

NEWS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF INFORMATION, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20210

USDL -- 8488

FOR RELEASE: Sunday Editions
November 12, 1967

KOLBERG APPOINTED DEPUTY ASSISTANT LABOR SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION

Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz today announced the appointment of William H. Kolberg, a career civil servant, as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration.

Mr. Kolberg, a 41-year-old native of Nome, North Dakota, was selected for the position through the new Civil Service Commission executive assignment system. He begins his duties in about a month.

In his new capacity, Mr. Kolberg will serve as deputy to Assistant Secretary for Administration Leo R. Werts and will help formulate the Department's administrative policy and goals.

Mr. Kolberg will also share responsibility for directing such Department tasks as budgetary, fiscal and personnel management, organization, automatic data processing and other administration services.

Since last January, he has served as director of the Office of Planning and Policy Development within the Department's Manpower Administration.

U.S. Dept. of Labor -- William H. Kolberg
November 12, 1967 -- page 2

Mr. Kolberg served in various capacities with the U.S. Bureau of the Budget from 1951-67 after starting out in Government as a junior management assistant with the Department of Interior in 1951.

In 1965-67, he was assistant chief for Labor and Manpower in the Budget Bureau's Education, Manpower and Science Division. He was assistant chief of the Labor and Welfare Division in 1963-65.

He also served the Bureau as chief of the Public Health Branch (1962-63) and as a budget examiner (1951-62).

Mr. Kolberg is a graduate of the University of Denver, receiving a B.A. degree in political science in 1949 (Phi Beta Kappa) and an M.S. in government management in 1950 (he was a Carnegie Fellow in local government administration).

He is a member of the International City Manager's Association and the American Society for Public Administration and has been active in civic affairs in Arlington, Virginia, where he lives.

Mr. Kolberg and his wife, Rosemond, have four children, Diane, 19, Deborah, 16, Joyce, 13, and Charles, 10.

#

(S-68-127)

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20210**

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

City Desk 42
Republic Pub Co
P O Box 1618
Yakima Washington 98901

**NEWS - INFORMATION
FROM
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

NEWS



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF INFORMATION, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20210

USDL - 8490

FOR RELEASE: Immediate
Monday, November 13, 1967

Excerpts from Remarks by
Willard Wirtz, Secretary of Labor
at the Eleventh Annual Honor Awards Ceremony
of the U.S. Information Agency
Washington, D.C.
November 13, 1967

WILL THE REAL AMERICA PLEASE STAND UP

My assigned subject on this occasion of the Eleventh Annual Award Ceremony of the United States Information Agency is Excellence and Energy in Government Service. Both subject and occasion are served by two items from last Wednesday's -- November 8 -- Wall Street Journal.

First -- and I quote: "Capital Malaise. Sagging Morale Afflicts Administration as War, Budget Woes Persist ..." "The intriguing things about folks in Lyndon Johnson's Executive branch of Government nowadays is (sic) ... what they're suffering:

"Disenchantment, Exhaustion, Resentment, Listlessness. Terror, Disorientation. Suspicion. Joylessness. Hate. A sense of being misunderstood by the populace, persecuted by Congress, debauched by the White House and betrayed by colleagues"

The story goes on to explain that this "emotional diagnosis" was compiled from the detailed findings of 20 WSJ reporters who "lent sympathetic ears" to "scores of public servants, from clerks

to Cabinet members." The story itself is a listing of 17 item reports: 2 on identified public statements, 2 on interviews with Washington psychiatrists, 13 on interviews with anonymous government employees. (One of these, it occurred to me on a third reading of the story -- when I stumbled on six or seven familiar words out of a hundred -- was the Secretary of Labor. "Lent sympathetic ears" indeed! The man's diligence should have been sufficient notice that he was there to bury truth, not appraise it.

