

## 2764 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

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### VOCATIONAL CENTER WITH "EVERYTHING"

LAS VEGAS, NEV.—The administrator of schools for technical, vocational, and adult education in Nevada's Clark County, Raymond L. Sturm, is a man with a dream. Part of this dream has been realized in the form of a 3.2 million vocational-technical school located high on a mesa overlooking the Sunrise Mountains and the Nevada desert.

Las Vegas, long known for its wide-open gambling and lavish hotels and casinos, now boasts one of the most advanced vocational schools in the world. The Southern Nevada Vocational-Technical Center is every inch modern.

Wall-to-wall carpeting is laid throughout, with the exception of a few shop areas.

Gourmet cooking classes use a \$2,000 grant from the federal government to buy, prepare, and serve such seafood delicacies as scallops, lobster, crab, and even frogs' legs.

A complete motel unit is a teaching laboratory for the hotel-management classes.

Service-station attendants are trained in an up-to-date automobile service station.

Movable partitions rather than interior walls, designate work and class areas.

Electronically controlled work stations serve those studying office practices. Students, using electric office equipment, can tune in on headsets to get dictation lessons given at their own speed level from a central control.

A central library specializes in technological books and magazines. Study and listening carrels are spotted throughout the school.

The latest electronic equipment is used for diagnosing and correcting mechanical automobile deficiencies.

The beauty shop boasts special equipment for hair dyeing, facials, manicuring, wigmaking and care, hair cutting, shampooing, and setting.

Of the 86 schools in Clark County, the vocational school is the most expensive, most lavish, most elegant, most functional.

For years vocational education in Las Vegas as well as in the rest of the United States has taken second place to academics. Learning for doing has been relegated to basements, barns, prefabricated structures, condemned buildings, and the like.

Vocational students, by and large, have been given little or no counseling, no praise from the school district for their school or work achievements, and have been forced to make do using old outmoded equipment.

### SHORTAGE FOUND

A few secretarial and home economics courses and some work in industrial arts were all that Las Vegas offered its noncollege-bound boys and girls up to 1966. Yet there are relatively few jobs available in Nevada which demand a college degree. Most require some hand skill, and the schools had, until most recently, failed to provide this.

The other part of Mr. Sturm's dream has been a full education for every boy and girl.

In his cinder-block office located on a patch of desert, this sensitive educator recently made an eloquent plea for truth-telling on the part of school people.

It is his dream that all school personnel unite to give every child a relevant education, one which combines professional academic skills with professional work skills.

A special study of the employment needs in Clark County turned up a serious shortage of trained service-station attendants. Every day thousands of tourists flock to Las Vegas. Many come by automobile, and Las Vegas is a main truck stop for hundreds of cross-state and cross-country truckers. There are more than 500 service stations in Clark County; a questionnaire returned by some 200 of them helped determine the curriculum for an unusual course.

An 11th grade boy, who elects the service-station course, takes two hours of auto mechanics a day on top of his regular academic schedule.

### SALESMANSHIP TAUGHT

His shop training is not professional or expected to turn out a skilled mechanic, but rather to familiarize him with how automobile and truck engines