OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



The Advisory Committee on Fine Arts
The Public Works Set-up
Code for Architects—Progress Report
Meeting of the Executive Committee
Items of Interest

Volume 5

DECEMBER 1933 Number 12

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The Advisory Committee on Fine Arts

By ALFRED H. GRANGER, F.A.I.A.

TOVEMBER 21, 1933 should become a memorable date in the minds of all Americans who are interested in the development of real culture in our country, for on that date the New Deal spread its wings to cover the field of art. The first of the artistic professions to feel that something was brewing in the heart of the Government which would aid its profession was that of Architecture. When L. W. Robert, Jr., was inducted into the office of Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in charge of public buildings things began to move. At his first interview with the President and the Secretary of The American Institute of Architects he stated that it would be the policy of his Department to draw within the circle of government employment the architectural talent scattered throughout the country by having, wherever it was possible, all government buildings planned and designed by architects in the sections of the country in which the buildings were to be erected; all designs to be approved by the Treasury Department and their construction superintended by the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury. Such an announcement by the Assistant Secretary brought great satisfaction to the architectural profession because for many years the Institute had been working hard to bring about just such a result.

But this was only the beginning, for this man Robert is a man of real vision. On the evening of the date which I have mentioned as memorable for American Art, Mr. Edward Bruce, the well known American painter, and close friend of Mr. Robert, gave a dinner at his house in Washington at which Mr. Robert was the guest of honor. The others at this dinner were Frederic A. Delano, Director of the National Planning Commission; Justice Stone of the Supreme Court; Charles Moore, Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts; Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Civil Works Administrator; Dr. Rexford Tugwell, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture; John Collier, head of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Interior Department; Henry T. Hunt, General Counsel for Federal Emergency Administration; A. B. Cammerer, Director of Public Parks and Buildings; Frank C. Walker, Chairman of the Executive Council, Treasury Department, Louis A. Simon, of the Office of the Supervising Architect, and Alfred Granger, representing The American Institute of

In order that all might at once understand why they had been invited to this dinner Mr. Bruce had

placed at every plate, in place of dinner cards, a copy of a letter which he had addressed to Mr. Robert in reply to a request from Mr. Robert asking his views as to how the Administration could be most helpful in the support and development of the Fine Arts in America. In this letter Mr. Bruce pointed out the value of art in the social and spiritual development of any country. He said -"The opportunities for this work arise in connection with (1) federal construction coming immediately under your jurisdiction; (2) in connection with the construction of state and municipal buildings financed through the P. W. A. in which movement Secretary Ickes has assured us of his hearty support; (3) in connection with the embellishment of buildings forming the Capitol group which, as I understand it, is under the immediate jurisdiction of a Committee composed of members of the Supreme Court, the Senate and the House with their own consulting architect; (4) at least a sympathetic interest and support by the Director of National Parks, Mr. A. B. Cammerer, with a view to developing a wider knowledge and interest in the scenic beauties of our National Parks through mural decorations; (5) the support of Mr. John Collier, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in connection with the development of Indian Mural Art in buildings constructed by the Commission; (6) the possibility of including a small percentage of artists in the reforestation camps who could employ at least a portion of their time in a pictorial record of the work being done at the camps, very much along the same lines as was done during the war in employing artists to record war activities, the result of which forms one of the most valuable and interesting records in connection with the war; (7) the fostering of a movement by the Art Museums of America to apply, during the period of depression, as large a percentage of their funds as possible to the support of contemporary art.'

Under these seven headings Mr. Bruce certainly covered a wide field of useful service for an advisory committee to the Treasury Department, on the Fine Arts. He then requested Mr. Robert to explain his purpose in asking for such an Advisory Committee. Mr. Robert said that for years he had wondered why, when the Government spent millions on erecting beautifully designed buildings, no thought had been given to or adequate provision made for the furnishing and decorating of said buildings and as the painters, sculptors and craftsmen had suffered probably more than any other class of citizens during the depression it

seemed to him that this is a fitting time for the Government, which is bent on relieving distress, to avail itself of the opportunity to secure the services of the best artistic talent in the country, improve and properly embellish government buildings and at the same time assist men and women in great need of help and let the artists know that their government believed in them. Mr. Hopkins, Civil Works Administrator, was next called upon. He said: "Artists have been hit just as hard by unemployment as any other kind of producing They need employment and there is need for their services. I am delighted to help bring these needs together by approving the Public Works of Art project as a Federal Civil Works project. Government and art both have a service to render to the people of the country and it is common sense to have them do it together.'

