

mainly in high skill occupations. Most of these jobs will be in the service sector. That kind of work now requires knowledge that wasn't necessary twenty years ago. Finally, the way in which work now is being organized requires a completely new set of skills as companies shift from the old models of assembly line production to Japanese style work teams, employees will have to sharpen their abilities to communicate. This article goes on and on and talks about the kinds of findings of where the jobs are. Only 40 percent of the new jobs are available to three-quarters of the nation's new workers who have limited verbal and writing skills, and points out most new jobs will require workers who have solid reading and writing skills. It goes on to talk about, for jobs in nursing or management, the education ante is higher. Most of these jobs which often require more than a high school education need skills that include an ability to read journals and manuals, write reports, understand complex terminology, and so on. At this point, according to this article, only 5 percent of new employees are able to do that. It goes on to say, as many as 50 million workers may have to be trained or retrained in the next 12 years, that is 21 million new entrants and 30 million current workers. I think given the nature of the workplace and the work force and what you have to do to make it today, that as Senator Kristensen has pointed out, there are a lot better ways to get to that point, and where we have got at least a couple of other issues out there that I think we should consider before we do this. One is the money for the technical colleges and I think we should make it very clear that we know the resources have to be focused and there needs to be more cooperation between technical schools so they can acquire that expensive equipment, and then work with the high schools, and leave to the high schools that job of making sure that people graduate who are able to read, write, compute, and communicate. I think that is plenty for high schools to do, and as these vocational courses, the traditional vocational courses become more expensive, and equipment becomes more expensive, again as Senator Kristensen pointed out, to put our money here just doesn't mean that it gets focused enough so anybody can really compete. I would suggest even it makes also much better sense to support some kind of teachers salary increase first before you do this, because the quality of the teacher in that classroom will determine how well those kids are able to, first, keep from being dropouts and read, write, communicate, and compute. So I am not saying that I oppose vocational education. I just think that people need to rethink what is vocational education today.