

Congress studies failure to award Currier job

Decision as to what to do about awarding the contract for 300 defense houses in Wayne, Mich.—whether to risk upsetting the construction labor stabilization agreement by giving the award to the CIO-Organized Currier Lumber Co. (*ENR*, Oct. 9, p. 473) or to accept a bid some 50 percent higher than his—is being held up while Congress investigates the matter. Mr. Currier and his union, the Construction Workers Organizing Committee, were able to obtain a great deal of publicity for their grievance, and the Truman Committee is hearing testimony on the controversy.

To date the hearings have not developed anything which substantially modifies the situation as it appeared last week. As we go to press, Sidney Hillman, originator of the stabilization agreement, has not yet testified, but it is clear that the issue is the principle of open competitive bidding versus a policy aimed to ensure labor peace throughout defense construction.

Meanwhile, Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, whose opinion had been asked by Federal Works Administrator Carmody, lined himself up in general in support of Mr. Currier. He said Administrator Carmody could not legally award the contract to the second bidder because of the labor policy of the contractor who bid low. Moreover, he said, if the contract is awarded and AFL unions in Michigan carry out their reported threat to go out on strike in protest he would be prepared to prosecute them under the antitrust laws. Presumably, under the Lanham Act, however, Mr. Carmody could legally reject all bids and negotiate a new contract without competitive bidding.

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Many reserve engineers now active with Navy

At the present time there are about 650 Civil Engineer Corps Reserve Officers on active duty with the U. S. Navy. The normal Civil Engineer Corps strength, as measured by the years preceding the present national emergency, was 126 to 133 men. Thus, there are now five reserve officers on duty for every regular officer.

Furthermore, the number of officers will probably continue to increase as commissions are conferred upon selected applicants. Prior to the emergency officers in the Corps were usually graduates of the U. S. Naval Academy who had taken post-graduate work in civil engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute or civil engineering graduates of recognized colleges who had received



Wide World Photo

Damage to Soo bridge less than anticipated

Damage to the north leaf of the double-leaf bascule bridge of the Duluth South Shore & Atlantic R.R. at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., that fell into the canal on Oct. 7 (*ENR* Oct. 9, p. 475) was much less than anticipated at the time of the collapse. After the locomotive and cars had been removed from the span it was found possible to free the two spans by minor cutting of the members shown fouled in the above view. The south leaf was fully

opened at 9:45 p.m. on Oct. 8 and the north leaf at 10:25 p.m. the same night, under their own power, thus clearing the south channel of the canal for navigation. The last submerged railway equipment and all floating working equipment was removed in the early afternoon of Oct. 10, and after sweeping the north channel the canal was opened for full operation that night. The time needed for bridge repair is unknown.

commissions only after intensive competitive examinations.

Some mechanical and electrical engineers are now being commissioned in the Civil Engineer Corps, which handles a highly diversified program encompassing all the fields of engineering.

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Charles H. Paul dies; Dayton, Ohio, consultant

Charles H. Paul, civil engineering consultant of Dayton, Ohio, and a former chief engineer of the Miami Conservancy District, died Oct. 7 in Dayton, Ohio. He was in charge of construction of Arrowrock dam from 1911 to 1915. During recent years Mr. Paul had practiced as consultant for numerous dam projects, including Grand Coulee, Shasta, several of the Tennessee Valley Authority dams, and other well known projects.

Following work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr. Paul worked with the Massachusetts Board of Health, Boston Metropolitan Water Board, Philadelphia bureau of filtration, followed by twelve years with the U. S. Reclamation



Charles H. Paul

Service, now the Bureau of Reclamation. From 1915 to 1924 he was with the Miami (Ohio) Conservancy District as construction, assistant chief, and chief engineer. He left that organization in 1924 to enter private consulting practice in Dayton, Ohio. He served for four years on the Dayton City Commission.