

MORE JOBS THAN WORKERS BY YEAR 2,000 SECRETARY OF LABOR WARNS ILLITERATES

by NNPA News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — By the year 2,000, more than 80 percent of the new additions to the nation's work force will be women, minority group members and immigrants — groups that have traditionally faced barriers to employment and advancement in the past. Secretary of Labor Bill Brock declared in his annual Labor Day message recently.

Jobs will be plentiful as our economy continues to become more service oriented and workers may have to update their skills and change jobs frequently as technological advances and economic shifts force industries to adjust, Brock said.

"Right now, more than 23 million American adults are illiterates. Our high school dropout rate approaches 50 percent in some areas . . . Many students who do graduate from high school lack adequate reading, writing and computational skills to qualify for jobs," the secretary stated.

"For the first time in our history, our nation by the year 2,000, will be able to promise jobs — not just any jobs, but good jobs — to all citizens who are willing and

able to work," he continued. But the jobs will require more skills, more education, more training and retraining opportunities than many Americans are getting today, he added.

Despite the increasing number of strikes developing at this late stage of 1987, Brock said "we are reminded, too, that workers and their unions have often been at the forefront of great change and progress in this country."

William J. Harris, director of the Labor Department's Office of Civil Rights, urged federal employees who work in the field of equal employment opportunity to "maintain our commitment and perseverance" as the nation moves towards the year 2,000. His office must help make the changes in the work force to include more women, minorities and immigrants, Harris emphasized.

And Norman Hill, president of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, told the Monthly Labor Review that the early history of Blacks and the labor movement was "one of both conflict and cooperation . . . today, black workers tend to be more unionized than the work force as a whole."

According to Hill, not only are Blacks more unionized, they represent a large proportion of total unionized workers in each major section of the country's economy — the construction, manufacturing and service industries. Randolph was founder of the Brotherhood of Railway Sleeping Car Porters.

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The Division of Communications and Fine Arts of Clark County Community College is offering first year Russian I For Beginners. The class will begin on Thursday, September 10th and will end on Tuesday, December 22nd. The hours are from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Thursday at Valley High School. Mr. Maurice Horwitz, graduate of the Military Russian Language Institute, will feature an introduction to Russian;

pronunciation of Russian sounds; syntax necessary for correct oral and written expression, practice in speaking, reading and writing; and information on customs and manners.

Students attending First Year Russian II will meet every Monday, from 6:00 to

8:00 p.m. at Valley High School beginning Monday, September 14.

Students attending Second Year Russian II will meet at Clark County Community College, Henderson, every Wednesday beginning September 9th. For information, please call 643-6060.

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