

(5) Union leaders have criticized the plan for being a return to archaic solutions, rather than an attempt to look ahead and seek ways to increase productivity and competitiveness.

(6) The "social value" of these service jobs has been questioned as has their long-term usefulness. (They include domestic help, care for the elderly, home newspaper delivery).

(7) Seguin believes that the realistic choice is between this type of job and no job, and is committed to reducing unemployment.

(8) The cost of the plan is \$73 million for 1986 and \$526 million for 1987. The Chirac government including finance minister Edouard Balladur, has yet to give the go-ahead to the proposal.

(9) This, against a backdrop of difficult economic times, for France, despite the positive impact of lower oil prices, has led to an increase in disposable income for households.

(10) However, the weakening dollar, which at first seemed a blessing, now is a handicap, lowering the sale of French exports to the U.S. and reversing the trend to positive trade balances.

(11) The increased emphasis on international markets has led France to examine the state of its own economy. It seems to be suffering from a lack of competitiveness, under-investment and under-employment.

(12) Demand for manufactured goods is predicted to grow but France's exports are likely to drop by 0.2% due to foreign competition. Imports are likely to continue to rise, as they have during the first half of 1986. France, once on a par with Japan, is now comparable to Great Britain.

(13) In spite of increased business investment, compared with 1985, due to the high activity of small business and the commercial sector, the level of investment in France remains low. Since the first oil shock, France's productive capacity has remained unchanged. Businesses are not investing in new capital equipment; so foreign imports grow cheaper and more attractive.

(14) As a result, France remains the only country of the seven major OECD members to have experienced a drop in unemployment since 1983. Unemployment has risen by 18,000 per month on

average with predictions of a total of 200,000 additional unemployed for 1986.

(15) The emphasis, therefore, is on encouraging saving and investment, rather than spending and on providing education and training opportunities rather than encouraging reliance on social assistance.

(16) In particular, members of the Finance Commission suggest lowering interest rates, encouraging business to reinvest marginal profits rather than speculating, and reorienting savings toward productive sectors of the economy.

(17) When deciding what types of jobs we must train for, we must recognize the problems posed by the introduction of new technology.

(18) In France, the possible consequences of new technologies have not been realized, e.g. biotechnology.

(19) It is vital to realize that the implication for social organization generated by this new technology is more important than the technology itself.

(20) Germany has a stronger industrial base than does France with more autonomy allowed to workers on factory floors and fewer hierarchical steps between head office and the work place.

(21) In France, jobs have been developed without an attempt to match specific qualifications with openings. For this reason, the level of qualifications in Germany is higher than in France.

(22) One must examine the evolution of jobs: which trades are undergoing a transformation?

(23) Operators of computerized machines now need more than the simple knowledge of how the machine works and how to use it: a new kind of dialogue between engineers and operators is emerging (in Germany more than in the U.S., Canada and France).

(24) There is less bipolarization of the work place in Germany between conceptual and operational tasks. Intermediate level employees ("hybrid workers") ensure the link between methods of service and workshop

(25) Many new jobs will likely be maintenance jobs.

(26) It becomes, then, vital to know how to react to unforeseen problems and how to communicate using a set of more abstract ideas.