This PDF is a selection from an out-of-print volume from the National Bureau of Economic Research

Volume Title: Higher Education and Earnings: College as an Investment and Screening Device

Volume Author/Editor: Paul J. Taubman, Terence Wales

Volume Publisher: UMI

Volume ISBN: 0-07-010121-3

Volume URL: http://www.nber.org/books/taub74-1

Publication Date: 1974

Chapter Title: Appendix L: The Effects of Ediucation on Incomes of the Successful: Evidence from the Lewellen

Data

Chapter Author: Paul J. Taubman, Terence Wales

Chapter URL: http://www.nber.org/chapters/c3667

Chapter pages in book: (p. 255 - 273)

roximate tuition costs by lr 1949 value of \$228. Finds by 53 percent for such tooks, and so on. Our es-

| | Private cost |
|---------|--------------|
| | 273 |
| • | 326 |
| | 349 |
| | 349 |
| | 349 |
| | 349 |
| | 349 |
| | 349 |
| <u></u> | 349 |
| | |

Appendix L: The Effects of Education on Incomes of the Successful: Evidence from the Lewellen Data

W. G. Lewellen (1968) has recently estimated and analyzed the after-tax incomes—including in "income" the value of the various deferred-compensation schemes such as pension plans and stock options—for the first up to the fifth highest-ranking executives of 50 of the 70 largest manufacturing firms in the United States in the period 1940–1963. Professor Lewellen has generously made available his data for our use.

Despite its obvious special nature, this sample is of interest for several reasons. First, contrary to the situation with other cross-section studies in general and high-income samples in particular, this sample has an accurate earned-income measure. Second, it is useful to see whether education differences are important for successful people, especially since it may be possible to compare the results with the Terman sample of geniuses.

We have attempted to obtain relevant demographic characteristics from various sources for each of the executives.² We have determined the education attainment, undergraduate and graduate school attended (if any), and age for about 350 of the 500 individuals in the Lewellen sample. Consequently, we can estimate the relationship between after-tax income, education, and years on the job. Unfortunately, except for academic

¹The Securities and Exchange Commission requires the basic information on annual company reports.

²These are Who's Who in America (1950); Who's Who in Commerce and Industry (1940 and 1950); World's Who's Who in Commerce and Industry (1963); and Poor's Register of Directors and Executives (1940, 1950, and 1963). Who's Who in Commerce and Industry provided the most comprehensive data. This was the first source consulted. Poor's Register listed more names than did Who's Who in Commerce and Industry, but it was not nearly as comprehensive. Poor's listed college education only if a degree had been obtained, and in that case also listed the date the degree was received.

honors, no direct measure of ability is available. However, in view of the nature of the sample (very successful individuals in a narrowly defined occupation), we would expect the appropriately defined ability of almost everyone to be very high. Moreover, we would suspect that a measure of drive or ambition would be a more relevant variable than mental ability as measured by IQ. In addition, we do have information on the undergraduate college attended by each individual, and evidence exists that college quality is correlated with the mental ability of those attending.3 The major disadvantage of the sample is that, since it is not typical, no conclusions of a general nature can be drawn from our findings.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SAMPLE

;

Before considering our regression results, it is useful to consider the characteristics of the sample from 1940 to 1963. Perhaps the most interesting question is the distribution of educational attainment over time. In Table L-1 we present the percentage of people (for whom we have the data) in each of four educational classes. In this table we have combined the data for the five positions.

In 1940, approximately 23 percent of the top executives had not attended college, an additional 12 percent had not graduated from college, 44 percent had an undergraduate degree only, and 21 percent had received more than one degree. Throughout the sample period, there was a steady trend toward more and more education of the people in the top job positions; thus, in 1950 the corresponding figures were 14 percent, 10 percent, 51 percent, and 25 percent. By 1963, only 7 percent had not attended college (and nearly all these people had been in the sample since 1939), and 8 percent had attended college but had not received a degree. On the other hand, 55 percent of the people had received one degree and an additional 30 percent had more than one degree.

It is of some interest to compare these developments with educational achievement in general and with the educational composition of the managerial-executive class in particular. For population cohorts born from 1890 through 1905, less than 15 percent of employed males had attended college (Taubman &

TABLE L-1 Percentage distribution of top executives by education. 1940-1963

> One ind A few I

> > recei It : tives

> > > The

Wale

⁴The 1960.

³ See, for example, Solmon (1969), who correlated the quality measure we used with mean SAT scores. See also Wolfle (1954).

vailable. However, in cessful individuals in I expect the approprice be very high. Moreof drive or ambition an mental ability as e information on the individual, and eviated with the mental disadvantage of the nclusions of a general

it is useful to consid-940 to 1963. Perhaps bution of educational ent the percentage of h of four educational the data for the five

top executives had recent had not gradidergraduate degree
than one degree.
steady trend toward he top job positions;
e 14 percent, 10 perly 7 percent had not ple had been in the ded college but had i percent of the peoonal 30 percent had

elopments with edth the educational ss in particular. For 1905, less than 15 bllege (Taubman &

TABLE L-1 Percentage distribution of top executives by education, 1940–1963

| | High school* | So me college | Under- graduate degree [†] | At least one graduate degree |
|------|-----------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1940 | 23 | 12 | 44 | 21 |
| 1941 | 21 | 12 | 44 | 23 |
| 1942 | 20 | 12 | 44 | 24 |
| 1943 | 20 | 10 | 45 | 25 |
| 1944 | 20 | 10 | 47 | 23 |
| 1945 | 20 | 09 | 48 | 23 |
| 1946 | 18 | 10 | 49 | 23 |
| 1947 | 16 | 09 | 52 | 24 |
| 1948 | 15 | 09 | 52 | 24 |
| 1949 | 14 | 11 | 51 | 23 |
| 1950 | 14 | 10 | 51 | 25 |
| 1951 | 12 | 10 | 53 | 25 |
| 1952 | 12 | 10 | 51 | 27 |
| 1953 | 12 | 10 | 52 | 26 |
| 1954 | 13 | 11 | 50 | 27 |
| 1955 | 12 | 11 | 50 | 27 |
| 1956 | 13 | 10 | 51 | 26 |
| 1957 | 12 | 10 | 53 | 25 |
| 1958 | 09 | 09 | 59 | 23 |
| 1959 | 08 | 08 | 57 | 27 |
| 1960 | 07 | 08 | 58 | 27 |
| 1961 | 07 | 07 | 58 | 28 |
| 1962 | 07 | 06 | 57 | 29 |
| 1963 | 07 | 08 | 55 | 30 |

^{*}One individual who did not graduate from high school is included in this group.

