

2918 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

employed youth to earn a living and to perform jobs essential to our society. For such an important undertaking as this, is it not logical to assign the responsibility to a tried and tested system that has proven its worth over many generations? This same system is currently involved in developing new techniques in order to stay abreast of the present and future demand for more and better education.

It is necessary that we evaluate our cherished tradition and determine whether or not we should experiment and make changes in our approach to the problems at hand. We must never change just for the sake of changing; rather, we change to improve. Caution must be exercised in order to avoid the abandonment of a traditional approach that works. If the experimental method proves to be lacking in effectiveness, we revert back to the traditional method but with a different approach. In essence, I am suggesting that the responsibility of training our unemployed youth be placed in the hands of the U.S. Office of Education and subsequently State and local educational agencies.

PART II.—VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN OHIO

As an example of what can and has been done under this system, I would point briefly to the overall Vocational Education Program in Ohio and more specifically to the Manpower Development and Training Program, conducted by the State of Ohio, under the direction of Health, Education and Welfare, U.S. Office of Education.

Current programs and planning in Ohio would have a total of fifty-seven area vocational education centers located outside of our large cities. In addition to this, we anticipate the addition of fifteen vocational high schools within our cities and an expansion of certain areas of vocational education into each of the comprehensive high schools in the large cities. This is an indication of the leadership and progressive thinking present in our State. Similar conditions exist in all other States.

The effective utilization and results of the Manpower Development and Training Act is a specific example of what can be accomplished through the traditional structure of Federal, State and local cooperation and responsibilities. Individual importance and esteem must prevail in the planning and operation of all "people projects".

In Fiscal 1965, Ohio trained 7,561 unemployed or underemployed people; in Fiscal 1966, a total of 6,017 were trained under the Manpower Development and Training Act.

The Southern Ohio Manpower Center was established in Jackson, Ohio, to serve a geographic area of southern Ohio. This center, operating under the Manpower Development and Training Act, officially got underway in January, 1964. This is a multi-occupation center for unemployed youth and adults. The placement percentage of graduates is 80%. Again, an example of strength generated by Federal, State and local cooperation.

Ohio initiated a pilot residential vocational school under the Manpower Development and Training Act that has proven to be the turning point in the lives of approximately 1300 disadvantaged youth.

(The following description of the Mahoning Valley Vocational School is taken from a statement (with minor revision) before the General Subcommittee on Education on July 12, 1966.)

PART III.—DESCRIPTION OF THE MAHONING VALLEY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

The Mahoning Valley Vocational School has been in operation since July 29, 1964 as a pilot experimental school. The school is operated under the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962, which was written for the purpose of training unemployed or underemployed people through individual projects in various communities throughout the country. The residential-vocational school concept was conceived in the office of Dr. Byrl Shoemaker, Director, Division of Vocational Education, State of Ohio Department of Education in January, 1964 for the purpose of providing a broad vocational and basic education program, coupled with a controlled environmental situation to the disadvantaged youth of Ohio. This concept was discussed with Willard Dudley, Administrator, Bureau of Unemployment Compensation of Ohio, and received wholehearted acceptance by that agency. An extremely high degree of cooperation between these two agencies has prevailed throughout the planning and operation of the Mahoning Valley Vocational School. Plans are now being firmed up to bring another cooper-