

Breckinridge area; Government leaders, including Congressmen; heads of industrial, civic and service organization; corpsmen and their families; newspaper clippings; extracts from the Congressional Record, and so forth.

If you will permit me to deliver my remarks, I will do my best to answer your questions, if any, at the conclusion thereof.

As one who believes in the free enterprise system and our democratic way of life, I consider it a distinct honor and privilege to be called upon to appear before this Committee on Education and Labor, and this is a very warm feeling I have because of the fact, Mr. Chairman, you visited Breckinridge, as have other members of your committee, and know from firsthand experience what I am talking about.

First, may I say that as a citizen taxpayer, I share your concern regarding the rising costs of Government. The impact on Government expenditures of the legislative branch and House committees, such as this, is indeed great. Your actions help determine how the fruits of our labor are spent. At the same time, as the truly elected representatives of the people—and I mean that sincerely—you have a particular obligation to safeguard our country's future.

Education and training are vital to modern society, where, according to Lawrence A. Appley, president of the American Management Association—

We will see more progress, more change, in the next quarter century than during any previous 1,000 years in human history.

We must plan now to cope with this.

Despite our economic affluence, I don't need to tell you that we have pockets of poverty amid plenty. If neglected, these disadvantaged segments of our society can become cancerous, and undermine the entire structure. If we don't face the facts, therein could lie the seeds of our own destruction.

The effective use of education and training is the means by which we can substitute a "controlled reaction" for what might be called "social dynamite."

Much has been tried, and many approaches have failed. But I'm here today to tell you something about one approach which, despite some imperfections, really works. I refer to OEO's Job Corps program, as exemplified by Breckinridge Men's Training Center near Morganfield, Ky., as operated by Graflex/General Precision.

Graflex is a subsidiary of General Precision Equipment Corp. and our parent company. However, the contract is with Graflex, so I speak with authority in this respect. I am also a director of General Precision Equipment Corp.

Like many pioneering programs, Breckinridge was plagued with problems in the early stages. In fact, during the first year under Southern Illinois University's direction, there was a riot and, according to the newspapers, very little was right. Let me quickly point out that it's easier to "second guess" than to blaze new trails. Despite their mistakes, SIU did some things very well. When Graflex became prime contractor in July 1966, we were able to profit by their mistakes.

We applied commonsense, businesslike methods, with extremely gratifying results. Let me tell you what happened:

1. When Graflex first came to Evansville to determine whether or not Breckinridge could be salvaged, we were met with mixed reactions.