Wales, 1972). It is obvious, therefore, that top management had received much more education than the population as a whole.

It is also of interest to compare the education of top executives with the education of all executives in the same age group. The data that are more relevant (in ways described below) for

A few people with some postgraduate work but no degree are included in this group.

ality measure we used

⁴The average age of the executives in our sample is about 50 in 1940 and 58 in

this comparison are not available. Some crude approximations obtained from the 1940, 1950, and 1960 censuses are given in Table L-2 for the category of nonfarm proprietors, managers, and officials 45 through 64 years of age. The distribution across the three education classes has shown little change over time Educational upgrading has occurred, however: Those with less than a high school diploma in this occupation fell from about 60 percent of the total in 1940 to about 45 percent in 1960. For making comparisons with the Lewellen data, the data in Table L-2 are crude in several respects. The Lewellen sample involves executives of the largest manufacturing concerns. The census data include all types of companies of all sizes. In the 1960 census it is possible to obtain the educational distribution of salaried nonfarm managers and officials. This category should eliminate many of the owners of retail stores and small concerns. Although, as shown in the last row in Table L-2, there are fewer people in the high school and some-college groups, the distribution is still very different from that given in Table L-1. This difference could arise because reaching the top of the corporate ladder depends on ability, which is correlated with education. As shown in our earlier work (Taubman & Wales, 1972), even for the age cohorts being studied here, the more mentally able students would have, on the average, received more education. This may explain the high concentration of education in the Lewellen sample.

The above data certainly do not deny, and may even confirm, the proposition that more highly educated people have a better chance of reaching the highest-paying positions in American business. This sample can be used to answer several other interesting questions. First, we can determine the extent to which education affects the income of the successful by using the standard linear regression model, in which income is the dependent variable and education one of the independent vari-

TABLE L-2 Percentage distribution of nonfarm proprietors. managers, and officials, aged 45 to 64, with at least a high school education, 1940, 1950, and 1960

| Description | High school graduates | Some college | One or more college degrees |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1940 census | 51 | 26 | 22 |
| 1950 census | 50 | 27 | 24 |
| 1960 census | 47 | 29 | 24 |
| 1960 census, salaried | 43 | 28 | 29 |

Figure L-1 Truncation of sample by income level

Income

ables. educa whole mine yields samp In cient samp educ the dow zero posit ing F Su that at ea that inco level repre

sport

tion

the

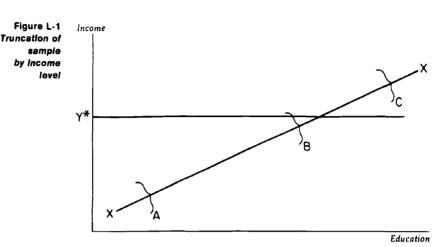
ues

in t In

te crude approximations i0 censuses are given in proprietors, managers. The distribution across little change over time. owever: Those with less pation fell from about 60 ercent in 1960. For maka, the data in Table L-2 len sample involves exncerns. The census data es. In the 1960 census it distribution of salaried egory should eliminate hd small concerns. Alble L-2, there are fewer lege groups, the distriiven in Table L-1. This he top of the corporate elated with education. & Wales, 1972), even he more mentally able eived more education. n of education in the

.nd may even confirm, d people have a better ositions in American swer several other inhe the extent to which cessful by using the vhich income is the :he independent vari-

| |
|---------------------------------|
| One or more college degrees |
| 22 |
| 24 |
| 24 |
| 29 |
| |



ables. Second, we can attempt to determine the extent to which education affects earnings for the population (of executives) as a whole. But to use our sample for this purpose, we must determine if application of the usual regression model to our data yields the same result as it would when applied to random samples of executives.

In the discussion to follow, the "estimated education coefficient" is the one obtained using regression analysis on our sample, while the "true coefficient" is the relationship between education and earnings in the population. It can be shown that the estimated education coefficient will in fact be biased downward if its true value is positive, will be unbiased if it is zero, and will be biased upward if it is negative. The case of a positive education coefficient may be understood by considering Figure L-1.

Suppose the true relationship is given by the line XX, and that the representative distributions of income about its mean at each education level are given by A, B, and C. Suppose also that (after translating success into income levels) only levels of income above Y^* are used in the sample. Then, for education levels corresponding to C, the entire distribution of earnings is represented in the sample, while for education levels corresponding to B, only the highest income values in the distribution are included. The effect of this is clearly to underestimate the effect of education on income. Earnings and education values corresponding to A are irrelevant as they are not contained in the sample at all.

In his study, Lewellen derived estimates of earnings on an

after-tax basis, on a before-tax basis, and on an equivalent before-tax basis under the assumption that the after-tax earnings had all been wages and salaries. Although we could have used any of the measures as our dependent variable, we have used only the after-tax income. Our choice was based on several considerations. First, after-tax income is the appropriate concept for calculating the private return. Since the sample covered such a small and select group of people, it is not possible to generalize to all college graduates; hence, a social-return concept is not worth pursuing.

In addition, we would expect that for top executives the aftertax return is a reasonable measure of differences in productivity for the following reasons. Suppose we ignore the fact that top management has a large say in the setting of its earnings and the composition of its pay package and assume that each firm tries to minimize costs by reducing its before-tax payments to executives while at the same time increasing executives' aftertax earnings by altering their compensation package. If firms do not pay managers their marginal product, other firms could afford to hire them away (unless the executives' skills were company-specific) and, consequently, firms will have to set the after-tax pay package equal to the marginal product of each person. Since firms should tailor the components of the package to the wishes of their managers, after-tax earnings for a given tax structure will probably differ from before-tax earnings by a factor that is reasonably constant for all individuals in a given year. Years in which tax laws differ, however, cannot be combined if there is a lag in the adjustment to the tax provisions.

