

JAMES E. BROPHY II
BISBEE, ARIZONA

December 12, 1959

Mr. Maurice R. Tanner, President
Associated General Contractors
c/o Tanner Brothers Construction Co.
731 North 19th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Tanner:

Knowing that your organization and the Building Trades Unions are to engage in conferences Monday regarding the high costs of building at, among other places, Ft. Huachuca, I want to add a word of caution and warning.

For the past several years, we have been fighting for an adequate building program at Ft. Huachuca. Two elementary school buildings have been erected, costing more than \$1,750,000; a field house has been erected costing \$1,100,000; quarters for bachelor officers, the first of four projected, has been erected costing more than \$400,000; the first increment of the Technical Building has been erected, costing more than \$5,000,000; the second increment is now under construction costing more than \$4,500,000.

In addition, some 1600 residences have been constructed averaging probably \$9,000 each, and three barrack buildings have been erected with attendant buildings costing approximately \$1,250,000. Another 100 residences are to be contracted shortly after the first of the year, and three more barrack buildings are due to be contracted during the first quarter of 1960, provided that bids may be obtained which will stay within the limitations imposed by Congressional act.

An additional \$3,700,000 will supposedly be put under contract during 1960, provided costs may be held within the amount appropriated by Congress. This is matter of serious concern to us and to the Army. General R. T. Nelson, Chief Signal Officer, writes us that he hopes the Signal Corps "may be able to accomplish the program within the amount appropriated, since high cost at Ft. Huachuca for construction was a matter of extensive Congressional debate during the hearings".

The House Committee on Appropriations submitted the report on the Military Construction Appropriation Bill, 1960, and said:

"Signal Corps - The Committee has approved \$4,527,500 for the Signal Corps installation at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, a reduction of \$3,281,500 in the budget estimates. Funds in the amount of \$2,541,000 requested for two enlisted men's barracks, and supporting facilities, including a heating plant are denied. The Committee fails to see why facilities in this area cannot be constructed at costs similar to those found at other military installations in the Continental United States and accordingly has reduced the estimate to bring the overall cost here in line with costs experienced elsewhere."

The MCA bill then went to the Senate, where Senator Hayden used his great influence to restore the amount deleted by the House, including all expense incident to construction "at this isolated station". The Senate Committee said:

"Evidence presented to the Committee, based on actual competitive bids resulting in contracts for current construction, validate the higher construction costs prevailing at this isolated station."

The bill, as amended, passed the Senate, and on its return to the House was defeated, and a Conference Committee was asked. This Conference Committee, after lengthy sessions, finally approved an additional \$1,467,000 covering an additional barrack building, a heating plant, battalion mess building and a battalion administration and supply building. The Conference Committee then said:

"Fort Huachuca, Arizona - The Committee of Conference has confirmed the House action in reducing funds for construction at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, due to high costs. Funds requested at this installation should be based on costs similar to those experienced elsewhere within the continental United States".

Let me state right here that I firmly believe that had not Senator Hayden used all of the powerful influence which he has in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, not one cent more than was originally authorized by the House would have been appropriated.

To be brutally frank, surely you must realize that the Signal Corps is not sufficiently strong, politically, to overcome the natural opposition on the part of the House to extraordinarily high construction costs at Arizona posts. And I am sure that without Senator Hayden's stature and influence, and his friendly relationships with members of both Senate and House, we would have gotten but a fraction of that which has been expended thus far at Ft. Huachuca.

Now, we come to the future! There has been appropriated, but not yet under contract, the sum of \$5,994,500 for construction at Fort Huachuca during the Fiscal Year 1960. In addition, 100 residences have been authorized for construction during this coming year. Then, there is the matter of 125 quarters now authorized for construction off the Post for purchase by civilian population. Beyond this, there is a request for approval of 500 units of off-post rental housing under Section 810 of the National Housing Act, which is awaiting the working out of controls and procedures by the Department of Defense and the Federal Housing Agency.

Again, in the immediate future! Senator Hayden is working with the Signal Corps for the building of two more barracks buildings, a Commissary building, a new runway for Libby Field, and a new building for the Automatic Data Processing agency, something more than \$5,000,000 in the appropriation for the coming year. All of this, with the exception of the new runway, have been authorized by both houses of Congress.

If Senator Hayden is given reasonable support by his home people, it is reasonable to suppose that the entire barracks complex will be completed in the next four years, giving Fort Huachuca a modern plant, with facilities for the complex scientific work being done at Ft. Huachuca, adequate housing for its personnel, both military and civilian, and sufficient recreation facilities to provide a full standard of American living for people assigned there, or who may be employed there.

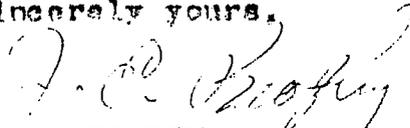
When you people sit down to discuss this matter, let me say that the people of all Arizona are gravely affected by your decisions. We know how this question arose, we endeavored to work out the problem then, only to find an array of both unions and contractors against us. Now we come to the point where Senator Hayden may work his heart out to get appropriations for the Fort, only to find that contracts and working rules make the cost prohibitive. We are at that point now.

Let us appeal to you as Arizonans, to remove this great burden which construction at Ft. Huachuca has to bear. There is no reason whatever for it to be classed as "remote". There is every reason for construction to be permitted to go ahead, that workmen may have work at good wages, that contractors may be able to compete with contractors from other states and realize a fair profit, and that this great resource for Arizona's prosperity shall be able to go ahead unhampered by unrealistic rules.

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We trust that you will remove the building at Ft. Huachuca from the present "remote" classification.

Sincerely yours,



J. E. MURPHY, Chairman
Special Committee on Fort Huachuca
Costs
Southern Arizona Chapter
Association of the United States Army

JEM:tc

cc: Senator Carl Hayden
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Major General F. W. Hoerman, Commanding
U.S. Army Electronic Proving Ground
Fort Huachuca, Arizona