

that government intervention is a poor means of getting the most low-cost housing units for those who need them; while the government can decree *low rents* on its housing units by forcing some persons to subsidize other persons, the total costs of such a procedure are invariably higher than the costs of private ownership and personal responsibility.

But our stress here is on moral rather than material considerations. Injury is deliberately done to some people by political action on the false assumption that there will be a compensating advantage to others. Taking what rightfully belongs to anyone, no matter how much he has, is morally wrong even though the stolen goods be put to some good use. That which is immoral when it is illegal, is still immoral even after majority vote has made it lawful.

IMMORAL MEANS

SIMILAR considerations apply to every plank in the welfare-stater's platform. The planks are sold to the public in terms of the objectives, which have every appearance of being desirable. It is only when we turn to the means that we perceive the immorality. Relying on political action to attain their ends, the collectivists are forced to rely on means which are undeniably immoral when

measured by the code which is binding upon individuals. The means are immoral because they are inseparable from the use or threat of violence against peaceful persons, and bad means cannot achieve good ends. Do not ends pre-exist in the means?

The trend in this country toward greater government intervention in the creative efforts of men means that the peaceable social bonds that unite men in interpersonal relationships will be replaced gradually by compulsory regulations. To the extent that government encroaches upon the lives of individuals, violence gains control and cripples human affairs.

THE REAL PROBLEM

THERE are few men who openly advocate overt violence, and they are a relatively minor problem. People are put on their guard by belligerent talk and can cope with violent men. The real problem is that men advocate violence, without knowing that they advocate it, to an audience unaware that violence is being advocated. The problem is complicated by the fact that the kind of violence advocated is not what the average person thinks about when he hears or uses the term.

When violence is covert, legal, and approved by a majority, it is more deadly by