

found that a very large number, some 19 States employ 16- and 17-year-old boys as school bus drivers and we have that specific matter under particular study at the moment.

I am impressed, too, Mr. Widnall, that compulsory education in this country extends only to 16 and in some States below that, but we prohibit a considerable number of kinds of employment below 18 and so there is a kind of limbo period in there and I would agree. We are just starting an analysis of the relationship of those two.

Just one illustration. I suppose a good many years ago it was good sense not to let a child run an elevator because it was a hard operation. The same thing does not apply in elevator operation today. I agree with your point.

Representative WIDNALL. Another factor, too, you partly touched on, when you spoke about the minimum wage increase. It seems to me this has also been a limiting factor where people ought to pay the limiting wage that was going into effect, they will do their utmost to employ an adult rather than a teenager because they will feel they will accept more responsibility in handling the job. I have found that true locally in the metropolitan area, right as of today. Do you not think that there should be consideration of the minimum wage as it applies to teenagers?

Secretary WIRTZ. No, sir, I do not. I appreciate the problem. We have a congressional direction study every year under Section 4(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act. This matter of whether the changes in the minimum wage law has affected employment with respect to the various industries, with respect to the various age groups—and we have reported each year to the Congress those results. They have never shown any evidence of the development to which you refer but I should add this. Every time there has been a change it has been on an upswing in the economy so there probably would have been an increase in employment anyway. So I don't know how to evaluate those two factors, but we find no evidence of its increasing youth unemployment.

Representative WIDNALL. There is one other phase of that that I would like to know more about.

It had to do with apprentice training programs of the unions. Does the teenager have the same opportunity to get into the apprentice training program as an adult does?

Secretary WIRTZ. I rather suspect that whatever problem there is there is less on the apprenticeship side than it is on the employer's side. We find an increasing practice in some industries to stay away from the young person, frankly, because of the education—the education isn't what it ought to be and we are talking very frequently about a nonwhite situation.

I will make a check, but I don't believe we have any evidence or basis to believe that the apprenticeship programs have shown an age bias. A good many of those programs have been on the father-son basis in the past which would neutralize that fact. I only testified to the best of my present knowledge. I don't believe the age factor to which you referred was a material factor in the administration of the apprenticeship program but I will ask our Bureau of Apprenticeship people about it.