

CAMBRIDGE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

69 ROGERS STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02142

(617)-876-4100

STATEMENT TO BE PRESENTED TO CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL,
MAY 10, 1971, BY DONALD B. WILSON, PRESIDENT,
A. O. WILSON STRUCTURAL CO., CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

As a Cambridge businessman for 26 years, as past Chairman of the Rindge Technical School Advisory Board and currently a member of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce's Vocational Education Advisory Committee, I would like to urge the City Council to approve the proposal before them for the reorganization and modernization of the Cambridge high schools.

The Chamber's Board of Directors and Vocational Education Committee have strongly endorsed this proposal, after careful review of its contents.

The Chamber's Vocational Committee had conducted several studies of present vocational education programs in the high schools prior to the public release of the Hill, Miller, Friedlaender, Hollander proposal. Based on the results of our studies, we find that the reorganization proposal presents a well-thought-out and sound means for the implementation of relevant occupational education in the Cambridge high schools.

We are primarily concerned with the proposed Occupational Resource Center. The job market in the Cambridge and Greater Boston area has changed radically over the past 20 years. Cambridge is no longer a manufacturing center in the traditional sense; the present Cambridge employed work force is predominantly white collar and highly skilled. There are fewer jobs in Cambridge for the unskilled.

For those Cambridge high school students not going on to higher education, which is approximately 65-70 percent of the graduates of both Rindge and High and Latin, the schools must offer meaningful training whereby a student can graduate with a marketable skill to compete in the job market. This is not the case today, but can be, if the City Council approves the reorganization and modernization proposal before them.

Statement from Cambridge Chamber of Commerce; urging City Council to approve proposal for the reorganization and modernization of the Cambridge high schools

May 10, 1971

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