

**VOICE READERS COMPRISE a \$30,000,000 MARKET**

# EDITORIAL

## More Vocational Training Good Idea

GOV. GRANT SAWYER made a good point in his address to the Young Democrats at their recent state convention here when he called for a re-evaluation of high school curriculums throughout Nevada in order to place greater emphasis on vocational training for students who will be unable to attend college for one reason or another.

The governor didn't say as much, but we suspect he also had in mind the best interests of those students who should NOT be prepared for college even if they could continue their education along academic lines. If this seems like a negative reaction to the governor's suggestion, we must insist that there are many high school students in this state being painfully readied for college who should never go there.

Advanced academic education is just fine for those who can, and will, use it to good advantage; for those who can afford it, either at the expense of relatives, other benefactors or through their own efforts. Our need for highly trained professionals in all aspects of scientific endeavor (and the military arts) becomes increasingly important as we move deeper into the nuclear age. But after sober reflection, it

building projects than there are jobs available. Hundreds of desperate men gather outside the Ministry of Labor and Social Services daily, hoping more work will be provided.

Ironically, the only salvation for most of them as independence from Great Britain nears, appears to be virtual serfdom in the mines of strictly segregated South Africa. "Many of these people used all their savings to reach Gaberones and have no way of getting back to their homelands," a British official said. "We are forced to tell them that the only place they can expect to find work is in the South African mines."

A sad situation, indeed, as we shall see next week when we look in on those South African mines.

has occurred to us that some of our youngsters are being pushed into pursuits for which they not only have little or no inclination, but for which they are intellectually or psychologically unsuited.

IN RECENT GENERATIONS, it has become almost an obsession with too many "self-made" men (and women) who have accumulated considerable material wealth through self-denial, hard work or fortuitous circumstances--or a combination of these factors--to "arrange" for their children to circumvent the normal hazards or "handicaps" which they, themselves, were forced to overcome in order to become successful. Many a man of means has secretly or openly vowed to "see that my kids have all the advantages I never had."

Such a sentiment may be most admirable, even though it contradicts the parent's own proven formula for achieving success and affluence. But whether it is philosophically sound, a proper attitude to assume toward an intended beneficiary and the public in general, is most certainly questionable.

Many young people who are pushed into professions for which they have no liking or suitability--often with less than ethical "help" in college--eventually become reconciled to their "fate" and somehow develop into fairly competent practitioners. Unfortunately, too many wind up as dangerous frauds after skipping through their college and state board examinations by rote. Having no real interest in, nor aptitude for, their "unchosen" professions, they become unwitting menaces to the public--charlatans.

BUT TO GET BACK to our original premise, it would seem to us--as it must seem to Gov. Sawyer--that education should be fashioned to the desires of the students themselves after they have reached the high school age and thereby satisfy the needs and natural abilities of those being educated.

It would further seem a waste of tax money, teachers' efforts and their pupils' time to force high school students who are well-grounded in "reading, riting, and rithmetic" to study subjects they don't want to study and prepare them for specialized work they don't want to do. After the ninth grade, or perhaps as early as the seventh, it might be wise to start training these "rebels"--and potential dropouts--in manual skills almost exclusively.

We need skills of every kind in this country, the manual skills as well as academic or "mental" skills. The prosperity of this country depends just as much on the artisan, the skilled craftsman in the industrial arts, as it does upon the professional man or woman.

What's more, under normal circumstances the skilled craftsman no longer need worry about making enough money to provide his family with the "better things in life" and still have enough left to salt away against a "rainy day." In fact, with wage scales in the skilled crafts what they are today, plus "fringe benefits" afforded in most industries, the artisan is often better off than the average professional.

So we're all for the governor's suggestion. Let's set up more vocational training in our Nevada high schools. We feel sure such a program not only will help reduce the dropout rate in this state, but will make it possible for teachers to concentrate on better preparing academically-inclined students for college.



## AFRICA in Today's World

AFTER SPENDING TWO WEEKS, so to speak, at Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River, examining the struggle between Zambia and Rhodesia (who share the Zambezi as a common border) to cash in on the rich tourist trade attracted by the falls, we now move southwest into Bechuanaland for a close-up look at a more poignant economic battle. (See inserted map of southern Africa below.)

To put it bluntly, a threat of famine hangs heavy over Bechuanaland, a vast, largely barren British protectorate of 275,000 square miles.

After four years of drought, food stocks are low and villages that have lost their entire crops this year are in no position to buy the little food remaining. Unless outside aid is forthcoming within the next month, widespread starvation appears certain.

Officials in the territory's new capital of Gaberones have asked the World Food Program of the United Nations to rush enough food to sustain 60,000 people for six months. Set up by the General Assembly in 1961, the World Food Program is jointly sponsored by the UN and the Food and Agriculture Organization, another special UN agency. It is sustained by voluntary contributions from UN members in cash or commodities.

Close to 5,200 metric tons of grain are being shipped from the United States but no one is quite sure how long it will take to arrive in landlocked Bechuanaland, much less how much time will be required to distribute it efficiently once it is on hand.

THE DISTRIBUTION PROBLEM is formidable. As a national average, the population density of Bechuanaland is only two persons to each square mile, with 8 per cent of the country's 500,000 inhabitants living on about 20 per cent of the land--a fairly fertile strip between the Kalahari Desert and the eastern border. Even so, they are thinly spread and often difficult to reach.

At a mission hospital in the overgrown village of Molepolole, seat of the Bakwena tribe, New York Times correspondent Joseph Lelyveld reports there has been a slow but steady rise in deaths indirectly attributable to malnutrition. Under present circumstances, normally innocuous childhood diseases such as measles have become killers.

A sharp rise in bone fractures also has been noted at the hospital, brittleness being one result of dietary deficiencies. But doctors sent to Molepolole by the United Free Church of Scotland claim the critical point has not yet been reached.

MANY FARMERS UNABLE to earn money raising maize and sorghum have sought work in Gaberones, which the British are seeking to convert from a rural center into a modern city in time for the protectorate's transition into an independent country toward the end of 1966. Until this year, Bechuanaland was governed from Mafeking, across the border in South Africa.

Unfortunately, there are now more destitute farmers seeking work on the new capital's



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