

Chairman PERKINS. And that test was equivalent to a high school education.

Mr. SEAGREN. No, no, I am sorry if you have drawn that impression.

If a person is going into auto mechanics, we accept them at an eighth grade level on mathematics. We find that that experience is sufficient to do it.

Now it is moving up because of the complication of employment.

Chairman PERKINS. How many youngsters in your school do you have below the eighth grade level, Mr. Seagren? If any?

Mr. SEAGREN. We have a lot of them. We are not requiring that they be high school graduates to take a course. If we find out that they need eighth grade math to do a job.

Chairman PERKINS. I am talking about your straight vocational education.

Mr. SEAGREN. That is still at all levels, depending upon the type of occupation they are going into. It could be an eighth grade level for one type of occupation, it might be a tenth grade level for another.

Chairman PERKINS. What do you have for a fifth grade level youngster?

Mr. SEAGREN. We put them into what we call operational type of programs, rather than going into a trade, and we take them at any level, in that case, for just job operations.

Maybe filling station attendant, for example.

Chairman PERKINS. How many do you have of those?

Mr. SEAGREN. Well, out of according to the enrollment of some 18,000, 19,000, we may have well over 500, in that category. Maybe more.

Chairman PERKINS. Would you document for the record the education and equivalency of your youngsters that are now enrolled? I imagine you have that information available where it would not be difficult, any difficulty.

Mr. SEAGREN. No, I don't have that at hand, because I can say this: That the average age of our group going to school may be up in the high twenties, or may be in the low thirties. That is the average age, but we have a sizable group of dropouts that are, or potential dropouts that the guidance department and principal of the high school refer to us, because they are not adjusting in a high school atmosphere. They come down to us and they continue right in our program with the adults, and that group carries on. Your percentage dropouts with these youths is less than 5 percent.

Chairman PERKINS. Now we have provided in our Vocational Education Act of 1963 that in accordance with any approved State plan, such funds may be used—

* * * for any or all of the following purposes: Vocational education for persons who have academic, socio-economic or other handicaps, and permit them to succeed in a regular education program.

Do you have a program of that kind?

Mr. RAMEY. Yes, we do.

Chairman PERKINS. How much money are you spending?

Mr. RAMEY. That is made up right in connection with our regular high school program, so that is absorbed in our regular instruction personnel. I wouldn't know the cost.