

Vocational Education To Need \$15 Million For 1970

A Texas Education Agency official told educators gathered here recently that \$15 million will be requested from Texas legislators for fiscal year 1970 to help support vocational education in Texas schools.

J. W. Haynie pointed out "thinking behind this proposal is that the state should assume a larger share of the responsibility." Haynie, assistant director of vocational programs development for the Texas Education Agency,

substituted for Dr. Bevington K. Reed, commissioner for higher education in Texas.

Reed was the second keynote speaker who did not appear for the opening session Monday of the 25th Junior College Conference. Scheduled but not appearing was Dr. Grant Venn, U. S. associate commissioner of education. A substitute, Dr. Al Reindeau, also wired "apologies" for not appearing. His plane was delayed in San Francisco due to inclement weather.

Dr. L. D. Haskew, professor of Junior College Education at the University of Texas, pinch-hit for Reed.

Theme for the two-day meeting is "The Challenge of Technician Training." Conference chairman is Dr. C. H. Ransdell, assistant dean of A&M's College of Engineering.

Haynie reported the \$15 million figure exceeds 1969 requests by \$10 million, and added \$18 million

will be requested for fiscal year 1971.

The increased amount, noted Haynie, is the result of a study by the Junior College Advisory Committee to determine a "new student-contact hour cost," in vocational education. "In other words," said Haynie, "it is the cost per hour of the student and teacher in class."

He noted it was determined \$1.25 is required to train a student in technical education, while

the rate is \$1 per hour for welders and mechanics, and 85 cents for technical agricultural persons.

Haynie added that under the proposed formula, all state money received would go "to operating the programs."

Federal and state funds were previously "lumped together," he added. The proposal provides for federal funds to be used for "construction of area vocational schools and initial equipment."

He disclosed that "this concept

of funding has been endorsed" by the joint board of the Governor's Legislative Office, Legislative Budget Board and State Vocational Advisory Committee.

The State Board of Education was reportedly scheduled to endorse the student-contact hour concept today.

"Our present system of funding is totally inadequate," he added.

He reported there are "students throughout the state ready to receive training, but neither local

districts nor our agency has money to fund them."

SILVER ON DISPLAY
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