



**Report:** *The commission\* handed Truman a new program.*

## Free College?

More and more U.S. youngsters are finishing high school. Today the average American of 20-24 years has completed 12.1 years of schooling, an all-time high.

Last week the President's Commission on Higher Education issued a report aimed at pushing the average still higher. It urged that free public education be extended through the first two years of college. The commission, headed by George F. Zook, energetic president of the American Council on Education, also suggested:

- • That hundreds of community colleges be created.
- • That the Government provide financial help for those students who can't meet living expenses while taking the two additional college years.
- • That sweeping changes be made in college curricula, now "splintered by over-specialization."
- • That the trend toward higher tuition fees be reversed, and costs to the student cut to the bone.
- • That special provision be made for the training of 1 million new teachers.
- • That an expanded and more "imaginative" program of adult education be instituted.
- • That the last vestige of military control over research in the colleges be eliminated and freedom of investigation be unhampered.

**Split.** On the objectives that are listed above, all commission members agreed, but on a series of recommendations relating to segregation of Negroes in the public schools, six Southerners dissented.

The majority opposed discriminatory practices within the schools, segregation of any kind, and the quota system. The latter, they said, violates "a major American principle, contributing to the growing tension in one of the most crucial areas of our democracy."

Hard on the heels of the first report of the Commission came a second, proposing that the Government provide \$135 million in aid for needy college students in the next school year. About 90% would be used as grants to 300,000 students at an average of \$400 each. The rest would go for graduate study for 10,000 students at \$1,500 a year.

\*Left to right, 11 of the commission's 28 members: Msgr. F. G. Hochwalt, National Catholic Welfare Conference; Dr. A. C. Eurich, Stanford; Dr. O. C. Carmichael, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; Dr. J. R. Emens, Ball State Teachers; Mrs. Agnes Meyer, journalist; F. J. Brown, exec. secretary of the commission; Dr. E. J. McGrath, U. of Iowa; Dr. A. H. Compton, Washington university; chairman Zook; Dr. T. R. McConnell, U. of Minnesota; Dr. M. R. P. McGuire, Catholic university.