

Nothing Not Known Before In Law Enforcement Report

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PRESIDENT HOOVER'S Law Enforcement Commission has responded to criticism that it was conducting its work too much in secret by making a report, and the critics are no wiser than they were before. The topics under consideration have been itemized. A list of the workers employed upon these topics is appended. Aside from this the commission contents itself with stating the obvious fact that the criminal law enforcement machinery of the country is inadequate; its capacity and effectiveness have been overtaxed.

Everybody knew this before the commission reported. What it wants from the commission is practical suggestion for making the machinery adequate and effective, if the commission, which refrains from committing itself, believes effective enforcement is possible. This should appear in the recommendations the commission has made to President Hoover, who is to forward them to the Congress today.

Attorney generals without number, judiciary committees of the Congress, bar associations and other authorities without number have emphasized the chronic congestion of the courts and have pointed to prohibition as the chief agency of that congestion. A commission formed by the Supreme Court and headed by the chief justice has amended court procedure in order to relieve this congestion, with results hardly discernible as yet. Congress has increased the number of federal judges and novel experiments have been made right in Newark to relieve the court calendar. A report from the commission that the agencies of law enforcement have been overtaxed by prohibition and other criminal laws of the Federal government was hardly worth making.