A few other details concerning the income data should be noted. First, the marginal-productivity theory is expressed in terms of real wages. Within any year we can treat prices as the same for the members of the cross section, but in comparing results for different years or in combining data from different years, we must deflate the income measure. The deflator we have used in regressions with different years combined is the Consumer Price Index (CPI) with 1957-1959 equal to 100. We recognize that the CPI is not really appropriate for upper-income individuals, but no alternative is readily available. Since Lewellen used a CPI with 1940 as the base year, our real-income figures are about twice as large as his.

The ployed cyclica stock cross opme Over tion c tions years

RESULTS

The o levels timat the e same on th year can b varia Such the in posit Ca

bine marg ditio indi

#See C optia ¹We h feren as the exist the f 1940 marg first little coeff tical the

> dend the c

varia

⁵We shall show that the after-tax earnings are equal to the marginal productivity times (1-t), where t is the average marginal tax rate.

and on an equivalent that the after-tax earnlithough we could have ident variable, we have ice was based on severis the appropriate connce the sample covered it is not possible to gensocial-return concept is

op executives the aftererences in productivity gnore the fact that top ing of its earnings and assume that each firm before-tax payments to ising executives' afteron package. If firms do t, other firms could aftives' skills were comwill have to set the al product of each perients of the package to irnings for a given tax -tax earnings by a facadividuals in a given rever, cannot be comto the tax provisions. come data should be heory is expressed in can treat prices as the on, but in comparing g data from different ure. The deflator we ears combined is the 959 equal to 100. We ppriate for upper-inadily available. Since year, our real-income

the marginal productivity

The second point is that, while individuals must be employed when in our sample, their incomes are still subject to cyclical swings because of profit sharing, wage bonuses, and stock options valued on the basis of stock prices. Within any cross section, it is reasonable to assume that the cyclical developments would affect people with different education equally. Over time, this need not be true, since the educational composition of our sample changes. Thus, when comparing cross sections, we included zero-one dummy variables for the various years.

RESULTS

The data can be analyzed using regressions at many different levels of aggregation. First, for each year an equation can be estimated for each position. Second, for a given year the effects of the education variables on earnings can be assumed to be the same at all positions, although the level of income also depends on the position. In this case, we can have one equation for each year with dummy variables for the positions. Finally, the data can be combined for sets of years (after deflating the income variable), while including dummies for positions and/or years. Such pooling of the data assumes that the effects on earnings of the independent variables are constant over time as well as over positions.

Consider the question of whether the data should be combined by position. Assuming that individuals receive their marginal products, there is no reason to believe a priori that additional education will have different effects that depend on the individual's position in the firm.⁷ On the other hand, it is clear

⁶See Chapter 4 in Lewellen (1968) for a discussion of this method of valuing stock options.

We have some empirical evidence on the effect of education on income for different positions. We ran some preliminary regressions (using years of schooling as the education variable) designed to determine if, in fact, these differences exist. Cross-section regressions for 1940, 1950, and 1963 computed separately for the five positions do not suggest different effects of education on income. For 1940, the education coefficients for the third, fourth, and fifth positions are marginally significant and have almost identical values. The coefficients for the first two positions differ considerably, but have such high standard errors that little significance can be attached to the point estimates. For 1950, the education coefficients for the second and fourth positions are significant, and almost identical, while the others are insignificant. Although these results do not prove that the effects of education are the same at all positions, they at least provide no evidence of significant differences. Consequently, in the analysis to follow we pool the data for different positions, thus forcing the coefficients of the independent variables to be the same across positions.

that income differences that reflect the hierarchical nature of the firms' administrative setup will exist between individuals in different positions within firms, even though they have the same age and education. If the attainment of the higher positions is due to such factors as ability and drive, which are excluded from our model but which are correlated with education, then we should include dummy intercept variables for the positions in order to avoid attributing to education some of the income differences due to ability and other factors. It is conceivable, however, that education better equips a person to obtain the more senior positions. In this situation, the inclusion of dummy intercept variables for positions would eliminate part of the return to education.8 It is likely that the return to education is bracketed by the estimates obtained through including, and then excluding, the dummies. Since it is not clear which interpretation is more accurate, we present our main results for both cases—that is, inclusion and exclusion of the intercept position dummies.

As noted earlier, it is possible to study each year separately or to combine all individuals for those years in which the tax structure was constant. We have made both calculations. Consider first the results for the period 1954–1963, which is the longest interval available.

$$\frac{Y_{it}}{P_t} = -66.7 - 40.1PBK + 2.97(Age - E) + 9.13Coll + 62.5CGrad$$

$$(2.6) \quad (3.4) \quad (7.7) \quad (.7) \quad (5.6)$$

$$+ 57.7PGrad \quad \bar{R}^2 = .06 \quad (L-1)$$

$$(4.7)$$

$$\frac{Y_{it}}{P_t} = 62.7 - 25.3PBK + 1.89(Age - E) + .21Coll + 53.6CGrad$$

$$(2.5) \quad (2.3) \quad (5.1) \quad (.01) \quad (5.2)$$

$$+ 51.2PGrad - 69.8D2 - 84.5D3 - 105.4D4 - 116.2D5$$

$$(4.4) \quad (8.8) \quad (9.8) \quad (11.4) \quad (11.9)$$

$$\bar{R}^2 = .19 \quad (L-2)$$

where Y_{it} = after-tax earnings of the *i*th individual in the *t*th

DJ, J =

In]

the fif inform the m achie cant \$ As lo tions, \$45,00 inclue tive & ing: (other non-

> ⁹The it ¹⁰ Partyears Ph.D

the to

demi nona

rial f

^{*}Of course, if there is no correlation between educational attainment and positions, then the coefficient on the education variable will be the same.

ucation and earnings 262

rarchical nature of the stween individuals in hough they have the nt of the higher posiand drive, which are orrelated with educarcept variables for the education some of the r factors. It is conceivps a person to obtain ion, the inclusion of would eliminate part t the return to educad through including, is not clear which inour main results for sion of the intercept

ich year separately or rs in which the tax th calculations. Con-⊢1963, which is the

$$\bar{R}^2 = .06$$
 (L-1)

$$\bar{R}^2 = .19$$
 (L-2)

idividual in the tth

ial attainment and posiill be the same.