Before the dinner broke up every guest at the table was requested to express his views upon Mr. Robert's idea and all were most enthusiastic. It was decided to hold another meeting early in December to which other citizens interested in art and the directors of the more important Art Museums should be invited. Mr. Robert said he had talked with Mrs. Roosevelt just before coming to Mr. Bruce's party and she had expressed her enthusiasm for the whole idea and requested that she might be invited to attend the next meeting of the group. On December third Mr. Robert gave to the press an account of the Bruce dinner and said that, resulting from that first meeting, an Advisory Committee on Fine Arts had been appointed consisting of Charles F. Moore, Chairman; Dr. Rexford G. Tugwell; Harry L. Hopkins; Henry T. Hunt; Frederic Delano; and Edward Bruce, secretary; and that Mrs. Roosevelt and the Directors of various Art Museums had been invited to attend a luncheon meeting on December eighth at the residence of Mr. Bruce to start the project moving. At this meeting which began at 12:30 o'clock and lasted into the evening, the following were present, in addition to Mrs. Bruce, who so generously and graciously entertained her guests: Mrs. Roosevelt; Mrs. Juliana Force of the Whitney Gallery of Art in New York City; the Advisory Committee mentioned above; Francis H. Taylor, Director of the Worcester Art Museum; Homer St. Gaudens, Director of the Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh; William M. Milliken, Director of the Cleveland Art Museum; Louis La Beaume, President of the State Art Museum of St. Louis; Alfred L. Barr, Jr., Director of the New York Modern Museum of Art; Fiske Kimball, Director of the Pennsylvania Museum of Fine Arts; Ellsworth Woodward, director of the Delgrado Museum of Fine Art in New Orleans; C. Powell

Minnegerode, Director of the Corcoran Gallery; Duncan Phillips, Director of the Duncan Phillips Memorial Gallery, these last two in Washington; Dr. William Mann, Director of the National Zoological Park, who urged everybody to come to the Zoo to see his mural backgrounds; W. Carson Ryan, Jr., Director of Education in the Indian service of the Department of Interior; E. M. M. Warburg of New York; A. B. Cammerer, Director of National Parks: Forbes Watson: Olan Dows and Edward Biddle, painters, and Harrie Lindeberg, Louis A. Simon and Alfred Granger, architects. With such a gathering of talent it is easy to imagine that many and varied views were expressed but in spite of diversity of opinion the enthusiasm for and belief in the project was unani-

After luncheon Mr. Delano was asked to act as Chairman of the meeting which he did, with his usual grace, calling first upon Mrs. Roosevelt as the guest of honor. She said, in substance: I came here to listen and not to speak, but I think this plan has tremendous possibilities for awakening the interest of the people as a whole in Art, for developing artistic qualities which have not come to light in the past, and for recognizing artists who already have made their names among their fellow artists but who have had little recognition from the public at large. The Art of a country is the sign of its virility and strength.

It is not possible in the limited space available in THE OCTAGON to repeat all of the fine and inspiring things said by these men from all parts of the country. But as this great project was originated by Mr. Robert and Mr. Bruce, I think they should be quoted in part. Mr. Robert said:

"The encouragement of the Fine Arts has always been recognized as one of the functions of the Federal Government. It is obvious that provision for and encouragement should be enlarged in times of depression. The work of our artists preserves and increases our capacity for enjoyment and since the Treasury is the Department concerned with Federal buildings a movement to aid the fine arts is its particular concern. I consider it a great pleasure and privilege to encourage this movement and hope that it will promote the appreciation of art in our country. It will be the purpose of our committees to find merit wherever it exists and our search will not be dominated by any particular school or group. We realize that the encouragement of art is a vital factor in our civilization and culture and should be continuously supported in depressed as well as in other periods."

