

Dr. PARKINSON. I would hesitate to do that, because in the smaller schools your unit costs go up. Even in the city of Milwaukee, I think our school is the third from the bottom in unit costs in Wisconsin.

I think it is the question of the efficiency with which you run a plant, are your teachers teaching full time, do you plan your program so that you can keep decent-sized classes, or are you doing tight organization—there are many factors. I wouldn't want to make a guess on that.

Mrs. GREEN. I heard you say one of your requirements for entrance is application by the parent—

Dr. PARKINSON. That is correct.

Mrs. GREEN. What other entrance requirements would you have?

Dr. PARKINSON. That is all.

Mrs. GREEN. There is no test?

Dr. PARKINSON. We are an open admission school. This is part of the magic of it. We don't select students. As soon as you start selecting students, you are automatically excluding the people who need the help worst.

Mrs. GREEN. Have you made a study of the average grade level in your school?

Dr. PARKINSON. No, I haven't personally. I know our guidance people have, but I am not able to give that. If you will formulate your question and mail it to me, I can get the answer.

Mrs. GREEN. I was trying to find out if it compared about with the Job Corps.

Dr. PARKINSON. Every student who comes into the continuation school, he has to be 16 years old, and they may be a sophomore or junior in high school technically, and they still can't read above the fourth-grade level. The grade level is not significant. It is the literacy level that is important, and this is determined individually.

Mrs. GREEN. I heard you say you would not recommend taking youngsters under 16.

Dr. PARKINSON. That is correct.

Mrs. GREEN. What would you do for youngsters who decide they are going to drop out of school when they are 14, and they have nothing but an academic course?

Dr. PARKINSON. I think that is the problem of the public and parochial schools at that level. I don't think it is the function of the vocational schools, which is trying to train people for employment below the professional level.

I don't think our school can do everything. I think they have to define their area of competence and then work at it. I think the public and parochial schools must have the responsibility of training people up to the 16th year.

In the first place, a 14-year-old kid can't get a job. You know that. You have to be 16 years old in our State to get a work permit to start with, so you can't talk about employability of people under 16, and this is the golden thread that runs through our whole operation.

That is employability and social confidence above the 16th year and below of professional level.

Mrs. GREEN. You said that you would be unable to make any judgment as to whether the residential school or the Job Corps would be the better?