A Threat Ahead From Word Processors

The rapid spread of low-cost word processing and computing equipment represents a technological revolution that can cause a significant change in the structure of the labor market and the economy. The spread of word processing may make the work of many types of workers obsolete, and consequently affect pay raises and job security.

There is a distinct possibility that in the next decade or so, word processing may affect the work of many clerical workers as rapidly as computers have affected the work of the typesetter. If the work of the typesetter has been entirely automated, it is possible that the work of many clerical workers, currently performed by machines, could be automated in the same way.

The problem is of particular concern to those who are currently employed in word processing or clerical work. The spread of these technologies raises many questions about the future of these job categories.

The spread of word processing provides opportunities for unions to negotiate better pay and working conditions for their members. The spread of these technologies also raises questions about the future of these job categories.