

Chairman PERKINS. I am talking about the youngster that is lacking in basic education. You are not touching that youngster, are you, in your vocational school?

Mr. SEAGREN. I think we are.

Chairman PERKINS. What about you, Mr. Ramey?

Mr. RAMEY. I am afraid I would have to plead guilty to a large extent on that. We don't deny anyone admittance, but to me, and maybe I am wrong here, maybe we are too concerned about the future of this individual, maybe we are too concerned about his getting a job and keeping a job.

In today's world the skilled tradesman some way just has to have some educational background. He just can't come in without being able to read and write intelligently and do fairly complicated mathematics, and become a skilled tradesman.

Now there may be semiskilled, and we just haven't developed them in our school.

So at the present, no; we are not taking those students. That is, they are not coming, because they know that they can't do the work that is set up in this course for them.

Chairman PERKINS. Your dropout rate: Is it comprised largely of youngsters that are lacking in basic education at your vocational school?

Mr. RAMEY. Our dropout rate is not tremendously large at all; but on the other hand, the news is out, good or bad, in our whole area, that if a boy wants to be an electrician, that there is quite a bit to being an electrician, so people just don't like to fail. I don't like to fail, and you don't; so he just doesn't come in and apply, and that is the person that I think that we all should be much more concerned with than we have in the past.

Chairman PERKINS. Well, you have visited Job Corps, have you, Mr. Ramey?

Mr. RAMEY. No, sir, I haven't. I am ashamed to say I haven't, but I haven't.

Chairman PERKINS. You do know that from what knowledge you have obtained that they are giving special attention, special basic education, and special training to this type of youngster, at the bottom of the ladder.

Do you understand that?

Mr. RAMEY. Yes.

Chairman PERKINS. Vocational schools are not equipped to do it.

Mr. QUIE. I should have taken exception with you. I found this interesting that you keep asking Mr. Seagren and Mr. Ramey these questions, and Mr. Watson runs a school which is very comparable.

Chairman PERKINS. I will get to Mr. Watson.

Mr. QUIE. A very comparable program to the Job Corps, in comparison of the job vocational education can do.

Chairman PERKINS. The reason I am taking these two gentlemen separately is because they run a different institution from Mr. Watson.

Mr. QUIE. I did not mean to infer that they are incapable of taking, only that all members of the panel are qualified to discuss this subject, including Mr. Watson, and they should all be questioned.

Chairman PERKINS. You did say, though, Mr. Seagren, that you tested all of them that came to your institution.

Mr. SEAGREN. In the occupational areas, yes.