeling when I see what is being built and the more so, when I think of the hundreds of thousands of times the same errors are being repeated throughout the country.

As a houser, I know that the shortcomings of these houses are going to catch up, not only with their unfortunate owners, but with the rest of the community as well. "Built-in-bligh" is about the most descriptive term I can think of, and certainly the most appropriate when we reflect upon the compromises that have been made with space requirements, utility and durability, comfort, and appearance.

As Architects, we know it to be almost axiomatic that the better and more durable the house and its equipment is in the first place, the less cost will be

entailed in the maintenance, repair, and replacement, and that a cheap house is frequently the most costly if ultimate cost to the occupant is accepted as the standard of measurement, as it certainly must be.

We know that space requirements depend upon family size and that across-the-board two bedroom units do not meet the need of the family requiring three, four, or more bedrooms. Area standards, including those of the FHA, have taken a considerable beating. Aside of reducing living areas to a ridiculous low, very little if any thought is being given to space requirements — in our northern latitude particularly — for such items as heating equipment, laundry and clothes drying facilities, and storage facilities, especially for such things as screens and storm windows, lawn mowers, garden hose and tools, luggage, perambulators, bicycles, etc.

As Architects, we know further that utility and durability preclude the use of any material or construction method known to be impractical or indicative of high maintenance or repair and replacement costs, and that the use of untried materials or construction is to be avoided as long as the value thereof remains to be demonstrated by actual use and experience.

Last but not least, we know that appearance is of the utmost importance, not only for the aesthetic satisfaction of the discriminating few, but more importantly from the standpoint of neighborhood stability. Housing developments, public or private, which reflect good planning and good design and are therefore pleasing to the eye, will rarely become liabilities to the community, and future marketability for continued desirable usage is also thus assured.

If we agree that these premises are well taken,

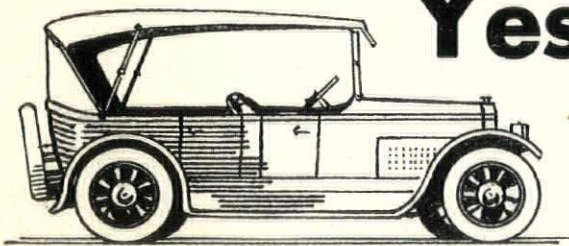
the question then arises as to what the Architect can do about it, and more particularly, what his place is to be in meeting these challenges, including that of prefabricated construction, which we may be very sure will not for long be limited to house building.

As I see it, there are several very definite areas of probability.

First, and perhaps most importantly, is the part the American Institute of Architects can and must play. The unfortunate trend in American house design and building, at least, can probably be turned at top level because of this new medium of totalized prefabrication. The Institute is unquestionably the only agency of sufficient stature to undertake this mission. It will not necessarily mean more work for the average practicing Architect, but it will mean better housing — better living — for more American families and it will benefit every community to the extent that stable, satisfying neighborhoods are created and maintained.

What I mean is specifically this: That The Institute undertake a program whereby advisory services are offered to the leading prefabricators in the United States to the end that the best contemporary architectural thinking will be offered for the improvement of American house building in terms of adequate space provision and disposition, sound standards of utility and durability, as well as comfort and appearance. The possibilities of this type of participation are innumerable, with the key to greater adaptability and flexibility in prefabricated construction lying in the use of interchangeable parts coordinated on a modular basis and resulting in the barest minimum of field assembly — an approach which has not even been attempted to any appreciable extent.

Secondly, I believe it is up to The American Insti-



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tute of Architects, if it has not already done so, to continue a campaign against the utterly inadequate physical standards promulgated by the Federal Housing Administration.

Third, in his own community the individual Architect must take renewed interest in the changes that are being wrought in building conditions and zoning ordinances, to the end that better and not less satisfactory buildings will be produced.

Fourth, the individual Architect will do well to renew his interest in city planning matters for the purpose of introducing logic and sanity into subdivision layouts and the disposition of buildings, therein, for the purpose of creating sound neighborhood standards.

