

hours—I have never seen one yet that is there 25 hours a week. The ones I have studied, spend 6, 8, 12 hours a week for their total academic basic education and vocational training. And the report now is that we are spending \$6,900 a year and it has been up to \$1,500 per pupil per year.

Compare the value of the two with a vocational school run by a public school system that will, as you suggest, have 40 hours of training a week and maybe a \$2,000 cost. That is a loaded question.

MISS PARSONS. Part of the problem in my answering it is that I have not studied any Job Corps programs as a reporter. So I have not gone in and made any significant studies. I didn't know they were spending so few hours in training. Now I know why New Bedford had all the trouble.

MRS. GREEN. Let me make available to you 200 or 300 schedules that I have where we have 6 hours of classes and 8 hours a week in driver education for a \$10,000 cost.

MR. QUIE. Will you yield?

MRS. GREEN. Yes.

MR. QUIE. The 25 hours a week in the Job Corps centers was before the absenteeism was figured in, too. They figured 20-percent absenteeism from what I saw.

MISS PARSONS. Most vocational schools do a quite nice thing. A student who is absent very much is dropped, but he can come back any time he is ready to be a real student, which is much more flexible than the academic programs are.

I would react, of course, just as you do to that small amount of training. The only point of the Job Corps program would be to do, in a vocational way, what our very best private schools do in a college preparatory way. I have always wondered why it was that the no-good private school educator did not throw up his Exeter or Andover hands and take over the Job Corps. They could do a marvelous job with a staff committed to vocational training as they do to college prep work. And they do it on a 24-hour basis, which is the only way it can happen.

MRS. GREEN. Have you made a study of the dropout rate in vocational schools?

MISS PARSONS. I only believe what I am told. I am told that the dropout rate in the area vocational schools is extremely heavy, as much as 50 percent in some of them—not because they say of the program but because of the poor counseling on the part of people who are sending them over, that they are not sending to the area vocational schools the motivated capable student. They are trying to send troublemakers and so. The area vocational schools are being tough about not keeping them. So the dropout rate is very heavy. Once the student is in a program they claim that the dropout rate is very small, something under 5 percent.

MRS. GREEN. Is 50 percent the national average?

MISS PARSONS. I am not suggesting that; but I am suggesting that it certainly is more than 25 percent, but they drop back into their academic high school. They just don't drop out of school altogether. So it becomes a vocation school dropout. He goes back into academic.

MRS. GREEN. If you had "your druthers" when would you start vocational training, at what level?