

On Men & Matters

—R. V.

SRI K. S. NARAYANAN, who has been appointed Honorary Consul for Denmark, is one of the leading industrialists of Madras, son of a well-known banker, Sri S. N. N. Sankaralinga Iyer. Sri K. S. Narayanan branched into industrial enterprise and, in collaboration with the late Sri T. S. Nara-

yanaswami, started INDIA CEMENTS in the early 50s. With a quiet and unostentatious disposition, he held himself generally in the background and always shunned publicity. By sheer hard work, careful planning and management, INDIA CEMENTS expanded and a calcium carbide plant in Thalayuthu, another cement plant in Sankari, and a plastic plant at Mettur soon blossomed into production. Sri Narayanan is now a Director in a number of public sector undertakings and is currently the President of the Hindustan Chamber of Commerce. Friendly and generous by nature, he has helped almost every good cause, religious, social, charitable and educational, in the State, as well as in the country. The Danish Government could not

have thought of a better person to act as Honorary Consul than Sri Narayanan. We wish him continued success in life.



SRI K. S. NARAYANAN

ERNST BLOCH - THE PHILOSOPHER OF HOPE

A GREAT philosopher, it is said, has only one major idea in his life. His life's work then consists in investigating this idea from every conceivable angle and applying it to every problem of human existence.

Ernst Bloch, after Martin Heidegger, undoubtedly the most important living philosopher in the German-speaking world, has also based his work on one central thought, "S is not yet P. The subject has not yet found its predicate." In other words, what is, does not yet coincide entirely with what ought to be. This *not yet* is the corner-stone of Bloch's philosophy.

MARXISM'S HUMANIST TRADITION

Ernst Bloch has always professed to be a Marxist, although the defenders of pure Marxist theory (or at least those who act as such) have rejected his 'predicate' idea. Bloch's *raison d'être* has been to take Marx's theory a creative step forward and to fill out certain gaps on the philosophical map of the world, anthropology, astronomy, ethics, amongst others, which had been left uncharted. He is the champion of Marxism's humanist tradition. Friedrich Engels had been proud of the fact that Marxism was not just a derivative

of English economic theory or French materialism, but that it also had roots in German idealism, the philosophy of humanism.

Only a system of humanist socialism, based on freedom, can put into practice, the precepts of humanism.

Bloch's *not yet* clause stands as a philosophical guarantor to his hope of a paradise on earth. Nothing is final, nothing can be written off as a failure when this clause is in evidence. Human activity is the only way of reaching the goal he has set. The steep and perilous path to the kingdom



ERNST BLOCH

of freedom, to the anteroom of paradise, can only be navigated with the help of free, human socialism rooted in the humanist tradition.

A blend of political commitment and philosophical reflection is the ultimate definition of Ernst Bloch's thought. —KLAUS ECCELING

"FORWARD THINKING"

Bloch's philosophy has added an extra dimension to contemporary thought, the dimension of hope. But this famous philosopher, who celebrated his ninetieth birthday recently, did not believe in a 'fool's paradise'. On the contrary, he is a staunch advocate of undogmatic 'Utopian Marxism'.

The essence of his philosophy, which may be characterized as 'forward thinking', has been set down in the three volumes of his major work, *Das Prinzip Hoffnung* (The principle of hope). He was born in Ludwigshafen as the son of a railway engineer.

Besides philosophy, Bloch also studied physics and music. In 1933 he had to emigrate on account of 'offence' against the Third Reich.

Ernst Bloch's main works include, *Spirit of Utopia*, *Thomas Munzer as the Theologian of Revolution*.—(Courtesy: The German Tribune)