

The Three U's—Part II

Step-Up in Educational Requirements Hamper Teen-Agers in Hunt for Jobs

Editor's note: One of the nation's proudest resources—its youth—is being wasted. Why? Because in today's world of automation jobs require not only greater skills but a higher education. Our wasted youngsters lack both qualifications. The following article tells how and why one million of our youths are unskilled, untrained and unemployed.

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The step-up in educational requirements is fanning out into the labor unions. Most have tightened their standards for apprentices; candi dates must nearly always have a high school diploma. Nor is that all. Apprentices themselves are growing scarce. In 1950, there were 231,000 apprentices in programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor. But there were only 166,000 in 1960—a drop of nearly one-third. Here, again, the unemployed dropout is caught in a vise. Not only is he unqualified for a trade union apprenticeship, but the apprenticeship system itself seems in danger of shriveling up.

Oddly enough, child-labor laws often seem to hinder rather than help the million-odd youngsters who haunt our back streets today. The age at which youths may start work is regulated by state law. So are the hours per day and per week, and the type of work they may do. But the regulations vary from state to state, and the state laws themselves are usually superseded by federal laws when a company is involved in interstate commerce. Rather than get snarled in red tape, firms bypass the young and hire older workers.

A Number of Causes
Youth unemployment, then, is rooted in a number of causes. But the chief culprits are the dropouts themselves. Who are they, and what makes them tick?

Experts shy clear of any cut-and-dried definition of a dropout. Each, they point out, is an individual; no two are alike. Girls as well as boys quit before graduation. Some are like auburn-haired Doris,

a 17-year-old who lives in a tenement on Chicago's south side. The block on which she resides is lined with cheap taverns. Drunks often "sleep it off" in the vestibule of her building. Neighborhood morals are low. Two of Doris' sisters ran away from home. "My mother always watched me like a hawk," complains Doris bitterly. "I guess she thought I'd turn bad, too. Every time she heard I had a date she'd kick up a storm. I even had to wait until I got outside the house to put on make-up. I quit school to get a job—and to get away from her."

Doris, who quit school to escape home life, is an underprivileged product of a big city slum. But many dropouts come from much more fortunate environments. Jim, a spoiled, handsome 16-year-old, is from a better-class suburb in New Orleans, where his father is a highly respected minister. His mother is a prominent social worker. "All my crowd had 'jalopies' except me," says Jim, who is an only child. "I felt left out. When my father said the only way I could get one was to earn it, I decided to do just that. I quit school and took a temporary, part-time job. I was 16. What could he do?"

Afoul of Law
A few dropouts are like Al, who ran afoul of the law at an early age. Al's father died when he was three, and his mother took a job with the Internal Revenue Service in Atlanta to support him. "My mother was away most of the

time. I guess I got mixed up with a bad crowd, and all that jazz. Anyway," he adds, "one day a bunch of us were playing a game called 'chicken' and someone dared me to snatch a purse. Just for kicks, I did. I got nabbed."

The corners of his mouth turned down and he wrinkled his forehead. "When my mother found out, she flipped. 'You're tarred for life,' she says. 'That police record'll follow you a round like a curse.' I figured, well, what the heck, if I can't win because of one mistake, what's the use of even trying anymore? What's the good of an education? So," he says, defiantly, "I quit school as soon as I could."

Explanations are as varied as the faces of the teen-

agers. They come from small families that set little store on education—where the parents themselves are barely able to read. Or they come from large, low-income families who want them to go to work as soon as possible to bring in money. Thousands come from broken homes. The youngsters themselves often give different excuses: "I wanted to get married"; "I wanted to join the army"; "I was ashamed of my grades." There is no set of rules to explain them.

In Two Groups
But, generally, say most experts, the dropouts can be split up into two groups. Group One takes in below-average students who can't seem to get the hang of reading. The words make no sense. Yet reading is the heart of modern education, the fundamental skill. Arithmetic, too, is extremely important, but it adds up to zero for some youngsters. Simple sums throw them for a loop. This "slow learner" group, according to Eli E. Cohen, executive secretary of the National Committee on Employment of Youth, includes 15 to 20 per cent of the entire U.S. school population—which in 1961-1962 totaled about 38 million. They form the bulk of the dropouts.

