

I might make one observation on this——

Senator PROXMIRE. But, in reply to that, it would seem to me that you would ask questions of something like 35,000 people.

Mr. CLAGUE. Households.

Senator PROXMIRE. Households?

Mr. CLAGUE. Yes.

Senator PROXMIRE. 35,000 households.

You have done it for many, many years?

Mr. CLAGUE. Yes.

Senator PROXMIRE. You have a great experience on this?

Mr. CLAGUE. Yes.

Senator PROXMIRE. And it would seem to me that if there were a variation, because people are all different, and their responses are different, this should wash out with that huge a sample which dwarfs any poll I know about, it dwarfs the Gallup poll or any of these other polls on which people base their judgments.

Mr. CLAGUE. I hope I made perfectly clear that, as far as this sample is concerned, it is absolutely adequate for the general——

Senator PROXMIRE. No statistician questions the adequacy of your sample.

Mr. CLAGUE. Within the range of accuracy which we point out.

On the other hand, you do have to recognize—and this has nothing to do with our statistics but with the people that are answering these questions—people are influenced as time goes by, by a variety of things.

I would like to point out——

Senator PROXMIRE. And there may have been a change in 1962 that would affect people generally?

Mr. CLAGUE. No.

Senator PROXMIRE. That might make the situation different?

Mr. CLAGUE. This we cannot tell yet. You must give us more time to find this out.

For example, we have a free labor market. Many of these people who are looking for work can decide to look for work or not look for work, as they feel about it.

Not everybody who is unemployed is in such urgent need that he keeps knocking employers' doors.

As we said in our testimony here, you have literally millions of people who come into the labor force during the year at varying times and who leave the labor force during the year.

Some of them are not unemployed before they come in, and they are not unemployed when they go out of the labor force. Now, these people are free enterprisers, if you want to say so. They can decide they do not want to work at the wages and at the conditions and at the jobs that are available. Whether or not there is a general shift in the attitude of women toward work, it is too early to tell yet.

But it could be that if this continued for another year, or two, it would clearly indicate that something more fundamental had occurred in either their desire for work or their opportunities for work.

Senator PROXMIRE. Very good.

Now, I would like to ask you about this slower growth of the labor force because I like to look at this as a constructive development, as well as a development which points to some problems in our society.