

FROM THE EDITOR

THINGS TO REMEMBER

At the time of our going to press, India is in a state of political transition inevitable in a democracy. A new government will be constituted. .Everybody knows what ought to be the priorities of a government in the Indian situation: checks on poverty and population.

We appeal to the government in the offing to include two other priorities to their list.

Let us cry a halt, once for all, to any ecological destruction or uprooting of a well-established locality. No "progress", no strategy, can be a compensation for what we lose in terms of forests, rivers, hills and simple crop-yielding grounds. We have destroyed enough. No more.

Secondly, let us not dedicate any place to tourists merely for sake of tourism. Let people come to India in a spirit of quest, in order to discover the spiritual and cultural treasures of India; let such visitors be provided with all the reasonable facilities; but let us not promise the would-be tourists a pleasure paradise. Let us not lure them to India. That will inevitably lead, to a vitiation of our atmosphere. Let not Pattaya (see the last two passages of "The Land Closest to India" in the issue previous to this) be repeated anywhere in India.

A SIGN OF HOPE

The announcement about the suspension of THE HERITAGE after this issue has caused a wave of sadness among its readers. We have received more comments than we had anticipated. Some readers have offered help in different ways. We are overwhelmed by their sentiments. We thank them most sincerely.

As we had said earlier, they are the hopes for India's future—against the dark forces of anti-culture invading the country's social atmosphere. THE HERITAGE stood for certain values. Our dear readers, we are sure, will continue to fight for such values. THE HERITAGE has done whatever it could. Let all of us do whatever we can. Let us remember that the ultimate Evolutionary support is not with the pimps of decadent commercialism and pervert pleasure-seekers, but with those who are votaries of a cultured consciousness, those who aspire for an enlightened life. All the endeavours of the best of humanity for a greater destiny of man will not go in vain. A day for their fruition is fixed in the calendar of Providence.

ACCENT ON CALCUTTA

Earlier we had brought out two issues with accent on two places: Pondicherry and Madras. This issue carries a book feature on Calcutta and a bunch of rare paintings of the 19th century Calcutta, apart from a few other features on the city and its environment. The book feature has brought out the significance of this great city.

In preparing the book feature, the author has taken help from numerous sources, mostly rare books—at the National Library, Calcutta. The paintings were photographed from the albums of the Ashutosh Collection, the National Library. THE HERITAGE appreciates the courtesy and cooperation, extended to it by the librarians and custodians of the National Library and Ashutosh collection. We are also thankful to the eminent photographer, Vidyavrata, for his assistance.