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- Total construction for first 25 weeks of 1950 is \$5 1/3 billion, 43% above last year's similar period. Public works is up 19%, private construction up 70%, according to Engineering News Record figures.
- Bookings of fabricated structural steel for the first five months of the year were 762,000 tons, 26% greater than same period in '49. However, shipments dropped 11%. Thus backlog of orders booked for future fabrication has greatly increased.
- Some realtors, builders, and even some building owners, are becoming alarmed about the "boom" proportions of commercial building activity in many parts of the country. Lee Thompson Smith, president of Real Estate Board of N.Y., for instance, speaking to Natl. Assn. of Building Owners and Managers, said that today's situation "has all the earmarks of being bolder and lustier than the notorious expansion that began around 1925."
- President Truman has revised membership of Federal Fine Arts Commission. Gilmore Clark, landscape architect, William D. Aldrich and L. Andrew Reinhard, architects, and Lee Lawrie, sculptor, are replaced as members by Dean Joseph Hudnut of Harvard, Pietro Belluschi of Portland, Ore., and Edward F. Neild, Sr., of Shreveport, La., architects, and Felix W. de Weldon, sculptor.
- One of the dropped members is consoled by the fact that his firm, Reinhard, Hofmeister & Walquist, is designing a 32-story addition to the Chrysler Building in New York, to go east of the present structure.
- Alcoa anti-trust case has finally been settled; Alcoa will not be required to sell some plants, as requested by Dept. of Justice; company's patent structure and royalty terms were upheld; however, court retains jurisdiction over case for five years, in case competition (primarily Reynolds and Kaiser) becomes "feeble, uncertain or ineffective."
- Another anti-trust question was left somewhat unsettled when President Truman vetoed S-1008, a bill which would have permitted manufacturers to absorb freight costs and quote identical delivered prices, if done without collusion. This means that recent FTC rulings against freight-absorption practices in several cases still stand, and many manufacturers remain confused.
- Personalities: George Fred Keck, Chicago architect, has been given honorary degree of Doctor of Fine Arts by Lawrence College. Hugo Leipziger-Pearce, professor of architecture at U. of Texas, is abroad for three months on a special assignment from the Dept. of State, as educational and planning and housing consultant. William Hennessey has left position as architectural editor of American Home. Sigfried Giedion has sailed for home (Switzerland) after lecture assignment at M.I.T. Alfred Roth, his guest assignment at Washington U. in St. Louis completed, is also leaving for his Swiss home, practice, and editorial job.