

Fifth: It is suggested that careful consideration be given to the possibility of more thorough accreditation procedures of cooperative education programs. Such accreditation procedures might provide a means of strengthening existing programs and might provide guidelines for institutions contemplating the initiation of a cooperative education program.

The following criteria could be considered in contemplating a more thorough accreditation program:

Does the institution maintain—

A formalized alternation of periods of academic college training with periods of work experience of approximately equal length?

Student work assignments which are closely related to academic and vocational aspirations?

Continuing follow-up by both the college and employer on the training content, direction and quality, both academic and practical?

Provision for progressively more responsible positions and increases in quantity and quality of work experience correlated with similar movement in the academic component?

Undue haste in attempting to establish more thorough accreditation procedures might lead to harmful results. Indeed, it would be advisable to delay action in this area beyond the point of necessity rather than giving in to the inclination to act too hastily. Without careful planning and consideration an ill-conceived accreditation program could result.

Instead, a thorough and comprehensive study by qualified persons, aware of existing accrediting agencies and their practices, might conceivably develop a step-by-step plan which would ultimately lead to the type of effective accrediting methods needed. Such a program would desirably be developed within the framework of existing accrediting agencies. It is felt that no new accrediting agency should be created for this purpose; at least not for several years, and after substantial effort has been made to accomplish the goal through existing agencies.

Sixth: As a means of achieving the above goals, it is recommended that a national committee representing the *entire* cooperative community be formed. Such a committee might consider the establishment of a national office to speak for cooperative education on the national and international level. The national office would have the responsibility for relations with the Selective Service System, the Internal Revenue Service, state and federal Unemployment Compensation Commissions, and similar groups. It would be desirable that such an office distribute and make available to the public proceedings of various cooperative education conferences, as well as preparing and distributing nationally a list of all cooperative institutions.

Considering some of the opportunities which cooperative education now faces and will face in the future, there is a need for those involved in it to work together. So that a beginning might be made toward achieving the above goals, a national conference, possibly a White House conference, on cooperative education should be jointly sponsored by organizations which are concerned with cooperative education. Such a conference would include representatives of institutions with cooperative education programs, industry and government representatives, and those members of the Congress who have been involved in legislative matters pertaining to education.

The Cooperative Education Division, A. S. E. E., should invite the Cooperative Education Association to join in considering these recommendations. Both organizations could work together in implementing those goals which might lead to fuller realization of the best qualities and benefits available in cooperative education.

Mr. BRADEMAS. Thank you very much, indeed, Mr. Cain.

I want to say at the outset that I think your statement is one of the most lucid I have seen in explaining what cooperative education is and in particular in pointing out the distinction between cooperative education and work-study programs, and we are very grateful to you for making that distinction.

I know that the senior Senator from my own State, Senator Vance Hartke, has been a very vigorous champion of your cause, and I would like to take note of that fact here.