

man but by other witnesses appearing before us. And I suggest we take a good vocational educational school, define it in the legislation, and give to that vocational school \$7,000 per kid per year and give to the teachers and principals the salaries that are comparable to the salaries which we pay for staff of the Job Corps and give to that school the same kind of student-teacher ratio.

I think the ratio in the Job Corps is one staff member to one and a half or two kids. Let's give them this kind of ratio in the classroom and then say to the school, to the teachers and to the principals, at the end of the year, "You not only have the salaries that are probably twice as much as you received in the past, in some instances; at the end of the year we will give you a 4.7-percent bonus on the total contract for your school."

Then you know we will have a basis of comparison and will really be able to make the judgment of whether or not schools are failures in the country or, if as a society we were willing to finance them, whether or not they could do just as fine a job as private industry.

Mr. GIBBONS. I think that is a good suggestion. Let's put it in the legislation.

Mrs. GREEN. I think it would once and for all end this criticism that the schools have failed. It is not the schools that have failed. It is the society that has failed.

We have asked the schools to produce absolute miracles. We give the schools and teachers classrooms with 35 or 40 children to teach; we pay the teachers considerably less than many nonprofessionals are paid; and then we raise hell at the end of the year because a teacher has not turned out 40 ideal students.

I am really getting pretty tired of hearing this. I don't know of anything that is more damaging to schools, when we desperately need teachers, than to hear these constant attacks.

For the past 150 years schools have been charged with responsibility, and I think, with the money we have given them, they have done an amazingly good job. I would say there is less graft and corruption and less wrongdoing in the schools than any other segment in our society in the United States today, and I for one am getting tired of this constant criticism when we won't finance our schools, and when we say to these other people we will give you any amount of money you want.

Mr. WHITAKER. I say amen to that, Mrs. Green. I believe in our school system, too.

Chairman PERKINS. I am a great believer in vocational education. I think there is room for everybody in this area when we have dropouts of approximately 500,000 youngsters a year. There is room for residential centers and room for the Job Corps, but it is my feeling that some invaluable experience and training and techniques are resulting and being obtained from your period of experimentation. It would certainly be detrimental to the progress that we are taking if we cut back any operating funds on the Job Corps at this time.

I think you will agree with that statement.

Mr. WHITAKER. It would be just shameful. We would be throwing away much of what we have learned and not gaining what we are all on the threshold of achieving.