

Now, our problem in statistics is how to measure them.

The British have a very efficient employment service and a good labor-statistics operation, and they kept it pretty well during World War II, and I believe even during the Korean war during the early 1950's.

But they had a requirement that every order of an employer had to go through the employment office, with the result that by compulsion, all the job openings had to go into the employment service. Then they succeeded in getting quite good measures of job vacancies. In fact, one of the British economists suggested that full employment was a condition in which job vacancies and unemployment were equal. That would show that you had some frictional difficulties here and there, but you had an even balance.

Now, we do not have that situation in this country. As you know, there are so many ways of filling a job. The employment service in this country has never had the penetration ratio, it has never had the full opportunities to manage the labor market that it has in other countries, and, therefore, its vacancies would come nowhere near measuring the total number of vacancies that exist.

The other statistical problem that faces us is what is a "job vacancy" and how do you define it. You see, we could send out to a manufacturer and say:

"Will you tell me how many vacancies you have as of this moment on your rolls," but would this mean orders that he had actually placed?

Or would this mean vacancies as I have them in the Bureau of Labor Statistics: so many jobs I am not filling because I do not have money to fill them? Only as I get turnover are they filled?

You have a number of different ways of measuring that. We are now committed to make an exploratory survey to see if we can devise some method of getting a reasonably accurate measure of really developing job vacancies. Those that are on the way to being put into the market.

Representative CURTIS. I think and am hopeful that with the Manpower Training Act, which I was very happy to see come on—I did a lot of work on it—that possibly that will lead us into this area of better statistics.

Let me ask one other detail.

Do we have statistics in regard to what we might call the handicapped?

Of course, we now do have the social security disability. Do our census figures or your own labor figures have any category such as handicapped?

Mr. CLAGUE. I think not ours. Gertrude, will you answer that?

Miss BANCROFT. I believe that in the national health survey, which the Census Bureau conducts for HEW, they are now getting information on physical disabilities of persons in the labor force.

Representative CURTIS. I think one of the greatest areas for moving forward is in this rehabilitation field. As the people dealing with the handicapped like to say, we regard no one as really being totally disabled.

Of course, that is not actually so, and we all know that, but I think it is the right approach to take in the rehabilitation field. I have followed statistics on accidents, industrial accidents, and so forth.