

war in Vietnam and there have been reports that the President might send in additional troops, further increasing the cost of the war.

Congress has been reluctant to increase domestic programs while the war is draining so much of the nation's resources — \$2-billion a month.

But the thrust of the commission's report is that the nation cannot afford to continue on its present domestic course, even if new sacrifices are needed.

The 11-member commission, headed by Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois, was appointed by President Johnson last July 27 to find the causes of urban riots and recommend solutions.

Its report amounts to a stinging indictment of the white society for its isolation and neglect of the Negro minority. Its pages are filled with findings to bear this out.

"Segregation and poverty have created in the racial ghetto a destructive environment totally unknown to most white Americans," the commission said. "What white Americans have never fully understood—but what the Negro can never forget—is that the white society is deeply implicated in the ghetto. White institutions created it, white institutions maintain it, and white society condones it."

The report was considered remarkable in that it was chiefly the work of white, middle-class Americans, several of them politicians with white constituencies. Most of the commission members are known as moderates.

Some, however, said they were shocked by the conditions they had found in Negro slums during their seven months of work. Some believed at the outset that because of the extent of the rioting there was bound to be some conspiracy involved, some plan for rioting that had been carried out.

But the most exhaustive investigations could find no evi-

dence of this, the report indicated, even though it was clearly established that black militants had created a climate for rioting in their calls for violence. What the commission found over and over was evidence of white prejudice or ignorance that had led to Negroes being crowded into the inner city under a "destructive environment."

"Large-scale and continuing violence could result," the group said, "followed by white retaliation, and, ultimately, the separation of the two communities in a garrison state."

But the commission said "white racism is essentially responsible for the explosive mixture which has been accumulating in our cities since the end of World War II."

Police Are Warned

The commission also warned that "there is a grave danger that some communities may resort to the indiscriminate and excessive use of force." It went on:

"The commission condemns moves to equip police departments with mass destruction weapons, such as automatic rifles, machineguns and tanks. Weapons which are designed to destroy, not to control, have no place in densely populated urban communities."

The commission devoted one section of its report to other minorities who have worked their way out of poverty and segregation and are now asking why Negroes do not do the same.

"Today, whites tend to exaggerate how well and quickly they escaped from poverty," it said. "The fact is that immigrants who came from rural backgrounds, as many Negroes do, are only now, after three generations, finally beginning to move into the middle class."

"By contrast, Negroes began concentrating in the city less than two generations ago, and under much less favorable conditions. Although some Negroes have escaped poverty, few have been able to escape the urban ghetto."