

1000 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION AMENDMENTS

I would like to refer to some of the other acts of legislation that are beneficial to us in McCracken County. The National Defense Educational Act which came early in our experience has been responsible for helping provide much needed teachers aids and materials, and audiovisual aids and things of that nature. We feel that this has greatly improved the instructional program in McCracken County. We have endeavored in all instances to use all of our entitlement under this particular program. The Vocational Administration Act of 1963 has been of invaluable service to McCracken County. I have only one recommendation to make to this group: Several of my predecessors have mentioned several recommendations. We in McCracken County were faced with the apparent loss of our vocational education departments in our three county schools. We were faced with that loss primarily because very few of our people were farm connected and our whole vocational educational program required that all of our students be farm connected. Some 31½ years ago, McCracken County participated in a pilot program in agricultural occupations and for 18 months we conducted that program with an idea of training agricultural youth to do something other than farming. Since the 18 months pilot program has been in existence we have been designated as demonstration center in agricultural occupations.

The purpose of this particular program is threefold: First, it is to prepare boys for effective job entry and advance. In agricultural businesses which sell agricultural supplies and services to farmers and others. Second, it does help many boys discover an interest in a particular phase of the business of agriculture to move on to a specialized or technical training area vocational school or community college. Third, it does cause boys to develop a desire to go to college and to prepare themselves for professional careers in agriculture.

I think we in McCracken County and Kentucky are doing a better job of educating our college-bound students, than we are those who are forced to leave school and take a job in order to earn a livelihood. For that reason my recommendation is that this committee and my fellow educators should place more emphasis on the training of individuals to earn a living. I am talking about those individuals who must begin to earn a living before they enter college or without college. The first year of the demonstration center in McCracken County, and, incidentally, this was located at Reidland High School, which was in the eastern part of McCracken County, are as follows: the Department of Vocational Agriculture at Reidland has successfully completed 2 years as a demonstration center demonstrating a program which trains senior students of vocational agriculture in agricultural occupations. During these 2 years some 300 principals, board members, educators, superintendents, supervisors, and advisory committee members from 20 States in the Nation have visited this center or this demonstration center.

The program at the center has recently been evaluated by out-of-State and in-State committees. It was evaluated first on the program and second on how well the program was being demonstrated to visitors. The center received commendable recommendations from both evaluating committees. The in-State committee was composed of superintendents, principals, and agricultural businessmen. The out-of-