

County are actively engaged in planning the revitalization of the Port of Cambridge. We are hopeful that federal agencies will play a major role in the development.

I think one of the important things for all of us here to recognize and recognize clearly, is that these programs to assist labor surplus areas are not temporary, stopgap measures, which will disappear if our national production figures continue to rise. Our responsibility towards all our communities does not end when some of our communities become prosperous again; our obligations to our unemployed does not cease when they number only 5 out of 100 instead of 10. We must face the fact that the underlying causes of much of our unemployment will probably be with us for a long time. The latest figures released by the U.S. Department of Labor show that while employment is at an all time high, unemployment also reached a 20 year high for the month of June. This is getting to be the usual picture—jobs increase, but the need for jobs increases even faster. This is the fundamentally important problem we are confronted with, and to me it seems very unlikely that we will completely solve it in the near future. The factors involved are too massive and too complex to yield to easy or rapid solutions. While American industry is increasing its efficiency, the American population is growing at an equal—or perhaps greater—pace. While the number of manhours per unit of production is decreasing, the number of workers available is increasing. These two all-important factors in our economy are moving in opposite directions, and until the gap is closed, unemployment will continue to be a problem.

There are, of course, a number of counter forces at work which will eventually combine to produce a level of prosperity that will amaze even the most optimistic of us. Our productive efficiency will open up new markets, both domestic and foreign; new industries will be created by further technological achievements. Work weeks will be shortened as labor skills are upgraded; the need for advanced training will delay the entrance of young people into the labor market; retirement benefits will be greater and more widespread and will come earlier in life; increased incomes will tend to remove more women from the labor market; professional and service jobs will absorb a greater percentage of our labor force. These, and many related economic trends, will assert themselves during the years to come, and a new American standard of living will emerge which will make our present way of life seem primitive by comparison. But we cannot take this for granted We all have work to do. Our jobs are to see that the communities we are responsible for are given every opportunity to fully participate in this new American prosperity.