In his very able discussion Mr. Bruce said that:

"In approving the Public Works of Art project, Mr. Hopkins has recognized that the artist, like the laborer, the capitalist and the office worker, eats, drinks, has a family, and pays rent, thus contradicting the old superstition that the painter and the sculptor live in attics and exist on inspiration. As a result the American artist is now included in the 4,000,000 men to be put to work under the Civil Works program. The approximately 2,500 artists, now unemployed, are to be given employment in their own field under conditions calculated not to deflate their inspiration. This is the greatest opportunity that artists of this or any other country have ever had to show their metal. It is a call to them to make good and to prove they have something worth while to say. It is an opportunity to sell themselves to the country and I know they will answer the challenge."

As Mr. Hopkins had said that the money to em-

ploy 2,500 artists was ready and waiting, and each day of delay meant a loss to the artists of the per diem quota of the appropriation, the committee, after having listened to and enjoyed the views of every member present at this meeting, got down to work. The Public Works Administration will supply the money to pay the artists under the supervision of Secretary Robert, assisted by the Advisory Committee to the Treasury on Fine Arts. Forbes Watson was unanimously elected technical advisor and there could not have been a better choice. The headquarters of the Advisory Committee are to be in Room 168, in the Treasury Building and these quarters are now open. The work will be carried on by 16 Regional Committees throughout the country. These regional committees each under a regional chairman, who will choose his own committee, will select the artists to be employed in their respective territories and the projects to be undertaken. No applications will

(Concluded on Page 8)

The Public Works Set-Up

UCH discussion has appeared in the public press, in the architectural magazines, and in The Octagon, concerning the program of work under the Emergency Public Works Administration of the Federal Government. It is presumed that the members of the architectural profession are well informed with respect to the major features of that program as they function under the Federal, State, County and City agencies.

Many inquiries have been received at The Octagon indicating a desire for additional information, especially with reference to those sub-organizations or bureaus which are in fact the sources of funds available for public works projects under the National Industrial Recovery Act. We therefore print on the following pages a chart concerning the origin of funds and the distribution of funds which is self-explanatory. This chart is not in any way an attempt to portray the complete Government recovery organization—except in so far as it relates to the sources and distribution of funds in which members of the professions of architecture and landscape architecture are interested.

Under some of the Government agencies, particularly those of the Emergency Conservation unit and the Bureau of Public Roads, there is little opportunity for architectural service. Under most of the remaining agencies shown in this chart there is much of interest for the profession of architecture.

The funds expended under the Public Works Administration are not all of the funds which are available for projects concerning the profession of architecture. Many projects are proceeding under the regular appropriations which are supplemented by those of the Emergency Public Works Administration

As has been announced, employment of private architects under funds derived from the Public Works Administration is largely a matter of local selection. Little encouragement can be offered to the individual who seeks a commission or staff employment by writing direct to Washington.

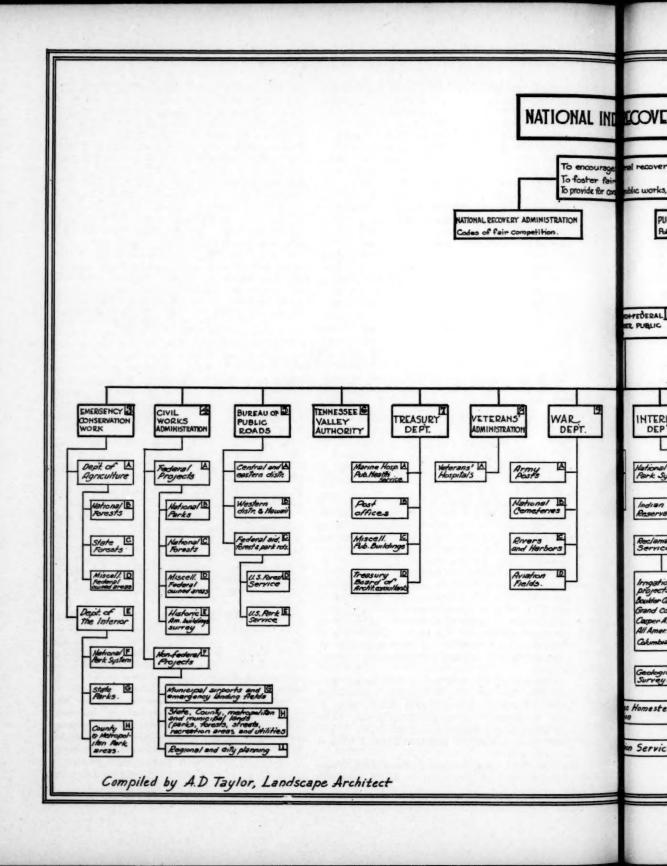
In the majority of cases, contact for that purpose should be made with state or other local representatives.

