

get them home, but are told we can't provide a proper living for them. They have let two of them come home, but are keeping the other three. I am heartsick about it and can't sleep nights. The welfare says they will put them out for adoption. (Mrs. G. H.)"

Answer: "Though local laws differ in this matter, I doubt very much if your children can be put out for adoption without your consent. See a lawyer to learn your rights in getting the youngsters back. If you have no money, get in touch with the Legal Aid Society in your nearest big city. You will find their address in the telephone book. Then, by scrupulous care of the two children you have with you, convince the authorities of your fitness as a mother, so they'll have no alternative but to return the other children to you."

She must convince the government of her fitness as a mother before she can have her own children! Defend, if you will, government aid to homeless and helpless and innocent children. Point out all the horrible suffering that this government money may have stopped. Condemn the admitted evilness of some parents. Proclaim the admitted effi-

ciency and compassion of highly-trained government social workers. Admit the good intentions of the advocates of government aid to dependent children. Yes, recite all of the points favorable to government-guaranteed equality and security for innocent children. Then look again at your own children — and realize the harsh fact that you may keep them only as long as your government considers you to be a fit parent according to government standards. It is true that the iron fist may as yet be gloved in thick velvet, but this does not deny the reality of the situation.

It seems to me that any law to determine the fitness of parents to be the guardians of their own children is a sure road to injustice and disaster. When government has the power to direct or control the family, the basis of our society is in danger; for the only alternative to parental responsibility is some form of compulsory communal control. Human dignity and love cannot long survive under such a system.

Protecting Children

I CAN THINK of no reason why the government should ever step between parents and children *as such*. Children are, of course, persons. And under a government of law, they are entitled to the protection of law