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News Release

GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER OF THE SOUTHWEST

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RELEASE

FOLLOWING DELIVERY OF TALK AT DENTON KIWANIS CLUB, 12 NOON,  
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ADVANCE OF TECHNOLOGY MAKING EDUCATION POSSIBLE FOR MORE PEOPLE -- ALSO  
MAKING IT REAL NECESSITY, SAYS PRESIDENT OF GRADUATE RESEARCH CENTER.

DENTON --

Education beyond high school is made possible for more people because of the advance of technology, Gifford K. Johnson of Dallas said here today. At the same time, education has become a real necessity for a large part of the labor force.

Mr. Johnson spoke at the Denton Kiwanis club noon meeting. He is president of the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest in Dallas, and chairman of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce committee on education.

Reviewing the needs in research and education for the total metropolitan areas of Dallas, Fort Worth and Denton, he pointed out that the triangle tying the cities together encloses the largest population and industrial grouping in the Southwest. Mr. Johnson said that each of the three largest companies, representing airframe, aerospace, and electronics, employs about 2,000 engineers and scientists.

One of the problems, he said, is that while the exacting requirements of such industry are recognized, along with its economic power and effects on education -- industry has outstripped the abilities of colleges and universities to provide educational support.

Needs in education, he said, must be based on the requirement for something more than 1,600 doctoral graduates in science, engineering, and academic positions over the next several years.

In addition, Mr. Johnson said that the Dallas and Fort Worth communities

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need at least six community colleges on separate campuses, to handle a total of 18,000 students in six years. This amounts to a completely new orientation toward vocational training, he said.

Mr. Johnson praised the development of doctoral programs at North Texas State University, in biology, chemistry, physics, and business administration; and at Texas Womans University, in radiation chemistry and radiation biology. He also noted plans for expansion of nurses' training.

The Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, he said, is happy to have been able to assist in teaching and research connected with the physics program at NTSU, and with the radiation programs at TWU.

Speaking of Texas, Mr. Johnson pointed out that the state has more adults, 25 years old and older, with less than five years' schooling than any other state except one. The fact that the state is still young and not far removed in time from a rural life is no real excuse for this, he said.

He summarized the state dropout problem: "We are in a state that has put 35 into college today, out of 100 third-graders of 10 years ago. Only 54 of the original 100 finished high school. Only 17 or 18 who have gone on to college will finish study toward the bachelor's degree."

Texas has a brain drain problem, he said: "We are within a state whose native sons and daughters have just been awarded 44 graduate fellowships by the National Science Foundation -- out of 1,339 awards, or a little better than 3 per cent. We have 10 per cent of the national population. Still worse, only 27 of these bright young people did their undergraduate work in Texas, and only 13 will do their graduate work here."

"We are in an area where college students are not taking courses that match our critical needs," he said. "In the next 10 years, we need teachers, engineers, scientists, nurses and accountants most. The needs for physicians, lawyers, clergymen, and so forth are one-twentieth of that for teachers, and one-tenth of the needs for

engineers and scientists."

Mr. Johnson said he had been privileged to serve on Gov. John Connally's Committee on Education Beyond the High School, where the Texas conclusions on educational needs were reached in a year's study.

In Dallas, Fort Worth, and Denton, he said: "Industrial growth, economic strength, and education are tied in as one system. A great key to our economic success is the educational structure we build to meet our needs.

"Our resources are just beginning to develop. We can no longer afford to create a large percentage of economic and social waste material through lack of education. This is a 30 to 40 per cent factor of "hard core unemployment" -- the individuals who do not possess the abilities and skills required to meet the exacting requirements of the jobs that are open."

There is no factor of competition among the three cities, Mr. Johnson said. "All we can really see is opportunity for more hard work. The need is so great that there's enough for everyone to do."

--DFWDR--al mitchell--5-15-65--X--