

# Louisiana Vocational Education Conference

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*Mr. Chairman, Gov. Long, Supt. Jackson,*  
 *distinguished guests - members of the Louisiana*  
 *Vocational Education Conference -*

The story is told of a jeweller who entered his display window one morning to place the trays of his most valuable merchandise. <sup>*which the ladies would do come to his most alluring*</sup> As he did so, he noticed a man outside the store window closely looking at his watch and then observing the store clock - then shaking his head with apparent satisfaction; the next day at the same time, promptly at 7:55 a.m., the same man reappeared; this time he looked at the store clock through the window, shook his head and set his watch; the jeweller, thereafter, for many successive mornings in a row - at 7:55 o'clock in the morning noted practically the same performance. When this went on for a considerable period of time, his curiosity got the better of him - so he stepped out of his store and asked the man - "Why is it you are before my store every morning promptly at 7:55 a.m. setting your watch by my store clock; I've noticed you each day for weeks now at exactly the same time." The man said - "Well, that is easy to explain - I have an important job. You see I have a job in industry - I work at the Manufacturing Plant that is just four blocks down the street. My

duties include the responsibility for blowing the factory whistle for the change of shifts - it is important that our time at the factory be absolutely accurate. So every morning I come here to synchronize my watch with your official time. You can see how important it is that we be not even a few seconds off."

The jeweller looked at the man and smilingly said - "Why yes - I can understand that - because I too do not want my clock to be off - that's why I set my own clock every day by the whistle at your factory."

Now, this story illustrates a degree of cooperation and synchronization which one rarely sees in human affairs - but it expresses, I hope, that degree of cooperation, mutual trust and understanding which should properly exist between a University dedicated to the interests of the people of a State and an important professional group comprising the administrators, supervisors and teachers of vocational education, dedicated as you are to most important aspects of the same ideal of educational service for which we are all striving.

*under the leadership of Joseph A. Toombs and V. H. ...*

I am confident that you are here this morning on the campus of your State University because of your recognition of our common problem - the problem of education at all levels, but especially at the level of secondary education and higher levels - the problem of training and guiding young people into those areas of useful activity in which they can make the maximum contribution to our society and in which activity they can be happy in utilizing God-given talents to that end.

This Second Annual Louisiana Vocational Education Conference sponsored by our State Department of Education is a convenient means for synchronization of the work of the University with the wide variety of interests you represent, but it is much more than that. It is first a recognition of the importance of maintaining a well balanced economy - soundly based upon agriculture and industry and staffed with the personnel capable of making such an economy effective; it recognizes the importance of keeping abreast of current developments in the educational aspects of the industrial arts, agriculture

and/homemaking; it fittingly recognizes that the complexities and variety of <sup>which makes every thing else worthless;</sup> programs that can be made effective in vocational education require a pooling of ideas and an exchange of viewpoints, experiences and suggestions together with planning and coordination of <sup>desired and</sup> attainable <sup>goals</sup> objects. <sup>toward</sup> It is a recognition also of the vast importance of vocational preparation as one of the primary aims and objectives of any strong and well-balanced system of secondary education. We are all familiar with the fact that the social and economic changes of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries have served to emphasize the need for more adequate vocational training and that need finds its expression and means of realization in the vocational schools and the vocational curricula in the high schools - representing again an explicit recognition of vocational preparation as one of the primary aims of a strong system of education. <sup>The need is never greater than today</sup> This aim or objective is being achieved through your important work - you are pointing the way and making the adjustments necessary in a system of education so that the large percentage who are preparing

for vocations as distinguished from preparation for college alone - are assisted in finding and training for useful places in our society.

At this University we take pride in the degree of synchronization we have been able to achieve in assisting in this vastly important development through the University's School of Vocational Education and the teacher-training functions it embodies in *most useful and necessary* ~~important~~ field. One need only to scan the annual reports of the School and to review its activities in the light of its objectives to visualize the breadth of the University's work in providing employment facilities for the training of vocational teachers and teachers of industrial arts; in developing teaching aids for teachers in service; in providing continuing education for teachers in service through graduate and short courses; maintaining a field contact program; and in assisting the State Department of Education and all agencies working toward the development of an ever stronger program of vocational education meeting the needs of Louisiana.

Therefore, as you assemble for this  
Second Annual Louisiana Vocational <sup>Education</sup> Conference - which  
means so much to the social and economic well-being  
of our people, and to its agricultural and in-  
dustrial economy, it is a pleasure for me, on behalf  
of the University, to extend to you an official  
welcome as you visit this - the campus of your  
University. The facilities and the personnel of the  
University are yours to command. May I, in welcoming  
you here, express also the good wishes of the Uni-  
versity and its faculty for a successful conference  
which will aid us all in being more effective in the  
achievement of the common objectives which motivate  
this conference.

It is a pleasure to have you here for  
what we hope will be a week of work - both pleasant  
and profitable to you, to us and for the State of  
Louisiana and those whom you and we are striving to  
serve.

*Speech before Second  
Annual Louisiana conference  
June 5, 1950.*