

OHIO IS LEADING THE NATION IN NEW EDUCATION CONCEPT

The root cause of urban poverty today in the U.S. is not prostitute mothers, drunken fathers, slums with rats and cockroaches, broken homes and racial prejudice.

The root cause is our snobbish, impractical, intellectually dishonest and misguided public school education system.

It is ill suited to most boys' and girls' real needs in our modern industrial and technological society and is geared mainly toward educating the 30 percent minority of young people bound for college and the tiny 14 percent minority destined to be graduated from college.

Our out-of-date, undemocratic and unworkable public school system largely neglects or mistreats educationally the 70 percent of young people not college bound and not wishing to be, and is therefore mainly responsible for creating thousands upon thousands of drop-outs, delinquents, unemployable and welfare recipients.

Determined to change the overall bad situation, the state of Ohio, under intellectually honest and dynamic Gov. James A. Rhodes, has taken the national leadership in trying to fulfill boys' and girls' real needs by providing them with the kind of vocational and technical education that enable them to find profitable employment with advancement for themselves and their families.

At Penta-County Vocational School and Technical College near Toledo, and at Timken Vocational High School in Canton, the students and teachers, along with city and state officials, laid bare for me the roots of our social problems.

At the Penta-County installation, young people from five counties near Toledo are rescued from the kind of all-day "book learning" public school education that was cruelly infected on them by academic and sociological theorists responsible for the mess in our urban communities by claiming falsely that all boys and girls are equal and every boy and girl should go to college.

The Penta-County school district covers 1400 square miles, serves 500,000 people, and offers three levels of vocational education—an area vocational high school, a technical college, and an adult evening division.

THE SCHOOL DAY is about 19 hours in shifts and the buildings are in use seven days a week. The education aim is "to offer a program to meet the needs of students, business, labor and industry in the area."

A student at Penta-County spends three-fourth of his or her day on vocational subjects and one-fourth on academic subjects.

It was an inspiring experience in these times to see the marvelous results obtained at Penta-County and similar results at Timken Vocational High School in Canton.

Here were classrooms full of attentive, respectful, quiet and stimulated boys and girls hanging on teachers' words and bent on self-improvement.

I SAW EDUCATIONAL wonders at Penta-County and Timken schools in Toledo and Canton. I believe I met the future elite in our nation—the boys and girls who will give it good citizenship and are developing in school the good qualities necessary for responsible community leadership.

In the historical past, Ohio has led the nation in being the home of future presidents of the United States. I believe it is now pointing the way toward developing future presidents of civic institutions, industrial enterprises, service groups and humanitarian organizations. The reason? Ohio is facing our nation's educational problems as they really are.

Today Ohio is pioneering in establishment of the educational development that can bring a bright future to our land.

While doing everything possible for the college future of 30 percent of young people, Ohio is beginning to give the other 70 percent their due so that as the young people put it—they won't "get done out" in school and can win out in adult life.

PIONEER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL HELPS DISADVANTAGED BOYS

At Mahoning Valley Vocational School near Youngstown, Ohio there is now taking place a unique pioneering effort in vocational training for disadvantaged boys from 16 through 21 years of age.

Set up at a phased-out Air Force base, the Mahoning School is operated by several state groups working together to solve the basic educational problem that led to hasty creation of the ill-fated Job Corps and similar poverty program activities.