

It is true that in the summertime many of our—and that is what that chart over there shows, the chart with the two mountain peaks on it there shows how youngsters become unemployed in June, looking for summer work, but who go back to school in the fall.

In that sense a young person does gravitate between those different categories.

MISS BANCROFT. We do publish once a year information on the number of persons in school by age and the number of those that are in the labor force.

We do collect this information.

Representative CURTIS. Yes.

My time has run out again. I will be back.

Senator PROXMIRE. Then I will defer.

I wanted to ask Congressman Curtis whether he is satisfied on the basis of his inquiry, that these figures are not rigged.

There may be all kinds of economic reasons for these statistical developments, some of which are perhaps to be criticized in terms of economic policy, but I would hope that the Congressman would give some indication, because I think this was a very proper question that he raised, and I think it was a real service to raise it, but I think that, having raised it, it would be desirable to know if the Congressman has a conclusion, based on interrogation of the people who are most responsible for the integrity and honesty and accuracy of the figures.

Representative CURTIS. I am sorry, I was distracted. Will you redirect your question?

Senator PROXMIRE. Are you satisfied that Mr. Clague and his Department have done an honest and accurate job.

Representative CURTIS. There is no question about Mr. Clague.

I had a question, and there is a question in my mind, on the subjective aspects of the thing, but by no means did I think—and I said at the time—that there was anything involving integrity.

But I still wonder whether there is a psychological factor involved in these questions as to, "Are you looking for work"—I want to keep that right—"Have you been"—

Senator PROXMIRE. Let me ask you, Mr. Clague:

There has been no change, I take it, from your paper between June of 1961 and June of 1962, when there was this spectacular development of a far less than expected increase in the labor force.

There has been no change in the way the questions are asked, in the training of the questioners, or interrogators, or any other technical change that could account, or psychological change or subjective change that, in your judgment, could account for this variation in statistics?

Mr. CLAGUE. That is right, Senator.

From month to month, as I said earlier, you may have statistical variations, and we point this out right along; a swing from one month to another month or from quarter to quarter could occur statistically; and that is just one of the limitations of the figures.

These are small samples economically compiled.

The other point is we have not changed any of the definitions or any of the ways of asking the questions. On the other hand, you must remember that the survey is asking questions of a great many people throughout the country, people whose attitudes may change.