

that in an address at Catholic University on November 29, 1966 you stated that essential to expanding job opportunities will be "social invention more than increased appropriations." And you went further in suggesting the use of tax credits to encourage enlarged employee training programs.

Secretary Wirtz, I assumed from this statement that this year you will lend your support to legislation such as the Human Investment Act which would provide tax credits for private employer training programs; and therefore, I would like to ask you:

(a) What caused you to reconsider your negative opinion on the tax credit approach as stated in February 1966 before the Subcommittee on Employment and Manpower of the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee?

(b) What is the Department of Labor doing to pursue the idea of a tax credit approach?

(c) Will you propose legislation?

3. I do not wish to suggest that the present Federal training programs should be replaced. In last year's hearings you stated that about half of the reduction in unemployment during 1965 was due to the effect of these programs. However, I also noted that you went into great detail (in response to a question from Congressman Curtis) to explain what the Department of Labor has done to attempt to coordinate the many existing federal training programs.

From the point of view of economy and efficiency would you not think it wise to begin to think in terms of a block grant program to the states for training programs? Do you think that a State administered program (funded with "no strings attached" Federal money) would be far more efficient and far more flexible in meeting the individual needs of each community?

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 29, 1967.

Hon. WILLIAM PROXMIRE,
Chairman, Joint Economic Committee,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Enclosed for the Committee's information is a copy of a letter which I have sent today to Senator Percy replying to certain questions to be forwarded to me after the February 7 hearing of the Joint Economic Committee.

Sincerely,

W. WILLARD WIRTZ,
Secretary of Labor.

[Enclosure]

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, March 29, 1967.

Hon. CHARLES H. PERCY,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR PERCY: I am glad to make further response to your letter requesting information for the record in the recent hearings on the Joint Economic Report. Your questions and my answers follow.

Sincerely,

W. WILLARD WIRTZ,
Secretary of Labor.

[Enclosure]

1. (a) How many job vacancies now exist in our economy?

We do not at present have any figures on total job vacancies in the United States. Such information is now available only for about fifteen metropolitan areas, as part of a Department of Labor experimental program initiated several years ago. This pilot program, operated by the United States Employment Service and the affiliated State Employment Services in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, provided one time job vacancy estimates for each of these areas for the fall of 1964, for April 1965, and for April 1966. Another such survey will be conducted in these areas later this spring.

The best available indication of vacancies now at hand is the monthly listings of unfilled job openings held by public employment offices throughout the country.