But the Wall Street Journal is an honorable paper -- especially if you were weaned on the Chicago Tribune; and so there appear in that same November 8 issue these words:

I quote again: "Under the direction of Mr. Marks, the able and dedicated staff of the USIA has become one of the most excellent and effective agencies in a Federal service which -- under the 24-hour-a-day driving influence of President Lyndon Johnson -- measures up increasingly to what people expect of public servants. It is entirely likely that the reading, listening citizens of other nations get a more accurate picture of America through the Government media of the USIA than the people of America get of their

own Government through this country's private media,
the Wall Street Journal included."

Word for word from the Wall Street Journal, November 8,
1967! Nothing added. Oh, these words didn't appear in precisely
this sequence. I have done a little picking, choosing, re-arranging --
a word from a paragraph here, another from there -- a phrase
from this story, another from that. If 20 Wall Street Journal
reporters write cafeteria style -- choosing whatever they want
from the facts -- they won't object if we read the same way. After
all, the media is the message, the word the truth: and what's a
little contextual deviationism among friends?

No complaint. Our thanks, rather, for better reason to say
here today, what might otherwise have seemed too much protesting,
too self-serving. So come, my disenchanted, listless, terrorized,
disoriented, persecuted, debauched, betrayed friends -- come let
us commiserate (as Isaiah didn't quite say) together.

To pretend for a minute that day-to-day Government service is
a lark (adding one more species to the city's winged population)
would be to affront credibility -- a capitol offense. The bureaucrat's
job description requires his functioning alternately as prize-fighter
and punching bag. This is, furthermore, a time of unusual unrest
among the tribes of the Potomac, who react occasionally with

child-like instinct to little things like not having budgets until the year is half over, and pay increase bills that include petty discriminations. Nor do the vapors of foggy bottom offer any exemptive antidote to a broader unrest in the country today.

But what those 20 reporters would have found, if they had been covering their subject instead of their own story, would have been the simple but not very newsworthy fact: that an extraordinary number of people who work for the Government take their satisfactions from a broader course of events than their own day's almost invariably weary routine.

The more basic story -- which would be newsworthy -- is that these people find today, beneath the bramble bush of all that is irritating, an achievement in these past six years -- under the leadership of two magnificent Presidents -- unparalleled in the history of this or anyother nation.

I know the troubles we see-- the riots last summer, the differences about Viet Nam, the concern about inflation, the unrest on the campuses. I read last week's news magazine -- with the nude on the cover -- and its garbage collector story about the Permissive Society -- the day another Surveyor landed on the moon and Saturn V rose into the sky.

I know the case for the negative. And I'm tired of it. I keep wanting to say: won't the real America please stand up.

Sure, America is still too young to ever spend much time counting its blessings -- and this has been part of her strength.

But it wouldn't hurt us, or weaken our resolve to do still better, if we took counsel occasionally of our achievements as well as our shortcomings.

Let's look for a minute, for example, at this fact of our entering this month on an unprecedented 81st month of uninterrupted economic expansion.

A statistic perhaps. But what does this mean -- in the human terms which statistics reflect so poorly?

It means, just to look at the area of my own official preoccupation, that there are 9 million more jobs today than there were 80 months ago. That's too big a figure to mean much to most of us. We see the clearer picture in terms of over 5,000 more people going to work every working day than went to work the day before.

A reduction in the "seasonally adjusted national unemployment rate" from almost 7% to about 4% is, again, just statistic to most people.

One smaller piece of that achievement makes it clearer: In 1961, there were three quarters of a million people in this country who had been out of work for 27 weeks or more. Now, that number is down to 155,000.

Ninety-eight out of every hundred married men, heads of families, are employed today. For the two who still have trouble finding a job, there were five in 1961.

Workers' earnings have risen even more significantly during these 80 months.

* The average cash weekly earnings of manufacturing workers have increased from \$89 to \$117.