Group Two is made up of youngsters whose learning ability is normal, or even better-than-average. A study made by the U.S. Bureau of Labor shows that 70 per cent of the group could finish high school if they wanted to. Between 6 and 13 per cent of them are bright enough to do college work.

These then are our dropouts—youngsters who failed high school because they couldn't do the work, or youth who could have done the work but wouldn't. They are the cruelly mixed-up teen-agers with family, school, or social problems who didn't finish school—and for whom we can't produce jobs.

Next: Probing for answers to the jobless youth's plight.

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OBJECT TO BILL
Salem—(UPI)—The Senate Monday refused to agree with House amendments to the Senate-passed obscenity bill, and named a conference committee to seek agreement with the House changes.

Ten Accidents Are Investigated by Medford Police

Medford city police investigated a total of ten vehicle accidents in the city Friday and Saturday, according to reports. Two slight injuries were reported, officers said, and six citations were issued. There were no accidents reported Sunday.

Suzanne Massong, 15, of 1751 Easy st., was treated as an out-patient at Sacred Heart hospital for injuries she received in a collision about 1:53 p.m. Saturday at Main st. and Crater Lake ave. She was a passenger in a car driven by William David Steele, 19, of route 4, box 372A. Driver of the other car involved, Isabell Mae Fischer, 48, of 53 Summit ave., was cited by police for failure to yield the right of way.

Ronald Eugene Colley, 21, of 202 Stark st., was cited for violation of basic rule after the car which he was driving collided with a vehicle operated by Ronald Felix Spielbusch, 18, of 1365 Sweet st., about 12:46 a.m. Saturday at Fourth and Front sts., according to police.

Vehicles operated by Ethel Mabel Gomer, 52, of 2436 Nieto Way, and Lurliana Kay Bright, 16, of 625 Franquette st., collided about 12:58 p.m. Saturday at Niantic and Alice sts., police reports show. Inez Alice Wood, 74, of 571

Pierce rd., was cited by police for failure to yield the right of way after the car which she was driving collided with a vehicle operated by John Albert Hall, 40, of 3070 Lone Pine rd., about 2:27 p.m. Saturday at Fourth and Holly sts. George Taylor Gilman, 42, Encinitas, Calif., was cited for following too close after his car collided with a vehicle driven by Gary Eldon Branson, 15, of 18 Washington st., about 3:55 p.m. Saturday at Eighth st. and Riverside ave., according to police.

No citations were issued in a two-car collision about 5:33 p.m. Saturday at Fourth and Bartlett sts., police said. Drivers involved were Susan Marie Thrapp, 17, Phoenix, and Dale Arlin Barnard, 20, of 1375 Orchard Home dr.

Money Missing From Local Service Station

The proprietor of a gasoline station at Eighth and Grape sts. has reported to Medford city police the theft of about \$135 in cash from his premises some time Thursday or Friday.

Investigating officers said there were no signs of forcible entry. The cash was discovered missing from a metal filing cabinet when the station was opened Friday morning.

Kris Leigh Nottingham, 16, of 1124 Dakota ave., was cited for violation of basic rule, after the car which he was driving struck a car registered to Dorothy Foulon, which was parked in front of her residence at 19 Mistletoe st., according to police reports. The incident occurred about 10:17 p.m. Saturday.

Daniel Duarte, 7, of 807 Summit ave., was slightly injured about 5:04 p.m. Friday, police said, when the bicycle he was riding struck a parked car registered to Laurett Louise Seltz, 2512 Walden st. The accident occurred in front of 833 West Jackson st. The boy did not require first aid, according to officers.

Vehicles operated by Walter Eugene Clayton, 33, of 1209 Fortune dr., and Harold Vernon Stockoff, 29, of 721 Bennett st., collided about 9:21 a.m. Friday at Tenth st. and Central ave., police reported. No citations were issued.

Charles Frank Gordon, 76, of 815 South Holly st., was cited for failure to yield the right of way after the car which he was driving collided with a vehicle operated by Halbert Sylvanus Devel, 72, of 800 Siskiyou dr., about 12:55 p.m. Friday at Tenth st. and Central ave., according to police records.

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