

high school education equipped him to function in society half a century ago with the then much lower level of demands for sophisticated learning and knowledge and skills and capabilities? What would the comparable degree of public education be today?

Mr. HATHAWAY. You mean D in the number of years, not in intensification.

Mr. SCHEUER. Both.

Mr. DAVIS. I cannot give you the precise number of years but I can say there is an element that relates to D and that would be this: That as in contrast to the situation a century ago, today a youngster needs to have a multiplicity of skills in order to assure himself of some security in terms of job opportunities, et cetera.

Whereas, this wasn't true. We didn't have occupations wiped out or became obsolete by automation and new technology at the turn of the century as we have it today.

So that as new concepts and new inventions are introduced and new methods of procedures for producing things in this country, I would say, one, they are coming about at a much more rapid rate than they have ever, and what might seem to be a lifetime occupation today might be out of business tomorrow.

Therefore, whatever additional years of education one needs to keep pace with a minimum level, it seems to me it should go beyond the high school diploma. I would think that one could feel a little more comfortable with 2 years of college. That is, a young person finding himself in that situation.

Mr. SESSIONS. The skills in the work force these days are really fantastic and quite common. The pipefitters who work on the atomic submarines are held to an allowable seepage of one drop a year.

George Meany was a plumber but I am sure he doesn't know anything about that kind of pipefitting. I worked as a machinist and we used to boast about working with tolerances of one hundred thousandths of an inch. Now there are Government contracts that have no allowable tolerance. I confess I don't know what kind of machining that is.

Mr. SCHEUER. It is some kind of super race cast in the image of God but not a machinist.

Mrs. GREEN. Would my colleague yield?

There are two figures that seem to me to be pertinent to what you are saying. One is the statistic which we have been given many times that a successful businessman needs the equivalent of a new college education every 10 years just to stay ahead of his competition and he is already a college graduate with a Ph. D. on top of that. The other is that every single person requires retraining three and a half to four times during his lifetime.

So I don't know how you can ever measure the number of years. It seems to me that education of the individual is his flexibility and capacity to be retrained.

Mr. SCHEUER. That in itself requires education—to get to the point where you have enough basic literacy in learning skills to go through a retraining program every decade or so.