

3006 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

Mrs. GREEN. Yes.

Mr. ROBIE. I would have to estimate because I did not foresee this question and did not check on it. I think these youngsters vary. I think the youngest one is 17 and the oldest one I would estimate at about 21. If it turns out to be different I will correct this for the record but I think it is about 17 to 21.

Mrs. GREEN. Have you or have others who have engaged in the plans for progress program run into any conflict with child labor laws?

Mr. ROBIE. No, we have not. That might become a problem in a different kind of industry but it has not been for us. We don't have a lot of machinery of the type that would be involved with the child labor laws. We have not used these youngsters on night shift work. We do have some night shift work but we have not used them for this.

It may be for a program that was very promising in many other respects; it may be necessary to make some special arrangements through the Secretary of Labor if that were possible. I can conceive of that being a problem.

Mrs. GREEN. Has any thought been given to lowering the age to 14 in sort of an apprentice program as we know it?

Mr. ROBIE. We have not given any thought to that principally because there are so many kids in the age bracket we are considering we are only taking a handful, and also just quick whether I would have some question about the degree of maturity of youngsters anyone than the ones we are taking to associate the kind of offers and atmosphere and climate and job that we have.

Chairman PERKINS. Thank you very much for your appearance here this morning.

Mr. GOODELL. Perhaps you were questioned on this when I had to step out. On page 10 you made a reference to the proposal for human investment. I would like you to briefly and for the record, indicate whether you feel that with these various other proposals, the industry Youth Corps and OJT and other improvements, a proposal for a tax credit for employers who accept human investment, would have some significant impact in this area in motivating employers. Also, tell us a little about the need for something of this nature because of the special problems involved with moving in that direction.

Mr. ROBIE. Mr. Gibbons did ask me several questions on the Human Investment Act principle which quickly demonstrated my lack of qualifications in the tax area in terms of the types of administrative details and problems and dangers that are involved.

I think I should limit my comment on that to the notion that if the experts in tax legislation, in tax problems, in tax controls and so on, felt that a way could be figured so that a tax incentive could be a fairly clean-cut, simple way to achieve this result, I would think that it would be promising.

Mr. GOODELL. I might say there are various proposals for this, but Congressman Curtis who originated the idea has pressed for it and has got over 100 Members of the House supporting the bill. One of our outstanding Members is a member of the Ways and Means Committee. He has estimated the total cost of a 7 percent tax credit for all types of training, not limited to the unskilled or uneducated, to be in the neighborhood of \$300 million per year.