



The Secretary of Labor gives this timely report on opportunities for today's job seekers as well as for those planning careers for tomorrow

By W. WILLARD WIRTZ

U. S. Secretary of Labor

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**WE FACE** a paradox in this country today: there is persistent unemployment—yet at the same time there is a shortage of workers qualified to fill existing job openings!

President Kennedy, in submitting his comprehensive manpower report to Congress recently, said: "Greater employment opportunities and a work force ever more capable of making use of such opportunities . . . are among the foremost domestic needs of the nation." That report went on to show that our increasing rate of unemployment—about 5½ percent of the work force—is our country's greatest waste of its natural resources.

Why is there this failure to mesh available jobs with available job seekers?

This paradoxical situation results from factors that have been operating for some time. Among them are: the emergence of new industries and products and the decline of old ones; the impact of new technologies, notably automation; shifts in the location of industries; shifts in market demands; the effects of foreign competition; and the entry of a "bumper crop" of young people into the labor force.

One thing we can do about the situation is to realize that today belongs to the educated and trained—and that tomorrow the demand for skills will be

even greater. Beginning jobs now go to high-school graduates, and many employers demand even further education. Machines are doing away with unskilled work and with the jobs once available to high-school dropouts. Unemployment among dropouts is about twice as high as among high-school graduates and three times as high as among workers with some college training.

In terms of income, a college graduate can expect to earn \$180,000 more in his lifetime than a high-school graduate, while the latter can expect to earn \$100,000 more than the

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person who finished only grammar school.

The facts cry out: don't sell yourself and your country short by failing to get all the education you can.

What are the best jobs? For those who are either job hunting today or planning careers for tomorrow, here is the most up-to-date picture of the work situation, based on Department of Labor studies.

**Good Jobs for High-School Graduates:** Those with special skills acquired in vocational, business, or high school, the armed services, or apprentice-training programs have the best opportunities.

Despite more automation in offices, the need for skilled clerical workers is expected to grow by more than four million by

1975. Persons trained in book-keeping, stenography, business-machine operation, and computer skills are in highest demand.

Jobs are increasing rapidly for policemen, firemen, and other protective services in urban and suburban communities. Service workers in health fields, such as

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hospital attendants and practical nurses, also are needed.

Sales jobs increase with population and spending, particularly in real estate and insurance. Top sales jobs are for rocket components and computers, but these require some specialized training.

There also is a mounting need for mechanics and repairmen who can install and maintain the complex appliances and machines used in our society.

Technicians with vocational or junior-college training are in great demand. These include engineering technicians trained in electronics, mechanics, chemistry, metallurgy, and most other areas of technology, as well as medical technicians, nurses, and dental hygienists.

**Good Jobs for College Graduates:** This year's bachelor-degree recipients generally are receiving between \$4,500 and \$7,200 a year. The Federal government, the largest single employer of new college graduates, pays beginners with a bachelor's degree \$4,565 to \$5,540 a year, based on scholastic achievement.

The demand for scientists and engineers could average about 100,000 a year during this decade. Chemists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicists are getting the highest starting salaries. Teaching, the largest profession, is plagued with persistent shortages. Elementary and secondary schoolteachers start at from \$400 to \$450 a month, with secondary teachers often earning the higher amount.

Also critically needed are physiotherapists, nutritionists, laboratory technicians, medical librarians, pharmacists, and clinical psychologists. Many social workers are needed, too.

Lawyers and accountants are in demand because of our more complicated corporate structures and tax laws and our increasing middle-income population. Beginning positions average \$6,500 a year.

I have concentrated on jobs in greatest demand, but individual interests, aptitudes, and long-range goals are the primary

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considerations in finding the best job. With sufficient education, there is a tremendous variety of careers in which to find excellent job opportunities.

Tomorrow belongs to those who face it honestly—who see change as an essential quality of growth, who see growth as the meaning of life, and who believe that the future is a good idea.

## COVER:

Lightning bugs, fireflies, and other insects are the stars of the cover—like these things teen-agers photograph by L. W. Higgins—bent on enjoying that last bit of summer.

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