year, measured in thousands of dollars

P =the Consumer Price Index, 1957–1959; equals 1.00

PBK = a dummy variable for honors in college; the categories included are Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Chi. and graduated with academic honors9

Age = age of individual

 $E = \text{years of schooling after high school}^{10}$

Coll = a dummy variable that equals 1 if the person attended but did not graduate from college

CGrad = a dummy variable that equals 1 if a person graduated from college but did not receive a graduate degree

PGrad = a dummy variable that equals 1 if the person received one or more graduate degrees (including any law degree)

DI, I = 2-5 = a dummy for the position of the individual in his

In Eq. (L-1) we have included all individuals from the top to the fifth executive for whom we have the necessary educational information. In this equation there are several striking results, the most surprising of which is that the 20 or so people who achieved academic honors in college earn a statistically significant \$40,000 less than their colleagues with the same education. As long as positional dummies are excluded in all our equations, the coefficient on PBK is always minus \$40,000 to minus \$45,000. As typified in Eq. (L-2), when position dummies are included, the PBK coefficient is still minus \$25,000. Two tentative explanations for the negative effect of PBK are the following: (1) while those who earned the PBK have intellectual and other talents necessary to succeed in academic programs, the non-PBK people who graduated from college and who reached the top in the business have greater amounts of other nonacademically oriented talents than those with PBK, and these nonacademic talents are more valuable in performing managerial functions; (2) The non-PBK people took programs that bet-

The individual is credited with PBK whether or not he has an advanced degree.

¹⁰ Part-time college attendance was counted as two years, a college degree as four years, a master's degree or some postgraduate education as five years, and a Ph.D. or law degree as seven years.

ter prepared them for the business world, but these programs either did not give an honors award or gave one that was not considered worth listing in Who's Who or elsewhere. For those who are still suspicious of this result, it should be noted that when Eqs. (L-1) and (L-2) are rerun without PBK, the other coefficients are only very slightly changed.

For the period 1954-1963 the average age in the sample is close to 60, and the average income of a high school graduate in this sample is \$112,000 (in 1957-1959 dollars). Eq. (L-1) indicates that each additional year of employment after completion of schooling adds \$3,000 to income. Those who attended college but who did not graduate earned a mere (and statistically insignificant) \$9,000, or 8 percent, more than high school graduates. Although just going to college did not add much to income, graduation (without PBK) adds \$62,500, or 50 percent, to a person's income.11 A graduate with a PBK earns only \$20,000 more than a high school graduate.

That college graduates do so well is not so surprising, but it may seem unusual to find that those with graduate degrees earn less than those with just an undergraduate degree. Thus, while the average college graduate had an income of \$175,000, the average advanced-degree holder had an income of only \$170,000. Moreover, since college graduates have been working four years longer, they receive an additional \$12,000 more than an advanced-degree holder of equal age. This pattern also occurs in the 1960 census data. For example, for nonfarm salaried managers, college graduates in the age group of 45 to 64 earn approximately 50 percent, and advanced-degree holders 46 percent, more than high school graduates. To find the same percentage in returns is surprising, because our sample includes only the successful managers, whereas the census data include some who have switched from a professional to a managerial position and have had less time to reach the top positions in

The \tilde{R}^2 in Eq. (L-1) is very low—.06—partly because we have included people from the top five positions in each firm without taking account of the wage structure within the firms. Eq. (L-2) enters dummy variables for the various positions.

Befor cordi ing t the r In tion \$225 earn

four resp of ed tions grad more stan tiona ficie

dica

the

note

tion trod mie 1955 had

coef

defi and of 🛭 ava 195 peq

is d and

san

12See not cou

¹¹ Of course, since the person has been on the job four years less than a person the same age who did not go to college, he would earn only \$50,000 (\$62,000 - \$12,000) more than a high school graduate of the same age.

brld, but these programs ir gave one that was not or elsewhere. For those it should be noted that hout PBK, the other coef-

te age in the sample is high school graduate in llars). Eq. (L-1) indicates ent after completion of e who attended college (and statistically insighigh school graduates. add much to income, or 50 percent, to a perarns only \$20,000 more

ot so surprising, but it graduate degrees earn te degree. Thus, while come of \$175,000, the an income of only es have been working nal \$12,000 more than ge. This pattern also ple, for nonfarm salaage group of 45 to 64 ced-degree holders 46 To find the same perour sample includes e census data include lonal to a managerial the top positions in

irtly because we have . itions in each firm ure within the firms. e various positions.

ears less than a person the uld earn only \$50,000 of the same age.

Before considering these results, we remind the reader that according to our previous discussion, if education aids in advancing to the top, the coefficient in this equation will understate the returns to education.

In Eq. (L-2), we see quite clearly the wage structure by position. The average company head with a college degree earns \$225,000, and the corresponding person in the second position earns about \$155,000. Those with a college degree in the third, fourth, and fifth positions earn \$140,000, \$120,000, and \$110,000, respectively. Once we have held positions constant, the effects of education are somewhat smaller. Within each of the positions, college dropouts earn a minuscule \$200 more, and college graduates and advanced-degree holders earn about \$50,000 more, than high school graduates. Thus, holding positions constant in Eq. (L-2) reduces the coefficients on the various educational categories in Eq. (L-1) by \$7,000 to \$10,000. The PBK coefficient changes from minus \$40,000 to minus \$25,000. This indicates that those with PBK not only do not get as high up on the management ladder but also earn less on a given rung. As noted earlier, Eqs. (L-1) and (L-2), which yield similar education effects, should bracket the true coefficient. With the introduction of the position dummies, the \hat{R}^2 increases to .19.

We have reestimated both equations including yearly dummies. Compared with 1963, executives earned \$40,000 more in 1955-1957, and \$20,000 more in 1959-1962. Since these dummies had only minor effects on the education and time-on-the-job coefficients, we do not present the equations.

We also computed regressions in which we added a variable defined as $Q \times CGrad$ where Q is a measure of college quality and CGrad is the same dummy variable as before. The measure of Q we used was the Gourman rating for 1955, the earliest one available.12 While the quality ratings of schools change slowly, 1955 ratings may be too far removed from the dates at which people attended college, since even in 1963 most people in the sample had attended college more than 30 years earlier. Still, it is of some interest to use such a variable, since the best schools and worst schools do not change greatly over such time periods.