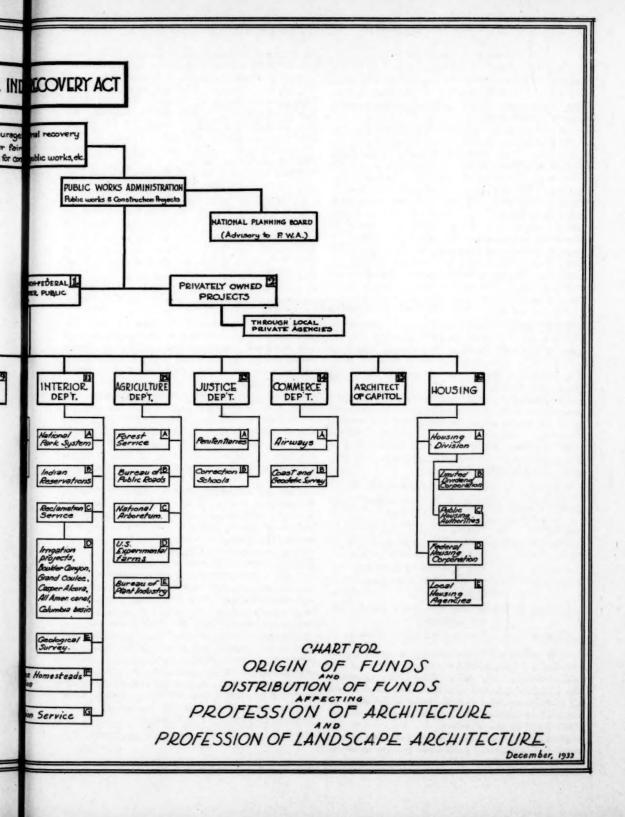
However, this does not apply in the case of the Office of the Supervising Architect. It applies practically without reservation to the Civil Works Administration. These two units are cited as examples.

Any architect who is interested should in most cases communicate with local administrative offices. If not successful in securing information, he should write direct to the organization unit having charge of the project in which he is interested, addressing that unit by the title given on the chart, at Washington, D. C.

Appreciative acknowledgment is made to Mr. A. D. Taylor, Vice-President of the American Society of Landscape Architects, who is the principal author of the chart, which was developed by him with some cooperation from the Institute.

FRANK C. BALDWIN, Secretary.





(Continued from Page 5)

be received by the central headquarters in Washington. This project in its beginnings is a relief measure for unemployment. Each artist is paid for his time and what he produces is the property of the United States.

At the meeting on December eighth, the following regional committees were appointed:

Region 2, New York—Chairman, Mrs. Juliana Force; Members—Alfred H. Barr, Jr., E. M. M. Warburg, and such others as the Chairman may desire (This privilege of enlargement is granted every Chairman); Region 1, New England—Chairman, Francis H. Taylor; Region 3, Philadelphia—Chairman, Fiske Kimball; Region 8, Pittsburgh—Chairman, Homer St. Gaudens; Region 9, Cleveland—Chairman, William M. Milliken; Region 10, Chicago—Chairman, Walter S. Brewster; Region 7, St. Louis—Chairman, Louis

La Beaume; Region 6, New Orleans—Chairman, Ellsworth Woodward; Region 5, Atlanta—Chairman, J. J. Haverty; Region 4, Washington, D. C.—Chairman, Duncan Phillips; Member—C. P. Minnegerode; Region 11, Denver—John H. Williamson; Region 12, Texas—John S. Ankeney; Region 13, Santa Fe—Jesse L. Nusbaum; Region 14, Los Angeles—Merle Armitage; Region 15, San Francisco—Walter Heil; and Region 16, Portland—Burt Brown Barker.

