

If a judgment were to be made at this time it would have to be that, on balance, U.S. foreign trade is a favorable element in our economy as a whole and in our employment picture.

Senator PROXMIRE (presiding). Mr. Widnall?

Representative WIDNALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Shultz, the minority members of this committee have long recommended that a series of job vacancy statistics be developed and published by the Labor Department. We understand that the new administration sees this to be an important part of the employment program. How soon will the job vacancy statistics become operational?

Senator PROXMIRE. Would the Congressman yield at this point?

This has been the position of this Senator, and I think it has been the position of the whole committee, the very vigorous and forthright position that the Committee has taken.

Representative WIDNALL. I will enlarge my statement to say the members of the Joint Economic Committee.

But how soon will the job vacancy statistics become operational?

Secretary SHULTZ. I can't give you a precise answer in terms of a month of this year. But I can say that this is something that we are actively at work on. It is a matter that it is especially interesting to bring up, because Geoffrey Moore, the incoming Commissioner of Labor Statistics, has long been a leader in the area of developing this line of statistics, and has a great personal interest in it. I am sure that we will see this pursued vigorously and rapidly.

And we would expect to have onstream fairly soon much broader job vacancy statistics than now exist.

Representative WIDNALL. I think it has been rather discouraging in the past, when you are trying to analyze the employment in the United States, to realize that you have a lump sum given to you of maybe 3½ million unemployed, but you don't know at what they are unemployed. You just hazard a guess. And it seems to me that it will be invaluable for us to have these statistics available just as soon as possible.

Secretary SHULTZ. Yes. I think it should be realized that when you start a new statistical program, and you have the necessarily professional attitude that we have in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and went to have in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that they will want to see that whatever is put out is first tested and stabilized, so that when they put out a figure they can stand behind it and feel confident that it is a reliable figure and not just the first crack out of the barrel.

So when one does emerge you can be sure that it will be thought over and worked out carefully.

Representative WIDNALL. Do you believe that increases in the individual income tax such as the 10-percent surcharge enacted last year end to stimulate higher wage demands?

Secretary SHULTZ. I am sure that it is an argument presented at bargaining tables. The Union will use it as an argument for why there should be increase. My judgment is that people listen to the argument and then go out and bargain. I would guess that it isn't a big factor.

Representative WIDNALL. In that question, I had the thought in mind that whether or not that does vitiate fiscal policy, you engage in a game of ring-around-the-rosy in connection with it.