

Mrs. GREEN. I think the concern of this committee would be though how many applicants do have the ability to empty waste baskets compared to the ones who apply for the bookkeeping department.

Mr. SESSIONS. I am not suggesting this is a solution to the problem of illiteracy.

Mr. HATHAWAY. You haven't done any research or had occasion to determine just what beyond the high school is really necessary to fulfill these needs, including possibly secondary, vocational school as well as college?

It seems to me a lot of these skills could be learned in a short training program after high school.

Mr. DAVIS. In another context we are concerning ourselves with the vocational education areas and we are now working with a group conducting a private study of vocational education in the junior high schools.

We are hoping that we can make some contribution to that study to the extent that we can get people trained at the junior high and high school levels sufficiently so that they can be productive in vocational areas.

Mr. HATHAWAY. We would be interested in seeing the study when it is completed.

Mrs. GREEN. Congressman Scheuer?

Mr. SCHEUER. I am very much interested in the line of questioning that Congressman Hathaway started. It seems to me that there is an imbalance today between the job demands in this very sophisticated, automated, cybernated, computerized economy and the education we are giving under our free public education system, especially when you consider the fact you mentioned, that the firms generally require a little more. They generally require some amount of education that except in wartime really isn't necessary to perform that job.

I would like to ask you a question that involves the new math. You take our economy of a half a century ago when it was a simple agrarian economy and when most jobs didn't require much in the way of technical skill: We had a free public education system and I hope the chairman, who has forgotten more every day about this subject than I will ever know, will correct me if I'm wrong. I only said she forgets more every day than I ever know—she doesn't forget much but I don't know very much.

But the state of my knowledge is that we had a free public education system through high school at least at the turn of the century and in many States a good deal before that, didn't we, Mrs. Chairman?

Mrs. GREEN. Except for books and fees and other things that everyone had to supply for himself.

Mr. SCHEUER. If A is to B as C is to D, and if you take A, the degree of sophistication and learning and skills that we needed a half a century ago and B is the public education through high school, and C, in the next equation, the last half of that equation, is the degree of capability and learning and sophisticated skills that a person needs to have a reasonably comfortable life today what would D be?

What would the degree of public education be that would equip a young person to function as effectively in society today as a free public