

(In answer to the above request the Department supplied the following:)

Most of the young people participating in the Neighborhood Youth Corps' In-School, Out-of-School, and Summer programs are teenagers. (Table, page 260.) Approximately 1,384,000 young people have participated in the NYC programs since their inception, including the 355,000 projected in training during the 1968 fiscal year.

The Civil Service Commission and other Federal Departments and Agencies hire teenagers in conjunction with the President's Youth Opportunity Campaign. We have been informed by the Commission that data on this program and on the age and sex of teenagers hired by the Federal Government for the years 1965 and 1966 are not available.

Representative WIDNALL. As I understand you today, according to the major problems, one of the major problems of unemployment has to do with teenagers?

Secretary WIRTZ. Yes, sir.

Representative WIDNALL. I have several questions in mind with respect to that.

To what extent does the draft prevent employment of the teenager?

Secretary WIRTZ. It doesn't prevent it. It might reduce it some. I am not sure of the direction of your question. It is an interesting thing that we have still the largest unemployment in the age groups which are subject to the military draft.

Representative WIDNALL. There are many employers who do not want to employ a teenager with the hatchet hanging over his head, so to speak.

Secretary WIRTZ. We have paid considerable attention to that and are concerned about it and feel it is very unfortunate and have wondered whether we can undertake some educational program to try to diminish that effect but recognize it as exceedingly difficult.

Representative WIDNALL. From my own observation that would seem to be a great limiting factor and once we can firm up what a teenager is supposed to do with respect to his military and nonmilitary commitment to the Government I think we could solve a great deal of the problems within the teenage group, particularly with the male.

Secretary WIRTZ. It would help some and I did discuss that with that Commission. It is a problem. I think it is not a large factor, but it does contribute.

Representative WIDNALL. Also in this respect, one of the real handicaps in employment of the teenager is the restrictive labor laws. There are many that are thoroughly employable, thoroughly physically capable, but because of age limits that have been written into the law it is not possible to employ them when there are employment opportunities that go begging because no male adult will take the job. Do you think it would be wise to have a good look at some of these to see whether or not we could loosen up some of these labor laws?

Secretary WIRTZ. The first relates to your previous question.

The unemployment is higher among the girls than it is among the boys which is one thing that makes us think it is not of great magnitude.

The second one is—and February 1 the minimum wage law became effective applicable for the first time to school bus drivers and we