



# WASHINGTON REPORT

Prepared by *Education-Training Market Report*

PRESSURE FOR VOC ED FUNDS: Considerable heat is building up on Capitol Hill and in state vocational education offices over cutbacks in federal funding of vocational education.

Cutbacks were hidden in arithmetic of LBJ-prepared budgets and resulting shortages are beginning to have impact on going projects and new programs. Under Amended Vocational Education Act of 1968, \$355 million was authorized for fiscal 1969 and \$565 million for fiscal 1970. Actual dollars voted by Congress, however, amounted to \$255.4 million in 1969 and \$234.2 million in 1970.

Difference between two amounts is more serious than appears on surface because 15 percent of total is set aside for disadvantaged, 15 percent for post high school and 10 percent for handicapped. Balance shrinks proportionately down line.

Critics of cutbacks point up irony that vocational education program, which reaches nine million persons, has nearly same size budget as Job Corps program of OEO, which trains 60,000 annually.

Pressure for expanding vocational programs is consistent with plans of Nixon Administration for shifting focus of effort in education field to vocational and technical field.

Newly-appointed Commissioner of Education James E. Allen, Jr. has made clear in his conversations that President Nixon has assured him full White House support, and it appears that this was major condition on which he finally agreed to take job. Under plans shaping up, goal will be to make educational system, particularly at high school level, more relevant to real world. Skill training would be geared to present and future job markets for both non-college and college-bound students. This is in light of fact that eight out of 10 young men and women who enter college never finish.

In addition to secondary effort, new thrust will see expansion of vocational and technical training in community colleges, since many college dropouts wind up there. This means more money pumped into community college programs. More such colleges will also be established, perhaps at an even faster clip than presently.

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OEO SHRINKAGE STARTS: Job Corps and Head Start programs will be moved out of Office of Economic Opportunity as of July 1. Job Corps will go to Labor Department where it will be lodged in Manpower Administration. Head Start will go to HEW, although there has yet been no official announcement of where pre-school program will finally be placed within huge agency.

OEO will remain in-being as White House agency at least through 1970 fiscal year. Anti-poverty agency will retain existing name, research and demonstrations, community action and associated programs, and VISTA.

Job Corps will probably be played down following its housing within Labor Department, and some aspects--small federally run rural centers --may be phased out. Womens' centers and major urban centers will probably remain intact, although there could be administrative changes and new name.

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LABOR STUDY CENTER: AFL-CIO has approved national center for labor studies. Permanent center will be located in Washington, D.C. area, where labor federation reportedly is looking for either land or land and facilities. Center, authorized by AFL-CIO Executive Council, will seek to develop union leadership through training courses and social science and humanities courses.

Operating budget for first year is expected to reach \$315,000 with 400 students anticipated. By end of third year, total of 900 students will participate and budget will reach \$500,000. Initially, students will be full-time union officers who will take intensive three-week study courses, but in second phase there will be courses and studies for rank and file. Prof. Fred K. Hoehler, Jr. of Michigan State University was consultant on project.

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