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RELEASE AT WILL

FLIGHT OF MIGRANT LABOR IS
"UNBELIEVABLE"--GEN. ERSKINE

Coordinated governmental and citizen action to improve the substandard working and living conditions among the Nation's migrant laborers in both industry and agriculture is urged in a report by the Federal Interagency Committee on Migrant Labor.

The Committee's report, titled "Migrant Labor--A Human Problem", was released by the Department of Labor for Marine Major General Graves B. Erskine, who retired on April 1 as Retraining and Recmployment Administrator in the Department.

Stressing the need for unified action to protect the human rights of migrants, the report advocates enactment of Federal, State and local legislation in their behalf. It proposes improved procedures for recruitment, transportation and utilization of seasonal laborers, and for furnishing them adequate housing, health, education and welfare services. It particularly urges local communities and employers to accept greater responsibility for migrant workers and their families.

In a Foreword to the report, General Erskine declares that through "community and State neglect" migrant workers have been "robbed of so many normal and human rights that it is almost unbelievable." The General described them as "America's forgotten people of 1947."

The Committee's report, according to the General, asks "justice for Americans equal to that afforded foreign workers in the United States." While the social changes necessary to correct existing conditions among migrants will call for an "additional portion of the already overtaxed dollar," the alternative is a "continuance of unconcern for human values," he said.

"The information and the ways to get results are clearly stated (in the report); the burden of future success rests on far-sighted citizens willing to work for the elimination of suffering, poverty and insecurity among America's migrant millions."

The Committee report asks for legislation to regulate the employment of migrant children and also to require their attendance at school. It urges States to remove restrictive residence requirements so that migrants may receive health, educational, recreational and similar services extended to other citizens. It further recommends that Federal grants-in-aid be established to assist States and communities in meeting such welfare needs of migrants.

In addition, the Committee believes that States workmen's compensation laws should be extended to migrant workers and the Interstate Commerce Act should safeguard transportation.

Other legislative action suggested by the Committee would result in extending minimum wage legislation; in licensing and regulating labor camps; and in licensing and regulating private employment agencies, including labor contractors.

Pointing out that in seasonal migration "family organization and parental care are sacrificed," the Committee urgently recommends positive citizens action, especially in communities dependent on migrant labor, to protect the rights of children and the integrity of family life.

Such voluntary action, the Committee said, would enable migrant workers and their families to take a place in normal community life by providing them with permanent housing facilities, establishing religious and recreational facilities, extending education, health and medical services, including adequate nutrition and feeding programs for children, and in general absorbing migrants into all community group activities.

Acknowledging the need for gathering and distributing exact information in regard to migrant labor supply and demand, the Committee requests that employers furnish specific job information to workers, that the Government extend and improve its recruiting services through permanent or temporary employment offices and information stations set up in labor market areas, and key points along customary routes of travel.

The Committee states that in areas of demand all available local labor should be utilized fully before recruiting migrant labor, and that no foreign workers should be imported until a maximum effort has been made, both locally and nationally, to recruit domestic workers.

While recognizing the importance of the migrant workers in the Nation's economic system, the Committee also said that everything possible should be done to reduce to a minimum the number of workers required to meet seasonal labor needs in agricultural and other industries. Admitting that such a reduction will not be easy to accomplish, the Committee suggests that it may be done, in part, by adjustments in farm and industrial production programs to minimize seasonal peaks, by an increase in mechanization, by the fullest utilization of local workers, and by the creation of new job opportunities.

One of the greatest needs at present, according to the report, is that of securing comprehensive factual information concerning migratory workers and their children. Accordingly, the Committee recommends the establishment of a joint research committee of representatives from Federal and State agencies to assemble and analyze information about the numbers and characteristics of migrant workers, their working and living conditions, areas of employment, patterns of migratory movement, and trends in agriculture and industry which affect their seasonal employment and resulting problems of health, education and welfare. The Committee urges that these detailed studies be started at once and that funds be made available to carry out the program.

The Federal Interagency Committee on Migrant Labor, set up in May 1946, by General Erskine, includes representatives from the Department of Labor, Department of Agriculture, Federal Security Agency, National Housing Agency, and the Railroad Retirement Board. In compiling its report, the Committee was aided by consultants from other Government agencies and from private organizations.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary



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Tuesday, December 17, 1963

SECRETARY WIRTZ RELEASES NEW EDITION OF OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

A new edition of the nation's basic job guidance tool, the Occupational Outlook Handbook, was released today by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

This 1963-64 edition - the sixth since the initial publication in 1946 - provides the most current information on about 700 occupations and 30 major industries. It is the standard guide to the necessary qualifications, conditions, earnings and employment prospects of a vast range of American jobs.

