

What worries me a great deal is that we keep saying it is a serious matter, and that we are going to correct it "next year." But we never do. In this balance-of-payments situation, we are getting to a point where we have to make some major decisions incident to our position with other countries, else we are going to have some real problems. Would you agree?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes.

Senator SYMINGTON. The way I have it figured out is that we now have about 10 percent of free gold to pay off, if called our current obligations in foreign countries. I do not want to get you into a discussion of this very complicated subject.

Secretary WIRTZ. I do not, sir.

Senator SYMINGTON. But it worries me, continuing to use the percentage of the gross national product as a defense of the increasing cost of this war. I think the figure of the budget for defense this year is about \$74 billion, with a \$12 billion supplemental, total about \$86 billion. We could use a lot of that money in many other programs, domestic programs you are vitally interested in. So I would hope that if the administration continues to defend the growing cost of this Vietnamese war on the grounds it is a lessening percentage of the gross national product, therefore a justified expense, all that would be looked at from a financial standpoint. I do not see, necessarily, any direct connection between a country's economic capacity, and its fiscal and monetary international position. Is that a fair observation?

Secretary WIRTZ. As far as I know. Let me say again, I don't believe anybody has every justified military expenditures on the basis that you do not need to worry about it as long as it stays within a certain percentage of the gross national product.

Senator SYMINGTON. For that answer I am grateful.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Congressman Widnall?

Representative WIDNALL. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary. In your statement you say among teenage girls the labor force increase was about 230,000 more than the trend expectation of 190,000. To what extent did Government employment contribute to that?

Secretary WIRTZ. I don't know. We are trying to find out whatever we can. It would be a very small figure. There are not many teenage girls involved as far as Government employment is concerned. We will see what we can do about it.

Representative WIDNALL. Are there not a great number of people employed on an hourly basis in connection with some of the poverty programs?

Secretary WIRTZ. Let's see. If we called Neighborhood Youth Corps trainees Government employees, they would be a substantial group there. That would be the only area that I can think of with any substantial number. I just would have to check on that.

Representative WIDNALL. I would like to see the total figure of those employed.

Secretary WIRTZ. You would like to have whatever identification we can arrive at of the number of teenage girls and the increase in the number of teenage girls whose employment is with the Federal Government?

Representative WIDNALL. That is correct.