

LANDSCAPE

CONTRACTOR NEWS

Construction conference shows lack of unified solution to economy

Congressmen, representatives of executive agencies, and contractors could not agree on solutions to the economy at the Construction Industry Legislative Conference held in Washington, DC, in March. Although together in a spirit of mutual benefit, the various groups were divided over the proper answers.

Congressmen, in particular, presented a wide spectrum of plans to 550 members of construction trades (17 from ALCA). They expressed various opinions on the appropriateness of a tax cut and other suggestions to halt inflation.

The consensus of executive agency people, such as the EPA and USDA, was that the mild recession the country is in now will end in the third quarter of this year. A member of the Office of Management and Budget said that inflation this year will hover between 11 and 12 percent.

Contractors agreed that finding work is no problem, but getting financed is. A boost in money supply will pick the industry up.

Interior landscape directory available

The Interior Landscape Div. of ALCA has published its new directory of interior landscape contractors, "Who's Who in Interior Landscaping," which includes listings for some 100 of the leading interior landscape firms across the country.

Listings contain the basic information to contact each company along with the contractor's specialties and a categorized firm size. It also tells the officers of the I.L.D.

The 16-page booklet is available from: ALCA Interior Landscape Div., 1750 Old Meadow Road, McLean, VA 22102. There is no charge but requestors are asked to send a self-addressed business (#10) envelope.

Students publish landscape newsletter

The ALCA student chapter at Mississippi State University has published a newsletter which is being distributed to all graduates in landscape contracting from the university from 1973-79.

Features include guest speakers on campus from the industry, graduates in the curriculum, awards received by instructors for landscape, companies sponsoring scholarships, and more.

Industry firms are welcome to subscribe. Funds from the newsletter will be used for student field trips, attendance at industry meetings, and publication of the 1980 graduate directory. Write to: MSU/ALCA Student Chapter Newsletter, P.O. Drawer MQ, Mississippi State, MS 39762.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizer embargo could hurt U.S. growers

The U.S. embargo against fertilizer exports to the Soviet Union could cause higher fertilizer costs for American farmers this year, many experts believe.

The reason is that the U.S. also buys fertilizer from the Soviets. U.S. exports consist of phosphoric acid, a source of phosphate fertilizer. The Soviet Union sells the U.S. anhydrous ammonia, which yields nitrogen.

If the Soviets ban shipments of ammonia, it would sharply increase nitrogen prices and U.S. farmers use twice as much nitrogen as they do phosphates. Prices "would simply explode," says Larry Jones, an economist with Chase Econometric Associates Inc. He figures that nitrogen prices could jump 40 percent by June 1981.

The Wall Street Journal reported this and said, "U.S. fertilizer producers, rendered cautious by the boom-and-bust nature of their business, which went through a bust phase two years ago, are careful about predicting a renaissance for U.S. ammonia producers in the event of a Russian ammonia cutoff. Increased demand for U.S.-produced ammonia could spur the reopening of some of the 23 idle ammonia plants in this country, analysts say."

PARKS

More than 300 attend park training program

With the theme, "Strategies for effective management," the Great Lakes Park Training Institute held its thirty-fourth annual session of talks and workshops at Pokagon State Park, Angola, IN.

Ralph Wilson, chief recreation specialist of the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, gave the keynote address on "So you think you are a professional." Other sessions dealt with maintenance efficiencies, use of volunteers, vehicle problems, turfgrass and groundcover for fuel efficient maintenance, and topics concerning park directors. The Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service simulated a meeting between park people and leaders of a

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would provide a paper trail wherever the equipment goes.

One thing manufacturers and contractors seem to agree on is that neither want more government rules and regulations, which the Motor

Vehicle Theft Prevention Act of 1979 would likely bring. "Manufacturers realize that if the situation continues, there'll be legislation that'll force things down their throat," says Deery. "They don't want that and neither do we."

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