



# WASHINGTON REPORT

Prepared by *Education-Training Market Report*

PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT: Initial address of Dr. Terrel H. Bell, acting U. S. Commissioner of Education and leading candidate for permanent slot, reveals loyal member of Nixon team. Address, at annual banquet of Education Commission of the States in Denver, further indicated growing role of private sector in nation's problem solving, particularly education, during Nixon Administration.

Dr. Bell is of view federal money expended on education during past decade has bought "priceless experience," but that reform is still far away.

"Education," he said, "obviously needs all the money it can get. But without a thorough understanding of the problems we seek to solve and a rational plan for putting solutions into effect, we could spend and spend and spend and still find ourselves 10 years hence looking back on the 1970's with the same sense of puzzled frustration with which we reviewed the Sixties."

Bell laid out five central themes for education under Administration:

\* Stronger federalism--"...it is the present Administration's intent that power in education as in all domestic concerns, be shared effectively among cooperating government structures...We expect the shift of personnel from Washington to the regional offices to be completed in a relatively short period of time, certainly by January of next year..."

\* Reformation of major program systems--"...we are looking at Title I (ESEA) and the other recent programs to see how well we can make them work before launching further schemes..."

\* Innovation--"Our investment as a nation in educational research is pitifully small--less than a half of one percent of the total education budget, compared with five percent in health and 10 percent in defense... Two Administration proposals which promise to greatly strengthen educational research are the National Institute of Education and the National Foundation for Higher Education..."

\* Management reform--"A fourth Administration domestic policy initiative with a special significance for education is emphasis upon improved management...We're learning, too that the evaluation and planning we need are not exclusively Federal concerns. The Belmont Plan of program evaluation is an excellent example of cooperation between the states and the Office of Education to develop a new comprehensive system to evaluate federally supported elementary and secondary programs..."

\* Private sector involvement--"...surely the nation cannot solve any of its significant national problems without help from this (private sector) quarter...The notion of education accountability, for example is taken from the market place...The Right to Read, a major Office of Education effort, will depend heavily on the private sector..."

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LOWER COST CLAIMED: Labor Department reports lower per-trainee cost of operation in Job Corps has been achieved in year since DOL took over program. DOL also claims slight rise in placement of trainees in jobs, school or military service within 90-days following end of Job Corps training.

According to outgoing Secretary of Labor George Shultz, now head of new Nixon operations and budget super-agency, annual cost per trainee in Job Corps has been reduced 6.5 percent, from average of \$6,725 to \$6,274. Reduced operating costs is attributed by DOL to full capacity operation which has lowered costs by spreading fixed overhead over wider group of trainees.

DOL reports placement up from 77 percent in fiscal 1969 to 80 percent in first half of current fiscal year. It attributes greater placement to closer relationship of Job Corps with "rest of the Manpower Administration and the network of State Employment Security agencies."

According to DOL report, Job Corps operated at 90 percent of capacity or less in seven month period before transfer to Labor's Manpower Administration. It now reports operation at 98 percent of capacity.

Job Corps, of course, closed down 59 centers, and now operates smaller establishment. Travel costs also are being cut by shift of Corps thrust to smaller in-city centers for local trainees. DOL states commitment made last year to offer training in another center to trainees located in centers to be phased out "has been substantially carried out."

Job Corps pledged to have 30 residential manpower centers in operation within year following shift from OEO to DOL. It now reports 10 centers approved, and five in operation.