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The American Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1874. Its objects are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress.

The President's Manpower Report

Last month the President sent to Congress the first of what will become a series of annual reports on the nation's manpower requirements, resources, and utilization. "Unemployment," the President wrote, "is our number one economic problem." Much of his report, and much of the Department of Labor's accompanying analysis of labor force trends, problems, and future prospects dealt with unemployment and methods of reducing it. (The combined report is available for \$1.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.)

An over-all unemployment rate of 5.5 percent has little personal meaning to the scientist, engineer, or member of some other shortage category. But in a highly interwoven economy there are, nevertheless, a number of implications that bear directly on the work of both social and natural scientists and on the work of many teachers.

The strictly economic aspects call for searching analysis. There are sociological and psychological problems to study and perhaps to learn how to counteract. Consider the effects on the country of an increasing ethnic stratification in types of jobs held and in unemployment rates that is forecast by the combined action of existing differentials: The poorly educated worker is harder to place than the well-educated one; the non-white worker worse off than the white, not only in the hiring practices he encounters but also in average educational attainment and thus in employability in a technological society.

Apart from such directly economic measures as changes in tax policy, the primary method being used or advocated to reduce unemployment is specialized job training. If this be the short-term remedy, education must also be an important ingredient of the long-term remedy. Teaching, already a shortage category, will have additional burdens in trying to prevent further increases in unemployment among the large number of young people who enter the labor force without the skills or education that are in high demand.

The natural scientists are also involved. Research and development have contributed magnificently to the growth of our economy. But now, as Herbert Holloman of the Department of Commerce has been emphasizing, our tremendous R&D effort is so largely devoted to space and military matters that the U.S. devotes a smaller fraction of its gross national product to research and development on problems bearing on the civilian sector of the economy than most other industrialized nations do. The shortage of jobs for other workers may be partly due to the shortage of scientists and engineers working on problems that lead to new industrial growth.

The idea of an annual Presidential report on manpower grew out of Senator Joseph Clark's 1960 proposal to establish an Advisory Council on Manpower that would serve the President in much the same fashion that the Council of Economic Advisers serves in its sphere. The bill did not get far, but a suggestion brought out in the hearings [*Science* 133, 253 (1961)] was embodied in the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 as a request to the President for an annual report on the nation's manpower resources and utilization. Because economic, educational, and social progress are so clearly dependent upon the qualities of the men and women involved, we need at least once a year to focus attention on the question of how effectively we are developing and using our potentially available skills and talents.—D.W.