

Reading from this book, "One-third of the Nation," put out by the Labor Department, they do not seem to agree with this.

These young men face a lifetime of recurrent unemployment unless their skills are significantly upgraded. In the opinion of professional employment interviewers, 80 percent of the group needed job counseling, literacy training, or job training. A great majority of the men indicated they were willing to undertake such training.

In other words, what it implies is that 80 percent of the people who are interviewed relative to what they want, basic education and training is what they wanted, and to the tune of 80 percent they were willing to accept it and go right into the training programs. This is what the Labor Department indicated in their study in this book.

One other feature bothers me relative to the Indians. The lack of faith that you indicated in here of the Indians traditionally because, as you quoted, they felt it was just another promise that might be made only to be broken.

This lack of faith is where? In the Federal Government, not your State government or local government. This is the Government which has had the Indian affairs in their direct counseling and programing.

In the history of this country, it has been, and under Federal Government still is, one of the poorest programs where the literacy and the problems of the Indian people are greater than any other single minority.

That was indicated by testimony by, I believe, Mr. Udall. So, here the Federal Government has had a project but this has been one of the weakest programs of all of them for the minority race. It seems to me there is a pretty good indication there that perhaps the Federal Government should not be handed so many things.

Mr. SCHIFTER. Do you want me to answer that, Congressman?

Mr. HAWKINS. You are getting far afield from my original point.

Would you answer that and then I also would like to get back to the first phase of the point you raised because that is the point I was trying to develop. I do not mind including this also.

Mr. BELL. I felt this was also pertinent to what we are talking about.

Mr. SCHIFTER. I think, in all fairness, it might be said with the Indian people you start further behind than with any other group. If you think, for example, of people whom we are concerned with here, people on the reservations of the West today, about three generations ago they were hunters and fishermen and perhaps thousands of years removed from our culture. In other words, just 75 or 100 years ago, the American Indians were in a state of life in which your ancestors or mine, Congressman, were about 4,000 years ago. I don't want to go into an anthropological analysis of this but there was a tremendous gap which had to be bridged here. The fact that it has not been successful is perhaps understandable.

For example, if we found ourselves plunged down in the world in the year 5000, we might run into problems, too.

So, the problem is very serious and the Federal Government has had a tough time trying to cope with it. By and large, the Indians still feel that the Federal Government is in a better position to bring its resources to bear on the problems on the Indian reservation than the State government can.