

# Learning to Work Can't Hurt Students

A NEWSPAPER headline declared: "Fewer funds force students to work." The implication seemed to be that reductions in federal subsidies might bring tragedy to campuses across the state because students may have to work part time to help pay their way.

This cutback could very well be the best thing that ever happened to some students. It is possible for them to acquire high school diplomas without becoming personally acquainted with work or developing much interest in finding out how things are done and why.

Working students may learn as much or more from their job assignments than they do from those given in the classrooms. Many successful people have said as much.

The newspaper article pointed out that yearly costs for college expenses range from \$1,500 to \$4,000, more or less, including room, board, tuition and fees. With minimum wages it is possible to earn that much working 20 hours a week. Many could do better.

Socialist doctrines of equalizing incomes through redistribution of wealth seem to have confused a number of young people about proper relationships of productive work and appropriate compensation.

This doctrine has been espoused in movies, literature, the press, and in television dramas. The impression is given that it is all right to be an athletic hero, private eye detective or other "macho" personality but that steady work should be avoided.

In an article in Business Week magazine Arch Patton, a retired executive, discusses what he calls a weakness in American industry. It is that we have put too much emphasis on management positions and not enough on knowing how to work and produce.

"The key line jobs — engineering, manufacturing and marketing — require the best talent available in a competitive world," Patton writes. "These are the 'hands on' managers, the people who know what goes on out there in the plant, in the field,

who must be product entrepreneurs and set quality standards, who must be builders of the future."

He quotes the chairman of one of Japan's most successful electronic manufacturers who said: "The U.S. puts its best young minds to work in staff jobs and has for years ... Japan; on the other hand, wants its brightest men in line jobs."

Newsweek reports that a number of universities, including University of Southern California, Baylor University, and Babson College of Massachusetts, are offering courses that require upper level students to become involved in business projects that make profits as well as grades.

"These guys are hungry and greedy," said one professor. "They're out to make their million bucks, which is what we're peddling."

As one philosopher said, we only desire equality with our superiors. The surest way to attain equality of income is to work for it. Learning to work should be an essential part of education.