

Housing Discussed By Architects

Expansion of building activity forecast. Robert D. Kohn proposes a vertical union

Promotion of rehousing and the expansion of building activity were foremost subjects of discussion at the 71st convention of the American Institute of Architects and the semi-annual meeting of the Producers' Council, an affiliated organization of manufacturers, held in Washington Sept. 25-28. Support and extension of a subsidized housing program was advocated in resolutions adopted by the architects. Steady growth of building was forecast, and several speakers emphasized particularly the rising trend in private construction as central feature of recovery.

Reporting to the architects on housing, a committee headed by Walter R. McCornack said that a 50-year program of building 10,000,000 new homes is needed to provide decent housing in the United States. It charged that costs have been raised by lack of improvement in distribution methods, suppression of patents, failure to liquidate obsolete plants, and related causes. Resolutions on housing adopted by the convention condemned practices that raise labor and material costs.

A forecast of increased building activity was made by the committee on industrial relations. "The most impressive crescendo in the construction industry should occur in the field of private enterprise," the report stated. A bull market might "stimulate the erection of large-scale housing, industrial

and residential construction, alterations and remodeling." However, some unfavorable influences of war conditions were suggested by A. C. Holden, especially the rise of interest rates.

Vertical union proposed

A vertical building union was suggested by Robert D. Kohn in a resolution adopted by the convention:

Resolved, That it is desirable for the committee on housing not only of the Institute but of the chapters to study the process of building to see whether some other type of relationship not only of labor with labor but of the architects with labor (because we are all part of the same process) may be found which will consider the whole procedure of building as one process in which many contribute rather than as a series of separate contributions to a large whole.

Edwin Bergstrom, Los Angeles, was elected president, succeeding Charles D. Maginnis, of Boston. Walter R. McCornack, dean of the school of architecture of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was elected vice-president of the Institute.

Housing was discussed before the Producers' Council in an interesting address by Sir Raymond Unwin, London, England. After citing figures and experiences on low-income housing in Great Britain he pointed to the fact that current housing in the United States is beyond the reach of two-thirds of the population.

An active building extension program has been initiated by the Producers' Council under the general chairmanship of R. G. Creviston, Crane Co., with R. T. Tree, Carrier Corp., chairman of the industrial section, and H. M. Shackelford, Johns-Manville Corp., chairman of the domestic section.

Changes in Building Code Proposed at Winston-Salem

A proposed amendment to the municipal building code now before the board of aldermen at Winston-Salem, N. C., would require that heating and mechanical ventilating systems be installed to conform with "the requirements of good practice" as outlined by the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

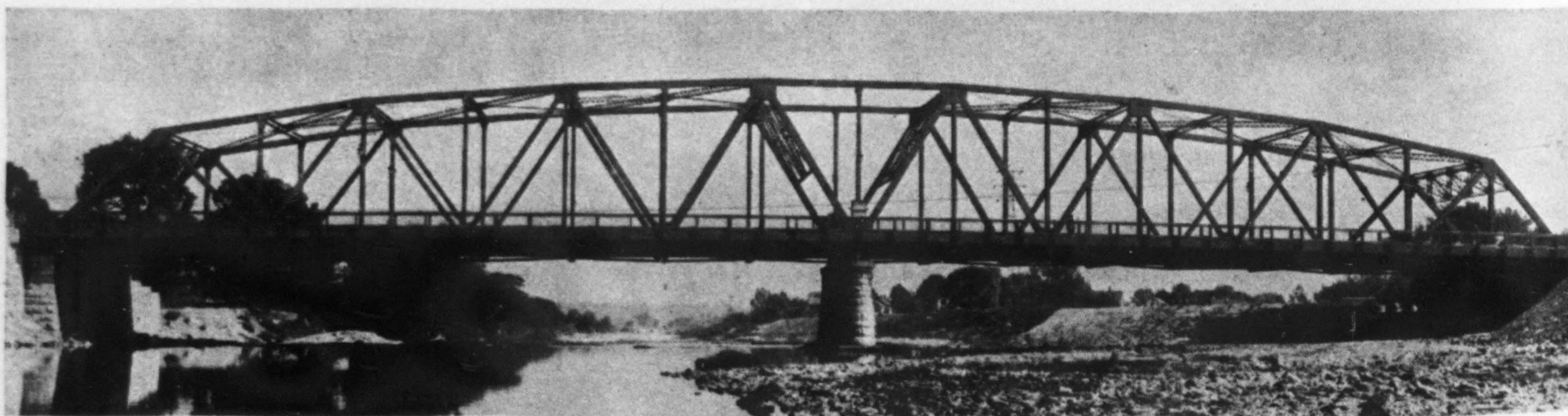
The ordinance would apply specifically to all oil-burning and inflammable-liquid burning systems, warm air heating units and air conditioning and ventilating equipment. Special permits for the installation of heating and ventilating equipment would be required, tanks with a capacity of 60 gal. or more of inflammable liquids would have to be approved by the Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., and all rules of the National Board of Fire Underwriters would be incorporated in the ordinance.

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Buffalo Starts \$9,000,000 Sewer Construction Program

The Buffalo, N. Y., Sewer Authority on Sept. 25, by approving commitments of approximately \$3,000,000, took the first step toward launching a \$9,000,000 storm relief sewer construction program. By Dec. 15 the engineering division will have plans ready for projects totaling \$5,200,000, according to Harold Epstein, general manager of the authority.

The total expenditure will be spent over a 3-year period at the rate of \$3,000,000 annually.



NEW BRIDGE REPLACES MASSACHUSETTS SPAN BUILT IN 1880

TO REPLACE an old iron bridge constructed in 1880, a new bridge, a continuous structure with two spans each 185 ft., has been built at Westfield, Mass., on College Highway. It provides a roadway width of 40 ft. with two 6-ft. sidewalks outside the trusses, most of the main truss members being of silicon steel. The old bridge was moved 53 ft. sideways and supported

at each end on new pile bents to serve as a temporary bridge during construction. The old abutments were used as retaining walls, new concrete piers being built in front of each of the abutments to carry the outer ends of the bridge.

Total cost of the work was \$224,000, PWA contributing 45 per cent, with the remainder provided by the State

of Massachusetts, Hampden County and the City of Westfield. It was built under the authority of the City of Westfield. Oren E. Parks, superintendent. Fay, Spofford & Thorndike were the designing and supervising engineers and Daniel O'Connell's Sons, Inc., Holyoke, Mass., was the general contractor. The steel structure was furnished and erected by the Bethlehem Steel Co.