

TEN PERSONS, NINE JOBS

Every day's newspaper brings at least one article which exposes a serious error in popular mass belief. Such errors may lead us to take actions which either damage us, or give us a false sense of having accomplished something.

Here is one in particular about a young chap who just emerged from jail after serving a few months for burgling a neighbor's house. Our young chap wonders where to find the programs which are supposed to get him a job and a place to live and some transportation. He is bitter. He has no good idea of what to do other than to return to burglary to provide for himself.

The columnist, who is telling us about the case, says: "Dear me. Has society been remiss? Naughty us. Where are the PROGRAMS?"

Then she proceeds to tell us about the truly remarkable program known as free public education. It provides training for every kind of a job and recreation. It also provides psychologists and social workers to listen and suggest ways for you to work out any problems you might have if only you will ask. She assures us that this goes on all the way through twelve grades.

What she does not say is that in those twelve grades, or even in four or eight more, the school has no suggestion at all for the tenth person where there are only nine jobs for every ten people able and willing to work.

It should not be and is not necessary for the school to tell us that in order to be one of the nine, we have to do something better, or have better luck than the tenth one. Have you ever played musical chairs?

All of us need to play an additional role beyond the task of filling a niche in the network of commerce and industry. We need to be citizens and raise questions of why there are not ten or even more jobs for every ten workers.

Yes, I have heard those old chestnuts about there being a job for anyone willing to work. But you know that there are not enough jobs for all of them, and many will be forced onto some kind of relief rolls.

I also hear about those people who would rather collect for not working. But I can't believe there are many who would not rather have a decent job. And besides, unemployment long preceded the various dole programs.

Don't misunderstand me. I am not defending our young chap for his burglary career. What I hope to say is that our columnist has a fine suggestion which will work for as many people as there are jobs. The school may also show a few people how to "make" a job, but it doesn't account for whole periods of time when the number of job losses far exceeds the number of new jobs.

Explanations for such overall stagnation are at hand but not in the curriculum of most public schools. Mostly outside of the academic system is an entire method of analysis that is trying to gain wider attention. If you want on our mailing list, all I need is your name and address.

Everett W. Gross
Crete, Nebraska
68333