

MISS PARSONS. Kindergarten. It is done pretty well. In Kindergarten we do have vocational training. We do get the children to develop hand skills. We drop that from grade 1 to grade 9 and pick them up to grade 10 when most people have gotten pretty awkward. The only place I have seen it done very well is at the Nova Elementary School at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where there is a thing called the practical arts room in the primary school. It is maintained by a vocational teacher and the room is filled with awfully good equipment, child size, and the children actually do go and learn to do. When they go on up into the high school no student leaves Nova High School who hasn't done some drafting and some key punch operating. Every student, boy or girl, learns to type. I really would have, I would also begin to insist on the development of some mechanical achievement tests and have lots of those and have them spotted along the way and be as interested in the mechanical level and circuitry level and hand skill level, and kind of technical relevance level as I am in the reading and spelling level of the same child.

MRS. GREEN. In vocational education and technical training the youngsters when they are 12, 13, 14, if they are not physically dropped out of school, they are at least mentally and emotionally dropouts and the instructions in technical training ought to begin at a junior high level.

MISS PARSONS. Don't you agree with me that the cutoff point is between third and fourth grade?

MRS. GREEN. On dropouts?

MISS PARSONS. On a child who has made up his mind whether he likes this thing or not. I am an ex-elementary school teacher. The chips begin to fall between third and fourth grade. All over the country the statistics are pretty strong on children from low income deprived situation homes who are allowed to be in mixed classes or they separate them in ability, they start sort of third and fourth grade, if the home is not supporting this child he begins to drop back a little bit. It is when homework requires a bigger vocabulary, a growing vocabulary that you run into difficulty. You are quite right, unless the opportunity for a student to begin to relate what he is learning in the academic side to a specific skill opportunity it doesn't come in junior high then it comes too late.

Chairman PERKINS. Mr. Dellenback.

MR. DELLENBACK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I won't even take the full 20 minutes. I wish there were time to ask more, of course. Let me ask at least a few questions.

Have you had a chance to look at H.R. 10682 at all?

MISS PARSONS. Just briefly today.

MR. DELLENBACK. You are familiar with some of its proposal for an Industry Youth Corps in the Opportunity Crusade?

MISS PARSONS. Yes.

MR. DELLENBACK. Can you tell us what you think of that proposal?

MISS PARSONS. I think it is an excellent proposal.

MR. DELLENBACK. You think this idea of doing some of the training in this close coordination with industry would be a good idea?

MISS PARSONS. Yes, I don't think it should be industry dominated or industry initiated. There is some danger in having industry decide what it wants and then the public schools ignore the "whole child"