- * Although prices have gone up some, today's average weekly pay check buys the manufacturing worker and his family 17% more than it did six and a half years ago.
- * The "real" purchasing power of all Americans now averages 28% more than it did then; and this is after taxes and after taking account of increased costs. The increase in this figure during these past 80 months is almost three times as large as it was in the previous 80-month period.
- * The legal minimum wage for most workers covered by the Federal law has been raised by Congress -- acting on the recommendation of President Kennedy in 1961 and President Johnson in 1965 -- from \$1.00 an hour to \$1.40, and will go to \$1.60 next February. Over 10 million additional workers have been brought under the protection of that law.

Just statistics? Averages? Yes, but not to be dismissed as only that. We are inclined to do what we can measure.

Beyond this, these are the statistics of better living -- fuller living -- and in a real sense fuller freedom.

They are the statistics of a people's achievement in learning how to do better those things that must be done together. They are at the same time the statistics of a Presidential leadership with the courage to tell the country the truth about poverty and the right to equal opportunity -- and how to make those rights real in peoples lives.

If it sometimes seems -- as it does -- that we aren't very much more "satisfied" than we were before -- not as much as gains such as these ought to mean -- then there is more to it:

- * We have raised our standards -- not only of living but of expectation.
- * Just doing better than last year isn't any longer enough.

Perhaps the largest gain of all in these 80 months is in the confidence that we can do whatever we set out to do -- that we are not the prisoners of laws of boom and bust -- that the proper measure of accomplishment is not in a comparison with previous achievement but in the vision of the full use of the human competence.

For you in the USIA there is the additional satisfaction of being able to "tell the world" about it.

You know, in a more immediate sense, the significance of the late A. Powell Davies' saying: "The world has become too small for anything but brotherhood, and too dangerous for anything but the truth."

You know from what you are doing, more clearly than most people can, the crucial, critical significance of insisting that there be peace with freedom in Southeast Asia -- and that neither will be worth having without the other. You know what it would mean among over 300 million people in that part of the planet if we turned away, admitting that the forces of freedom do not have the courage of the Western world's expressed conviction.

Yours is the privilege of being the voice of an America in which the rest of us can take only quieter pride.

It was a heart-warming experience to go, earlier this Fall, to Montreal, and to see there how America was made to appear in the eyes of the world as beautiful as she is in person. Hats? Sure. Movies? Yes: W.C. Fields saying how much he liked to look at women, but he wouldn't want to own one. And Bucky Fuller's geodesic dome -- with all its spaciousness -- and the blinds that

didn't work, seeming some way to give the proper lie to technology's vaunted supremacy. And the film devoted not to America's prowess, but to her children's play.

Your assignment includes the counteracting, so far as possible, of the effect of knowledge advancing right now so much more rapidly than understanding. The largest questions before the world are how democracy is to work when a smaller and smaller number of the majority know what has to be known about the elements which are critical in crucial decision-making, how a vacuum of values is to be prevented from developing in the wake of a hurricane of change, how the ever-enlarging institutions an ever-expanding population requires are to be altered so as to give individuals the larger opportunity for participation which they -- especially the younger among them -- are demanding. In all of this the essential equation involves the relationship of understanding to knowledge, of social to scientific invention, of communication (which is education) to discovery.

Is this too glorified a concept of what we are doing: because it leaves out riots and slums and draft card burnings, and drugs -- and the other 5% facts that get 95% of the publicity; because it seems to be about horizons and stars when our days are filled with typewriters, endless pieces of paper, and interminable talk, talk, talk?

I don't think so. Neither do you.

So look if you must, scavengers of the press, for symptoms of "terror" and "hate" and "debauchery" and "betrayal."

But ask us, too, whether we like the feeling of being, each of us, a little part of the greatest achievement in Man's eternal questing. For we do.

Ask us, after you're through talking about "debauchery by the White House," whether we're proud to work for America -- under the leadership of Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey. For we are.

Ask us whether we think the future is a great, magnificent idea. For we believe greatly that it is.