

Mr. CLAGUE. Let me say that the logic of your argument is perfectly valid.

If youngsters stay in school longer, they will not be in the labor force, and if the schooling is doing them any good, they should be better participants later on.

If you increase the school leaving age, it will take some people who otherwise would be working out of the labor force.

As to the older age groups, you are perfectly right. The earlier you make it possible to retire, of course, the greater will be the reduction in the number of older people in the labor force.

Now, I believe that the Health, Education, and Welfare and the old-age and survivors' insurance has made a study of those men, age 62 to 65, who have taken advantage of this.

My memory—

Senator PROXMIRE. Mine would provide for men and women, because women were taken care of—

Mr. CLAGUE. Women were already eligible to retire at 62, but if you reduce it to 60, you will pick up both men and women.

Senator PROXMIRE. Right.

Mr. CLAGUE. Perhaps the Health, Education, and Welfare figures will be the better ones to use for this purpose. Their study will show how many of them were in the labor force before they retired.

I do not think there is any doubt about earlier retirement will produce a reduction in the labor force, particularly if retirement benefits are adequate.

Now, some older people still remain working because their benefits are not adequate really to sustain an adequate standard of living, and in some cases they stay in the labor force to earn this extra money which they are permitted to earn.

But you will have reductions in the labor force if you substitute school or earlier retirement for people who are now compelled to work—I mean compelled, who need to work.

Senator PROXMIRE. I would appreciate it if you could make those statistics available as soon as you can.

Mr. CLAGUE. We will see if we can give you any kind of quantitative figures.

It would be an estimate.

(The reply to this inquiry appears in a letter dated August 23, which appears at p. 744.)

Senator PROXMIRE. Do you have any questions in your questionnaire now in which you ask women why they have not entered the labor force?

Miss BANCROFT. No, we do not.

Senator PROXMIRE. Would that kind of questioning be possible?

Would this be one way of getting at this problem?

Incidentally, I do not think that that is necessarily a problem.

I think the fact that these women choose to retire, in many cases, or choose not to work may, in many cases, also be constructive if they are doing other things which do not constitute earning money, which may be far more useful to society.

Miss BANCROFT. We have made studies in the past on this, and we find almost always that there are several million women not in the