

If this is going to go on, and apparently the Council of Economic Advisers is going to continue discouraging industry price increases, I am trying to see whether there are any plans to go in the other direction, especially since it looks like we have some real momentum going toward a wage push beyond productivity increases, probably because of previous inflation.

Secretary WIRTZ. I am not quite sure as to the question.

Representative CURTIS. The question is: Whether or not you are going to try to use exhortation to get the labor unions to try to hold back on their wage demands in a way comparable to which the administration is going, to encourage industry to hold the price level?

Secretary WIRTZ. Let me answer you in different words and if they are not sufficient for an answer, come back and use your form of it.

There will be a stronger effort made to sell the general interest and the self-interest of restraint on the wage side as on the price side because you can't separate the two out.

Representative CURTIS. I appreciate that.

Secretary WIRTZ. I think the year's record ends up with a fairly complete public appreciation of the fact that even to the extent of going too far occasionally, we have tried to drive that home to everybody concerned during 1966. There were errors. There were errors of exhortation but they had a saving quality of evenness. They will in the future.

Representative CURTIS. In respect to the Manpower Training Act, what have you done this year to get the job vacancies statistics?

Secretary WIRTZ. You and I have talked about that over a number of years and I told you before that we haven't been able to get the appropriation from Congress, so we are postponing it. I can tell you now, in one way or another we have managed to get a pretty complete picture of that situation now through Mr. Ross' office, not only collecting, but publishing each month a quite comprehensive statement of the shortage situations. They are not statements that will satisfy the purest among the statisticians. They do jibe with general information, enough that there has not been much complaint about them. We are doing it on an occupation-by-occupation, area-by-area basis. I think I can say to you with confidence that that picture is now perhaps not statistically accurate, but practically sufficient.

Representative CURTIS. My time has expired.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Congressman Reuss?

Representative REUSS. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary, your excellent presentation includes the disheartening fact that unemployment among Negroes, and particularly young Negroes, is trending up. That is unhappily true, is it not?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, sir. Trending up—not in absolute terms, but in percentages. We are just barely holding our own. The numbers are increasing but we are not pushing the rates down significantly.

Representative REUSS. The administration has recommended a 6-percent across-the-board tax increase to take effect on July 1. Will not this have some effect on increasing unemployment, and will not that effect bear very largely on Negroes and young Negroes in particular?