Since by construction CGrad must be uncorrelated with all the

¹²See Gourman (1956). The Gourman rating is available for subsequent years but not earlier. The rating scheme, which we understand is not infallible, takes account of quality of students, faculty, and facilities.

variables except PBK and (Age - E) and since Q happens to be uncorrelated with these two variables, the coefficients on the other variables are unchanged when we introduce the new variable. The coefficient on CGrad, which indicates the income earned if Q were zero, is about \$20,000. Each one-point increase in Q adds about \$70 to income when position dummies are not included and \$50 when they are included. Since Q in our sample ranges from under 300 to 770, college quality differences could account for a range of about \$35,000 in income, which is less than the difference between high school and college graduates. It should be noted that evidence in Wolfle (1954) and in Solmon (1969) indicates that average school quality and average IQ are correlated, but that within schools there is a wide range in individual abilities. Thus, the quality variable reflects both individual mental-ability differences and quality-of-schooling differences.14

The coefficients of (Age - E) from Eqs. (L-1) and (L-2) indicate that an additional year on the job adds about \$3,000 to income if positions are not held constant and \$2,000 if they are. That is, those who are successful and move to higher positions can expect to receive, on the average, a salary increase per year \$1,000 higher than those who are not promoted.

We turn next to the equations obtained when each year is treated as a separate cross section. In these regressions, we have not deflated the income data; hence, in making year-to-year comparisons, it is necessary to deflate all the coefficients. In the following discussion, we shall ignore the results for the World War II years 1942 to 1945. Table L-3 contains the results when the position dummies are excluded, while Table L-4 presents the equations that include the position dummies.

Although the education coefficients in Table L-4 are generally lower than those in Table L-3 and although the positions dummies always have the correct signs and are statistically significant, the same qualitative pattern emerges in both tables. Therefore we will only discuss Table L-3. An intriguing pattern emer colleg coeffi some the c posit some and/ educ not d forti the-i 1960 Th **PGra** early to th mity

CONCLUSION

thos mos patt sepa nifid ther com deg sch nifi coll

PBK

tive

We

tive

the sam wh star

era fine

¹³Both estimates are significant at the 5 percent level.

¹⁴We attempted to include a variable to account for nepotism based on a dummy variable with a value of 1 when the individual had the same surname as an older person who had been an officer of the company during the period 1940-1963 and in a few instances when a person was known to be related to the major stockholder.

1 since Q happens to be , the coefficients on the introduce the new varii indicates the income Each one-point increase sition dummies are not ided. 13 Since Q in our lege quality differences 00 in income, which is hool and college gradun Wolfle (1954) and in ool quality and average s there is a wide range ' variable reflects both d quality-of-schooling

L-1) and (L-2) indicate bout \$3,000 to income 2,000 if they are. That higher positions can ary increase per year moted.

d when each year is regressions, we have making year-to-year he coefficients. In the results for the World ins the results when e Table L-4 presents mmies.

ble L-4 are generally the positions dumstatistically signifiges in both tables. n intriguing pattern

tism based on a dummy ame surname as an older g the period 1940-1963 be related to the major

emerges. For the period 1940-1941, the coefficient for some college is positive, significant, and somewhat greater than the coefficients for one degree or several degrees. Although in 1940 some of the people in the sample may have been the founders of the company, the same result emerges in Table L-3, in which positions are held constant. After World War II, the variable for some college is never significant. Between 1945 and 1958, CGrad and/or PGrad are generally significant, whereas after that, no education variable is significant. From 1956 to 1963, CGrad does not differ significantly from PGrad. PBK is positive until the late forties and insignificantly negative thereafter. The time-onthe-job variable is positive except in 1962 and significant until 1960 (1958 in Table L-4).

The consensus that emerges from these equations is that PGrad is never very different from CGrad, and that except in the early years, the income of those with some college does not add to the income of the top executives. These results are in conformity with the continuous cross-section results given above. The PBK results are in rough conformity, since the variable is negative in each of the years from 1954 to 1963.

CONCLUSION

We have studied the after-tax incomes of top corporate executives for the period 1940-1963. In the early part of this period, those who attended college but did not graduate received the most income. During the post-World War II era the following pattern emerges: When each year from 1950 to 1958 is analyzed separately, those with one or more degrees generally earn significantly more income than high school graduates. After 1958 there is no significant relationship between education and income. When the years 1954 to 1963 are combined, collegedegree holders earn significantly more income than either high school graduates or college dropouts. In no case is there a significant difference between the incomes of those with one college degree and those with more than one college degree. In the postwar period, college dropouts earn approximately the same income as high school graduates. The above results hold whether or not the executive's position in the firm is held constant using dummy variables.

It is interesting to compare these results with others in the literature. For example, in a recent study, Shane J. Hunt (1963) finds a zero or negative rate of return for graduate education.

