

tradesmen, to be on the job market so that they do not have to be a part of a union before they can practice a trade?

Mr. LESSER. Well, of course, there are many people practicing building trades who are not a part of a union.

Representative GRIFFITHS. I am sure this is true.

Mr. LESSER. Basically, as I understand it, the building trades will have a contract with certain employers that persons who are hired will meet certain standards and be a member of the union.

Representative GRIFFITHS. But would this open up the job market or not?

Mr. LESSER. I do not know that it would really open up the job market. I think we should do everything we can to see that the standards which are set for the trades or for any other job are reasonable in relation to the work that has to be performed, that persons are not barred from entering the trade because of their race or color or anything else.

Representative GRIFFITHS. What would be the effect on wage rates?

Mr. LESSER. Of licensing?

Representative GRIFFITHS. Yes.

Mr. LESSER. I do not know. I am not an economist.

Mr. REES. Might I answer that, Mrs. Griffiths?

Representative GRIFFITHS. Sure.

Mr. REES. I think the answer is that if the licensing arrangements imposed standards that are higher than the standards that are now in effect, the effect on wage rates will have to be to increase them. The difficulty with licensing arrangements is that sometimes the requirements are arbitrary. I recall some years ago—I do not know if it is still true—that in order to be a licensed plumber in Illinois, you had to have served your apprenticeship in Illinois. If you had served it in Indiana, you could not get your license.

It is not just the trade unions that have these restrictive provisions. You find it in some of the State laws on medical practice. It seems to me the effect of these is very clear; it is to increase the income of the practitioner. I do not see tightening licensing provisions as part of any sort of poverty program.

Representative GRIFFITHS. You do not think it will make any additional jobs available?

Mr. REES. No; on the contrary.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Mr. Fitch, do you have any ideas of the amount of income earned in illegal activities in New York City?

Mr. FITCH. None whatsoever, Madam Chairman. I would not even know how to begin making a guess. The first thing you would have to do is to decide what you are going to put in the category of illegal activities.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Well, I used to sit in a court and judge criminal cases all day. I would say pimping, numbers running, prostitution, a few of those things—these are illegal activities. And they pay mighty well.

Mr. FITCH. Yes; and burglary. I would agree that these are obvious cases. In the case of the policeman who takes coffee at the coffee shop and the building inspector who takes a little payoff for approving building plans, and other kinds of subtle and not so subtle graft which go on.