

p PROGRESSIVE **a** ARCHITECTURE

newsletter

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- Sheill-Howard Michigan law case, involving use of standard A.I.A. contract form, has still not been decided by higher court. All architects are urged to read Bernard Tomson's first comment on this important case in It's the Law column this month.
- Figures for first quarter indicate that home building activity, now generally called a new "boom," will outstrip anticipated figures. March starts were greatest for any month in history. Some economists are worried about rise in mortgage debt (about \$38 billion at end of last year) and possible effects if a depression should come, but fact that ratio of mortgage debt to national personal income is less than prewar relationship seems reassuring.
- 1950 census will include fact-finding about residential financing. On selected sample basis information will be sought by questions about total and distribution of outstanding mortgage debt, characteristics of mortgages, relation to indebtedness to family income, etc.
- Co-operative housing for middle-income group is not a dead issue despite recent defeat in Congress. It will undoubtedly become a political campaign factor this fall.
- Home remodeling is expected to reach \$6 million this year. Many building product manufacturers are working actively for this market.
- Construction volume in categories other than housing is also holding up remarkably well—beating last year's figures, according to available statistics. Effect later in year may be shortages in some materials, possible manpower shortages in some trades and a pressure to raise some prices.
- Twelve German city-planning trainees have begun four-month course at Dept. of City and Regional Planning of U. of North Carolina. This is part of State Dept.'s reorientation program.
- Building Research Advisory Board announces that Proceedings of its recent conference on Weather and the Building Industry can be bought for \$3.50 a copy, less in quantities. Information is most useful.
- Prefabricated Home Manufacturers Institute announces that 35,000 prefab homes were sold last year and that about 50,000 will be marketed in 1950. Meantime Macy's in New York is selling a Norwegian "streamlined log cabin" with some success.
- Institute of Design, Illinois Tech, announces an intensified six-week Foundation Course, beginning June 26, as preparation for advanced study in architecture, industrial design, and allied arts.

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