

Mr. GOODELL. Mr. Wirtz, I suggest that you withhold any further comment because I find you are digging yourself deeper and deeper in this thing in opposition. You started out with an open mind. Now you are ending up by saying you are opposed to it completely. We are going to move in this direction in the next 3 or 4 years if we are going to solve this problem. I would hate to have you on public record so vehemently opposed to it.

There are many experts in this field very much intrigued by this proposal and who feel it has great potential. I think you ought to think a bit before you get yourself too far in opposition.

Secretary WIRTZ. Okay.

Mr. DENT. As I understand it, the Secretary has made this whole testimony open for questioning.

Secretary WIRTZ. That is right.

Mr. DELLENBACK. I have listened with interest to this general colloquy but I would like to be sure that I understand what the Secretary is saying. May I ask a few questions along this line?

Mr. BRADEMAS. Mr. Chairman, will you recognize members on both sides of the aisle?

Mr. DENT. Oh yes. We have been working in an informal manner. All will be recognized.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Mr. Secretary, how many unemployed are there in the Nation at the present time?

Secretary WIRTZ. May I give you two answers? I can answer precisely in terms of the traditional definition of unemployment. That answer is as a working figure in the neighborhood of 3 million people. For an unemployment rate that is 3 million people at any particular time, it fluctuates.

The monthly report which you see in terms of percentages and which is presently 3.8 percent translates into about 3 million persons. As far as the problem that we are concerned about in connection with Economic Opportunity Act, that figure really, Mr. Dellenback, is not very relevant, for this reason.

It includes only those who are actively looking for work and are unable to find it. A good deal of the poverty problem involves those people who have given up for one reason or another even looking for work.

There is another difficulty. The national figure is an average. It averages the suburbs and the slums.

There are two answers to your question. The first is the 3.8-percent figure, meaning 3 million people. A much more meaningful figure is that in the slum and ghetto areas in this country, even by that traditional measure the figure is 10 percent.

If you add those who are not even looking for work, those who are left out in the count because they just don't show up, those who are working so little that it doesn't add up to much of anything, it is 34 percent in these areas.

Mr. DELLENBACK. You are talking about the slum areas in your testimony?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes.

Mr. DELLENBACK. Of this 3 million you would characterize as hard-core unemployed 1½ to 2 million?