

est items in any school budget are for teachers salaries and for school construction. There is little in any of the existing federal programs that provides assistance in meeting either of these needs. The AFL-CIO believes, as it has often said in the past, that the federal government must become a full partner in financing American education. This requires expansion of existing programs and the beginning of new programs which must go far beyond those already enacted.

To meet these unfilled needs, the AFL-CIO supports the following legislative program for education:

1. At the very minimum, the AFL-CIO's program for educational legislation must insist upon full appropriations as authorized under presently existing federal education laws.

2. Present levels of authorization are themselves inadequate to meet the pressing needs. When the time comes to re-enact the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the Vocational Education Act, the Higher Education Act and other existing federal aid programs, Congress must broaden the scope of these programs and substantially increase the authorized federal expenditures. Provisions should be made for the improvement of teachers' salaries and for improved training of both present and future teachers. Urgently needed is a supplemental appropriation to continue the existence of the National Teacher Corps.

3. Most school districts are burdened with obsolete and overcrowded classrooms. The AFL-CIO reiterates its belief that there is a critical need for federal support for new school construction to replace obsolete classrooms, to relieve overcrowding, and to meet future growth in enrollment. Federal support for school construction could be achieved either through new legislation or through broadening the scope of Public Law 815 which now provides funds for school construction in federally impacted areas.

4. The Vocational Education Act of 1963 provided the funds and the flexibility needed to upgrade vocational education in our schools. The Advisory Committee on Vocational Education, established by the law, is now evaluating the results of the program and when it reports in 1968, Congress should be prepared to make necessary changes in the Act. In the meantime, we support legislation introduced by Congressman Perkins to greatly increase the authorization. We also welcome President Johnson's proposal to fund new and innovative vocational programs for high school students with special needs.

5. The "Cold War G.I. Bill" is one of the impressive educational achievements of the 89th Congress. Provisions for apprenticeship, on-the-job and on-the-farm training, features of the original GI bills, unfortunately were not included. The AFL-CIO is disappointed to note that the President's message to Congress on "America's Servicemen and Veterans," January 31, 1967, ignores the need for these training programs. We urge Congress to approve apprenticeships, on-the-job and on-the-farm training provisions as well as amendments—include the President's message—increasing the allowances available to veterans while they are in school, and permitting those veterans who need to finish high school to do so without sacrificing their future college benefits.

6. The need for educational renewal in the inner cities and the rapid growth of suburban school populations have created the need for special legislation to provide federal assistance in these areas.

7. No young person should be denied education beyond high school because he or she cannot afford it. Present student aid programs are helpful, but they are far from meeting the need. The tax credit proposals presently before Congress would be expensive without placing the aid where it is most needed. Free public higher education should be the right of every young person. As a concrete step to bring this about we urge a federal program to encourage the development of tuition-free community colleges.

8. The Carnegie Commission on Educational Television has recently presented a report proposing methods of developing the full potential of educational television. The report deserves the careful attention of Congress as a preliminary step to the enactment of appropriate legislation.

9. There is great need for expanding the opportunities for adult education. Many adults, deficient in basic education, are limited in job training possibilities. Other adults find that changing technology requires them to undertake further education and training. The Economic Opportunity Act has provided funds for adult education but more federal support is needed.

10. The AFL-CIO puts special importance on labor extension programs which are now functioning out of several universities. The multiplication and expansion of these programs should be encouraged by federal support.