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News Release

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RELEASE

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TECHNOLOGY INCREASING EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS, DEMAND FOR CONTINUING STUDY, SAYS GIFFORD K. JOHNSON

--at General Assembly, Chamber of Commerce of United States

WASHINGTON --

Advancing technology is making it possible to afford and necessary to have some education beyond the high school for more and more of our labor force, Gifford K. Johnson of Dallas said here today.

Mr. Johnson spoke at the general assembly of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States here. The luncheon meeting was held in the Cotillion Room, Sheraton-Park hotel.

Mr. Johnson is president of the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest in Dallas. He is also chairman of the education committee of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

Advancing technology is pushing the requirement for education beyond the high school higher and higher, so that an increasing percentage of our population must have graduate work, he said.

Technology is also creating new knowledge so rapidly, and demanding specialized knowledge for so many positions that continuing education -- for years after entering the labor force -- is becoming a commonplace requirement.

In the state of Texas, Mr. Johnson said, increased funding for state schools over the next two years and the establishment of a strong co-ordinating board with cognizance over all/^{state} junior and senior colleges and universities represent only a start toward keeping up with the rapid advances of technology and the changes demanded in the educational system.

Recommendations to expand public, community colleges for the absorption of new students -- offering academic work, terminal vocational and technical

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training, and adult continuing education -- represent another important step in the state program. Four year colleges will make selective offerings of master's degree programs, while universities give adequate emphasis to quality and quantity output of graduate degrees and to associated research programs.

Mr. Johnson described the Texas program for education beyond the high school from his experience as a member of a 25-member study committee appointed by Gov. John Connally.

Dallas and Fort Worth together represent the largest population and industrial center of the southwest, Mr. Johnson said. With industry science-oriented to a great degree, each of the three largest companies employs about 2,000 engineers and scientists. Future needs, generated by a seven-year forecast of the Dallas and Fort Worth Chambers of Commerce, indicate that 1,600 doctoral graduates are needed within that period.

In addition, the county-wide junior college program in Dallas will require four campuses and grow to 12,000 students by 1971-72. Fort Worth will have two junior colleges and 6,000 students, Mr. Johnson said.

"Brainpower is our future," Mr. Johnson said. "The incentive to create the products of technology assures us the means of remaining first among nations -- provided we move to solve the educational impact."

Pointing out that professional and technical employment will increase 41 per cent between 1960 and 1970, according to the Department of Labor's forecasts, Mr. Johnson also said that skilled worker demand will increase by 22 per cent -- while unskilled work areas will not change in demand and farm worker needs will drop 18 per cent.

We must "throw old bench marks for education out the window," he said, "and open our eyes to the new and tremendous opportunity for industry to help mold our educational system to fit our needs."