

(The information requested follows:)

Employment status—Nonfarm (unskilled) laborers

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1954	1965	1966
Employed	3,665,000	3,477,000	3,559,000	3,574,000	3,644,000	3,875,000	3,727,000
Unemployed	522,000	588,000	502,000	492,000	430,000	354,000	288,000
Unemployment rate (percent)	12.5	14.5	12.4	12.1	10.6	8.4	7.3

Secretary WIRTZ. On the first two the pattern will be the same, number of employed has increased, number of unemployed has increased, the unemployment rate has increased and that will be different for the third. That percentage has gone down.

Representative RUMSFELD. I suppose to make the number more meaningful it would be helpful for me to have the total number of individuals in each category in each of those periods, also?

Secretary WIRTZ. We can give you both that in the percentage and in absolute numbers. (See preceding table.)

Representative RUMSFELD. Fine; you also indicated that there has been a large increase in on-the-job training?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, sir.

Representative RUMSFELD. Which, personally, I can say I am very pleased with. I feel that this is important and very valuable.

I would be interested to explore with you briefly some facts about what many Members of Congress in both Houses have talked of as the Human Investment Act. I have in mind that at one point you indicated you were not enthusiastic about the tax credit approach and I recollect that at some point subsequent to that you indicated that this might be a possibility. I feel very strongly that it would be a way to bring the private sector into this to a greater extent, and that, in keeping with your earlier remarks about the unemployment level and the problems of inflation, this might be a technique or mechanism whereby we could do this country a great service.

I would like some comment from you and hopefully a favorable comment about this concept and about the administration's possible position with respect to it?

Secretary WIRTZ. It is more operational than it is a point of policy. If there were some way of accomplishing the purpose, which we all seek, by a tax credit. I think there would be unanimity of reaction to it. The difficulty is in trying to work out a program which would subsidize, and I use that term in its sympathetic sense, the training of those who would not otherwise be trained. It would seem a mistake to subsidize training that would be done anyway. You could properly point out that that is true of the investment credit as far as equipment and machinery is concerned.

Representative RUMSFELD. I was about to do that.

Secretary WIRTZ. And that leaves this remaining problem. It doesn't matter what machinery and equipment somebody buys; it does matter that there is a social interest in trying to direct the training where it is needed most, which distinguishes these two situations.