

During World War II, digressing a bit, the circuses began to run out of midgets because the demand for midgets in the airframe industry where they could get inside the planes and weld in small areas was so great. But it illustrates a point.

If these things are true, we have great opportunities. Our greatest underutilized economic resource is these very people that others are talking about being rendered economically obsolete and, therefore, we have to put them on the shelf.

Dr. Howard Rusk, a world-famous rehabilitation expert, in his rehabilitation approach, says he assumes that there is no one who cannot be rehabilitated. That is a great ideal. This is not really true, but it is a great thing to think, because I think it does get us on the track where we find that many, many can be rehabilitated.

Then you have welfare, as it should be, in my judgment, to put people on their economic feet and to take care of the residual who need help. But this will be such a small portion of our society that I do not think there would be any difficulty at all.

Now, two final points, if I may. As we have moved forward in automation, we find tremendous increases of leisure time—leisure time for all of our people. Leisure time is time that you direct as you see fit. When we went to the 5-day week, this was a great thing, which incidentally created untold jobs in the recreational field. And incidentally, here is a place where we have great need for people. Mr. Reuther and others were talking about going away from the 40-hour week and I argued, why try to change that, because I think that is a pretty good work unit. I think if you work less than that, you tend to get a little rusty or you accentuate moonlighting, two-job holding. Why not talk in terms of the 11-month year, because this is the way we really are going. I would like to see it and I think it makes good economic sense. Then if we get to realize that, maybe we can start talking in terms of something that appeals to you and me; namely, the sabbatical year.

Representative GRIFFITHS. For Congressmen?

Representative CURTIS. And incidentally, in the management branches of our industries they almost have this type of program.

The other economic point is that back in 1900 or 1920—just to pick a time—a person who had learned a skill through high school or grade school—it usually was not high school—could count on that skill as a livelihood for his lifetime. Through automation, we are finding that skills are rendered obsolete so quickly that probably in a single lifetime, you have to relearn a skill two or three times. I think this trend will increase. This shows us something not to be worried about, but rather that we should direct attention to the need to get our laws restructured, particularly our tax laws. I have written about this in detail in the book I wrote, "87 Million Jobs." We must improve the mobility of labor, both geographically and within categories of skills.

My final point is that one of the greatest deterrent forces today is the labor unions. I can make speeches in their behalf, but on the other hand, they have so much power and they have been using it so irrationally, that I must point out that they have such a vested interest in the job structure as it is now, both geographically as well as what crafts and what skills and how jobs are carved out, that they fight improve-