get 15 skilled workmen immediately for a Detroit plant. Now, I haven't been asked that before. So that I am sure that the toolmakers are still in business.

During the time that we discussed this on Ways and Means, I asked repeatedly what would be the effect of taking our goods in place and putting it back on orders, what the effect would be. That some of the largest concerns you would find on the first day of January 1968 would be able to buy fully equipped tools, and finally some manufacturer came in and said yes, he thought they would be.

You would have to place this in writing, to be able to walk in and buy it. But it would be made exactly to your plan.

In my opinion the suspension of investment credit really didn't do very much. The way it should have been suspended was to simply have repeal of the act, and when it was reinstituted it should have been based on orders, not on equipment in place.

Mr. TROWBRIDGE. I certainly can say my experience of the tightness of the skilled labor market in the machine tool industry—perhaps with your people, it is not as direct—that in the Department we have worked as closely as we could in trying to identify those areas where tightness in either raw materials or skilled labor was evident, and working with the industry and with the Department of Labor in manpower development work, it was very, very clear that the machine tool industry is one of the tightest; there is no question.

Representative GRIFFITHS. The staff would like to know now that the economy nears its potential, it seems essential to concentrate increasing attention on structural improvements. How are the area development programs of the Department of Commerce meeting this challenge?

Mr. TROWBRIDGE. The Economic Development Administration programs, which as you know have taken on the role once held by ARA, the Area Redevelopment Administration, are I think in good hands. They are working and are making good progress. There has been no question that in the period of adjustment, transition between the two administrations, that we have had to take care of and process a backlog of various projects that were under consideration.

A number of them did not get approved. A number of them couldn't be approved, because you can't fill all of the requests with the money available, and these resources were limited.

We have had about 565 areas, roughly 10 percent of the country's population, suffering from severe unemployment, and these areas will qualify for assistance in fiscal year 1968. The projection is that over 150,000 new jobs would have to be created simply to raise these areas to a minimal level of prosperity, and an additional 150,000 new jobs would be needed to match economic conditions in the rest of the country.

I think this gives an idea of the magnitude of the attempt. We have now established these regional economic development commissions. The chairmen of these commissions have been appointed, and they are in business. We look forward to a year in which we not only learn a lot but do a lot in the whole economic development area.