Finally — it would certainly be a salutary influence upon the course that prefabrication is going to take, if more Architects, or men with architectural training, would see fit to channel their energies into direct activities connected with such enterprises as, for instance, prefabricated housing.

There seems to be a prejudice among Architects, however, that a man is not an Architect unless he has hung out his shingle and is in practice for himself, even if he starves to death in the process. If, for instance, the medical profession took this attitude, it would soon be in a bad way since the greatest strides in modern medicine have not been made by practicing physicians, but by research men working in their laboratories, who, incidentally, are also M.D.'s and generally a great deal more.

Unless broader recognition is encouraged in fields other than those afforded by strictly private architectural practice — and at no loss to a man's professional identity — the Architect's birthright as a planner, designer, builder, and most importantly as a constructive thinker, will go by default to the engineer and the industrial designer, if not to the jerry-builder or the charlatan in his own ranks.

The Architect can be more than a practitioner, he can be a force — an influence — an influence which will benefit more people than he will ever know, if he elects to direct his talents and thinking into broader channels which recognize service that transcends the narrow conception of current professional practice.

\* \* \*

## JOHN R. FUGARD, CHICAGO CHAPTER, DISCUSSES COLLABORATION OF ARCHITECTS IN WAR EFFORT

(Regional Conference, Chicago, Nov. 3)

I have just come from the Gulf States Regional Meeting at Memphis. Over 400 architects, wives, and friends were registered. The exhibit had over a hundred entires, and the spirit and enthusiasm of those men of the South, and particularly those from the Deep South, was infectious and inspiring. I find that those men are most enthusiastic supporters of The Institute and the principles for which it stands.

Those Southerners like three things — bourbon, politics and speeches — and this reminds me of a story told there.

A colored man, convicted of a crime, was about to be hanged. A great occasion was to be made of the ceremony. A scaffold was erected in the court house square and the people came from the entire countryside to witness the affair. The prisoner was

lead to the scaffold and was asked by the sheriff if he had anything to say. His reply was no. Whereupon a candidate for a political office stepped up and announced that if agreeable to the prisoner, he would like to make a few remarks about the coming election. The prisoner said to the sheriff, "go ahead with your hanging. I have heard this man speak before."

And so it may be with what I have to say. You may have heard it before, and if you walk out, I'll understand.

Since our country has been thrust into its position of leadership in the world, it becomes true as in all leadership, that a mighty obligation accompanies this leadership, which in our case has required that we try to preserve peace in the world. This, in turn, requires a preparedness against the eventualities of war, such a preparedness that its cost in money and man power has not before been seen in the world. In order that we may be able to prepare for that great conflict, which we pray may never come, it is necessary that our civilian economy be preserved, and that in turn, means our American way of life.

From all reports, I learn that the economy of our future may depend upon the outcome of the present talks in Korea. If a cessation of hostilities there may be agreed upon, it would seem that the construction industry may be allowed to proceed much as in the immediate past, perhaps hampered by restrictions and shortages of materials and pretty well bogged down by red tape, but the industry might be able to cripple along.

On the other hand, however, if the Korean talks are not successful in arranging an armistice, and the armistice leading to a settlement of the conflict, then we may anticipate an all out effort of a clean-up by our forces in Korea — then get the hell out of Asia; and an even more pessimistic view is that this clean-up may lead directly into World War III.

Of course we must realize that in such an event, the entire Building Industry, including our profession, will be devoted to the war effort, and it is with that thought in mind that I address you today.

What we know best, we gain from experience, and the experiences of the past ten years has lead me to believe that the best way for the profession as a whole to serve the government, is through the formation of joint enterprises, or partnerships of firms or individuals.

There are about 9000 Architects who are members of The Institute. Ninety-five percent of those members are employees or members of firms with less than 7 men employed in their offices. We are small business, although the construction industry, next to agriculture, is the largest business of our land. But Architects are a small part of the industry, although the officials of The Institute are fast becoming the leading factor in those relationships of the industry having to do with the war effort.