These committees have been alloted regions that cover the entire United States.

I said in the beginning of this report that Secretary Robert was, like our President, a man of vision. That artists throughout the country are already being put to work, heartened and inspired by the fact that their country needs them, proves that he is also a man of action, such as the President loves.

Code For Architects-Progress Report

ONCE more, The Octagon goes to press without the Architects Code. Since the last report on that code, made by Mr. Parker, Chairman of the Code Committee, in the November number, there has been but one important change in the code situation.

At the close of December, General Johnson approved the Construction Industry Code, and sent it to the White House for submission to President Rosevelt. That code consists of Chapter I—General Provisions, which will govern all divisions of the construction industry coming under the general code; and of the following:

Chapter II—General Contractors Division
Chapter III—Painting, Paperhanging and

Decorating Division
Chapter IV—Marble Contracting Division

Chapter V—Heating, Piping and Air Conditioning Contractors Division

Chapter VI—Tile Contracting Division

Chapter VII—Elevator Manufacturing Division

Chapter VIII—Roofing and Sheet Metal Contors Division

Chapter IX-Mason Contractors Division

It is quite possible that the Construction Industry Code, with the Chapters listed above, will be approved early in January. That Code, containing the Chapters approved therewith, will be published by the Construction League immediately after approval. It becomes effective thirty days after the date signed by the President.

It will be noted that chapters for the architectural and engineering professions are not included. Both are pending before the National Recovery Administration. It is hoped that the Architects Code can be agreed upon and forwarded to the White House during the month of January. The publication in one document of Chapter I of the Construction Industry Code—when approved; and of the Architects' Chapter—when approved—will make a more effective presentation than separate publication of the two chapters. Therefore, that course will be followed by the Institute. All architects will be subject to the provisions of the two chapters, which will constitute, in fact, a single code of fair competition for the architectural profession.

The one remaining major difference between the Architects' Code Committee and the Administration is with respect to provisions governing the charges of the Architect. Full information concerning this question, and suggested substitute provisions were sent to Chapter Presidents in Mr. Parker's letter of December 8, 1933. The large majority of those responding approved the proposed substitutions, or suggested that any necessary restatement or substitute provisions be decided upon by the Committee in the light of its best judgment and in negotiations with the Administration.

The last meeting of the Code Committee was held in Washington just prior to Christmas. Restated provisions affecting the Architects' charges were submitted to the Administration, and are now under consideration. It is hoped that a final agreement can be reached, and that the Architects' Code can be approved in time for publication in the January number of The Octagon.

FRANK C. BALDWIN, Secretary.

Meeting of the Executive Committee

November, 1933.

To the Membership:

In place of the customary fall meeting of the Board of Directors, a special meeting of the Executive Committee was held at the Octagon in November. This substitution saved money, and effectively disposed of much Institute business which had accumulated since the meeting of the Board of Directors in the spring.

Various resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee are epitomized in the following paragraphs, which show the action on those matters appropriate for publication at this time. The complete minutes record a total of 146 items of business, with 125 resolutions adopted. These, of course, include items of routine nature, such as elections, resignations, reinstatements, and other status cases, which under the basic law of the Institute must be acted upon by the Board or Executive Committee.

It is obvious that the brief record here printed must omit many items and resolutions, the subjectmatter of which is not appropriate for publication at this time or is of a strictly routine nature. Any member of the Institute may obtain complete information concerning action on any subject considered by the Executive Committee, by addressing a request to the Secretary. The Minutes of each meeting of the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee are open at The Octagon to all members.

In anticipation of favorable action by the Convention on the Executive Committee's recommendation that the dues be substantially reduced in 1934, the budget for the year 1934, previously adopted by the Board, was scaled down drastically—to meet the prospective reduced income of the Institute in 1934.

Information concerning the proposed reduction of dues, the proposed reduction of the initiation fee, the proposed readjustment of outstanding accounts, plans for the Convention, the Architects' Code, and other matters of special importance will be found in the synopsis which follows.

FRANK C. BALDWIN, Secretary.

