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EDITORIALS

1. THOUGHTS FOR TOMORROW

Only two institutions of state have emerged from the State of Emergency with credit, the Parliamentary Opposition and the Courts.

The Progressive Federal Party's consistent condemnation of every aspect of the Emergency, and its country-wide monitoring of its effects, especially the detentions of individuals, seem to us to provide an unchallengeable answer to those whose vision of their post-apartheid Utopia includes a one-party state. The Courts, these past few years, have taken an increasingly strong stand on individual rights where these have come under attack by the State. This has been particularly so during this present Emergency, where time and time again the Courts' interpretation of the regulations has gone against the Government. Some of the judgements have been quite remarkably critical of the authorities.

We hope the strong and independent stand taken on their behalf by the Courts these past weeks will give pause to those opponents of the Government who have been telling us that we should scrap the present judicial system altogether and put our faith in People's Courts. We view that prospect with horror. What chance would there be for any dissident there?

The surest protection for citizens of post-apartheid South Africa against abuse of their rights by the State will be a judicial system which retains the best elements of what we have already, which restores full independence to the Courts, and which introduces a totally impartial system of appointments to magisterial and judicial posts which will mean that there can be no question of their seeming to represent only one segment of one section of our community. □