

66-T51-DJW  
State Inst Gen

Mr. Kyfar  
cc: ECC  
Dr. Smith  
MDTA Comm

Department of Public Welfare

State of Minnesota  
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO : Medical Directors and Administrators  
Medical Services Division Institutions

ATTN: Rehab Therapy Directors

FROM: David J. Vail, M.D.  
Medical Director

DATE: September 12, 1966

RE : Training for Service Industries

Reproduced for your information is the attached copy of an article written by Sydney J. Harris and which appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on May 30, 1966.

You will note the emphasis on specific training needs for service occupations. This is, of course, part of the historical background for the development of MDTA programs for the institutionalized retarded in Minnesota. I feel that we can take further steps by developing additional MDTA, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT) and other formal vocational training programs in the institutions to fill these positions. This might be done by the Vocational Services and Industrial Therapy personnel cooperating with existing resources in the community in the development of such programs.

Also, the institutions, which are the largest single employer in most of their home communities, could be a focal point of training and placement of service personnel.

I feel that this has a great deal of potential for development at this point and would encourage you and your staff to work with Mr. Leisman and Mr. Wrobel, of Central Office, towards the development of such programs. If at all possible, I would like to see a statewide plan for this type of program formulated so that the necessary increments of programs, content and placement can be provided.

WL:DV:r  
cc: DVR Counselors  
Attachment

## TRAINING FOR SERVICE INDUSTRIES

By Sydney J. Harris

In this country today, we have hundreds of thousands of jobs that need to be filled, and hundreds of thousands of people who need jobs. Little, if anything, is being done to bring the two together.

The people who need the jobs don't have the background or training that would qualify them to fill the jobs that are going begging. And neither the government nor private enterprises is doing much about it.

There is a desperate shortage of technicians, mechanics and repair men for electronics, automobiles, radios, television sets, appliance of all kinds.

There is an equally desperate need for cooks. It is shameful that the most affluent country in the world has one of the lowest standards of public cookery -- largely because we do not provide the facilities to train and turn out cooks to the European scale of proficiency.

Household help is another vast gap that needs to be filled. Tens of thousands of families who could afford full-time or part-time help find it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain qualified persons.

One sensible suggestion along these lines was made recently by Prof. Eli Ginzberg, chairman of the President's National Manpower Advisory Committee, who called for an organized effort to train and provide reliable household help.

He recommended that "profit-seeking enterprises...formalize this casual labor market by taking responsibility for recruiting, screening, hiring, supervising and paying household help." Just as some firms today provide secretaries and stenographers, others would supply household help that is professionally recruited and trained.

What we call "unemployables" today include a large number of persons who would be eminently employable if somebody took the trouble to teach them skills. But most of our present vocational guidance programs are inept, skimpy, and not geared to the realistic needs of the economy or the society.

Public welfare will increase from year to year, with no end in sight, until we recognize that it is more efficient (and more humane) to pay people to learn a craft or trade than simply to supply them with welfare funds to live in hopelessness.

And, since automation is inevitably going to reduce the number of workers needed in industrial occupations, such persons must be trained for the service industries -- repairing, barbering, cooking, selling, housekeeping, and all the other service shortages that make our magnificent technology a mockery so far as ease of living is concerned.

From the St. Paul Pioneer Press  
- May 30, 1966 edition -