I believe the Architects can best serve the requirements of government by the formation, among themselves, of organizations capable of efficiently and competently executing the required professional services.

Let me illustrate through personal experience. Just ten years ago, the Fall of 1941, preparedness for war was in the making. Construction for Army and Navy was being programmed. Civilian construction was getting thin, and the time and events made it appropriate to consider the type of organization which

might be put together to best serve the requirements of government. So the following types of firms were called into conference on the subject:

First — a general practitioner.

Second — a firm of industrial architects and engineers.

Third — a firm of mechanical engineers with general practice including power house work.

Fourth — a firm of civil engineers skilled in structural and earth work.

Later on — a firm experienced in the profession of hydraulic engineering — water front construction were added.

The firms selected were chosen not on account of the size of organization, for I doubt if any of the firms employed a dozen men each, but for their professional standing, their reputation for integrity, and particularly their proven ability to collaborate with other architects and engineers.

This organization was a partnership — a partnership of firms and individuals. The legal requirements were complied with and a substantial bank account was opened. A brochure was prepared for presentation to the armed services. This brochure set forth the education and experience background of the principals. It gave an organizational chart setting forth the names of the various department heads with their assisting architects, engineers and draftsmen. The brochure illustrated by photographs and description, the principal works of each firm.

These brochures were presented to every department of government which was involved in war time construction.

The result was contracts with Army and Navy, and later with the Atomic Energy Commission and Veterans Administration. The contracts included cantonment camps, an ammunition plant, three air field installations and a long series of Navy contracts extending from Indiana to the islands of the Pacific and Alaska. When World War II was over, contracts were made with the Defense Plant Corporation for appraisal work and something like 50 contracts of this kind were completed. Later, work for the Atomic Energy Commission was executed, two large hospitals were designed for the Veterans Administration, and one power house and generating plant costing several millions was designed.

This firm has been in operation for ten years, and while there have been some changes in personnel, the basic organization exists today ready to serve our country when called upon.

The whole answer to the problem is organization, administration of that organization, and the ability of its members to collaborate with the others. Architects are by nature, individualists, but in an effort of the type of I am trying to describe, individualism is entirely out of place and must be subordinated to the administration of organization.

It should be noted that, speaking in general terms, the work for Architects and engineers is not primarily design but rather the execution into working documents from schematics which are the result of advance planning by the Armed Services. The basic planning, or master planning, is generally done by the Armed Services in advance of Congressional approval and appropriation. When appropriations have been made and allocations given to the various branches of the Armed Services, then orders are issued



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for the execution of the drawings. In some instances the Bureaus of the Services can produce the drawings but in time of emergency, such as the present, the great bulk of that work must be handled by the independent Architects and engineers, sometimes working in collaboration with contractors, other times working as practitioners.

The work must of necessity, be done at top speed, and time allocated for the production of working documents to cut to the absolute limit by the services.

From the standpoint of the individual Architect and engineer, perhaps this work may not seem desirable; an account of its complications, the speed involved, and the rather tiresome negotiations consummate a contract.

Here the element of patriotic duty enters the picture, and the question of degree or amount of duty must be settled by the individual as his conscience or financial position may dictate.

In anticipation of possible emergency when the entire building industry will be absorbed in the defense effort, the Officers of the Institute have been told by officials of the Department of Defense that they would look with favor on the joining together of small firms to form organizations capable of handling large contracts.

However, a deep obligation must accompany this — and that obligation is to serve well and faithfully, to give to the defense effort every skill and ability possessed by the profession, to administer the work in a business like and efficient manner, to the end that our country will be well served and our profession honored by those who have served it.

