

My point is, by programs of the kind we are talking about here, we could increase the number staying in education. It becomes that much more complex.

We can also, by these training programs, push these people into those areas in which there are still—Mr. Curtis suggested—some skill shortages, which are slowing up productivity.

I do not mean to discount the point you made. I think it is a more complex point. And I think a properly administered, directed manpower program, will see at least another 300,000 people, I believe more, moved into activity which will not compete.

Chairman PROXMIRE. This gets back to the problem that has been troubling you the most, and we have not answered in our questions, or in our statements up here.

As far as paying the bill is concerned, the best way to pay the bill, it seems to me, is have our economy as fully utilized as possible, with earnings as high and jobs as numerous as possible.

We all know that the 1964 tax cut—everybody says—asserts that it increased revenues. Taxes were lower, but revenues were higher, because the economy was stimulated. It is perfectly possible that the 1968 tax increase might reduce revenues, make it harder to pay the bill.

Secretary WIRTZ. The other side is that the manufacturing workers' real weekly earnings have not increased in the last 2 years. That gives us pause, necessarily—both of us sharing this view.

Chairman PROXMIRE. It certainly won't increase if we pass the surtax.

Secretary WIRTZ. I am not sure about that. If the surtax will avoid—as I think it will—will avoid that spiraling of costs, which has taken money out of his billfold every time it has gone in, then it does.

Chairman PROXMIRE. If it will; yes. Of course, that is something that is very hard to say.

Secretary WIRTZ. I am banking on its doing it. I think it is just too bad that you add almost 4 million jobs to an economy, and you have production of the kind we are having, and real weekly earnings in manufacturing stay almost level for 2 years, as they did between December of 1965 and December of 1967. That makes me think we have to do more than talk about the number of jobs. That is a serious matter, that spiraling.

Chairman PROXMIRE. The staff has called to my attention the last study you made on labor shortages. This was September 10, 1967, entitled "Labor Shortage Continues To Ease."

In view of the serious problem we have here—the economic policy problem this committee has in recommending policies to Congress—would it be possible to get a more recent updated study? Usually this comes every quarter. We have not had one for 6 months.

Secretary WIRTZ. They have stopped. That is what Mr. Curtis refers to as feeble. If it is the judgment of this committee that that series ought to be continued, I say to you right now we will reinstate it.

Representative CURTIS. Oh, yes.

Chairman PROXMIRE. It would be most helpful to us. It goes right to the heart of the matter.

Thank you, my time is up.

Mr. Curtis?

Representative CURTIS. That was a nice note to end on.