Don Little
Elected to Executive Committee

Annual Convention’s Business Meeting
Sets Stage for Coming Activities

In the traditional gavel passing at the annual business meeting in Atlanta, iaWCC/GDCI President-elect Robert Watkins, of Fort Lauderdale, accepts the gavel from Co-Presidents Richard M. Connor, left, Nashua, N.H., and John C. Craig, Honolulu. Watkins will assume his new duties July 1, 1979

Donald S. Little, founder and President of Donalco, Ltd., of Canada, was elected to the iaWCC/GDCI Executive Committee at the annual business meeting in Atlanta.

Little, who achieved international attention as chairman of the association’s Technical Committee No. 4 — Sprayed Fireproofing, was nominated and elected to the post of Secretary.

In moving “into the chairs,” he succeeds James Biddle, of Buffalo’s Mader Corporation, who was elected Treasurer at the same meeting.

Other Executive Committee officials elected — all of whom will assume their new positions on July 1, 1979 — were:

President — Robert F. Watkins, Aetna Drywall Contractors, Inc., Fort Lauderdale;
First Vice President — Ray Boyd, Ray Boyd Plaster & Tile Inc., Garland, Texas;
Second Vice President — Vernon L. Raymer, Delta Dry Wall, Inc., Denver, Colo.

Co-Presidents Richard M. Connor, of Francis P. Connor & Son, Inc., of Nashua, N.H., and John C. Craig, of Craig & Company, Ltd., Honolulu, will continue to serve as elected leaders of the association until their terms end on June 30. They will remain on the Executive Committee for the present.

Other members of the Executive Committee will include John W. Thomson, Jr., of John W. Thomson & Son, Inc., Miami, who is President Emeritus, and Jack Carlson, Western Dry-Wall Company, Albuquerque, N.M., who as the chairman of the Continuing Study Council sits on the Committee as an ex-officio member.

The newest elected official to the committee, Don Little, has been one of the most outstanding committee heads in the association. Under his tenure as chairman of Technical Sub committee No. 4, the committee has produced an industry standard on sprayed fireproofing and completed breakthrough work on a technical manual on fireproofing.

Don is also one of the largest fireproofing contractors in North America, with headquarters in Toronto.
iaWCC/GDCI’s 62nd Annual Convention

Industry Meeting Establishes New Records and Keeps Momentum Climbing

Neither rain, nor sleet, nor hail, nor snow, shall . . .

Apparently, it truly will take more than that to untrack the momentum that iaWCC/GDCI has built up in the wall and ceiling industry.

Faced with some of the most incredibly bad weather across the country at convention time, the iaWCC/GDCI 62nd Annual Convention and Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, still proved a record-breaker — and the place to be when the industry gets together.

When the association opened up its convention registration desk the final week of February, almost every area in the country was experiencing inclement weather and the Atlanta airport was strictly an on-again, off-again proposition for travelers.

Yet the convention totals ran right past 1,200 contractors, suppliers, wives, friends, and guests. That put the 1979 convention right up there with the previous one in San Francisco.

iaWCC/GDCI Executive Vice President Joe M. Baker, Jr., and staff waded through waist-high snowdrifts in the record-breaking Washington, D.C. blizzard which prevented the staff from reaching the convention city for two days, was especially pleased with the final results:

“In more ways than overcoming weather,” he said, “this 62nd Convention proved that the iaWCC/GDCI annual meeting is the high point of the year for the wall and ceiling industry.

“With the Atlanta airport closed more than it was open the registration desks took on the appearance of a morgue. But then everyone started coming in, enthusiasm started building and we knew that Momentum was certainly one of the most appropriate convention themes we’ve had in years.”
Even better than past years, the iaWCC/GDCI program drew network TV, radio, and newspaper attention with its speaking attractions of Congressman George Hansen, the OSHA halter who also conducted a seminar in addition to keynoting the convention; Congressman Phil Crane, the Republican from Illinois who is a key candidate for GOP presidential nomination honors; Elmer Botsai, President of the American Institute of Architects, and Dr. Richard Lesher, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

They were the big names. There were other outstanding talents who contributed to the general sessions, the seminars, educational workshops, and special events that helped to make the Atlanta convention the big, exciting, substantial industry meeting that it turned out to be.

With final attendance figures likely to eclipse even the San Francisco record breaker, other totals for the 62nd Convention went into the record books. At 97 booths, no other convention in the history of the wall and ceiling industry has attracted such strong manufacturer/supplier support — and the 120 booths up for sign-up in Phoenix were nearly gone by the time the Atlanta event had ended.

Each general session posted new attendance records, and the various symposia drew new highs. One session on steel framing and pre-
fabrication of curtain walls was so successful that it had to be re-scheduled so many of the turn-away overflow could be accommodated.

"Anyone who ever doubted that the consolidation would create a unified industry and make it possible to produce the kinds of conventions that this association has been able to provide should be less doubtful now," Baker explained.

"Because we are recognized as the voice of our industry, because we represent all segments of this industry specialty, we were able to draw nationally famous people, put on the kind of programming worthy of a major industry convention and, in plain words, give contractors and suppliers alike a worthwhile return for their investment."

The opening day was devoted to national committee meetings, a regional vice presidents’ session, and a separate computer seminar. That set the stage for Saturday, the opening day, and the momentum started building with technical symposia, ladies’ programming, an opening session that won Congressman Hansen...
Sunday saw tours of Atlanta, more technical seminars and forms, special interest sessions, a glittering “Gone With the Wind” Presidents’ Reception.

The Monday programming featured special dialogue meetings with industry specialists, a 60-minute type general session, the AMES Celebrity Awards luncheon, and a true, Dixieland, Razzamatazz Reception in the exposition center.

Tuesday wrapped up the 62nd annual meeting by keeping the activity at fever pitch with a general session featuring Congressman Crane and Mr. Botsai, followed by association executives meetings, and then the reception and annual dinner-dance banquet entitled, “Springtime Enchantment.”

All in all, it was a convention worth attending — and one worth remembering.