

Federal Lands In Postwar

By J. Rupert Mason

TIME, INC., is making it clear that our number one home front problem is to expose and try to stop the "putsch" for centralizing all the functions of government in

problem is to expose and try to stop the "putsch" for centralizing all the functions of government in the Federal Congress, and to abolish the powers and duties of the states.

Manifestly the pressure for such a revolution is supplied largely if not solely by the present appropriators of rent, who are keenly aware of the power each state possesses to compel the private owners of land to help support the state.

All three speakers on today's University of Chicago Round Table advocated a decrease in federal taxes, and an increase in federal responsibilities and expenses. Not one of them even hinted that the states can or should help in any way to collect revenue for any public purpose, or that exempting land from taxation can only serve to increase the incentive of the title holder to do nothing.

There can be little doubt that vast amounts of land have been and will be dropped by holders of title, who fail to pay the taxes due the state, county or city, as required by law. These lands, in addition to the vast amount of land now held in public ownership by the federal and state governments, afford a great frontier, offering genuine opportunity for returning soldiers and sailors thru the medium of democratically planned communities and co-operatives paying ground rent to the state. These tax-escheated and public owned lands will either be administered to provide job opportunities for the returning soldiers, or titles will be acquired by land speculators and tax-deed scavengers, who will then have the veterans at their mercy.

I would be very glad to compare notes with readers of the HENRY GEORGE NEWS who are willing to attack this problem. It may well prove to be the "opportunity to do something" that so many of us have long been hoping for.
San Francisco, Calif.