

Education

Speech to be delivered by Mr Chas. W. Meyer,
Secretary, Public Service Commission and
Chairman of the Vocational Guidance Steering
Committee at the Closing Ceremony of "Youth
Week in Commerce and Industry" 1969 to be
held on 23rd August, 1969

Dr. Lee Chiaw Meng, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ladies & Gentlemen,
Boys & Girls,

It gives me great pleasure as Chairman of the Vocational Guidance Steering Committee, Co-Organiser of the 1969 "Youth Week in Commerce and Industry", to say a few words at this Closing Ceremony which has become a customary feature of the Youth Week held annually.

In a developing society, with sweeping technological and industrial changes, a bewildering range of career opportunities are offered to our young boys and girls who are about to leave school. At the same time, the changes pose disturbing threats to those not fully oriented. Young people have constantly to adjust their aptitudes and their skills to meet the requirements of the increasingly complex occupational structure. They live in a society which demands of them progressively higher and higher standards of competence and responsibility. It is, therefore, obvious that they should be made to realise the importance of making wise vocational decisions. These must be based upon an understanding of their interests, abilities and aptitudes and a knowledge of the opportunities and requirements of the various occupations.

Unless an individual worker is doing work which can be related to his aptitude, inclination or training, he cannot be contented and happy in his employment. He may be a square peg in a round hole, or a small peg in a large hole, or a large peg in a small hole. Vocational guidance is predicated on the need to fit the right peg in the right hole, so to speak. Vocational guidance is, therefore, a process that must be started at the earliest possible time, and that is, while the individual is still at school.

With an active vocational guidance programme now being undertaken, our children in school to-day are fortunate indeed. You who are here today are even more privileged in

having the opportunity of undergoing actual experience in a place of work of your choice. During the last week, some of you have been working in factories, offices, Government departments and Statutory Boards. Some of you have worked out-doors, some in-doors. Some of you have discovered the joys of job-experience, others disappointment. For some the experience was too short. Whatever your personal experiences or feelings, the important thing to remember is that you have all been given the opportunity to gain an insight into the particular occupation or industry you have chosen; you have all been given the chance to evaluate and to assess the choice of your career. The "Week" has, therefore, been fruitful for you as participants in that you have gained some knowledge of the type of work that you chose for your attachment during the Week. "Youth Week in Commerce and Industry" is organised in order to open your eyes to the wide range of jobs available in our Republic.

The Vocational Guidance Steering Committee, since it was formed in 1964, has established close liaison with the Junior Chamber of Singapore in its annual project of providing school-leavers with a brief but effective introduction to careers and professions to enable them to make vocational decisions consistent with their interests, abilities and aptitudes. We recognise that a responsible society should ensure the full utilisation of its human resources which are the young school-leavers, and we realize that this is an important responsibility of the community. The Committee is both proud and privileged to have become fully and closely associated with this annual project of the J.C. of Singapore.

I should like, therefore, on behalf of the Committee to offer my thanks and congratulations to the Junior Chamber of Singapore. I should like also to congratulate all of you who are receiving your Certificate of Participation to-day in commemoration of your participation in "Youth Week in Commerce and Industry". I wish you all success and the best of luck in your choice of a career.