

CONFERENCES AND COURSES

TRENT POLYTECHNIC

Conference on SMM6

A Conference on the Sixth Edition of the Standard Method of Measurement of Building Works will be held at Trent Polytechnic on Wednesday 31 January 1979 from 2.00 pm to 7.00 pm. This Conference will examine the main changes in the document, their application to the measurement of building work and the implications and problems arising from it. Adequate time will be provided for asking questions and discussing problems.

The speakers will be Norman R. Wheatley FRICS, Senior Partner in the firm of P. T. Walters & Wheatley and one of the Joint Secretaries of the Standard Joint Committee for the Sixth Edition of the SMM, Dr. Ivor H. Seely, BSc, MA, PhD, CEng, FIMunE, FRICS, FIQS, MIOB, Head of the Department of Surveying and Dean of the School of Environmental Studies Trent Polytechnic, Member of the RICS General Council and of the IQS Council and author of a number of standard text books in quantity surveying and related subjects, and

Roger Winfield ARICS, Principal Lecturer in Quantity Surveying and a Course Tutor at Trent Polytechnic. Dr. Seely will also act as Chairman.

The course fee will be £8.50 (inclusive of buffet tea and VAT). Further details and application form (which must be returned by not later than Monday 22 January 1979) are obtainable from K. C. Seeger FRICS, Department of Surveying, Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham NG1 4BU, Telephone (0602) 48248 Extension 2519.

Short Course-Arbitration within the Building Industry

A Short Course on Arbitration within the building industry is to be held by the Department of Surveying at Trent Polytechnic during the Spring Term. The Course Tutor will be R. Morledge, AIQS, AIArb and the course will be held on Wednesday evenings during the six weeks beginning 21 February 1979 and ending 28 March 1979. The fee will be £11.80 (inclusive of VAT and Polytechnic Registration fee.) The object of this course is to give those involved in the building industry an insight into the nature of arbitrations, the practice and procedures during the reference and the presentation of documents.

For further details and application form please contact Roy Morledge, AIQS, AIArb, Senior Lecturer, Department of Surveying, Trent Polytechnic, Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU, Tel (0602) 48248 Ext. 2449/2522.

Practice and Parliamentary

PRACTICE NOTES

TENDERING FOR BUILDING WORKS WITHOUT BILLS OF QUANTITIES

Procedure Note No. 12 issued by the NJCC for Building is concerned with competitive tendering for building works on drawings and specification only where bills of quantities could have been produced.

The NJCC has received reports of instances of unsatisfactory competitive tendering and subsequent contractual difficulties which have arisen where contractors have been invited to tender for such building works on drawings and specification alone. These difficulties arise mainly from the problem of:

- (1) comparing and evaluating tenders when each contractor has to prepare his own analysis of the information included in the tender documents,
- (2) accurately evaluating work in progress for payment on account,
- (3) accurately evaluating variations,
- (4) maintaining proper financial management of the contract.

It is acknowledged by the NJCC that the effect of these difficulties may be mitigated by good management and control. It is also recognised that bills of quantities may not always be warranted for small or relatively simple building works and that different considerations may apply to other categories of work, for example where tenders are invited on the basis of schematics and/or performance specifications.

At the same time, the NJCC advises strongly that careful attention should be given to the above matters before deciding to dispense with bills of quantities. Where tenders are invited

without bills of quantities it may well be desirable instead to require the tender price to be broken down into the major constituent parts for ease of cross-checking and comparison with other tenders and to require the pricing of a schedule of rates to assist in the valuation of any variations.

It should be noted that this Note is about tendering *in competition*; presumably, non-competitive tenders can, as previously, be negotiated on whatever basis the parties agree. However, some further guidance (say, by price-bracket) would be appreciated by those concerned with those cases in which the non-provision of bills is accepted as reasonable.

In this connection, it is interesting to note that one NFBTE region takes the view that quantities should be supplied as the basis of competitive tendering for relatively straightforward works costing more than £50,000 and for those of greater complexity which exceed £25-30,000.

CLEANLINESS IS NOT "ALLOWED"

Section 189 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 allows certain reliefs under Schedule E including the deduction from emoluments if an employee "expends money wholly, exclusively and necessarily" in the performance of his duties. But, according to the judgement delivered by Mr. Justice Walter in *Ward (Inspector of Taxes) v. Dunn* (TLR: 20 November 1978) expenditure incurred by a surveyor on cleaning and repairing clothes that became dirty and damaged during visits to construction sites is not money expended "wholly, exclusively and necessarily" in the performance of his duty and thus is not an allowable deduction for such purposes.

Continuing, his Lordship observed that regardless of the justice of the tax-payer's claim, none of the money was "wholly" expended in the performance of his duties because the clothes which he wore visiting sites were his ordinary clothes and were not clothes bought specially for such visits. It followed