AWCI National Committee Week

Inflation . . . shipping delays . . . a construction industry still booming while the rest of the country experiences recession . . . record profits. . . .

All this and more took the attention of the more than 200 contractors, manufacturers, wives, guests, and industry observers who took part in AWCI’s National Committee Week in Nashville, Tennessee, in September.

In all, more than 50 meetings of all the association’s national committees took place in the period from September 11th to the 16th. The week was climaxed by the all-day session of the AWCI Board of Directors which made into national policy many of the actions taken—and recommended—earlier in the week by the various committees.

While the week of meetings held no formal theme, the evidence of an association scaling another plateau of growth—with a bigger growth step yet to come—was consistently in evidence.

More contractors than ever before took part in the sessions. And they set up more positive steps to accommodate current conditions while setting up for expected challenges in the near and long-term future.

“In every decade people like to think there is something special, some transition taking place,” said AWCI Executive Vice President Joe M. Baker, Jr., “and the 1979 National Committee Week was only slightly different.

“There was something special. In a period when a recession supposedly was gripping the country, wall and ceiling contractors were reporting near-record levels of work without much hint of a slowdown.

“And they knew that some serious changes were in the offing . . . politically, as well as from a Director of Technical Services was hired. He is Gene Erwin, director of the Michigan and Southeast Lathing and Plastering Bureaus, and a former technical specialist for the old Contracting Plasterers and Lathers International Association (CPLIA),
one of the forerunner organizations for iaWCC and AWCC. (For an introduction to Gene Erwin, watch for a full interview to appear in the December, 1979, edition of CONSTRUCTION DIMENSIONS.)

Not one aspect of the sprawling wall and ceiling industry escaped the attention of the assembled contractors.

And very little of the Nashville area—home of country and bluegrass music—escaped attention either. The committee week was held in the now-famous Opryland Hotel, located within walking distance of Opryland Theatre and Opryland Park.

When not entirely involved with association and industry affairs, contractors enjoyed Southern-style cooking, and the sights and scenes of Opryland, Nashville, and Tennessee.