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high-flyer in terms of economic growth, but these dire predictions raise important questions on the quality of living in this state and of the future for our most important resource — our young people.

Where will the jobs be in the 1980s? Where are the best areas for potential economic growth in the next decade? What urban centers and states will be the magnets to draw fellow Americans because of the promise of a better life? Based upon a recent study, Chase Econometrics, a subsidiary of the Chase Manhattan Bank, has forecast what it believes to be the answers to some of these questions.

Four major growth industry groups stand out for the 80s: high technology manufacturing, such as electronics and computer systems; tourism, including restaurants, lodgings and recreation; retirement, with health and public services; and natural resources development, such as energy exploration and production. Even though Rhode Island has potential in the first two categories and, to a limited degree, may service energy resources, the state ranks poorly in the first of two Chase comparisons.

In the next 10-year period, according to the Chase study, of the 50 states Rhode Island will rank 49th in annual percentage growth of real personal income and 46th in annual percentage growth of employment. This discouraging outlook applies generally to the states of the Northeast and Midwest because of the low technology, labor-intensive industries concentrated here. In addition, New England is faced with limited natural resources, an inefficient transportation system, high energy costs, inordinately high tax burdens, industrial plants and equipment 35 percent older than the national average, and heavy competition from imports.

Although the New England labor force is skilled and stable, with manufacturing wages 10 percent below the national average, the costs of doing business in the southern and western states, especially those of the Sunbelt, are often less because of tax advantages, lower energy costs, more efficient transportation, and an increased quality of a labor force that is moving to this region from other parts of the country. The result is increasing job opportunities in the Sunbelt, a prediction made by Chase.

The second part of the Chase Econometrics study looked in detail at the major metropolitan areas of the nation as potential sites for economic growth. The Providence metropolitan area, with its more than 900,000 residents, covers much of the state as well as spilling over into Massachusetts in such places as the Attleboros. The Chase predictions for this area in the next decade are also depressing.

Of the 108 metropolitan areas studied, Providence ranks in annual percentage growth: 92nd in real personal income; 83rd in non-agricultural employment; 84th in department store sales; 84th in total population; and 67th in housing starts per thousand people. Traditionally, Providence has not been a

It grieves me when I have to advise my students they should move to Houston, Orlando or San Diego in order to practice their professions. It grieves me that we educate our young people for a better life and then force them to move in order to find those better job opportunities. And it grieves me most of all that we do not do better in creating an environment for more job opportunities here so that our young people could then choose to stay.

In a study done in 1973, the Midwest Research Institute rated Rhode Island in the top 10 states of this nation on the "quality of life." While it's true that there are many natural and man-made features of our small state that contribute to this high quality, an adequate living wage and the prospect of better wages are necessary attributes to sustain this quality. Yet past data and predictions for the future do not lend encouragement for adequate wages.

In the early 1950s this state ranked 13th in per-capita income; by 1975 we had dropped to 23rd. In 1961 our average manufacturing wages were third highest in New England; last year we were the lowest. Our wage rate, it might also be said, is one of the lowest in the nation. These data reveal a worsening of our economic conditions. The Chase study projects our rate of growth well below the national average, one that places us in the bottom 10 percent among the states and bottom 25 percent of the 108 metropolitan areas.

Does this mean that all is hopeless and that we have to settle for this type of discouraging forecast? On the contrary, the Chase study ought to make us cognizant of the problem and, using some good Yankee Ingenuity typical of our region, come up with some innovative ideas and methods to improve our lot. A way to start is to have better cooperation between unions and employers.

In this most unionized state of New England we have taken on the flavor of a strong labor-oriented state. Extremely liberal laws relating to unemployment compensation and disabled workers' compensation are indicative of this attitude, one which serves to discourage prospective employers from moving here. Responsible union leadership means protecting the interests of workers as well as working for the creation of new jobs. It is in this latter area that union leaders should work to form a partnership with employers to generate new job opportunities.

More jobs and better jobs for the state in the 1980s will create opportunities for our young, educated people who can then stay and contribute to a higher quality city and state. This should be our legacy to our young people.

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