Techretary From TCA

Precious Faith Richards is this week's Techretary. Faith may be found in the P.G.A. office on the first floor of Walker. She describes her duties there as being "sort of a Girl Friday to the whole institute."

Faith is five feet four and one half inches tall with reddish-brown hair and hazel eyes. She is just twenty-four years old and married. Mr. Richards is a student here in Architecture.

Sports, especially horse-back riding, are among Faith's major interests. She says she is fascinated by people and loves to talk to people. Speaking of people, her comment about Tech men: "It's intuitively obvious — the best!"

Faith is originally from Philadelphia and received her B.A. from Bucknell University. At present she and her husband live in Cambridge. Future plans include living in Finland for a while and "raising a family."

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Two Goals

The main reason that all this discussion of an American national purpose was brought on is that there is an ever more popular view today that America has none. I don't think this true — we have at least two "national purposes." Whether they are unquestionably good or not, I couldn't say — but we have them.

The first is the national purpose of increasing personal affluence; wealth, possessions, and comfort. Everyone wants two cars, electric blankets, and a hi-fi set among the consumer possessions of our middle class. Today's advertising furnishes us with examples of things we feel we "need". There are many who say this is a goal of ours, or think it is carried to extremes. Good or bad, however, it is one of our prime national objectives. And it is interesting to note that while other countries are quick to do, or often ridicule, this goal of ours, they are just as quick to scoff at our foreign aid, or our material help in crises, such as Berlin or Korea. It is also to be noted that the first things that underdeveloped countries demand, as they start to improve themselves, are symbols of personal wealth they have seen in the U.S.

The second national purpose that I see us working toward is closely allied with the first. The rest of the Free World looks to the United States, its miracles, and SAC, as the main line of defense in the Cold War, and any other ways that may occur. Our second national purpose, then, in its broadest terms, is the defense of the Free World, through remaining equal or superior to Russia. How well are we measuring up to this national purpose? As well as we are to the first one, I fear; it suffers, at the expense of the first. This is made all the more serious by the fact that the Russians is measuring up very well to its responsibility as leader of the U.S.S.R. "We will bury you," said Krushchev. The very Russian people is swept up in a frank attempt to exceed them. The Russian people is being trained to do the same. The whole Russian people is being taught to compete. They are polite, they are good-natured, but they are competing, and they are convinced they are not going to lose — and this is more dangerous.

This becomes increasingly clear when you talk to them, as I have. They are polite, they are good-natured, but they are competing, comparing always. "We have one like this," says the best one, "this is better than ours. . . . I think ours works better.""The Russians are "hard." They have "gone without" for a long time; they are prepared to continue doing so, given enough improvement of their material welfare, for a long time to come

Some of them to surpass us could be compared to our push dunt World War II. There is no such push on in the U.S., and it is needed just as badly today as it was in 1942, or more so.

I think that both the two national goals I have discussed are simultaneously realized, although we are in for some dramatic changes if we wish to achieve this. If we get to the job of meeting the Russian challenge soon, and make a more equitable parity of our national effort into each of these two national purposes, the world will look to America for great things.

These, then, are one person's views on the national purpose. If you take issue with them, I suggest you direct your comments to the editors of LIFE, who will be bending every effort to sustain each page of its pages each week (for the next six) into a forum to discuss the American national purpose. Each week a prominent national figure will give his opinion, in a lengthy article; addition to this, LIFE hopes to publish many of the letters written to its editors by interested individuals. For this final column, editors have asked me to lay aside my copy of the current issue and pass on to you my own views on our "national purpose." So be it.