

Mr. GOODELL. That is an entirely different kind of program.

Secretary WIRTZ. No; it is not.

Mr. GOODELL. What we are talking about is a program involving individuals at the entrance level of income, normally a large number at the minimum wage level, which is \$1.40 now and soon it will be \$1.60. The employer, himself, with the Industry Youth Corps, will bear a large share of the responsibility for on-the-job training.

If you are telling me that it would cost that amount of money to get farmers and small businessmen to hire these youngsters with a direct subsidy for part of their wages and provide the kind of on-the-job training that they need, I think we are talking about an entirely different thing.

Secretary WIRTZ. We sure are. You are talking about those who are ready to work. I am talking about those who need help very much.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Meeds.

Mr. MEEDS. It seems to me that we are oversimplifying this thing at this point. It ought to be brought out, for instance, that we should be dealing primarily with the hard core, unemployed person in this area. To simply lift the hard core, unemployed person off the street and place him or her in an on-the-job training program may or may not and probably will not, at that point, be sufficient.

There is a tremendous need for a lot of supporting service. Now, how far is industry willing to go in this field? Do we know? Have we tried these things? I don't think that we can just wholesale say that 25 percent of the wage be applied by industry to make up for this supporting service that must be furnished from the other 75 percent.

I think it should be pointed out that we are trying now, but with a 25-percent figure we have our feet set in concrete, so to speak. We are tied to something that must be done on a certain ratio. You can't judge these things in these terms.

Mr. GOODELL. Will you yield?

Mr. MEEDS. Yes.

Mr. GOODELL. A Federal payment of 25 percent is not an unchangeable figure. I might add that our proposal looks to the employer to pay 75 percent of the wage, not the Government, as you suggested a moment ago. It may turn out, in a bipartisan fashion, we can give a range of flexibility to the Secretary. So far, in inquiring and talking to various people who are concerned about youngsters at the minimum wage level, it has been indicated that 25 percent would probably be enough to induce them to move in this area.

That is why we chose the figure. If you feel that we find from the testimony that it should be 33 or 40 percent, why we could consider that.

Mr. MEEDS. Mr. Chairamn, I agree that certainly this ought to be tried but not as a national program before we have some idea of what is going to happen.

Mr. GOODELL. You people don't seem to believe that this is an urgent situation we face in this country. I am surprised and disturbed by it.

Mr. MEEDS. Mr. Chairman, may I pursue my course of questioning?

Mr. DENT. Yes.

Mr. MEEDS. I would like, Mr. Secretary, to have you give us some idea of what is being done by your office in cooperation with the Office