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Walter M. Tisdale

President Evan R. Collins

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I attended the bid openings of the East and West Podium Courts and Dining Terraces yesterday afternoon at the Construction Fund. Three bidders responded, advancing costs on their base bids ranging from \$483,000. to \$566,000. Even the lowest of these exceeded the estimated costs of the combined project by \$165,000, a percentage which makes it impossible to award the contract on the basis of these bids. Accordingly, the Construction Fund has decided that it will be necessary to rebid the project, after first reviewing the items that accounted for the big discrepancy. It may be necessary, on the basis of this review, to alter the nature of the work considerably more than had been done in the past, and to set our sights much lower. It may also be necessary to attempt to secure additional funds, but this latter expedient doesn't have much chance for approval.

A rebidding of the project will probably delay construction of these parts by at least three months and possibly longer, but if the Fund moves promptly, we could still be ready for construction when favorable weather arrives next year, looking forward to completion prior to next winter. Thus, the realization of these parts could conceivably take place during the presently planned construction season.

This represents the third abort that we have experienced in quick succession, starting with the Whiteface weather project last spring, later the Planetarium, and now the Podium Courts and Dining Terraces. This is a graphic illustration of the advance of the construction market and high costs in this region right now. It also emphasizes that our architects have not been very good at estimating. Fortunately, our architects are obliged to redo these without extra costs to us when they miss their estimates by these amounts. However, it is inescapable that we pay the price of delay. The only fortunate thing about the Courts and Dining Terraces is that it is not crucial to our operations, bears solely upon our aesthetic environment, and therefore, probably does not hurt as seriously as it might otherwise.

Cc: Vice President Clifton Thorne
Vice President Milton Olson
Mr. H. David Van Dyck
Mr. John Buckhoff

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