

the new goal for inhabitants of the land of the free?

Housing

LET US pursue these questions relative to the matter of housing. Article 23 says that the governments must recognize the right of everyone to adequate housing. This means that the state shall build "adequate" housing for each person who claims the need. Of course, a representative of the state will determine what is "adequate." But visualize his problem by asking yourself if your own housing is "adequate" today. Adequate in terms of what? Your need for housing? Or your capacity to provide housing, in addition to satisfying more urgent needs for other things?

Will some public official do a better job than you can in determining the relative urgency of your various needs? Are you going to be happy some morning when you are informed that you shall spend so many days providing adequate housing for someone — quite probably someone unknown to you? Yet that is the inevitable consequence — whether done directly or indirectly — if the state takes cognizance and control of everyone's "right to work" and his "right to adequate housing."

Medicine

THE HEALTH and medical care of the community are dealt with in Articles 25 and 26. A restudy of these articles will show that the Covenant fails to acknowledge that it is now the right and privilege of each person — by his own efforts or through voluntary cooperation with others — to provide such health, medical care, and good standards of living as he and his family can afford. Instead of that, it states that everyone has the right to the highest standard of health obtainable and that, therefore, each nation must undertake to provide *by legislation* measures to promote and protect health all through life. Article 25 states that each government must provide legislation which will reduce infant mortality and promote the healthy development of the child. It says it must improve nutrition, and also that it must provide conditions which will assure the right of all to medical service and medical attention in the event of any kind of sickness.

Those statements can be characterized either as political catch phrases or as social and legal contracts enacted into law upon which the citizen can lay claim. In Great Britain, these provisions have been written into the law, and each individual citizen can claim his legal right to these benefits.