

portunities provided by the expanding economy as well as the special youth program were the primary factors in pushing up the labor force participation rates for teenage girls as well as for the 16- and 17-year-old boys.

Despite this unprecedented expansion in the work force, unemployment was reduced by 400,000. The jobless rate for married men dropped to 1.9 percent, its lowest point since this series began in 1955. (See chart 2, p. 254.) On the average, only 1.1 million adult males were jobless and looking for work, compared to nearly twice that number in 1963.

Adult female employment rose by 900,000 to a record 23.5 million, while teenage employment recorded its largest annual gain on record, rising by 750,000 to 6.9 million. Three times as many teenagers found jobs in 1966 as in 1964.

There were three-fourths of a million more teenagers in the labor force in 1966 than there had been the year before. Due to the high level of economic activity and the concerted efforts on the part of governments, private industry, and community organizations, the number of unemployed in this group did not increase. It remains, however, too high.

Teenage unemployment has been one of the most troublesome manpower problems of the 1960's. Between 1963 and 1966, teenage unemployment remained at the 1 million level and as a result steadily made up a larger proportion of total unemployment. At the same time, the number of teenagers in the labor force increased by 1.5 million—more than during the entire 10-year period from 1953 to 1963. The generation of jobs kept this large increase in the teenage labor force from creating an increased level of unemployment, but the teenage jobless rate is still an unacceptable 12 percent. (See chart 3, p. 254.)

In 1966, the unemployment rate for Negroes dropped to a post-Korean low of 7.5 percent. At the same time, however, there was a slight slowdown in the rate of improvement for Negroes compared with that for whites.

If you look at the figures for teenage Negro boys and girls the improvement for their chance slowed up in comparison with the improvement of the employment situation as far as the white group is concerned.

The jobless rate for Negroes, which had declined steadily between 1963 and early 1966, moved upward toward midyear and failed to return to the 7.1-percent rate (seasonally adjusted) established in the first quarter. In 1963, the jobless rate for Negro boys (teenagers) was 1.8 times as large as that for white boys; in 1966 this ratio increased to 2.1. For Negro girls, the differential has moved from 2.4 to 1 in 1962, to 2.8 to 1 in 1966.

MANPOWER PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

The Economic Report for 1967 contains this statement:

"Although precise targets cannot be set for the ultimate minimum levels of unemployment or the speed of the downward movement, it is clearly unnecessary and undesirable to accept 4-percent unemployment as a permanent objective of U.S. economic policy."