TABLE L-3 Annual income-education regressions, 1940-1963

| | PBK | Time on the job | Coll | CGrad | PGrad | Constant | ₹² |
|------|--------------|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 1940 | 19.0 | 2.1 | 30.2 | 19.8 | 25.6 | -61.9 | 4.0 |
| | (0.9) | (4.2) | (2.1) | (1.8) | (1.9) | (2.1) | .10 |
| 1941 | 9.8 | 2.3 | 47.4 | 18.1 | 24.4 | - 78 .1 | 4.0 |
| | (0.5) | (4.2) | (3.0) | (1.5) | (1.7) | (2.4) | .12 |
| 1942 | 6.2 | 0.8 | 9.4 | 17.0 | 18.1 | - 13.0 | 00 |
| | (1.7) | (3.7) | (1.4) | (3.3) | (3.0) | (0.9) | .09 |
| 1943 | 10.8 | .7 | 8.4 | 11.9 | 11.9 | -3.9 | 10 |
| | (1.7) | (3.6) | (1.6) | (3.1) | (2.7) | (0.4) | .10 |
| 1944 | 0.4 | 1.5 | 4.1 | 13.9 | 28.5 | -49.6 | 10 |
| | (0.0) | (5.8) | (0.5) | (2.5) | (4.3) | (3.1) | .18 |
| 1945 | 5.8 | 1.2 | -1.2 | 4.3 | 11.0 | - 23.7 | .09 |
| | (0.6) | (4.3) | (0.1) | (0.8) | (1.6) | (1.4) | .08 |
| 1946 | 20.8 | 1,1 | -4.1 | 4.7 | 9.1 | 14.7 | .16 |
| | (2.7) | (4.8) | (.6) | (.9) | (1.4) | (1.0) | . 10 |
| 1947 | - .5 | 1.5 | -5.9 | 9.7 | 13.5 | - 34.0 | .10 |
| | (0) | (4.8) | (.5) | (1.2) | (1.5) | (1.8) | .10 |
| 1948 | - 2.5 | 2.0 | -10.8 | 6.5 | 17.5 | - 41.2 | .2 |
| | (.2) | (6.7) | (1.0) | (.9) | (2.0) | (2.2) | .2 |
| 1949 | -14.3 | 1.6 | 3.1 | 13.8 | 28.3 | - 27.9 | .16 |
| | (1.3) | (5.6) | (0.3) | (1.9) | (3.4) | (1.6) | . 1 (|
| 1950 | -13.2 | 1.8 | 2.5 | 15.2 | 24.2 | - 29.2 | .12 |
| | (1.1) | (5.0) | (0.0) | (1.7) | (2.4) | (1.3) | . 14 |
| 1951 | -20.3 | 1.5 | 11.6 | 29.6 | 35.0 | - 24.0 | .08 |
| | (1.4) | (3.7) | (0.8) | (2.8) | (2.9) | (0.9) | .00 |

NOTE: Figures in parentheses are t statistics.

This result is substantiated by rough calculations using 1960 census data on the managerial occupation. Our findings suggest the same conclusion even for people working in a narrowly defined occupation who have proved to be successful. In addition, we find that those with one degree earn approximately 50 percent more income than high school graduates—an estimate once again roughly in accord with census calculations.

| | PBK | Time the j |
|------|-------|---------------|
| 1952 | ~11.0 | 1. |
| | (0.6) | (3. |
| 1953 | ~ 4.0 | 2. |
| | (0.2) | (3. |
| 1954 | - 9.5 | 1. |
| | (0.5) | (3. |
| 1955 | -53.6 | 5. |
| | (1.2) | (4. |
| 1956 | -39.8 | 5 |
| | (0.7) | (3 |
| 1957 | -51.4 | 4 |
| | (1.1) | (3 |
| 1958 | -39.4 | 1 |
| | (16) | (2 |
| 1959 | -53.3 | 2 (2 |
| | (1.8) | |
| 1960 | -41.4 | 4 |
| | (1.3) | (2 |
| 1961 | -55.5 | 2 |
| | (1.4) | (1 |
| 1962 | -58.6 | -(|
| | (1.4) | (0 |
| 1963 | -28.3 | (|
| | (80.) | ((|

| d | Constant | $ar{R}^2$ | | PBK | Time on the job | Coll | CGrad | PGrad | Constant | \bar{R}^2 |
|---|-------------------|-----------|------|-------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|----------|---------------|
| | -61.9 | | 1952 | -11.0 | 1.4 | 24.8 | 31.4 | 32.7 | -17.6 | .05 |
| | (2.1) | .10 | | (0.6) | (3.0) | (1.5) | (2.4) | (2.2) | (0.6) | .05 |
| | - 78.1 | 4.0 | 1953 | - 4.0 | 2.0 | 31.9 | 37.1 | 38.9 | -46.6 | .06 |
| | (2.4) | .12 | | (0.2) | (3.6) | (1.5) | (2.3) | (2.1) | (1.3) | .00 |
| | -13.0 | | 1954 | - 9.5 | 1.9 | 24.9 | 45.9 | 48.2 | - 42.3 | .07 |
| | (0.9) | .09 | | (0.5) | (3.4) | (1.2) | (2.9) | (2.8) | (1.2) | .07 |
| | -3.9 | | 1955 | -53.6 | 5.4 | 46.8 | 99.4 | 104.4 | -226.4 | 10 |
| | (0.4) | .10 | • | (1.2) | (4.1) | (1.0) | (2.7) | (2.6) | (2.7) | .10 |
| | -49.6 | | 1956 | -39.8 | 5.6 | 2.2 | 102.6 | 88.2 | -217.3 | 00 |
| | (3.1) | .18 | | (0.7) | (3.7) | (0.0) | (2.6) | (2.0) | (2.3) | .09 |
| | - 23.7 | | 1957 | -51.4 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 95.4 | 88.7 | -161.0 | .09 |
| | (1.4) | .09 | i, | (1.1) | (3.4) | (0.1) | (2.6) | (2.1) | (1.9) | .09 |
| | 14.7 | 4.6 | 1958 | -39.4 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 44.0 | 39.6 | -6.0 | .06 |
| | (1.0) | .16 | ì | (1.6) | (2.4) | (0.1) | (2.1) | (1.6) | (0.1) | .06 |
| | - 34.0 | 40 | 1959 | -53.3 | 2.2 | -18.1 | 33.1 | 27.8 | 3.2 | .04 |
| | (1.8) | .10 | | (1.8) | (2.1) | (0.4) | (1.0) | (8.0) | (0.0) | .04 |
| | -41.2 | 0.4 | 1960 | -41.4 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 35.6 | 35.2 | - 25.2 | .03 |
| | (2.2) | .21 | | (1.3) | (2.4) | (0.1) | (1.0) | (0.9) | (0.3) | .03 |
| | - 27.9 | .16 | 1961 | -55.5 | 2.6 | - 15.7 | 44.9 | 43.9 | -20.6 | .02 |
| | (1.6) | .16 | | (1.4) | (1.8) | (0.3) | (1.0) | (0.9) | (0.2) | .02 |
| | - 29.2 | 40 | 1962 | -58.6 | -0.2 | -0.5 | 43.7 | 20.2 | 145.7 | 004 |
| | (1.3) | .12 | | (1.4) | (0.1) | (0.0) | (0.9) | (0.4) | (1.3) | - .009 |
| | - 24.0 | 00 | 1963 | -28.3 | 0.4 | -4.9 | 49.6 | 20.7 | 85.8 | |
| | (0.9) | .08 | | (80.) | (0.3) | (0.1) | (1.2) | (0.5) | (0.9) | 00 |

lations using 1960 on. Our findings working in a narto be successful. In ree earn approxitionly graduates—an ensus calculations.

