

Minimum Wage Debate

A prime concern of Marshall and the reports cited above is the ruse that the current minimum wage level decreases the likelihood that employers will hire youth. The Congressional Budget Office, headed by Brookings Institution associate Alice Rivlin, goes so far as to advocate the elimination of the minimum wage, or the establishment of a separate minimum wage for youth.

The DOL, under the guidance of manpower planner Eli Ginzburg, also plans to introduce a shorter work week, "job sharing," and the creation of more "part-time" jobs for youth and women, at the expense of older workers and men holding full-time positions. Ginzburg is also currently employed by the U.S. Congress to study modifications in the methods used by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, concentrating on dropping seekers of part-time jobs from unemployment statistics, and

thereby superficially lowering the unemployment rate.

The Administration's Welfare-Workfare Package

The issues at stake in the Administration's welfare package are integrally tied to its labor policy. The Carter welfare-workfare bill, introduced by Sen. Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) in the Senate and Democratic Rep. James Corman in the House, is a disaster designed not only to wipe out America's labor unions, but to formally create a labor pool of desperate welfare recipients required to accept any job at minimum wage (a feature now accepted by the House Subcommittee on Labor). Labor Secretary Marshall has undertaken the task of suckering "Sunbelt" conservatives into being the prime sponsors of this bill, which is totally alien to their, and the nation's interests.

Washington Week

"He Don't Get No Respect"

At the nomination hearing of William Webster, newly nominated director of the FBI, conservative GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah was praising Webster for his supportive comments of J. Edgar Hoover. Said Hatch, "Your support of Director Hoover was gratifying to hear. Hoover has been the target of a campaign of vilification by the soft-heads and nitpickers in our society. We have too many soft-heads and nitpickers, especially, here in Washington, and even on this committee. What do you think, Jim (Abourezk)?"

Abourezk: You're not implying that there are softheads on this committee?

Hatch: I think I am.

Abourezk: You're not going to name any names, are you?!!!

Hatch: I respect you too much, Jim, to mention any names.

"I Beg Your Pardon?"

A spokesman for one of the Assistant Secretaries at the Energy Department recently held forth on the following subject:

"I often feel that the soft areas have a greater application than is often thought. We are looking internally into the soft areas, because all of the external studies showed that there was nothing there."

"I Resent That Insinuation"

At a recent White House press feeding, members of the fourth estate were clamoring to know when Attorney General Bell would resign over the Marston affair. Jody Powell replied: "I think that Bell handled himself better than other parties in this matter," (implying the press).

Press: Who do you mean, who? Who?

Powell: I'll leave that up to you.

Press: Why do you make innuendos that you can't back up?

Powell: Judging from how this story has been played in the press recently, I thought that was how things are supposed to be done.