Time and Place of Meeting

November 18, 19, 20, and 21, 1933, at The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

Members Present

The President, Ernest John Russell; the First Vice-President, Charles D. Maginnis; the Second Vice-President, Horace W. Peaslee; the Secretary, Frank C. Baldwin; the Treasurer, Edwin Bergstrom; the Director of the Western Mountain Division, Raymond J. Ashton (except on November 18); and the Executive Secretary, E. C. Kemper.

Past-President Kohn met with the Committee at one session.

Committees-Progress Reports

The progress reports of the standing and special committees—37 in all—were read and discussed in order. As those reports were in tentative form they were received, commented upon, and returned to the respective Committee Chairmen for development into the final reports to be submitted to the Board at its meeting prior to the Convention.

Producers' Council-Annual Report

This report was accepted, with assurance of the continued cooperation of the Institute and with

appreciation of the work which the Council has carried on so successfully under the adverse conditions of the past year.

Structural Service Department-Continuation

It was not possible under the reduced budget to provide for the Structural Service Department in 1934, except on a nominal basis. The continuation of the Department was left in the hands of officers, in consultation with N. Max Dunning, Chairman of the Structural Service Committee—until the May meeting of the Board. This action prevents the elimination of the Structural Service Department from the organization of the Institute, at least until May.

The appropriation of the Department was reduced to \$135 for the year 1934.

Architectural Profession-Relief Under Civil Works Administration

A conference was held between the Executive Committee; Dr. Leicester B. Holland, Chairman of the Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings; Edward W. Donn, Jr., Institute Member of the Washington, D. C., Chapter; and Charles E. Peterson, Architect, connected with the National Park Service, with respect to relief employment under the Civil Works Administration for a substantial number of the architectural pro-

fession, in a program for recording historic buildings of the earlier periods.

The program was approved and endorsed by the Executive Committee. Its inclusion in the Civil Works program was urged in a letter to Secretary Ickes, signed by all of the Officers of the Institute. (See page 8, the November Octagon.)

Demonstration Highway Sections

An opportunity for public service and for immediate Chapter action is found in the action of the Executive Committee in adopting a resolution proposed by Mr. Peaslee. The resolution is quoted in full, and all Chapters are urged to encourage local application of the principles set forth therein:

Whereas, The scenic highways of the nation have been and are being defaced by the erection of badly designed structures, frequently with offensive display features dominating and injurious to the regions which they should serve: and

whould serve; and

Whereas, The establishment of unsanitary refreshment and market stands and public conveniences, distracting advertising signs at dangerous points, and unsupervised tourist camps, involves serious factors of public health, public safety, and public morals; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of The American Institute of Architects urges that all Federal and State agencies concerned give special attention to the fundamental problems involved, and to the correction of attendant evils;

Resolved, That in connection with relief measures now being undertaken by the Civil Works Administration, funds be allocated for the establishment of demonstration highway sections with roadside structures of various types suitable for commercial adaptation.

The Architects' Code

The Chairman of the Code Committee, William Stanley Parker, met with the Executive Committee and reported in detail. (See page 7, the November Octagon.)

The appointment of the Code Committee; the instructions to it, issued by President Russell; and the Code then pending before the National Recovery Administration were approved.

Mr. Parker's report was accepted, and the Executive Committee expressed to him and to the other members of the Code Committee its great appreciation of their services to the architectural profession in this matter.

Construction Industry Code

Acting for Stephen F. Voorhees, Chairman of the Construction Industry Code Committee, Mr. Parker reported on that code.

Resolutions were adopted endorsing the code as submitted to the National Recovery Administration, and urging its early approval.

Relations With Architectural Draftsmen

The Chairman of the Committee on Relations with Architectural Draftsmen, Ralph T. Walker, met with the Committee and submitted written and verbal reports.

Extended consideration was given to these, and to the recommendations offered. It was agreed that every effort should be made to develop a final report in time for the meeting of the Board preceding the Convention.

Meanwhile, the Executive Committee urges the Chapters of the Institute and State Associations to cooperate fully with the Committee on Relations with Architectural Draftsmen. It authorized the Committee to call upon the Chapters and State Societies for information and recommendations in connection with its work.

