

November 5, 1985

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION  Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training Washington, D.C. 20213	<u>Distribution:</u> A-539 All Tech. Hqtrs.  A-544 All Field Techs.	<u>SUBJECT:</u> <u>CODE:</u> 609.2 Concerted Effort to Reduce Youth Unemployment
Symbols: TDT/MRM		<u>ACTION:</u> Due date:

PURPOSE: To inform BAT staff of Assistant Secretary Semerad's call for concerted effort to reduce youth unemployment and to encourage them to promote apprentice training as a significant part of that effort.

BACKGROUND: Attached is a copy of a news release by the Department of Labor which highlights comments of Assistant Secretary Semerad at a White House briefing of Protestant lay leaders on meeting the "challenge of youth unemployment." He stated that, "Intensive skill training, work experience programs and remedial education have been successful tools in getting young dropouts into mainstream workforce through JTPA and other programs."

Assistant Secretary Semerad called upon leaders in business, education, job training and others to become partners in efforts such as school-to-work transition assistance and competency based instruction. The apprenticeship system of training is ideally designed to play a significant role in those efforts.

ACTION: All BAT staff are urged to actively and aggressively pursue the BAT program emphases now underway in response to Assistant Secretary Semerad's call. Some of these are:

- o Promotion of school-to-apprenticeship programs.
- o Enhanced coordination and cooperation with vocational education in implementing the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984.
- o Expanded linkages with JTPA, PIC's State Committees, and other organizational units.
- o Promotion of performance based training (competency based) in apprenticeship.
- o Increased efforts to bring business, labor and local organizations together to develop new or expanded apprenticeship programs.

Attachment

# News

United States  
Department  
of Labor



Office of Information

Washington, D.C. 20210

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION

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October 29, 1985

## SEMERAD CALLS FOR CONCERTED EFFORT TO REDUCE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Roger D. Semerad, assistant secretary of labor for employment and training, told a group of Protestant lay leaders today that "we can meet the challenge of youth unemployment only by combining all our public and private sector resources."

Addressing the group at a White House briefing, the new assistant secretary, making his first official appearance since confirmation by the Senate last week, declared "the federal government is only one of the key elements needed to provide disadvantaged youth who have dropped out of school and the job market with the necessary skills to obtain gainful employment."

"At the turn of the century, this country's business community will need every available working-aged American. However, if the public and private sectors fail to tackle the education and training problems of our young dropouts, particularly minority youth, we will see the business community try to turn increasingly to imported workers. The resulting economic problems in America will, in turn, create a major social crisis. A substantial increase in crime, drug and alcohol abuse and welfare dependency will be the result."

"Let's help those young Americans who are looking for productive lives now. As we continue to debate, they grow more susceptible to persistent, long term joblessness. Currently, our youth suffer an unemployment rate of 2 1/2 times that of adults. For disadvantaged minority dropouts, the picture is even bleaker. They make up over 60% of long term youth unemployment."

"While we at the Department of Labor can't provide a quick fix solution, we do know some things that work, such as the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA). Intensive skill training, work experience programs and remedial education have been successful tools in getting young dropouts into the mainstream workforce through JTPA and other programs. In addition to skill related training, such support programs as work readiness training, motivational activities, counseling and child care for teen parents have proven effective in getting many of the hard to employ dropouts back in the job market. But we must do more and with your help, we will."

"Reducing the youth unemployment has no federal government quick fix solution. I've been involved with youth unemployment for eleven years, and I believe that most of the problems can be solved at the local level, where leaders in business, education, job training and others can become partners

-more-

In setting up alternatives that work, such as school-to-work transition assistance and competency based instruction. No one can afford to sit back and hope that the youth unemployment problem will go away.

"We should ask ourselves whether our communities have adequately addressed the problem. I urge you to go back to your states and communities and look at what more can be done to move the chronically unemployed youth population into a full productive work life.

"John D. Rockefeller said 'the world owes every man an opportunity to make a living.' I say we owe our youth an adequate training opportunity to find and keep a job."

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