This Would Be the Reverse of Socialism, He Says, in Discussing Sacrifices That Must Be Made to Save Liberty in the World

Conscript Inheritance, Suggests Bishop Brent

C ONSCRIPTION of inherited fortunes is suggested for this country by the Rt. Rev. Charles H. Brent, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New York and president pro tem of the Interchurch World Movement. "We are facing an era of sacrifice," he said. "The question is how and where shall we make that sacrifice?"

In a letter to the New York Times, Bishop Brent urges that the abolition of large private inheritances be considered. He suggests that the law should be amended so that any bequest of $25,000 or less should be paid out of the estate of the decedent to the state or municipal poor fund for the use of indigent aged and infirm individuals. He points out that this would be a tax on the very wealthy and at the same time would provide for the support of the indigent aged and infirm.

"A sacrifice of $25,000 a year from each estate of $25,000 or $50,000 would amount to $25,000,000 a year which could be used for various purposes, such as the support of hospitals, orphanages, and other charitable institutions," the bishop said.

He added that the abolition of large private inheritances would be in harmony with the spirit of the times and that it would be a step in the right direction toward the abolition of all inheritance.

"It is time that we begin to think of the common good of our country and the world," he said. "We must not only think of our own interests, but also of the interests of others."