TABLE L-4 Annual income-education regressions (with positions held constant), 1940-1963

| | PBK | Time on the job | Coll | CGrad | PGrad |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| 1940 | 21.9 | 1.6 | 22.3 | 17.7 | 18.8 |
| | (1.2) | (3.3) | (1.6) | (1.8) | (1.5) |
| 1941 | 14.8 | 1.9 | 38.7 | 14.1 | 18.2 |
| | (8.0) | (3.6) | (2.5) | (1.2) | (1.4) |
| 1942 | 8.5 | 0.7 | 3.2 | 13.4 | 13.9 |
| | (1.1) | (3.5) | (0.5) | (2.9) | (2.6) |
| 1943 | 11.6 | 4.9 | 29.0 | 8.8 | 8.9 |
| | (2.2) | (3.1) | (0.7) | (2.7) | (2.3) |
| 1944 | -3.7 | 1.2 | -2.5 | 10.0 | 22.1 |
| | (0.0) | (4.6) | (0.4) | (2.0) | (3.6) |
| 1945 | 4.2 | 0.9 | -10.4 | 1.5 | 5.6 |
| | (0.5) | (3.6) | (1.4) | (0.3) | (0.9) |
| 1946 | 23.8 | .9 | -6.6 | 4.8 | 1.6 |
| | (3.7) | (4.4) | (1.1) | (1.1) | (.3) |
| 1947 | 4.6 | 1.1 | -13.3 | 7.1 | 6.1 |
| | (.4) | (3.8) | (1.3) | (1.0) | (.7) |
| 1948 | 4.6 | 1.1 | 13.3 | 7.1 | 6.1 |
| | (.4) | (3.8) | (1.3) | (1.0) | (.7) |
| 1 94 9 | -4.0 | 1.2 | - 3.9 | 7.1 | 23.5 |
| | (0.4) | (4.7) | (0.4) | (1.1) | (3.3) |
| 1 9 50 | -3.6 | 1.3 | -8.7 | 9.1 | 20.6 |
| | (0.4) | (4.3) | (0.9) | (1.2) | (2.3) |
| 1951 | -7.5 | 1.0 | -5.2 | 21.5 | 25.4 |
| | (0.5) | (2.6) | (0.4) | (2.2) | (2.3) |

| | 1 |
|----------|---------------|
| sition 2 | Position 3 |
| -43.8 | -53.0 |
| (4.0) | (4.3) |
| -27.0 | -40.0 |
| (2.2) | (3.1) |
| -13.8 | -20.4 |
| (2.8) | (3.9) |
| -13.6 | – 18.4 |
| (3.8) | (5.2) |
| -16.5 | -22.8 |
| (3.0) | (4.1) |
| -13.4 | -24.4 |
| (2.5) | (4.2) |
| -13.3 | -26.1 |
| (2.9) | (5.5) |
| -21.5 | -34.2 |
| (3.0) | (4.3) |
| 21.4 | 34.2 |
| (3.0) | (4.3) |
| - 25.5 | -27.8 |
| (4.4) | (4.5) |
| -28.9 | -34.0 |
| (3.9) | (4.3) |
| - 24.2 | - 39.1 |
| (2.8) | (4.3) |
| | |

NOTE: Figures in parentheses are t statistics.

education and earnings 270

vnstant), 1940-1963

| CGrad | PGrad | Position 2 | Position 3 | Position 4 | Position 5 | Constant | Dz |
|-------|--------|---------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------|-----|
| 17.7 | 18.8 | -43.8 | -53.0 | | | 8.5 | |
| (1.8) | (1.5) | (4.0) | (4.3) | (4.8) | (4.9) | (0.3) | .26 |
| 14.1 | . 18.2 | -27.0 | -40.0 | - 43.6 | -51.3 | -24.7 | |
| (1.2) | (1.4) | (2.2) | (3.1) | (3.3) | (4.1) | (~0.7) | .21 |
| 13.4 | 13.9 | -13.8 | -20.4 | - 25.7 | -29.6 | 14.4 | |
| (2.9) | (2.6) | (2.8) | (3.9) | (5.0) | (5.7) | (1.1) | .27 |
| 8.8 | 8.9 | -13.6 | -18.4 | - 22.9 | -26.3 | 22.3 | |
| (2.7) | (2.3) | (3.8) | (5.2) | (6.5) | (7.0) | (2.3) | .36 |
| 10.0 | 22.1 | -16.5 | -22.8 | -27.4 | -30.0 | -8.6 | |
| (2.0) | (3.6) | (3.0) | (4.1) | (4.7) | (5.0) | (0.5) | .31 |
| 1.5 | 5.6 | -13.4 | -24.4 | -29.0 | - 29.2 | 11.0 | |
| (0.3) | (0.9) | (2.5) | (4.2) | (5.2) | (4.5) | (0.6) | .25 |
| 4.8 | 1.6 | -13.3 | -26.1 | -33.8 | -35.8 | 20.4 | _ |
| (1.1) | (.3) | (2.9) | (5.5) | (7.0) | (7.3) | (1.6) | .43 |
| 7.1 | 6.1 | -21.5 | -34.2 | -34.2 | -39.3 | 12.4 | |
| (1.0) | (.7) | (3.0) | (4.3) | (4.3) | (5.4) | (.6) | .26 |
| 7.1 | 6.1 | 21.4 | 34.2 | 34.1 | 39.2 | 12.3 | |
| (1.0) | (.7) | (3.0) | (4.3) | (4.3) | (5.4) | (.6) | .42 |
| 7.1 | 23.5 | – 25.5 | -27.8 | -39.6 | -51.9 | 26.1 | |
| (1.1) | (3.3) | (4.4) | (4.5) | (6.5) | (7.7) | (1.6) | .41 |
| 9.1 | 20.6 | - 28.9 | -34.0 | -51.9 | -60.0 | 32.0 | |
| (1.2) | (2.3) | (3.9) | (4.3) | (7.1) | (7.3) | (1.6) | .37 |
| 21.5 | 25.4 | . – 24.2 | - 39.1 | -50.7 | -47.8 | 40.2 | |
| (2.2) | (2.3) | (2.8) | (4.3) | (7.1) | (7.3) | (1.6) | .25 |