Public Works-Under Architects' Gode

Consideration was given to the importance of securing recognition of the provisions of the Architects' Code, if and when approved, by Federal, State, and other public agencies engaged in the financing and/or the erection of public buildings. The resolution adopted is quoted in full, as follows:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of The American Institute of Architects urges upon all Federal, State, and Municipal agencies responsible for the financing and/or the construction of public buildings, housing projects, and general building construction, the duty of recognizing the provisions of the Code of Fair Competition for Architects, when approved by the President, and requests, in view of the disastrous conditions now facing architects and architectural draftsmen, that the provisions of the Architects' Code be observed in all respects.

Standard Contract and Other Documents— Proposed Revisions

It was directed that upon approval of the Architects' Code the contract and ethical documents of the Institute be referred to appropriate Institute committees for comparison with the Architects' Code, for consultation with the Architects' Code Authority, and for the submission of any necessary revisions to the Board of Directors.

Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer submitted a report, and revisions of the budget for the year 1934. From the report it appeared that the expenses for the year 1933 would be kept within the income—in spite of the severe reduction in income in 1933.

This result, which is consistent with results attained in 1931 and 1932, means that the Institute has been maintained in sound financial condition during the current year—largely as a result of drastic cuts in operating expenses made at previous

meetings of the Board and of the Executive Committee. A detailed report on finances will be made by the Treasurer to the next convention.

Visit of President to Western Chapters

Strong recommendations by Director Raymond J. Ashton, and by former Director M. H. Furbringer, encouraged the Executive Committee to insist that the President of the Institute make a visit to the Chapters in the west and far west during the early months of the coming year. This was tentatively agreed to by Mr. Russell, subject to developments in Washington.

Membership Statistics

The Secretary submitted a memorandum showing the membership statistics of the Institute, actual and estimated for the twelve months ending December 31, 1933. From this data it appeared that the net loss in active members to December 31, 1933, will be 54 and in Juniors, 44.

Dues of the Institute

The Treasurer reviewed the entire situation with respect to outstanding dues, and gave full information concerning delinquent accounts and his correspondence with members and chapters relative thereto. There was extended discussion. Resolutions were adopted which will recommend to the Convention that the Board be given power to reduce the dues for 1934 to \$15; to make adjustments of outstanding accounts; to reduce the initiation fee; and to otherwise meet the emergency conditions which confront the membership. Every member received with his statement of January 1, 1934, a letter of explanation from President Russell. Therefore, the details are not repeated here.

Public Works-Report of the Committee

The progress report of the Committee on Public Works, by Louis LaBeaume, the Chairman, was considered, accepted, and especially commended by the Executive Committee.

Public Works-Expedition

The President referred to a movement initiated by members of Congress and various groups in the building industry for the purpose of expediting the allocation of loans and grants by the Public Works Administration to projects in the field of building construction. He said that a helpful conference was held between the Administrator, Mr. Ickes, members of Congress, and representatives of the leading organizations in the building construction field. The case of the building industry was laid before the Administrator and he was urged to

take immediate action in getting projects under way. The Institute was represented at the conference by A. B. Trowbridge, President of the Washington, D. C., Chapter.

Jury of Fellows-Meeting in 1934

A letter was read from Paul A. Davis, III, Chairman of the Jury of Fellows, with regard to the desirability of holding a meeting of the Jury in 1934, and prior to the Convention. The Executive Committee regretted that it was not possible to make an appropriation for this meeting and requested the Secretary to correspond with the Chairman concerning the possibility of holding a meeting immediately in advance of the Convention.

Convention of 1934

Full information concerning Convention arrangements and program will appear each month in THE OCTAGON, beginning with the January number. The following essentials are noted:

The sixty-sixth Convention will be held in Washington, D. C., on May 16, 17, and 18, 1934.

The general program will be arranged by the Officers and the Convention Committee.

The Gold Medal awarded to Ragnar Ostberg will be presented with appropriate ceremony to Mr. Ostberg or a designated representative.

The customary dinner will conclude the Convention.

No Convention taxes will be assessed. Therefore, the familiar procedure of "Convention Taxes and Refunds" will not be in operation in 1934.

Provision will be made for the sending of proxies by chapters not in a position to send delegates. Full information on this will be transmitted direct to chapter officers.

Dissolution of the Press of the A. I. A.