Perhaps what I have said is confusing to you. If so, it reminds me of the confusion of the Vice President of The Institute a few days ago. While he was away from his office, his secretary took a call from Mr. Brown, with a request that the V.P. call him. Upon receiving this information and not knowing Mr. Brown, Ken Weschmeyer called Mr. Brown and was informed that it was the Internal Revenue office, and that Mr. Brown would presently answer the phone. Ken Wischmeyer had a very bad few moments in which his mind was in utmost confusion, searching his conscience . . . when Mr. Brown answered the phone and stated that he was chairman of the Church Building Committee — and would Mr. Wischmeyer please call on him in reference to being the architect.

And so your confusion may gradually disappear when you calmly think over the possibilities of service which I have tried to bring out, and the way those possibilities were solved by the ten year experience of one Chicago organization.

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## ADDRESS OF W. H. TUSLER, REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NORTH CENTRAL STATES, BEFORE WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION, MILWAUKEE, OCT. 24

It is a pleasure for me to be with you tonight, and I regret that it was impossible for me to be with you last winter in response to your kind invitation.

I want to give you tonight some of the information discussed at our recent A.I.A. board meeting at Portland, Oregon, with additional information that I acquired before and since the meeting.

Two questions are foremost in your minds: first, what will happen to our business next year; and, second, what is the A.I.A. doing about it. I will not attempt to predict the future, but will give you some of the facts as given to me for you to draw your own conclusions.

About the middle of August a meeting was arranged in Washington by the Joint AGC-AIA Committee of the Minnesota Association of Architects. At this meeting there were from the twin cities a labor leader, a contractor, secretary of the AGC, and myself; from Washington, Senators Thye and Humphrey, Messrs. Wilson, Fleishman, and McBrion who is Vice-president and supply manager of the Munitions Board; Henderson, secretary of the Senate Small Business Committee, and Senator Humphrey's secretary. We sat around a table for two hours discussing the scarcity of critical materials and the possibility of increasing the allotments for construction industry in '51 and '52.

Information was given to us at that meeting that

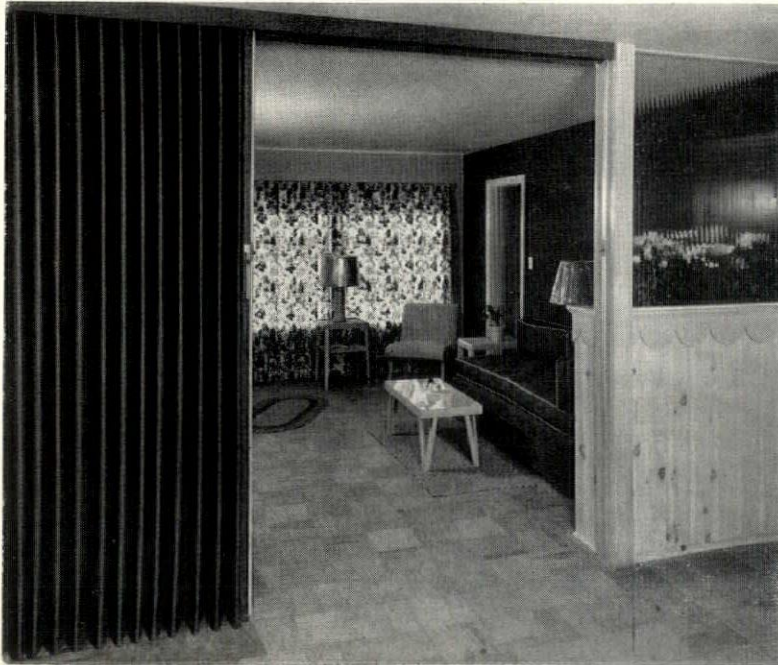
if the needs of the military were met 100%, there would be no critical materials for the construction industry until after June 1952, and that normal construction with a normal flow of materials would not return until the middle or latter part of 1953. We were told that any critical materials available would go to the military first, second to the increase of production facilities for critical materials, third for public buildings such as schools and hospitals, and lastly commercial structures.

