

the Department of Labor developed. Two years ago, this committee held hearings to be sure that we were not in error about the feasibility of the jobs available statistics and the necessity of it as far as making any manpower training program work.

But, where are we on that?

Secretary WIRTZ. You know our story on that, Mr. Curtis, and how complete our agreement is on it. And, you know, too, that we have, in the 5 years that I have been Secretary of Labor, taken each year, to the Congress of the United States—

Representative CURTIS. You did not last year, and you have not this year.

Secretary WIRTZ. We have twice—

Representative CURTIS. You have not ever since then.

Secretary WIRTZ. We have twice taken to the Congress of the United States, both the full recommendations of the Secretary of Labor, the full recommendations of the Bureau of the Budget, and the strong recommendations of the President, a proposal, a line proposal, for that study, and the Appropriations Committee, or Congress has decided we should not do it.

Now, I still agree with you in your position. So, we have tried to meet that problem as much as we can.

Two years ago it seemed to us of critical essentiality that we do it, because at that point there were manpower shortages, and we thought we had to identify those as carefully as possible—not only in the interests of the individual, but in the interests of the economy. And so we did—on a draft basis—put together on a bimonthly or quarterly basis the fullest information we could on that.

We have abandoned that in the last year, because the shortages are probably not as acute as they were before.

We are also trying, in a variety of manpower development and training programs, to get that information in one form or another. And I believe we have it substantially. We have given up on the attempt to get from the Congress the approval, the special authorization for it. But we have tried to put it together in our own programs—I agree with you on this point, and in reality, on a great many more than the previous comments might have suggested.

I would add this:

To the extent that we can shift the program to an on-the-job training basis, as we are doing, that problem is met to a very considerable extent by seeing to it that at the training point the individuals become part of the employment relationships in which they will continue after they have completed training.

Representative CURTIS. My time is up.

I can only say—and I will come back and discuss it—these efforts are very, very feeble.

Chairman PROXMIRE. Congressman Reuss?

Representative REUSS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I want to pursue, Mr. Secretary, the questions that Chairman Proxmire was directing at you—in which you have said in effect, when Chairman Proxmire communicated to you Gardner Ackley's view that the tax increase will take enough demand out of the economy to make unemployed around 300,000 people who otherwise would be employed—your answer was that that is a stiff price to pay, but that