

Mr. Ross. I think I would say this, Mr. Curtis: The bulk of the articles are written by our staff members, so that insofar as statements of fact are included, we would represent this to be the fact, and that the Department of Labor considers it to be a fact.

Now, occasionally we do have a report of the type that you quoted from, where a meeting of the American Economic Association or some other conference might be reported on. We would state it as a fact that Professor So-and-So has this judgment. But I think that is a little different from the implication that statements of fact made by our own staff members are correct.

Representative CURTIS. Yes, Well, I am glad to have this clarified, because I was not reading that at all in that sense. That is the very reason I asked the question whether there was an agreement with that point of view.

Mr. Ross. Yes. If some article by one of our staff members made that statement, I would either think it was a bad article or else at least I would say I would take the responsibility for the veracity of it.

Representative CURTIS. Yes. Well, I use this material all along. One final question, Mr. Secretary.

I asked, before, about activities of the Manpower Utilization Board, which has now been supplanted under the new draft law by a new board.

Are you a member of this new group?

Secretary WIRTZ. No, sir.

Representative CURTIS. How does the Labor Department get its viewpoints into the consideration of the manpower utilization vis-a-vis the draft?

Secretary WIRTZ. We did on the the most recent occasion—simply addressed by memorandum that group with our views. You will know that under previous practice there had been the identification by the Department of Commerce, Department of Labor of a list of critical occupations and critical industries. That has now been, at our recommendation, stopped, because it was in my judgment a poor list. I am opposed to occupational deferments in general, with a few exceptions. And, furthermore, the local draft boards were making those decisions without regard to——

Representative CURTIS. The draft order says that from now on the local draft boards are going to make these decisions of occupational deferments. Now, how in the name of Heaven can the local draft boards have judgment over the overall manpower skills needed in the society? This is where we are. The Department of Labor then has no way of expressing judgment.

Secretary WIRTZ. We have expressed a judgment by the position we have taken, and that is that, except as there may be particular factors, there should not be occupational or industrial deferments.

Representative CURTIS. I think I would tend to agree with that. But that is not what the draft authorities have said. They have simply said, instead of anything being done in a central place, apparently these local boards had the power to give occupational deferments, on their judgment of what might be needed.

Secretary WIRTZ. Put it this way, Mr. Curtis. To whatever extent there has been a change, it has been a change which will have a marked effect in reducing occupational deferments. Because there