A career message to young people

By Ernest G. Green
Assistant Secretary of Labor
for Employment and Training

One of the many versions of the "Talkin' Union Blues" encourages older generations to value young people and to be aware of their problems because "they are standing on our shoulders." Where we are leaving you a legacy of strength, you will be inspired. Where we are leaving you a legacy of weakness, you will be frustrated.

I have received a legacy of strength from many people. My mother and my aunt were both schoolteachers, and education was always a very important part of my upbringing. By the time I became one of the "Little Rock Nine," I knew that things as they were had to be changed, and I felt that getting the finest education I could possibly get would best prepare me to help change them. I have never regretted that decision, because I learned that solid preparation for the future helps you to open your own doors.

—

I received a legacy of strength from Martin Luther King, who was present at my historic high school graduation ceremony in 1958, and who set a course for all of us to follow.

And I received a legacy of strength from such leaders as A. Philip Randolph and Bayard Rustin, who demonstrated to the entire nation how organized labor can be in the forefront of the push for social reform, and how this reform can benefit blacks, the poor, and the disadvantaged.

As I moved on to work with the Youth Council, to a dozen years of apprenticeship outreach efforts helping young people build skills for the future, and to the job I now hold, one thing became clear. There is a direct connection between a person's education and training and the place that person will take in the work force and the community.

If we can strengthen our society to the point where no young person will have to look very long for a productive job, and where no young person need be unprepared to face the challenges ahead, we will be leaving a legacy to be proud of.

If we can't strengthen the society to that point, we will be turning too many young people off to the possibility of making the system work for them.

Obviously, we are far short of that point. There are signs that too many students are finding too little relationship between their studies in school and what they face in the job market, and that they often lack the information to make adequate career choices.

—

There are also signs that too many workers are being trained and employed without sufficient attention to the basic and advanced educational grounding necessary to sustain their productivity. These trends place a premium on close cooperation between the areas of vocational education and employment and training.

—

The crisis we face is critical, and the threshold we are on is portentous. Black youth employment is rising but during the last year the abysmal unemployment rate for black teenagers actually increased from 36.6 to 38.3 percent.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Ernest G. Green and Harriet Michel, director of Youth Employment Programs for the Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor.

There have been significant increases for blacks in high school and college enrollment and in average years of schooling completed — but the quality of black education and the resources committed to improving it lag far behind where they should be.

For teenage high-school drop-outs — of whom there have been at least 700,000 in every year of this decade — the jobless rate is 20 percent overall and 41 percent for minorities.

Whether you are aiming toward a vocationally oriented lifestyle or an academically oriented lifestyle, you should be seeking education and training which will help you to cope with today's economic and technological revolutions and to enter the mainstream of American occupations.

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, who as head of the Black Caucus has been instrumental in eliciting from the Administration a firm commitment to full employment, urban revitalization, and affirmative action, points out that for those on the bottom rung of the jobs ladder, the very act of workinc can be a big step in the right direction.

What we need above all is a massive attack on

(Continued on Page 4)

—

Federal civilian employment amounts to only 3 percent of the total civilian workforce of the United States, and less than one fifth of the employment of all governments — federal, state and local — nationwide.

INDEX

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Airco Tech.	PAGE 20
Antioch College	PAGES 17-23
Anne Arundel Com. Col.	PAGE 11
Boggs Academy	PAGE 8
Cheyney	PAGE 8
Community Col. of Baltimore	PAGES 6-22
Elizabeth City State U.	PAGE 19
Fayetteville State U.	PAGE 22
George Washington U.	PAGE 9
Hampton Institute	PAGE 4
Howard U. School of Business	PAGE 2
Howard U. School of Dentistry	PAGE 18
Howard U. School of Education	PAGE 20
Howard U. School of Health	PAGE 16
Howard U. Hospital	PAGE 11
Morgan State U. Graduate School	PAGE 7
Morgan State University	PAGE 5
Rutgers University Grad. School	PAGE 14
Strayer Business College	PAGE 15
St. Francis Charles Hall Upper School	PAGE 23
St. Paul's College	PAGE 21
University of Baltimore	PAGE 18
Va. Union University	PAGE 10
INDUSTRY & G[illegible]	
Air Force Systems Command	PAGE 3
Bell Laboratories	PAGE 9
Bureau of Natural Affairs	PAGE 18
Federal Communications Commission	PAGE 2
General Electric	PAGE 22
Government Employees Insurance	PAGE 8
IBM	PAGE 24
ITT Telecommunications	PAGE 4
ITT LSI Systems Support Center	PAGE 14
Maryland Casualty Co.	PAGE 17
MRC Corp.	PAGE 19
Norden Systems	PAGE 16
Resource Replacement and Development	PAGE 20
Rouse Co.	PAGE 10
Sikorski Aircraft	PAGE 21
Travelers Insurance	PAGE 19
U.S. Civil Service	PAGE 6
F. W. Woolworth	PAGE 23