

ment to restrain people, it is not appropriate to making them love each other, produce more goods, or engage in any creative activity.

GOLF

IT IS NOT difficult to see the violence implicit in the characteristic instruments basic to government, but it is sometimes difficult to detect the violent features in certain ventures of government which seem peaceful enough on the surface. For example, government builds a golf course, and some people who could not before afford golf now enjoy its benefits. Where is the violence? It is not at the level where people play around the course, but at the level where people are forced to surrender part of the fruits of their labor to pay for the construction of the course.

Those who will never use the course are forced to pay for it nonetheless, along with those who will use it. If those who are opposed to a public golf course refuse to pay whatever the government orders them to pay, the covert violence inherent in all political action will erupt in overt violence toward them. They will go to jail or suffer some other penalty. If they resist the government official sent to arrest them — well, what happens to persons who resist arrest?

If those who cannot afford to play golf were to take money directly from those who have it in order to indulge their taste for the game, they would be stigmatized as thieves. The apparatus of government would move against them and deal with them as they deserve. But if these same would-be golfers learn to get the money indirectly, using government as their means of so doing, then the situation is turned inside out. They are handed the benefits of cheap golf. And their victims, if they balk, are treated as criminals!

PUBLIC HOUSING

PUBLIC housing seems like a beneficent activity of government. Does it not clear slums and give people something they really need? Public housing provides a few people with better housing than they could otherwise afford. But — the price gap between what they can afford and what they get has to be met, and it is met out of the funds of other people. To the extent that those in public housing benefit, those not in public housing lose.

Furthermore, these losers are also forced to pay the political costs of being deprived of what is rightfully theirs for the dubious benefit of those to whom it is given. Economic and political considerations reveal