We later had information from the Office of Education that in the fourth quarter of 1951 there were 3,260 applications for allotments. Of these 1,514 were granted, of which 86 structures were already under way, 1,146 having been rejected.

Manly Fleishman is quoted as saying that preference would be given to the elementary schools in defense areas, replacement of condemned structures, and completion of projects under way. For hospitals, preference would be given to projects that were under way, but no substantial amounts of critical materials would be allotted for new construction. Mr. Fleishman also recommended the use of concrete construction because of the lesser amount of steel required. In the fourth quarter, of the steel tonnage asked, industrial buildings received 26%; commercial buildings 11%. In the fourth quarter there was not enough steel to make allocations for jobs started regardless of new

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allocations and the shortage of steel will be as drastic in the first quarter.

Senator Humphrey was quoted as saying that of the first quarter requests for churches, 5% had been granted and 95% rejected.

The National Production Authority allocated 21,000,000 tons of steel for the fourth quarter of 1951 for all purposes. Of this 3,300,000 tons, or 15%, was for automobiles, 100,000 tons or one-half of 1%, was for school construction. If 1% of the national steel production were allotted each quarter for schools, it would enable America to meet its educational plant needs.

Kenneth Wischmeyer, first Vice-President of The American Institute of Architects, at a talk given before the Chamber of Commerce in Portland, Oregon, at the time of the A.I.A. directors' meeting, stated that it was estimated that 43% of all construction in the United States in 1952 would be for military purposes and that the architectural work for this construction would be done by 5% of the architects of the country. This means that work will be allocated to the major firms, which will make it extremely difficult for small firms to maintain their identity.

You will admit that The Institute cannot remedy these matters by passing resolutions or even by appointing committees. There was considerable discussion at the directors' meeting about this discouraging outlook and a review of what has been done and what was planned for the future.

On June 24, 1951, a meeting was called in Washington by President Glenn Stanton to discuss and arrive at a method of selection of Architects in connection with the Air Force Master Plan, and to distribute the work among a greater number of Architects, and to prevent competition among architects on the basis of fees for the procurement of the work. Present at this meeting were General Meyers, Colonel Adams, President Glenn Stanton, Past-President Ralph Walker, and others of The Institute.

On July 10 a letter was written to Ralph Walker by General Meyers in which he stated: "You may

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The Memo from The Octagon of September 24, mentioned letters written by Glenn Stanton to the Secretaries of Defense, Army, Navy, and Air Force, proposing a far greater spread of work under the forthcoming military construction program than has previously been the case. In the Memo of October 28, the reply as noted was not too favorable. The Secretary of the Army stated they were desirous of employing Architects near the projects to obtain advantage of their experience with local conditions. They were in favor of employing a pool of smaller Architects only if they have the administrative experience necessary to direct a project. This does not sound too encouraging.

The Board approved a survey of school buildings to determine the amount of critical materials required by five different types on a square foot and a cubic foot basis. This survey was requested by the United States Office of Education. A financial advance was made by the Board to the School Committee for this purpose and we understand that this survey is now under way. Architects were asked to submit plans which will be used for this committee's analyzation, and some forty-five plans have been received.

