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It is still a limited take-over and one hopes not irreversible, though the choice between the alternatives open has been a most unfortunate one. There is still an effort to claim that all steps taken have been within the Constitution, that the Emergency is a temporary one, that elections are round the corner and that the Constitutional opposition would be welcome. Even though the steps taken do not quite fit in with these reassuring statements, they are to be welcomed in the longer historical perspectives.

2. The worst aspect is of course the pre-censorship of the Press which has reduced it to a pathetic situation. Illegalities abound. Thus, though the pre-censorship order specifically says that proceedings of Parliament and Courts of Law are outside the scope of the Censorship, in fact, reports of both have had to be pre-censored under threat of primitive action. Those threats are of indefinite detention under the M.I.S.A. or of forfeiture of the Printing Press. The result is a spate of rumours, most of them exaggerated or false. Even the names of those detained cannot be published unless they are smugglers. In many cases the families of detainees are not told where the person in prison is.

3. In this situation the foreign press and radio are the only dependable sources of information. After a while even foreign newspapers have been stopped at the airports, but the B.B.C. and the V.O.A. are still available.

4. Perhaps JP and Morarjibhai are getting the worst deal. They have been kept in solitary confinement ever since their arrest on June 26. JP has been, upto now at the Post-Graduate

Institute of Medical Science in Chandigarh, which for this purpose has become part of the sub-jail, Chaddigarh, which is a centrally administered city. Steps to persuade the Governor of Delhi to provide them with acceptable company having got a negative response, their lawyers are now moving the Delhi High Court for relief, but they have come up against an Order, preventing the Court from investigating even the conditions of detention without trial. In this context the article in the London Economist of July 19 entitled "Mrs. Gandhi knows her Law" is apt.

5. In the conditions of fear proximating to terror on the part of most people, there has been a widespread feeling that some move in order to defuse the situation and work for a detante would be worthwhile. Actuated by this feeling, five persons issued a letter on August 9 to fifty or sixty men and women of standing throughout India suggesting a move in the direction of a conciliation. The response has been reasonably encouraging and it is proposed that those who feel this way should meet sometime towards the end of this month to consider approaching the Prime Minister, either personally or through a letter, and suggesting steps towards restoring freedom of discussion and normality which would make it possible for free elections to be held early next year as required by the Constitution. While most people are cautious about the response that may be expected, it is believed that recent events in Bangla Desh might perhaps have a sobering influence and mitigate the euphoria that temporary success might have induced. It is felt that the desire for legitimacy as opposed to dependance on force which, as history shows leads to an unfortunate end, might be a strong enough instinct for survival and security.