

The National Outlook

Our "National Goals"

By RALPH ROBEY

Finally the report of the President's Commission on National Goals has been released. We say, "finally," because the committee was appointed early last spring, and there is some reason for believing that the analysis was deliberately held back until after the election. And it is easy to understand why it should have been held back. The report is, to be most generous, simply amazing. It perhaps would be more accurate to characterize it as incredible.

The idea of having a commission attempt to establish the goals of our nation is questionable in any event. It is certain to be either a one-sided affair or go off in all directions with little agreement among the members of the committee. This particular report does the latter, with 21 footnotes of exceptions in 23 pages of text.

In spite of its brevity there are discussions of eleven "Goals at Home" and four "Goals Abroad." In addition there is a section on "A Financial Accounting," and a "Concluding Word."

First of the domestic goals is "The Individual." This is pretty good. It is said: "All our institutions—political, social, and economic—must further enhance the dignity of the citizen, promote the maximum development of his capabilities, stimulate their responsible exercise, and widen the range and effectiveness of opportunities for individual choice."

But having said that, the report then devotes the rest of its time to outlining an extension of government activity and government spending. We must eliminate religious prejudice, handicaps to women, discrimination based on race, encumbrance to voting, and so forth. We also must vastly expand our education system, get better persons in government, prevent concentration of power in corporations, unions, or other organizations, increase our national growth rate, encourage technological change, get agriculture on a self-supporting basis, materially improve living conditions, and extend help on health and welfare.

In the foreign field we must strive for an "open and peaceful world," and constantly work for a lowering of trade restrictions.

ions, continue to defend the free world at any necessary cost, bring about disarmament, and support the United Nations.

Obviously this is quite a program. The majority of us probably will agree that most of it is desirable, but we need some system of priorities and certainly we need an indication of what it will cost, and who is going to provide the funds.

In the collective mind of the commission there appears to be no priority among the goals. And the cost is given only casual attention. It is recognized in the section on "a financial accounting" that it may be necessary to have even heavier taxes. That will depend upon the rate of growth of the nation. If higher taxes are required, the report says, it is "very unlikely to reduce the level of average individual consumption in this country; the average citizen's standard of living would continue to rise. Though perhaps at rates below those of the recent past" and it need not "materially impair the incentive or the morale of the American people, nor alter the primary reliance of the economy on private choice."

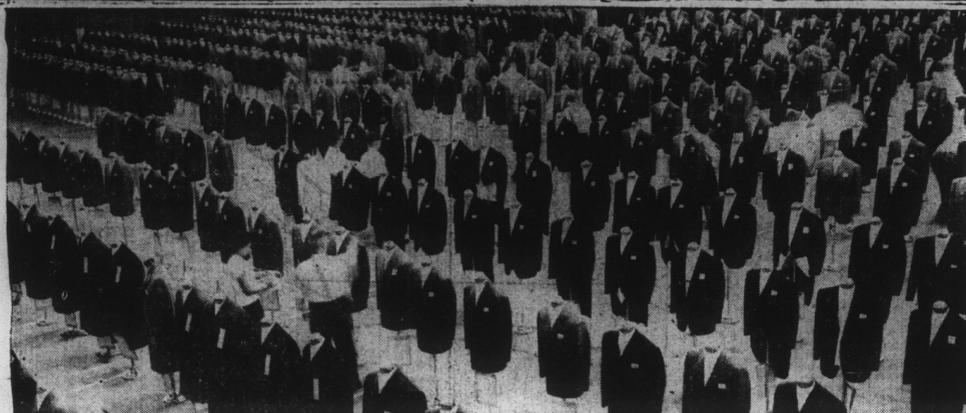
This is a shocking attitude on the present tax burden of this nation. Little wonder that two members of the commission take exception to it.

Underlying this report were 16 essays prepared by various persons. These are not yet available, but they will be published in book form and made public on December 15. How good these essays are remains to be determined, but we may be sure that they will "evoke active discussion," which is the hope of the commission.

Letter 75 Years Old Tells About Good Fertilizer Practices

A 75-year-old fertilization practice which came to light recently is still a good one.

The recommendation was made in a letter from Charles W. Dabney, Jr., director of the N. C. Experiment Station, to a Surry County farmer. Date of the letter was March 31, 1886. Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn of N. C.



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State College, present director of the Experiment Station, found the letter. It was addressed to J. C. Cooper, Esq., Dobson, N. C. E. C. Elting, Deputy Administrator for Experiment Stations throughout the nation, called the letter "a fine example of the plain English the pioneer station directors used in telling farmers about fertilizer." The letter follows in part:

"So far from market your chance to get the effect of lime is from ashes. Good hardwood ashes are over one half lime, which is when fresh the same as that contained in rock-lime. Then you have in ashes a lot of potash, phosphate and other good things besides . . .

"You could safely apply 20 bushels of lime to the acre; but I do not know that it would pay you. Use ten bushels. In a race of the kind you propose you must pay special attention to these points.

"1st. Break up deep. So as to be prepared to stand a drought.

"2nd. Use just as much wood's mould, or well-rotted vegetable matter of any kind as you can get and mix with your strong manure.

"3rd. Make your manure as complex as you can. Do not put it all right under the plant, but broadcast a part, put some more under the plant as you say and then put the rest around

ing—that is after you throw the dirt away from the corn and just before throwing it back again.

"Mix the good things you can get in the manure. On that sort of land, if you will put in enough rotten vegetable matter, (which should be fine, not coarse) you can pile in the chemicals without much fear . . ."

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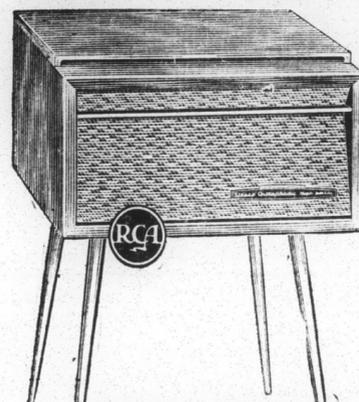
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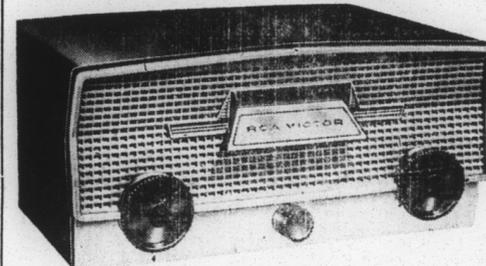
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