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Remarks at Monument Park West Stake about Vocational Education

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COMMENTS - MONUMENT PARK WEST STAKE - MAY 16, 1970

JAY L. NELSON

COMMUNICATIONS STORY

AS PARENTS WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS AND ADVISE THEM WHERE THEY CAN FIND OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT. SOMEHOW I FEEL THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PRICKED BY THE SPLINTERED FRACTURES OF COMMUNICATION.

WE'RE LIVING IN AN EDUCATIONAL TRANCE--IN UTAH WE'RE EDUCATING 60% OF OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FOR 15% OF THE JOBS. IN OTHER WORDS ABOUT 60 OUT OF EVERY 100 YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN WHO START JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL EVENTUALLY END UP IN COLLEGE. AND BY COLLEGE I'M REFERRING TO ACADEMIC TYPE INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH, B.Y.U., ETC. THIS IS COMMENDABLE, NEVERTHELESS THESE INSTITUTIONS PRIMARILY PREPARE INDIVIDUALS FOR PROFESSIONAL CAREERS.

THE UTAH FOUNDATION, A RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, MADE A STUDY IN 1967 WHICH INDICATED THAT 15% OF THE JOBS IN UTAH IN 1970 WOULD BE AT THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL.

YET, ACCORDING TO STATISTICAL STUDIES, 60% OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE PREPARING THEMSELVES FOR 15% OF THE JOBS.

A LOT OF THEM MIGHT BE WISER TO PREPARE FOR THE OTHER 85% OF THE JOBS.

AS PARENTS, BUSINESS LEADERS, TEACHERS, AND STUDENTS, WE ARE ALL GUILTY OF HAVING PROMOTED THE IDEA THAT THE ONLY GOOD EDUCATION IS AN EDUCATION CAPPED BY FOUR YEARS OF COLLEGE. BESIDES BEING UNDEMOCRATIC AND A REVELATION AS TO WHY SCHOOLS FAIL SO MANY STUDENTS, IT'S SNOBBISH.

MANY PLUMBERS, CONTRACTORS, TECHNICIANS AND SKILLED CRAFTSMEN MAKE MORE MONEY THAN ACCOUNTANTS, TEACHERS, OR LAWYERS. WHAT'S SO UNDIGNIFIED ABOUT EARNING \$20,000 A YEAR AS A TRUCK DRIVER, OR \$12,000 TO \$15,000 AS A CARPENTER?

WHY DO SO MANY INDIVIDUALS LEAVE SCHOOL WITHOUT BEING PREPARED FOR A JOB?

AN ARTICLE IN A RECENT ISSUE OF THE U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT SAYS--ONE OF THE BIG REASONS IS ATTITUDE. AT THE VERY HEART OF OUR PROBLEM IS A NATIONAL ATTITUDE THAT SAYS VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IS DESIGNED FOR SOMEBODY ELSE'S CHILDREN.

I'M NOT HERE TONIGHT TO THROW STONES AT THE ADVICE WE HAVE BEEN GIVING OUR CHILDREN BUT RATHER TO POINT OUT WHERE YOU CAN FIND TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR OCCUPATIONAL SUCCESS.

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.

IT'S AT THE VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES, BUSINESS COLLEGES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS WHICH PLACE EMPHASIS ON PREPARATION FOR JOBS RATHER THAN ON ACADEMIC DEGREES.

THE SCHOOL OF THIS TYPE WHICH I KNOW MOST ABOUT IS UTAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE. TONIGHT I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO CONVEY AS MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SCHOOL AS POSSIBLE IN THE NEXT FEW MINUTES.

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CAMPUS WILL PROVIDE THE ANSWERS TO SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS SUCH AS:

- WHAT DO WE TEACH?
- HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE A TRAINING PROGRAM?
- DOES THE SCHOOL OFFER A CERTIFICATE OR A DEGREE?
- IS THE COLLEGE RECOGNIZED AS AN ACCREDITED INSTITUTION?
- ARE CREDITS TRANSFERRABLE TO OTHER POST HIGH SCHOOLS?
- IS IT POSSIBLE TO LEARN A TRADE DURING EVENING SCHOOLS?

YOUR TREASURE HUNT, YOUR DREAM OF FINANCIAL SECURITY AND SUCCESS COULD WELL CONCLUDE AT A VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, A BUSINESS SCHOOL OR A TECHNICAL COLLEGE OR AT SOME OTHER INSTITUTION WHICH PLACES EMPHASIS ON PREPARATION FOR JOBS RATHER THAN ON ACADEMIC DEGREES.

DAN VALENTINE TAPE

AS A PARENT, MAY I SUGGEST THAT WE QUIT MAKING DECISIONS FOR OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS.....LET'S NOT BE ACCUSED OF INTELLECTUAL SNOBERY.....LET'S REMEMBER THAT IT'S MORE SATISFYING TO BE A GOOD PLUMBER THAN A LOUSY LAWYER.....AND LET'S REMEMBER THAT AMERICA NEEDS SKILLED CRAFTSMEN AND TECHNICIANS.....IN FACT, AMERICA NEEDS EVERYONE WHO IS PREPARED TO PERFORM A SERVICE OR HAS A SKILL.

BRIGHAM YOUNG STORY

THE SECOND PRESIDENT OF OUR CHURCH RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF A SKILLED CRAFTSMAN.