In the introductory chapters, the Handbook projects the principal occupational changes expected in the 15 years between 1960 and 1975. The highlights of the outlook based on the assumption of full employment are:

- * A continuing rapid growth in white-collar jobs, particularly in the professional and technical categories.
- * An average growth in skilled blue-collar occupations but a slower-than-average expansion in semi-skilled work and no change at the unskilled level.
- * A somewhat faster-than-average growth among service workers.
- * A further decline in the number of farmers and farm laborers.

The size of the labor force is expected to grow from 73 million to 93 million, or 27 percent. This will be due mainly to the large number of young people reaching working age.

By far the most rapid rise in employment will be in the professional and technical group -- particularly among engineers, scientists and technicians. The number of classroom teachers, nurses and accountants will also grow, but at a slower rate.

Despite the increasing use of automatic data-processing equipment and other mechanical devices, the demand for clerical workers is expected to increase. Also expanding in number are salaried managerial positions.

Other key items in the forecast:

- * Rapid growth of construction employment to 4.4 million, an increase of 52 percent.

- * An increase of nearly 4 million, or 51 percent, in the number of government employees, chiefly at the state and local level.

- * Expansion in finance, insurance and real estate employment by as much as 44 percent.

- * A one-third growth in wholesale and retail trade, reaching beyond 15-1/2 million.

- * An increase in manufacturing employment to well over 20 million workers, or one-fifth more than in 1960.

- * Slow expansion in transportation, communications and public utilities to about 4-1/2 million -- only a half-million over 1960.

* No growth in mining industry jobs.

The Handbook functions as an up-to-date encyclopedia of occupations. Its listings -- from accountants to zoologists -- cover blue-collar, clerical, professional, administrative, service and agricultural occupations.

Occupations added to the expanded 1963-64 edition range from oceanographer to gasoline service station attendant. Also added this year are technical writer, urban planner, landscape architect, industrial designer, hospital administrator, surveyor, rehabilitation counselor, vocational counselor, cashier, shipping and receiving clerk, and floor covering mechanic.

Its authoritative appraisals are based on year-round research, field investigations, and consultations with authorities in industry, unions, trade associations, trade unions, professional societies, educational institutions, and other government agencies.

Illustrated with 227 photographs and 46 charts, the Handbook may be ordered for \$4.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. 20402, or from the regional offices of the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland, New York, Chicago, and San Francisco.

Also available are 109 individual career pamphlets reprinted from the new 1963-64 edition. A complete set may be ordered for \$9.55; individual reprints vary from 5-20¢. A list of titles may be obtained from the Occupational Outlook Service, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C. 20210.

To help counselors and other professionals keep up-to-date between biennial editions of the Handbook, the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes the Occupational Outlook Quarterly. Two-year subscriptions to the Quarterly, which features current information on trends in employment, education and training, may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents (\$2.50 domestic, \$3.50 foreign).

Following are highlights of the employment outlook for a few of the occupations and industries included in the Handbook:

TEACHING

Well qualified candidates for teaching positions should find favorable employment opportunities in most geographic areas and in most teaching fields. To meet rising school enrollments, the Nation's largest profession will need to be about one-fifth larger in 1970 than in 1962. In addition, several hundred thousand more teachers will be needed in elementary and secondary schools to replace those who leave the profession. Replacement needs in the middle and late 1960's will be especially high in elementary schools. Secondary schools will also recruit tens of thousands of new teachers each year, with the need for science, mathematics and industrial arts teachers especially strong. Teaching positions at the college level will increase rapidly during the latter part of the decade when college enrollments are expected to swell.

HEALTH SERVICE OCCUPATIONS

A continued rapid expansion in the health field is expected as a result of a growing aged population, expansion of hospitalization and medical insurance plans, and increased expenditures for research. The outlook is particularly favorable for physicians, dentists, nurses, occupational therapists, dietitians, medical technologists, and physical therapists. Health service provides especially good opportunities for women.

