

(The information below was later supplied in answer to above:)

About 3 million workers were covered by cost-of-living escalation at the beginning of 1967, compared with 2.5 million at the beginning of 1966. In 1958 and 1959, when escalation was at a peak, the total was about 4¼ million.

Senator MILLER. It is going up each year as I understand it, is it not?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, it has gone up.

Senator MILLER. I understand that there is a demand for escalation clauses and there is a forecast for a number of potential renewals.

Secretary WIRTZ. That is correct.

Senator MILLER. If a guidepost is developed, should it not have a fluctuating factor, based upon the stability of the dollar, so that when there is an inflationary factor, that will be taken into account, so that there will be a real wage increase, rather than one that has been diluted by inflation?

Secretary WIRTZ. It presents a problem of terminology. If by guideposts we are meant to refer in what I understand to be the original, now almost in the classical sense, the phrase would apply only to the productivity factor in this equation and if it were taken in that sense, the answer to your question is that it would not be so effect. But surely the guideposts, that phrase has come to mean in the popular transfer, popular understanding, a net figure to be applied to wages or to prices, a net concept, and my answer would be that if that is what it means, it should reflect what has happened.

Senator MILLER. Do you think that is what it should reflect?

Secretary WIRTZ. You see my difficulty is that I am opposed to the attempt at this point to encompass all of these things in a single figure, so my approach would be to rather emphasize all of the subtle factors, and I could answer your question in these terms, too, and I would emphasize what has happened to the cost of living and real wages as one of the factors to be taken into account.

Senator MILLER. May I say that would be completely consistent with your answer to my question regarding your statement of policy at the beginning of your statement.

You have stated that employment increased in 1966 by 1.9 million people?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, sir.

Senator MILLER. If you do not have the figures, I would appreciate your supplying them for the record. I would like to know how many of the 1.9 million are represented by increased civilian Federal employees; how many are represented by additions to the Armed Forces and how many are represented by increases in defense plant workers?

Secretary WIRTZ. I don't have it on a year-by-year basis. I noticed your attention to this yesterday, Mr. Miller, and I did try to get the best figures we have and we do come out with a different set of figures from those. You were talking over a 5-year period. I can give you the answer to the question in terms of yesterday's question, but not in terms of today's.

Senator MILLER. I am not particularly bound by the years. I think it would be helpful, however, in the context of the statement, to have the additions in these particular three fields.

Secretary WIRTZ. I can give them to you off the cuff.