At a special meeting of the stockholders of the Press, held on November 20, 1933, the Press of The American Institute of Architects was dissolved, effective as of December 31, 1933.

This action was taken because the accounts of the Press have been closed on the books of the Institute in so far as outstanding bonds are concerned; and in order to save the payment of taxes and overhead.

Initiation Ceremony

Encouragement and endorsement were given to the proposed development of a standard form of initiation ceremony. A. H. Albertson, former Vice-President and Director, was appointed a committee of one to study the matter, to formulate a draft, and to report to the Board. The Washington State, Georgia and other Chapters have shown special interest.

Gifts to the Institute

The Secretary reported many gifts to the Institute, including another library and gifts of money for special purposes. All gifts will be reported in full to the Convention.

Executive Committee-Omission of Meeting

As a measure of economy, the customary spring meeting of the Executive Committee, usually held in February or early March, was omitted for 1934.

Board and Executive Committee-Pre-Convention Meetings

These meetings will precede the Convention. The Executive Committee meeting probably will begin on May 8, for a three-day session; and the Board meeting on May 11, for a four-day session. Definite announcement concerning this will be made later.

Status Cases

A large number of items involving elections, resignations, reinstatements, and retirements were acted upon.

Special consideration was given to a number of resignations submitted on account of financial difficulties. It was directed that these resignations be put over until the May meeting of the Board, in the hope that improving conditions and the proposed plan for the readjustment of dues would permit reconsideration in many instances.

Items of Interest

A Request for Journals.

Harry F. Cunningham, A.I.A., Dean of the Department of Architecture, The University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, is anxious to complete his file of The Journal of the A. I. A. He would like to get the issues for 1921—February, May, August, September, October, November; and April, 1922. Mr. Cunningham would be glad to pay for these publications, or to trade excellent architectural books for them. Any architects who may have these copies of the Journal, and would be willing to let Mr. Cunningham have them, should write to him at the address given above.

From the Report of Dean Boring.

William A. Boring, Dean of the School of Architecture for Columbia University, in his report for the academic year ending June 30, 1933, states:

"The education of architects for their part in the world's work, changing so rapidly now in detail and point of view, is the task before the School of Architecture. * *

"Old principles require new and modern expression, now that efficiency and economy are ruling ideas in planning. The guidance of ideals in modern building must be in the hands of men of both wisdom and culture. The public taste will, in the end, find reasonableness satisfying. Greatness is not necessarily expressed in Gargantuan size, nor is huge tonnage of more import than good form and proportion. Good taste in building requires that moderation which makes it conform to the needs of human life—to an invitation to enter and enjoy. Technical dexterity is a power in invention; it is a process, not an end; but it is highly developed, and more attractive to the junior architect than sound philosophy and excellence in form. The science of construction is now so de-

veloped that almost any size or height required in a structure may be realized. Dimensions are restricted only by function and economy, but to mold these forms into beauty requires the guiding hand of the architect."

Housing in Detroit.

Robert D. Kohn, Director of the Housing Division, P. W. A., and Harold Hynds of his staff, investigated Detroit's Housing Project in November. They made an inspection accompanied by Walter H. Blucher, Secretary of the City Plan Commission, and G. Frank Cordner, Consulting Architect to the Commission. They agreed that Detroit could furnish a splendid "Before and After" demonstration and that the city might apply for additional loans to include Section 2 of the four-section project. At the office of the Commission, Mr. Kohn addressed the committee organizing the Michigan Planning and Housing Conference. He lauded the movement of the Conference, saying the country is awakening to the necessity of adequately dealing with this important subject. He spoke of the difficulty encountered by the Administrator of Public Works in coping with the situation created by the many applications received at the Department, and of the conditions which he had observed throughout the country in his recent tour of inspection.

Messrs. Kohn, Hynds, Blucher, and Cordner called on the Acting Mayor. Mr. Kohn told him that he would recommend to the P. W. A. Cabinet Committee that Detroit be allocated \$6,000,000 as soon as the city had met the necessities which he outlined. The Mayor said that Mr. Kohn's statement was most encouraging news and gave assurance that the city would cooperate.—(Weekly Bulletin, Michigan Society of Architects.)