

# BOOKS

## NATURE AND NEEDS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The Report of the Commission on Financing Higher Education  
Columbia University Press \$2.50

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Member of the Board of Trustees

**F**INANCED BY THE ever-helpful Rockefeller and Carnegie groups, a Commission composed of some first-run educational and corporation executives and board members has devoted more than spare time over the past four years to a consideration of the basic problems of higher education in this country. Geographical coverage was assured which, incidentally, resulted in C. I. T.'s being well represented on the roster; and statistical adequacy was provided through ample and pertinent supporting data.

The Commission's conclusions can hardly strike a reader as novel or unexpected: to wit, higher education is a bulwark of our country; its roots are firmly planted in freedom;

its fruits serve not only the spirit of the individual and the nourishment of the professions but the defense mechanics of the nation; higher education has always been difficult to finance, and, today, because of the impact of inflation, re-armament, taxes, other calls for individual gifts, such as health, it is even more difficult to finance than ever; this is especially so for the privately supported institution, but the state supported universities are also not without their financial problems; and so forth.

But while it did not require the appointment of such a commission to catalog the history and financial dilemma of higher education, the Commission's creation and work are well justified because of the clarity, vigor and authoritativeness of its presentation of the rather well-known facts. Its very caliber lends keen awareness of the facts and arguments to those who read the report, and must, when it expresses criticism and conveys warnings to those within as well as without the educational family circle, command respectful attention.

The crux of the report and its most difficult aspect, as its authors are spe-

cific enough to state, is its attitude toward further Federal support of higher education, including scholarship aid. On this point, the Commission members unanimously—all points are reached unanimously—align themselves emphatically with the position of the clergyman in regard to sin: they are agin' it. That way, declares the Commission, lies the undermining of freedom. To this, the admiring reader can only offer a loud huzzah. But, as the Commission eloquently points out, it is one thing to stage a declaration of independence and another to fill in from other sources the financial voids left by the spurned Federal gifts. Those sources are listed, especially the corporation gift; the pitifully small percentage of the national income devoted to higher education is pointed out, and the challenge is laid down.

Oyez! Oyez! May those who appreciate the value of higher education, and they should be legion, come into the court of public opinion, listen to and be moved by the eloquent arguments ably set forth by these skilled and experienced advocates, and produce some needed results!

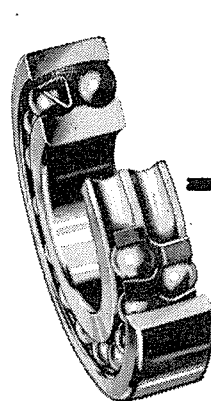
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