TABLE L-4 (continued)

| | PBK | Time on the job | Coll | CGrad | PGrad |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------|-------|-------|
| 1952 | - :5.1 | 1.0 | 8.0 | 25.5 | 30.3 |
| | (0.3) | (2.3) | (0.4) | (2.0) | (2.2) |
| 1953 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 12.7 | 28.9 | 31.8 |
| | (0.1) | (2.3) | (0.6) | (1.8) | (1.8) |
| 1954 | -2.5 | 1.2 | 6.3 | 37.0 | 41.3 |
| | (0.1) | (2.1) | (0.3) | (2.5) | (2.6) |
| 1955 | -43.0 | 3.5 | 20.3 | 80.8 | 81.4 |
| | (1.0) | (2.7) | (0.4) | (2.3) | (2.1) |
| 1956 | - 4.6 | 3.8 | -15.2 | 89.7 | 78.2 |
| | (0.1) | (2.5) | (0.3) | (2.4) | (1.9) |
| 1957 | -17.5 | 3.4 | -6.8 | 83.7 | 88.0 |
| | (0.4) | (2.7) | (0.2) | (2.4) | (2.2) |
| 1958 | -32.7 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 40.6 | 31.9 |
| | (1.5) | (1.4) | (0.0) | (2.1) | (1.5) |
| 1959 | -45.1 | 1.2 | -19.7 | 21.5 | 22.3 |
| | (1.6) | (1.3) | (0.5) | (0.7) | (0.7) |
| 1960 | 6.9 | 1.3 | 10.0 | 33.5 | 29.7 |
| | (0.2) | (1.2) | (0.2) | (1.1) | (0.9) |
| 1961 | -43.1 | 1.9 | -14.2 | 42.0 | 43.9 |
| | (1.1) | (1.3) | (0.3) | (1.0) | (3.0) |
| 1962 | -38.3 | -0.8 | -13.3 | 46.5 | 23.0 |
| | (1.0) | (0.5) | (0.2) | (1.0) | (0.4) |
| 1963 | -13.8 | 0.2 | 20.8 | 57.8 | 35.3 |
| | (0.4) | (0.2) | (0.4) | (1.5) | (0.8) |

| osition 2 | Position 3 |
|---------------|----------------|
| - 29.7 | -42.0 |
| (2.7) | (3.6) |
| -34.4 | - 46.9 |
| (2.5) | (3.3) |
| - 30.9 | 62.0 |
| (2.4) | (4.7) |
| -83.9 | 107.7 |
| (2.8) | (3.4) |
| 109.9 | -116.7 |
| (3.4) | (3.5) |
| - 91.5 | - 99.3 |
| (3.2) | (3.1) |
| -53.2 | -57.2 |
| (3.7) | (3.6) |
| -62.7 | -61.3 |
| (3.0) | (2.6) |
| - 67.1 | – 100.0 |
| (3.1) | (4.0) |
| - 60.3 | -68 .1 |
| (2.2) | (2.1) |
| - 92.3 | -86.4 |
| (3.0) | (2.5) |
| - 62.0 | -66.4 |
| (2.5) | (2.5) |

| CGrad | PGrad | position 2 | Position 3 | Position 4 | Position 5 | Constant | ² |
|-------|-------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|-----|
| 25.5 | 30.3 | - 29.7 | 42.0 | -50.4 | - 48.0 | 39.5 | .16 |
| (2.0) | (2.2) | (2.7) | (3.6) | (4.3) | (3.8) | (1.3) | |
| 28.9 | 31.8 | -34.4 | 46.9 | -54.9 | - 54.3 | 32.6 | .15 |
| (1.8) | (1.8) | (2.5) | (3.3) | (3.6) | (3.2) | (0.8) | |
| 37.0 | 41.3 | -30.9 | 62.0 | - 53.4 | ~ 66.1 | 45.9 | .21 |
| (2.5) | (2.6) | (2.4) | (4.7) | (3.7) | (4.4) | (1.2) | |
| 80.8 | 81.4 | -83.9 | -107.7 | -111.4 | -129.1 | -28.9 | .19 |
| (2.3) | (2.1) | (2.8) | (3.4) | (3.3) | (3.7) | (0.3) | |
| 89.7 | 78.2 | -109.9 | -116.7 | -141.0 | -133.6 | -21.1 | .20 |
| (2.4) | (1.9) | (3.4) | (3.5) | (3.8) | (3.3) | (0.2) | |
| 83.7 | 88.0 | -91.5 | - 99.3 | -138.2 | -131.7 | -10.9 | .21 |
| (2.4) | (2.2) | (3.2) | (3.1) | (4.0) | (3.8) | (0.1) | |
| 40.6 | 31.9 | - 53.2 | -57.2 | – 77.8 | -103.5 | 90.7 | |
| (2.1) | (1.5) | (3.7) | (3.6) | (4.9) | (5.5) | (2.0) | .27 |
| 21.5 | 22.3 | -62.7 | -61.3 | -101.5 | -122.5 | 124.5 | .21 |
| (0.7) | (0.7) | (3.0) | (2.6) | (4.3) | (5.1) | (1.9) | |
| 33.5 | 29.7 | -67.1 | -100.0 | -109.8 | -122.3 | 118.5 | .21 |
| (1.1) | (0.9) | (3.1) | (4.0) | (4.6) | (4.7) | (1.7) | |
| 42.0 | 43.9 | -60.3 | -68.1 | -110.7 | - 99.7 | 72.7 | .09 |
| (1.0) | (0.5) | (2.2) | (2.1) | (3.1) | (2.9) | (10.7) | |
| 46.5 | 23.0 | - 92.3 | - 86.4 | -123.8 | -149.4 | 241.9 | .11 |
| (1.0) | (0.4) | (3.0) | (2.5) | (3.2) | (3.4) | (2.2) | |
| 57.8 | 35.3 | - 62.0 | - 66.4 | -97.3 | -123.6 | 134.1 | |
| (1.5) | (8.0) | (2.5) | (2.5) | (2.9) | (3.0) | (1.5) | .10 |