COUNSELORS

Outlook for all counselors is expected to be excellent. School counselors, vocational counselors, and rehabilitation counselors, in particular, are in short supply. Demand for their services promises to increase further in the face of rising school enrollments, an increasing number of school dropouts, the adverse employment situation for out-of-school youth, and intensified concern with employment of the physically handicapped.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Rising demands for college teachers will boost employment opportunities for social scientists with advanced degrees -- anthropologists, economists, historians, political scientists, psychologists, and sociologists. A moderate increase for these occupations is also expected in government and private industry reflecting a growing reliance on social scientists for administrative and research positions. The demand for economists will be particularly strong. Social scientists with Ph.D.'s will be in short supply.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED PROFESSIONS

Considerable growth is likely in most occupations in this field. Opportunities are expanding in relatively new fields such as hospital administration and urban planning. The outlook for accountants is excellent. A steady increase is expected in the employment of industrial traffic managers, marketing research workers, personnel workers and purchasing agents.

CHEMISTS AND PHYSICISTS

Expected growth in expenditures for research and development will continue to boost the demand for chemists and physicists. Continued expansion of industries employing chemists and physicists will also boost employment opportunities. The need for well qualified physics and chemistry professors is likely to become more acute in the next decade.

ENGINEERING

Continued rapid expansion of employment is expected for engineers, one of the fastest growing professions during the past 50 years. Expanding research and development activities are creating new demands for engineering personnel in several areas including rocket propulsion, missile and spacecraft guidance, tracking and communication systems, and nuclear energy. Despite the anticipated growth in demand, little increase in engineering graduates is expected until the end of the decade.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

The outlook for biological scientists with graduate degrees is very good, particularly for those with Ph.D.'s to do research in agriculture or medical problems, ranging from cancer to the common cold. Especially rapid growth is anticipated in relatively new areas such as space and radiation biology. Favorable opportunities to work as research assistants and technicians are also likely for those with bachelor's degrees or master's degrees if they are near the top of their class.

PROGRAMMERS

The outlook for this relatively new occupation is expected to be very good during the 1960's. As computer techniques and equipment advance, the programmer's job may also change radically. Advance college degrees may be required increasingly for some types of programming, while the requirements for other programming assignments may be reduced to a relatively short period of intensive post-high school training.

MATHEMATICIANS AND STATISTICIANS

Employment opportunities in these occupations are expected to grow rapidly, particularly for mathematicians with Ph.D.'s. The favorable outlook is closely associated with the wide-scale use of high speed electronic computers to solve complex problems in the physical, biological, and social sciences, and to assist managers in making business decisions.

SOCIAL WORKERS

A continued shortage of trained social workers is expected in most parts of the country. The gap between supply and demand will result in increasing opportunities for part-time employment.

CLERICAL OCCUPATIONS

Office and other clerical workers are expected to grow by more than 4 million by 1975, despite the introduction of automation into offices. Many new jobs will be created as business grows to serve a larger population and complex business transactions create a substantial increase in paperwork. The growth will be particularly rapid for stenographic workers and others who handle paperwork.

SALES OCCUPATIONS

Although the trend to self-service will brake the growth of employment in retail stores, substantial increases are expected in other sales occupations as a result of population growth, business expansion, and rising personal incomes. This is particularly true for manufacturers' representatives, insurance salesmen, and real estate salesmen. As employment rises, the proportion of part-time openings in stores is likely to increase especially in metropolitan areas where the trend is to remain open 50 hours or more per week.

MECHANICS AND REPAIRMEN

The largest and fastest growing group of skilled workers, this field should provide about 750,000 new jobs over the next decade. In addition, more

than 500,000 job openings will result from retirements and deaths. Occupations expected to show rapid employment growth include instrument repairmen, diesel mechanic, air-conditioning mechanic, appliance serviceman, and business machine serviceman.

MACHINING OCCUPATIONS

Employment should increase moderately over the next decade despite growing demand for machined products. Numerically controlled machines and automated machining lines are expected to slow employment growth in most machining occupations. Employment of instrument makers, however, is expected to increase rapidly. Highly skilled machine workers will continue to be in demand chiefly in aerospace and atomic energy industries.

PRINTING CRAFTSMEN

Employment growth in this field should be moderate. Opportunities for some craftsmen -- photoengravers and typesetters -- is not expected to keep pace with the volume of printed materials because of labor saving technological changes in many printing processes. Employment of pressmen, however, is expected to grow because of increases in the number of presses, and greater use of bigger and more complicated presses that require larger crews.

