12 Excalibur, March 31, 1977

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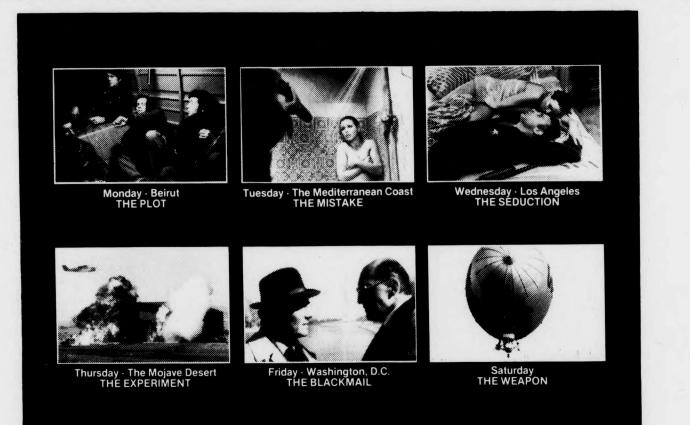
CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY 595-1390 **JAY MERRIN**

Land reform decided by states

Continued from page 11

Some areas have instituted a lot of reforms. Karela, a state southwest of India which has had very leftwing governments, has done a lot of reforms within the parameters of an electoral democratic system. If the resolve is there you can do it.

Another thing you have to watch for is that a change in the central government is only part of the game. It's a very genuine federal system. The state governments have a lot of power and they have a lot of clout. What happens will depend a lot on what state governments come out of this. Only one was elected in this election but another three or four are ready to go the polls. You know the central government can say we want to



have land reform but in fact land reform is under the control of state government. The central gover-nment can't do it unilaterally, so they have to bargain with them, accomodate them or coerce them. So the change of government at the center is really only a part of the total political picture. You really have to watch what's happening in an individual state whether

anything can be some. **EXCALIBUR** - The overriding theme of the whole results of the election has been the question of an electoral democratic system and how that relates to the economy; the way the Star reported it in what they call an analysis had the headline, 'Mother India: An Ocean of Freedom Opens in Asia''. Jack Cahill, the writer, describes a few of the totalitarian regimes in Asia and then goes on to say, "but in their vote the garrulous, freedom-loving Indians opted against all of this even if it might mean that they also opted for the freedom to starve and perhaps die in their own way under a government that may be less efficient. And in so doing they rejected the argument widespread in the West that Indians with seventy per cent of them still illiterate and their enormous human and economic problems would best be ruled by benevolent autocracy." This is the theme that pervades all the press coverage of the events in India. How accurate do you think it is?

POSGATE - It's accurate up to a point. People did vote against the emergency. Whether they voted against it on the high-falutin terms of western liberal democratic ideals is open to question. I think the reasons for voting against it on an individual basis were very tangible. They were being affected personally by the emergency. They didn't like it and so they voted against it.

A lot of the vote against was because the people they had voted for in the past were now in the running against Indira Ghandi. In other words the Congress did split and it was fielding candidates who were Congressmen who had a lot of support. People would support that man almost regardless of what party he ran for. In that case they're not voting against Indira Ghandi except to the extent that this guy was tellingthemto.

The other point is that the autocracy was not benevolent. It may be true that India needs a benevolent dictatorship of some kind that will really come to grips with the problems and really turn things around but Indira Ghandi wasn't doing that. She was just being autocratic without any payoffs. If you've got the choice between non-benevolent autocracy and non-belevolent democracy, you



be tomorrow!

Paramount Pictures Presents a Robert Evans production a John Frankenheimer film starring Robert Shaw, Bruce Dern, Marthe Keller "Black Sunday" co-starring Fritz Weaver and Bekim Fehmiu, Music Scored by John Williams, Director of Photography John A. Alonzo, A.S.C., Executive Producer Robert L. Rosen, Based on the Novel by Thomas Harris, Screenplay by Ernest Lehman, Kenneth Ross and Ivan Moffat, Produced by Robert Evans, Directed by John Frankenheimer, Services by Connaught Productions, In Color Read the Bantam paperback Panavision® A Paramount Picture





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