

I will tell you the area in which it seems to me most pointed. It is in the area of the handicapped worker, to whom there has been reference here before.

We presently have under serious consideration the question of whether we are taking the right approach to that. We now give sheltered workshops an exemption on one kind or another. We are seriously considering whether we should make recommendations which would say that is the wrong approach, that a handicapped person who works his head off all day is as much entitled to the minimum wage as somebody else that we are talking about here.

Now, if there is a noneconomic element in that situation, maybe we ought to make it up. And, so, my answer to your question is that we have considered the problem; we would not at this point recommend a differential on the age basis as they have in Holland and a number of European countries, the Scandinavian countries. We would not make that. But we have—we recognize a real question here.

Representative WIDNALL. The Monthly Labor Review last September indicated that in fiscal 1967 about 1 million jobs could be attributed to Vietnam.

Has the Department an up-to-date statement of the number of jobs that could be contributed to Vietnam military expenditures today?

Secretary WIRTZ. I would file a separate statement on that. If it is felt there is additional information beyond what is supplied in the Council of Economic Advisers' Report on that.

They do make some—they do have some discussion of that. And, if it will satisfy your point, Mr. Widnall, we will review that, and see if we have any additional information bearing on that point.

At the present time the Department of Labor does not have any later estimates of the employment impact of the Vietnam buildup than those through fiscal 1967 shown in the September 1967 Monthly Labor Review. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is presently trying to extend the estimates through fiscal 1968. However, essential data on contract awards for the entire fiscal year 1968 will not be available from the Department of Defense until later this spring. When this material is available, we will be able to complete the work and should have the information ready during the summer.

Representative WIDNALL. You undoubtedly have very up-to-date figures on that, because I am very much aware of the fact that some of the Government contracts are awarded on the basis of labor impact. And, where there seems to be a sloughing off in employment, aren't some of the contracts channeled into those areas?

Secretary WIRTZ. There is very little of that. There is a rider to the Department of Defense Appropriation Act which precludes directing a contract to meet the point you have in mind if it results in a higher cost.

Now, there are some limited advantages under the Small Business Act, and so on. But there is comparatively little—some of us have felt too little—of what you suggest.

But I would be glad to identify that.

Representative WIDNALL. Just one further question.

Last September a Federal compulsory arbitration panel awarded a 5.5-percent package to six railroad shop craft unions.