SEMISKILLED WORKERS

The Nation's largest occupational group -- more than 12 million workers -- is expected to have a slower than average growth rate. Opportunities

for employment in manufacturing will be limited by expansion of automated production processes. Some increase in opportunities for truck drivers and gasoline service station attendants is expected.

SERVICE OCCUPATIONS

This occupational group -- close to 9 million workers -- is expected to rise rapidly as a result of consumer demand for increased services of all kinds. Although some service jobs such as elevator operators and theatre ushers are declining, the service area as a whole is expanding. By 1970 there may be almost 3 million more service workers than in 1960; by 1975 the group may be another 1.5 million. Most of the increase will be among policemen and other protective service occupations, hospital attendants, practical nurses, beauty operators, waiters, waitresses, and cooks.

AIRCRAFT, MISSILE AND SPACECRAFT MANUFACTURING

Thousands of new employment opportunities are expected in the aerospace industry, with most of the new jobs in the spacecraft field. Unless the international situation changes, employment is expected to remain fairly stable in missile production and decline in aircraft manufacturing.

ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING

Rapid expansion of opportunities is expected to continue in this dynamic growth industry. The outlook is particularly good for professional and technical

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personnel as well as skilled craftsmen. Women will find many openings, mainly in clerical work and production jobs.

PETROLEUM

Despite steadily rising demand for oil products, employment in the industry is expected to continue to drop slowly. The decline, which began in the 1950's, will result from technological advances in methods of producing and refining oil.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

W. Willard Wirtz, Secretary

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Thursday, July 1, 1965

WIRTZ PROPOSES FARM LABOR PROGRAM

A three-point "battle plan" to develop a national agricultural labor program which will "serve all the interests of the growers, the workers, and the public" has been outlined by Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

Speaking before the Los Angeles "Town Hall," Secretary Wirtz said that the "encouraging lesson" learned so far this year in the transition from the use of foreign agricultural labor to U.S. farm workers "is that the laws of economics, of supply and demand, supplemented by special recruitment efforts, do work in agricultural industry just as in any other. Workers are available if the prices and conditions are right."

The three-points of the plan proposed by Secretary Wirtz are:

(1) "Agricultural employment must be recognized -- departing from some stubborn myths -- as being essentially like other kinds of employment," and that agricultural workers, like other workers, should be paid fair wages and be protected by State and federal laws regarding minimum wages, health and sanitation, unemployment insurance,

workmen's compensation, and collective bargaining;

(2) "A great deal more can and must be done to develop substantially year round employment opportunity for agricultural workers."

"Until this is done," the Secretary said, "efforts to bring decency into the lives of these laborers and their families, and stability into the farm labor supply situation, will be essentially futile";

(3) "There must be a more effective mobilization of public opinion regarding the farm labor situation."

Outlining the results of the domestic farm worker recruitment activity, the Secretary said that at this time last year there were 65,218 foreign farm workers in the United States compared with 2,587 today. Last year foreign farm workers were in 13 States, while this year they are only in three States: California, Connecticut and Massachusetts.

California alone, last year, had 36,300 foreign nationals employed in farm work in June. This June there are 1,964.

The Secretary went on to say that there has been greatly increased employment opportunities for domestic workers including high school and college students. In addition, millions of dollars in wages which previously were taken home by the foreign workers now stay in the country, with a subsequent increase in spending which creates more jobs.

Mr. Wirtz said that while there had been "some temporary crises in labor supply situations," there had been "no serious shortages,"

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and only "some small crop losses, the responsibility for which a more objective judge would have to assess to growers, governments, or God." He also stated that there has been a "significant increase in worker earnings, and better working and living conditions," along with "larger than normal gross and net profits per acre this year on most crops."

Charging that there was "a widespread and obviously planned program of propaganda" designed to persuade people that a shortage of labor caused an increase in the cost of lettuce, the Secretary said "if there should be any more tampering with the truth about fruit and vegetable prices, or evidence that prices are being raised unduly, the public is going to be fully and quickly advised."

He said the recent increase in lettuce prices, as much as 20 cents a head, was being charged to a labor shortage and higher wage rates, when in fact, there had never been a labor shortage in lettuce harvesting and wage increases added less than one cent to each head of lettuce picked.

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