

way commingled with the drive being put on by the civil rights demonstration under title 7 for a certain percentage of employment?

Secretary WIRTZ. No, sir.

Mr. DENT. I notice you said you have some kind of agreement on work in New York where you have a certain percentage of apprenticeships being made available for youth, both under this and the Manpower Training Act. But isn't there another program coming along at the same time paralleling the same drive that you are making where they are told that unless they hire a certain number of apprenticeship employees—

Secretary WIRTZ. Negroes?

Mr. DENT. Apprenticeship employees first from the minority groups, especially the Negro groups, that their project can be held up if they don't employ them?

Secretary WIRTZ. The answer is no, Mr. Chairman. There is no such rule and there won't be as long as I have anything to do with it.

Mr. DENT. The reason I am asking is because I got a call yesterday afternoon about a project that is being held up because there are not Negroes within the entire trading area of this contract and they have to go into the city of Pittsburgh to pick up a certain number of Negroes and lay off a certain number of their people to do the job.

Secretary WIRTZ. It is an outrageous rule.

Mr. DENT. For this reason only. He said: "We bid these jobs. If we know that we are not going to be allowed to use our experienced help, it will make a difference in the contract price. I don't care if I hire all Negroes if I have them. We only have 1.7 percent Negroes in the area."

Now he is cooperating with your program.

Secretary WIRTZ. Not when he makes that kind of report, he is not cooperating with our program. When he makes that kind of report, he can't be cooperating with our program, because that is a dangerous poison to spread around. That kind of thing would be just as wrong.

Mr. DENT. It is not poison. It is not propaganda. It is a fact that I can't understand.

Secretary WIRTZ. We recognize the fact that there is somebody who is making a mistake in the administration of this program. First, reference to ratios is likely to get us into trouble here. I have mentioned and Mr. Howard has mentioned the fact that we are concentrating in the Neighborhood Youth Corps and in the other training programs on increasing the number of minority group members in those training programs. That I support, and I am sure we all do. Where there has been disadvantage in the past, it should be rectified by an over-emphasis on that group in the future. That is clear. But then the word "ratio" came into the conversation.

As far as I am concerned, there is no justification any place any time for a ratio. I learned it the hard way, because I had in my professional capacity the integrated housing case in Deerfield, the first suburban integrated housing case in the Chicago area. I think we lost that case, which we were trying to defend, because of our own mistake of letting a ratio concept come in there. I am against it.

Then I come next and finally, just to complete this, to the proposition to which you refer. I don't think there is any justification for