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A Response to the KSL Radio Commentary of June 29, 1965

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SALT LAKE TRADE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE
431 South Sixth East
Salt Lake City, Utah

A RESPONSE TO THE KSL RADIO COMMENTARY OF JUNE 29, 1965

The commentary on the subject of combining Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute with a junior college provided much that was thought-provoking and painfully true. It also illustrated the real tragedy which may come upon our young people because of inadequate understanding of the post high school problem by the people to whom the public looks for information.

In the minds of many people the functions of trade-technical schools and junior colleges have become confused. In actual practice the schools themselves have often been combined but seldom blended. It is a basic postulate that we never get something for nothing and yet this is what such combinations are trying to accomplish. We do not need a combination junior college - trade technical school. We need both. The figures of potential enrollment in post high school institutions cannot be denied. The planned facilities of the Redwood Road campus are not large enough to accommodate both a trade-technical school and a junior college.

The history of vocational programs in Utah's junior colleges have shown all too well that these programs are relegated to an inferior position. The vocational programs are usually housed in the least acceptable facility on the campus and allowed to die of malnutrition while efforts and funds are diverted to the search for academic respectability.

We too believe that we need trained and educated craftsmen and technicians and that is exactly what Salt Lake Trade Technical Institute provides. At Trade Tech the students are required to take

numerous classes of a general educational nature that are directly related to their major field of study. Classes in mathematics and communications are required of all students.

Our students are indeed educated in the finest sense of the word. They see themselves as part of the whole picture of our economic structure and are in a good position to appreciate the skills required by other occupations and professions. They learn teamwork and the value of getting along with one's neighbor. Can there be a better definition of an educated person?

Our country is experiencing the greatest technological explosion in the history of mankind. The ratio of skilled and technical jobs to engineering jobs is rising. Low skill jobs are disappearing and high skilled jobs are being created. Every indication is that more skilled and technically trained people will be needed. In the face of this situation, it can only be regarded as extreme negligence to do anything that will materially reduce our trade-technical training effort in the State of Utah.