

the unemployment rate for youth. And I simply want to point out here what is old learning to this committee: Whenever we see a monthly report of a 3.5-percent unemployment rate, as we did in January, unfortunately it is an average which conceals both the success which we have reached—a rate for adult males and heads of families, which is now about 2 percent—and the failure, which is reflected in rates for minority groups which are twice the majority group rate, and in the rates for youngsters, which are again about twice whatever they are for older people.

So, to carry it to the extreme, it is too bad, but true, that when the country is advised, in the short television program or in the newspaper headline, that we have a 3.5-percent unemployment rate, it does not get through that as far as adult males are concerned it is down to 2 percent, which is about as far as it can go, but very probably, although our sample is quite small, it is also about 30 percent for Negro girls between the ages of 16 and 19. All of that is lumped together.

Now, the first thing we have done is to try to get behind that, and I think quite successfully.

The second thing that is being done now, which will represent the most sophisticated measurement which is going on, is reflected in the statement and it is in the description of a completely new approach to, or at least a new emphasis on, these monthly figures. This approach is going to let us give you, within the year now, a very clear picture, on the basis of regular monthly checks, of how much of what kind of unemployment there is where—not only in terms of the demography of the group, but also in terms of its location physically. And then beyond that, we are also moving in this measurement into an area in which we have so far been able only to guess—namely, the amount of what the public thinks of as unemployment, but what we do not call unemployment at all, because traditionally when we describe unemployment to the country, we are describing the number of people who are actively looking for work and unable to find it, and we are not including those who are not even looking for work, but who should be. And, so, I report to you as the second development in this area, that within the year we will be getting information which breaks down the unemployment figure in terms of the type of people who are involved, the area in which they are located, and which on the second hand adds this nonparticipation in the work force.

Now, the third thing which we are doing—and it is to some extent on an interim basis—is to take the information which we already have, and to use it as the basis for what are necessarily estimates, but quite reliable estimates, of the picture in the 20 largest cities. Before, it has been on a nationwide basis. As of today—and timing it deliberately to coincide with this hearing—we are releasing reports now on the 20 major cities, with a breakdown of unemployment in the standard metropolitan statistical areas. We are releasing today this report which also shows the unemployment rate for the center city of 14 of these standard metropolitan statistical areas, rate for the center city, as well as the unemployment rate for the part of the area which is around the city, and these are broken down also on the basis of race; broken down also on the basis of sex; broken down also on the basis of age.