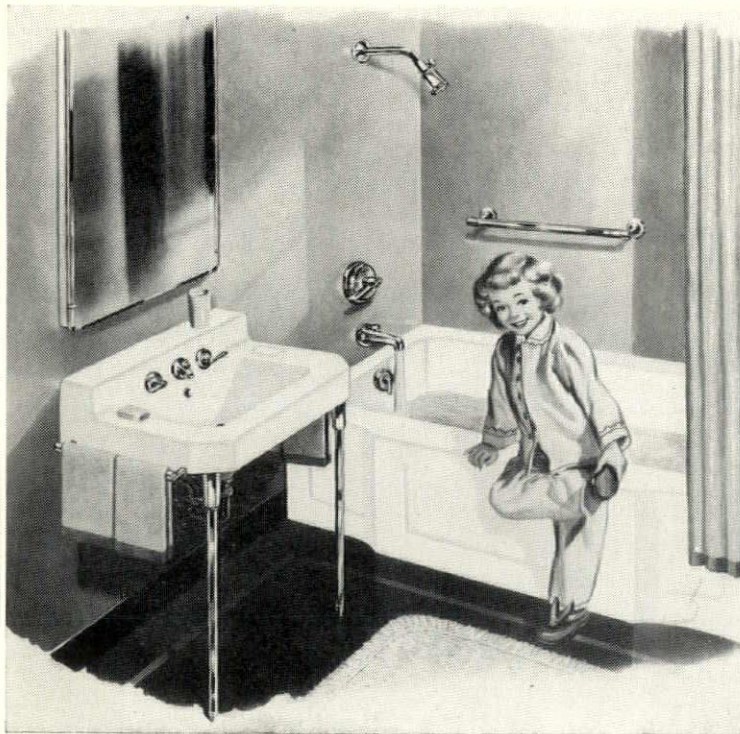
Negotiations have been carried on through the Executive Committee of the Fees Committee, under the chairmanship of Harry Prince, with the representative of the Public Housing Administration with regard to fees paid to Architects. As I understand, the Public Housing Administration has taken this matter under advisement, but no results have been announced as yet.

President Stanton and Executive Director Edmund R. Purves reported on their negotiations with the Department of Defense concerning professional fees. These discussions had the close cooperation of the National Society of Professional Engineers and the American Society of Civil Engineers. The three groups, with President Stanton as chairman for the delegation, met with the Defense Department officials on Monday, July 16, and reviewed the profession's objections to the current practice of awarding contractors on a cost-plus-10% basis, with the cost being subject to arbitrary review. Since this meeting, the only word received from the Defense Department is that the subject is being considered by the Munitions Board.

On September 11 a joint communication from the three societies was addressed to the Chairman of the Munitions Board, offering cooperation in solving any problem which may arise. Nothing further has been heard on this matter.

On October 15 and 16 there was a round table discussion in Washington to formulate proposals for a more workable control of priorities and allocations. This meeting was composed of engineers, mortgage bankers, home builders, and representatives of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and was described in more detail in the Memo of October 8.

I regret that the situation does not look more favorable, but The Institute is trying to overcome the difficulty and hopes it is making progress. The Institute, through The Octagon, will give you whatever help it can at any time and will try to keep you informed with up-to-date news through the Memo.



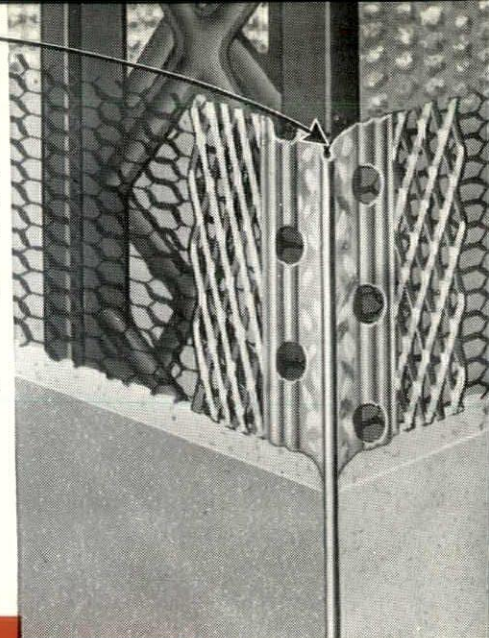
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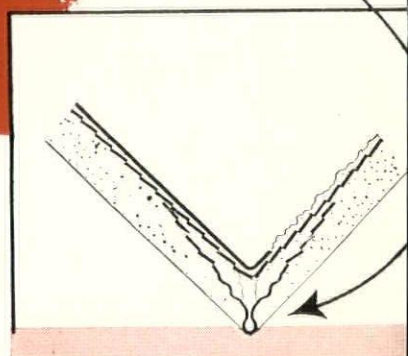
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