

Zeitschrift: IABSE reports of the working commissions = Rapports des commissions de travail AIPC = IVBH Berichte der Arbeitskommissionen

Band: 4 (1969)

Artikel: Free discussion

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-5955>

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Free Discussion / Discussion libre / Freie Diskussion

B.E. WEINBERG
U.S.A.

1. As a practicing engineer, I must unfortunately disagree with a comment made by Professor Ruesch. I do not see how the concepts of structural safety and negligence can be separated, or negligence even be eliminated from any consideration of structural safety.

2. A number of speakers such as Professor Ruesch, Mr. Leclerc and Dr. Abeles spelled out at lengths the many variables affecting structural safety. I fear greatly that their studies and research will have been in vain until these results can be impressed upon designing engineers and construction personnel. The great task facing the engineering profession is to put these concepts into workable format for the designer and the constructor. If the developments presented in these papers result in more complicated design formulas and procedures, I fear that they will find little acceptance among designing engineers, at least in the United States, even though they may result in more economical construction. Both steel and concrete design formulas have become more complicated in the United States of America in recent years. Neither the available engineering manpower nor design fees have kept pace with this growth. Therefore, I feel that much of the work represented by the fine papers presented at this Symposium will not bear fruit until they have been transformed into reasonably simple design formulas and procedures.