



WASHINGTON REPORT

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SINGLE TRAINING AGENCY: National Manpower Policy Task Force, non-partisan economists and manpower specialists named to examine federal manpower programs, has recommended combining all federally financed manpower training within single federal agency. Task force, made up of 17 academicians, is forwarding findings to incoming Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz, who was member of group until last September.

Task force located more than dozen major programs operated with federal funding at cost of \$2.5 billion. Programs operated under Manpower Development and Training Act, at cost of more than half-billion, are centered in Labor Department's Manpower Administration. Nearly half of OEO money, \$1.9 billion for fiscal 1969, goes for manpower and employment programs.

Several major manpower programs authorized under Economic Opportunity Act now are delegated to Manpower Administration in Labor Department, which is closest existing agency for coordinated management of manpower. However, such major programs as Job Corps, now in OEO, and health manpower training of nonprofessionals, now located in Public Health Service, are operated without reference to MDTA and other training. Manpower Administration under MDTA, must also share administration of training programs with Office of Education which is also responsible for adult and vocational education.

Task force found that present programs are a "vast experimentation" which has had significant success as well as some failure. It called for assessment, adjustment and coordination without loss of goals or impetus.

Task force further called for fusing programs "into a single, comprehensive Federal manpower program--providing a variety of services in varying mixes depending upon national conditions and local need." It also urged funding "by a single federal source."

Further urged in report was allocation of some 70 percent of funds through state government under formula based upon population, labor

force, joblessness and prevalence of poverty. Funds remaining within federal manpower agency would be used for research, experimentation and to fund projects in states refusing to comply with federal guide lines and regulations.

The task force opposed federal tax incentives for manpower training by industry, as proposed by incoming President Nixon during recent election campaign. Task force felt incentives could be abused and lead to massive enforcement requirement that industry would resent. It found, however, that Job Opportunity in Business Sector (JOBS) program of National Alliance of Businessmen is successful. Program is federally funded and employs direct training subsidies where required.

The group warned that any substantial increase in unemployment would threaten jobs of those hired through such programs as JOBS, which places workers with marginal skills, lack of education and psychological hang-ups.

Manpower policy group was established with joint federal and foundation funding. It is headed by John T. Dunlop, Harvard specialist in labor and manpower problems.

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SCHOOL OF AIR TECHNOLOGY: Prince Georges County, Md., a suburb of Washington, D.C., is planning to open area's first school of aviation technology in September, 1971.

Proposed school, which is slated to become part of county's 4,300-student community college, will cost an estimated \$3 million and accommodate up to 500 students in elementary and advanced programs of aviation mechanics. Courses will also cover airport management, air traffic control, hostess training and airplane engineering and repair. No flying courses are included.

College President Dr. Watson Pindell said number of federal and state agencies, including Federal Aviation Agency and Office of Education, have expressed interest in making school a model of its kind for nation. School would be located in corner of \$8.3 million airpark now under construction.

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PROGRAMMED TEXTS: Two California educators, Prof. Keith Lumsden of Stanford and R. E. Attiyeh of University of California at San Diego, report that study with programmed texts showed that college students could learn as much basic economics in 12 hours of self-teaching with programmed textbooks as they do in 42 hours of conventional classroom instruction. Study involved 5,000 students in 48 colleges and universities. "Whether programmed learning is the answer to the problem we don't know," said Lumsden, "but this study indicates that it will do a lot better than present methods."