PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYMENT**

1. The Emergency Employment Act of 1971


The Employment and Manpower Act of 1970, which would have created a permanent public service employment program, was vetoed by the President on the grounds that it "would relegate large numbers of workers to permanent, subsidized employment" (Veto Message, Senate Document, No. 91-118, 91st Congress, 2d session). Congress, recognizing the high level of unemployment and the financial crisis facing many local governments, considered legislation to provide a temporary solution. A variety of state and local officials, Congressmen, union members, and citizens testified before the House and Senate Committees on the need for legislation. The measure was signed into law in July 1971 (Emergency Employment Act of 1971, Public Law 92-54).


Traces the evolution of the manpower programs which led to the enactment of the Emergency Employment Act of 1971 and assesses the success of providing jobs for the unemployed in its first months of operation.


The author supports an expanded program of public service employment. He analyzes three alternative methods of reducing unemployment.

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** Items from this list should be ordered directly from the publisher. Addresses are given in connection with each reference.
ment—a tax cut to encourage private spending; an increase in Federal procurement such as defense spending; or an increase in Federal grants to state and local governments and concludes that public service employment would have the largest and fastest impact on reducing the number of the unemployed.


Examines the issues which state and local sponsors most consider in designing and administering a public service employment program. Local public needs and the profile of the unemployed should be the determining factors.


Summarizes the provisions of the Emergency Employment Act of 1971 which aims at placing 130,000 unemployed workers in state and local jobs in its first year. While preference is given to Vietnam veterans, the program serves older people, migrant workers and poverty-level people in proportion to their numbers among the unemployed. No more than a third of the participants may be professional workers.


The Emergency Employment Act of 1971 was enacted as a temporary measure to alleviate the continuing high levels of unemployment. This compilation of background material and documents includes an outline of the critical issues in manpower reform, data on unemployment and brief descriptions of existing manpower programs. The Department of Labor's guidelines and application procedures and allocation of EEA funds are shown on pp. 179-335. The text of the EEA law appears on pp. 479-488.


The 1971 report includes a brief outline of the public employment program enacted in 1971 and statistics on the number of jobs created, pp. 59-61.

2. ANALYSIS AND CRITICISM

Concludes that the advantages of a public service employment program outweigh the possible inflationary costs.


Criticizes the recently enacted public employment program as too little and too late and calls for a formal Federal guarantee of the right to work for every employable citizen.


Examines the major issues raised by job creation proposals: that it may be quicker and cheaper to create jobs which the unemployed could fill than to train people for jobs which may not exist. Discusses the questions of the appropriate size, the timing and objectives of a public employment program.


A review of the alternative proposals for reform and expansion of the nation's manpower programs considered by Congress in 1971. The authors analyze proposals for administrative reform, decentralization and decategorization of existing programs and consider arguments for public service employment legislation.


The opening article by Secretary of Labor Hodgson, outlines the views of the administration on public service employment as a transitional manpower training device. Bennett Harrison argues for public service employment to provide suitable and satisfying jobs for the unemployed while meeting community needs. Jules Cohn also favors public service careers but stresses the obstacles and hazards in such a program. Beatrice Reubens relates the Swedish experience with public service jobs and other anti-unemployment measures to the American situation.


The President's proposals limit the Federal role in manpower programs to funding and establishing broad guidelines. State and local governments are authorized to carry out programs shaped to their local needs.

The administration endorses the concept of transitional, short-term public service employment.

Discusses the dimensions of unemployment and underemployment and reports on the results of a survey of mayors of major cities of estimates of the additional manpower needed to carry out more fully the services of local public agencies. The author recommends the expansion of the public service jobs program.

3. **Work Relief Experience in the 1930's**


Traces the evolution of Federal relief and work policies in the 1930's. Describes the Works Progress Administration, designed to give direct employment on locally sponsored work projects and related programs such as the National Youth Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Farm Security Administration and the Public Works Administration.


A detailed study of the Work Projects Administration from its emergence as work relief program to its termination in 1943. The author describes the WPA program, discusses the problem of eligibility and wage rates and reviews the statistics on the number of people employed.


An analysis of the effect of public works construction on general economic activity, on the level and distribution of unemployment and on the costs and prices in private construction. The study is also concerned with the question of administration and timing of public works. The authors conclude that the experience since 1933 justifies the continued use of public works construction as one part of a program to relieve unemployment.

4. **The European Experience**


An examination and evaluation of the programs and policies of nine Western European countries. Of special interest is Chapter 8, "Special job creation for regionally and seasonally unemployed," which describes the special public works programs in Sweden and the Netherlands.