

State-funded jobs can alleviate the current unemployment problem - but rather to the method chosen to achieve that object.

In the first place, it is most unwise to create a Task Force such as this, which has a life of but one year, and which has but one function of a noncontinuing nature to perform, by statute. After July 1, 1976, unless extended by separate Act, the Task Force will be legally moribund; yet the enabling legislation would remain more or less permanently as part of the body of State law. The unsoundness of this approach is heightened by the fact that the law sought to be enacted would be uncodified and thereby likely to escape notice by the Code Revision Commission and the General Assembly. Study Commissions and Task Forces of this type are generally created pursuant to a Joint Resolution, in order to avoid this problem.

I am also concerned that the mammoth and comprehensive task given to this Task Force simply cannot be completed by January 1, 1976. If, because of the complexity and scope of the issues to be studied and reported on, the Task Force were unable to meet that deadline, it would be in violation of the law. This is another reason why, in the particular instance, the use of legislation rather than Joint Resolution is unrealistic.

Another practical problem, in terms of effectuating any recommendations of the Task Force with respect to State funded employment, is that, by January 1, 1976 (assuming arguendo that the deadline could be met), the State budget for fiscal year 1977 will already have been virtually completed and ready for printing. Although it is, of course, impossible to predict what the recommendations of the Task Force would be, the thrust of the bill is in the direction of creating additional State-funded public employment jobs. If the level of unemployment does not improve markedly by 1976, it would obviously take a large number of new jobs, and consequently a very significant State expenditure, to alleviate the problem. Such a spending program cannot easily be plugged in as an amendment to the budget once it is completed. It would, therefore, be unlikely that, absent a supplementary appropriation bill carrying its own tax, any recommendations for significant State funding could be acted upon for fiscal year 1977 in any event.

The laudable objectives of the bill can be accomplished by the Legislative Council, which has the resources of the Departments of Fiscal Services and Legislative Reference available to it.