

icals, rubber and metal products will be dependent on the success of such agencies as this center. The traditional method of securing applicants for apprentice training has been in many occupations a matter of sons following fathers into a trade. This is no longer a general practice nor is it sufficient to satisfy either prospective employer or employee. As a result of expansions in plant and equipment, as a result of the influx of new industry and the retirement of older workers, a shortage of skilled workers in many trades has developed. And, despite the fact that unprecedented numbers of young people are entering the labor force, there exists no longer an unlimited supply of applicants for certain types of employment.

This situation has developed because youngsters did not have the benefit of proper guidance nor were they made aware of the necessity of training themselves to take advantage of certain opportunities in the job market. It was to provide a common meeting ground for employer and employee that the Apprenticeship Information Center was established. It is my hope that both labor and industry in the years ahead will make full use of the facilities and staff services of this agency so that they may cooperate to the fullest in developing apprenticeship programs that are advantageous to both. If we can, in the years ahead, assist in the development of the appropriate size peg for the appropriate size hole, our ability to combat unemployment, particularly among disadvantaged young people, will be substantially improved. And, while it is apparent that, at present, apprentices comprise only a small portion of the total work force, it is equally apparent that the industrial health and future growth of this area will depend in large measure on the continued availability of skilled craftsman developed through apprenticeship training programs.

In closing, I think it appropriate if we take a moment of our time today to acknowledge the fine work that the employees of the Maryland State Employment Service have performed pending the opening today of the Information Center. I have been informed that by the end of August, more than 300 requests for information had been received and 275 young people had visited the Baltimore office to seek information on requirements and opportunities for apprenticeship training. Almost half of these were referred to employers or joint apprenticeship committees to file applications for consideration for future job openings. Others were referred to courses offered under the Manpower Development and Training Act or to on-the-job training opportunities. As a matter of fact, as late as last Friday,