

Representative GRIFFITHS. Picking up; yes.

Mr. FITCH. It has been one of the principal growth industries in New York—State, particularly city, and to some extent, Federal service. But if you said how significant is this in providing for the present labor force in New York, well, I would say of relatively small significance, on the order of 10 percent, not on the order of 30 percent; certainly not on the order of 50 percent.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Would an open-end order of public service employment at minimum wage attract many people now in low-wage private industry, or many people who are not employed, do you think?

Mr. FITCH. I think that it would. It would attract a great many.

Representative GRIFFITHS. We had a gentleman from New York testify where another subcommittee of this committee on the need for separation of storm sewers from the regular sewers. He pointed out that it would cost about \$100 billion throughout the United States and that it employs about 26 percent manual labor. Personally, I was ready to vote for it right then. I thought it would work out fine.

Mr. FITCH. I think I would agree with Mr. Lesser and everybody else who said there is all kinds of such work that badly needs doing and that much of it requires only a low skill. But I keep coming back to the point that impresses me, which is that the basic economy of a city—and this is also true of the other great regional and national capitals—the basic economy essentially rests on office industries, fortified by the industries which serve the office industries.

We are not producing the labor force to man that office industry. Today, you cannot get a stenographer or secretary, you cannot get a typist, you cannot get a bookkeeper without doing a great deal of looking and paying a great deal of money for limited competence. In the New York south Bronx CEP training program, you can get 16 weeks training—that is all. In that time, you can train a typist to type from 10 to 20 words a minute after supplying remedial preparatory training. This is below the entry requirements of most employers. You can give a kid enough training in automobile mechanics to become a filling station helper. You cannot train him to be an automobile mechanic. You cannot train him to be an appliance serviceman in that period of time when you consider the basic things you have to do with him.

Representative GRIFFITHS. What kind of a job training program do you think would be required?

Mr. FITCH. I would think that job training programs ought to run to at least 2 years, if necessary. This is what it takes to train a fairly competent automobile mechanic, or a television repairman. Certainly, to train a competent secretary. I cannot get a Negro secretary in New York, they are a rare commodity.

Representative GRIFFITHS. I have heard a lot said concerning the idea that people do not care to have jobs where there are no promotion possibilities. I really wonder if this is not really what has happened in the secretarial field? You know, secretaries never do become the boss, although a lot of them are running the place.

Mr. LESSER. They marry the boss.