

Chairman PROXMIRE. Senator Javits and I are going to have to leave for a vote in the Senate but we will be back soon and Congressman Reuss will chair the meeting while we are gone.

(At this point Congressman Reuss assumed the chair.)

Secretary WIRTZ. Mr. Chairman, and members of the joint committee, the brevity of this statement marks my respect for the broad understanding the members of this committee have of the vitally important subject of these hearings, and my concurrence in the views other members of the administration have already presented to you, and I mean all of the views of the other members of the administration.

If there is a single point of particular emphasis in my own measurement of the condition of the economy it is this: It seems to me right to assert full employment (in the fullest sense of that term) at wages producing a decent standard of living for everyone as a first-priority national purpose.

I expect there is probably no disagreement about this—except as there may be differences of judgment about the operational relationship of the means of serving this purpose to the means of serving other purposes. I recognize these differences are important.

This testimony may also reflect another possible bias which should be made clear. Respecting a strong, continuing constantly expanding economy as the most important single element in the achievement and maintenance of full employment at adequate wages, it seems to me no less necessary to center a full employment policy on that type of unemployment which will not yield to overall economic growth.

We are today at that point where the most serious remaining unemployment is more personal than economic, where there are skill shortages, and where the primary need is to develop people's abilities so as to permit their using the opportunities that are available.

If the economy were to falter, this situation would worsen immediately. Continued economic growth is the essential condition of full employment at fair wages. But it is not, alone, enough.

This is the context for the following somewhat more detailed observations.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment increased in 1966 by a solid and phenomenal 1.9 million. This is *people in jobs*.

The civilian labor force increased by 1.8 million which is half a million more than would have resulted from population growth (and the continuation of normal trends) alone. (See chart 1, p. 253.) Most of the unexpected increase affected adult women and teenagers.

The "unexpected" additional workers were primarily adult women and teenagers.

The number of adult women (20 years and over) was expected to increase by about 470,000; it increased in fact by 740,000. Almost all of this extra gain of 270,000 was among women 20 to 34 years of age. This development is apparently associated with the recent decline in birth rates, especially in the number of children born to mothers in the 20- to 24-year age group.

Among teenage girls, the labor force increase was about 230,000 more than the trend expectation of 190,000. The employment op-