

curricula, in many cases, has no relation to any meaningful objective for the deprived youth who will have to seek employment as soon as his education is completed. Businessmen can help rectify this, and the national chamber is encouraging its members to do so.

2. Vocational training programs should reflect the needs of and involve as much as possible, private business and industry.

Businessmen are uniquely able to advise school boards and administrators about present and predictable future job opportunities—and about the skills and knowledge required to meet them. Advisory committees of business and professional men can keep vocational and technical courses in tune with the economy, often through cooperative work-study programs. Such business education liaison can help assure realistic vocational educational programs and the placement and success of graduates.

3. Changes should be made in the labor laws, labor union and apprenticeship policies and business hiring practices to permit on-the-job training and hiring of young people now often deprived of work experience by unreasonable limitations due to age requirements.

School and Job Corps dropouts have difficulty finding jobs or even qualifying for vocational training because of these restrictions. Likewise, the minimum wage should be flexible so as to permit the hiring of young people and the training of young people at an economic wage that reasonably reflects their productivity. As now structured the minimum wage can discourage employers from training and hiring young unskilled people.

One of the comments most often volunteered by the Job Corps graduates who responded to the study's survey was that they were too young to obtain employment in the fields for which they were trained. Many child labor laws, based on reaction to unfavorable conditions existing 30 years ago, are now archaic and unduly restrictive. Similarly, labor union and apprenticeship policies with respect to the entrance age of employees often bear little relation to the actual ability of youths to perform the desired work.

4. The Job Corps should be transferred from the Office of Economic Opportunity to the Office of Education to be administered in co-ordination with the Vocational Education Act in order to avoid duplication now existing between the two programs.

The chamber urges the retention of the Job Corps concept. If the program can be converted to residential vocational skill centers, as provided for in the Vocational Educational Act Amendments of 1963, we feel that there will be a more direct relationship between the training of the youth and later employment.

We strongly urge that the provisions of such a transfer continue, and expand, where feasible, the role of industry in training enrollees. The localization of training will afford prospective employers a greater opportunity to see the type of training that is being given and will, therefore, make them more readily accept the graduates.

In addition, localization will facilitate a more direct relationship between the type of training offered and the occupational needs of the community. The enrollees will be able to be responsibly integrated into the community environment. The present setup of the Job Corps segregates and stigmatizes the disadvantaged youth.

Under our recommendation, it could be anticipated that many Job Corps facilities now in use should be continued.

5. The In-School Neighborhood Youth Corps program should be transferred to the Office of Education to be run in accordance with other existing kinds of