

Mr. FITCH. I would have thought that, considering the salaries which secretaries get and the degree of responsibilities which they can exercise, there is a good deal of opportunity in this particular occupation. These are good jobs. You know, a typist in New York City—and the same is true in Washington here—starts out at a minimum of \$100 a week.

Representative GRIFFITHS. At least.

In your judgment, would open housing help take people to the jobs?

Mr. FITCH. No doubt that it would. I have no doubt that sooner or later, and preferably sooner, we are going to have to attack the system of things which keep people concentrated in ghettos merely because the job expansion is not in the central city; by and large, it is in the suburbs, and our strategy is going to have to contemplate putting the workers where the jobs are. However, my point is a bit on the other side of the fence, because something else is happening that frequently is not recognized. That is the changing composition of jobs in the central city. It is changing toward the white collar and skilled service occupations that I have been describing, toward governmental occupations, and unless we train people to take those jobs, we are both going to defeat the purpose of the central city and frustrate the people who are living in the ghetto.

Representative GRIFFITHS. If the Government were to become the employer of last resort, offering employment at the minimum wage to all who wanted to work; do you think that many low-paid jobs would simply disappear?

Mr. FITCH. I suspect it would help. One of the problems that impresses me, and gets back to what you were saying about the promotion possibilities, is that there are large numbers of unfilled jobs in a city like New York. You go to any Horn & Hardart Automat, and you see signs, "Help Wanted." What are the jobs? They are busboys, dishwashers, and so forth—not only low paid, but also of very low dignity. Who wants to hold such jobs? Such labor stigmatizes the jobholder, as Mr. Lesser says. If there were jobs which paid a little bit more or for some other reason were a little more desirable, Horn & Hardart would have an even harder time finding busboys.

This does not worry me very much. I think we have to invent ways of making this kind of work more desirable.

Representative GRIFFITHS. Supposing it is just better paid?

Mr. FITCH. Yes.

Representative GRIFFITHS. What really is wrong with having that work well paid?

Mr. FITCH. You mean the Government work?

Representative GRIFFITHS. No; the busboy and the person in the restaurant. What if they started drawing \$2 an hour. Would you not assume that you would be able to get them?

Mr. FITCH. You would get more of them, certainly. However, I would think that people who are at all educated—and after all, we are pushing education as a poverty preventive—will not be willing to take them no matter what they pay. In other words, few Negro high school graduates in New York City will take busboy work at any price—any reasonable price.