

Secretary WIRTZ. Thank you.

Mr. SCHEUER. I can only add in closing that if I could feel the kind of outreach, and inventiveness, and resourcefulness, and capacity for change which we have seen in you and your colleagues over the years were matched in other executive agencies and other branches of the Government I would not be so reluctant in seeing this withering away of the OEO take place. I wouldn't be so opposed to seeing these inventive new programs transferred from the OEO to the established departments of Government.

I hope that some of this will rub off on other agencies of government at all levels, Federal, State and local. But until it does I cannot help but agree with you that we need the Office of Economic Opportunity as a goad, a stimulus, as a change agent and when the time comes that other agencies are playing those roles just as effectively as your agency has then I think we will listen to the blandishments of the minority.

Until then, I congratulate you on what you are doing and look forward to working with you in the days ahead.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Quie.

Mr. QUIE. Mr. Secretary, in answer to Mr. Scheuer, you say that the Industry Youth Corps, the way you read it now would only dilute the minimum wage law? Is that what I understand you to say?

Secretary WIRTZ. No; it would not only do that, I think it would present that very real danger.

Mr. QUIE. First, why would it dilute the minimum wage law when each of the young people would receive the minimum wage similar to what they receive, as I understand, now in the Neighborhood Youth Corps from public and nonprivate agencies.

There the Federal Government pays 90 percent of the cost and it does not dilute it.

Why would the Industry Youth Corps dilute the minimum wage if it paid 25 percent to industry?

Secretary WIRTZ. With the possible exception of experimental efforts, it does not, in any case I know about, pay 90 percent of anybody's wages where that individual is engaged in private employment.

Mr. QUIE. I said in public and private nonprofit agencies in the Neighborhood Youth Corps.

Secretary WIRTZ. My answer would be that the minimum wage law does apply to those operations for profit and the proposal would seem to go into that area.

Mr. QUIE. If 90 percent is not diluting it in private, nonprofit, and public agencies, and if they are paid the minimum wage, why would paying the 25 percent dilute it in the private agency?

Secretary WIRTZ. I don't know where we stop along this line, but, of course, a person in school is paid, where it is public education. We always recognize in this country the distinction between the use of public funds for educational and training purposes on the one hand, where I think there has been no question, and on the other hand, private enterprise where we have felt that the minimum wage was applicable.

If I understand your question, it seems to me to involve what I should think of as a confusion or interlocking of two different things.