

And he said, "Yes?" And I brought him back the article I wrote on the Las Vegas vocational school.

It is the most beautiful vocational school in the country. It has wall-to-wall carpeting. I was treated to frogs legs provençal, and asked where the school got the funds, and was told the school had gotten a grant to get rare fish delicacies in order to teach the foods they would be cooking if they got jobs at the fine casinos and hotels in Las Vegas.

The school has unbelievable equipment, and for 2 years in the planning stage, it is a completely comprehensive school.

It has closed circuit television, it is in the wall no less—it is a magnificent place, really.

Its programs are very exciting. One very kind of interesting thing in its secretarial training is that girls generally—boys are supposed to have the aptitude for auto mechanics, do live production work to make the work interesting and to make it realistic, instead of working on mounted engines.

Girls have had traditionally dead work to do. They copied letters that weren't going anywhere, and wrote finger exercises on the typewriter that also weren't going anywhere.

Each girl in this school sits at a station and there is a switchboard, and someone in town who may want a letter, a lawyer or doctor or businessman, can call and ask to dictate a letter, the phone hookup goes to one of the instructors and the students. She then writes the letter, it is corrected by the supervisor and is then sent downtown to the doctor, lawyer, or whoever, for his signature, et cetera.

I went deliberately to schools that were doing what they felt was a very good job, and at all of them that offered this provision, they were all very, very complimentary about it, and that was to allow into the classes with high school students, older students, who had dropped out of school. They all were very complimentary about the effect this had if they could control the numbers, if they had six or eight young adults who were particularly interested in getting a certain training, and they put them in the classes with the high school students, that this worked out very well.

I don't want to give a rosy picture of the vocational education picture, because it really is very, very poor. The statistics are all pretty frightening about all of what is going on in occupational education, and I just wanted to give a couple.

I am not going to give all the sources and all the background, but I am going to explain that every 10 children who come out of school, there are three of them who have honestly had college preparatory training. Two of them have had job training, and five of them are neither prepared to go to college nor take a job.

These five are heavily weighted in the male or boy, because more of the girls are the 2 percent ready for a job because of the very strong business and secretarial offerings throughout the country.

The State of Wyoming, for instance, just to pick on it for a moment, and I haven't heard anybody say he was from there, has 27 percent of its offerings in office education, and about 10 percent in college education, and no percent in any of the traditional vocational programs, especially for girls.

There is no technical training; there is no printing; no beautification courses; no industrial chemistry; no industrial physics. I don't believe there is a welding course or airplane mechanics course.