

GRANITE ADVOCATED TO STATE OFFICIALS AS SOURCE OF JOBS

500 Could Be Given Work on Health-Education Building.

Approximately 500 skilled workmen now on the relief rolls in DeKalb county could be placed in gainful employment if granite were used in the exterior construction of the recently authorized state health, welfare and education building, a delegation of DeKalb county representatives told the Capitol Square Improvement Committee yesterday.

Pointing out that the purpose of the federal spending program is "to put men back to work," the delegates made a vigorous plea that granite be used in the construction of the building, which will be financed partially by federal funds.

Preliminary plans, which architects said are about 85 per cent complete, call for limestone or marble. After the hearing, the committee authorized granite manufacturers to submit prices, and promised them the matter would be taken under advisement.

State Products Stressed.

The committee is composed of Dr. T. F. Abercrombie, director of the State Department of Public Health; Lamar Murdaugh, director of the State Department of Public Welfare; Dr. M. D. Collins, state school superintendent, and Edwin Thrasher, assistant state auditor.

The representatives stressed the importance of buying Georgia products rather than going out of the state for materials, and explained that the use of Georgia granite would be economically beneficial in that it would take the granite workmen off relief and reduce the taxes necessary for their support.

"Our first reason for urging the use of granite in this building is an economic one," Scott Candler, mayor of Decatur, said. "Even if we had to change the plans, think of what it would mean to these skilled workmen who are now drawing the wages of common laborers on the WPA."

Dick Hudson, representing the Granite Cutters' International Association of the American Federation of Labor, pointed to the plight of the granite industry and declared the workers on relief, of which there are about 800 to 1,000 in Georgia, were at present a public burden.

Lindsay Backs Plea.

Bond Almand, attorney for the granite cutters, said, "we preach about buying Georgia products and have Georgia dinners to advertise our state, and yet when we start to put up a building we go out of the state to get materials when we have better materials right here in our own back yard."

Senator Paul Lindsay, of the 34th district, asserted there was "no excuse for any public building in Atlanta being constructed of anything other than granite."

The representatives declared that granite would be slightly higher than marble but added that the wage differential of approximately 50 per cent between granite cutters and marble workmen accounted for a large part of the difference.

Others who composed the delegation appearing before the committee included Cary Elliott, mayor of Lithonia; W. G. Grant, R. W. Underwood, Charles Davidson, George Weiblen, M. P. Clark, H. G. Hollingshead, Melvin Kelley, Thomas Needham, and Charles Baddour, secretary of the DeKalb County Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce.