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Editorial

Accounting Profession and the Present Emergency

No men of honour and integrity can refuse the challenge thrown by Chinese invasion. This outrageous aggression leaves no choice. Answer is not sought. It is thrust. National Defence at all costs. Planning, not prosperity, but for survival. The Chartered Accountant expresses on behalf of all Chartered Accountants their fullest support to the Government in its National Defence endeavours and pledges their services for mobilising the resources necessary for building up the national defence and for strengthening the national economy.

In mission with the popular response Regional Committees of Chartered Accountants in aid of National Defence have already been formed and a Central Committee has also been set up by the Council for coordinating the efforts of the Regional Committees. Contributions to the National Defence Fund, investments in defence bonds and donations of blood and gold will flow. Enlistment in the territorial army and home-guards will follow. All this we do, as it will be done by countless other citizens. The dominant question of the day is what will the profession do.

No one can foretell the extent of sacrifices required nor for how long a period. Nevertheless some things are apparent. National defence effort would naturally make increasing demands on trained manpower, defence equipment and facilities for communication. Raising the necessary monetary resources, and diversion of physical resources for requirements of defence without giving rise to undue inflation is vital for the success of this national endeavour. And towards these operations on the economic front Chartered Accountants can make a significant contribution.

We, as a profession, can assist the Government in collecting its revenues more expeditiously and in securing that fiscal measures are carried into effect with strictest integrity. By preparing the accounts in the shortest possible time, by presenting the relevant and significant information for completion of assessments, by avoiding adjournments and postponements wherever possible, by cutting out avoidable controversies over petty matters we can help create conditions under which assessments can be finalized and tax collected without undue delay. When sacrifices have to be made, wouldn't it be better to see that they are willingly and efficiently made, without much of heart-burning, say like a painless operation? Of course, the departmental officers will have to co-operate, engaging their attention on aspects

and trivialities.

No aspect of the accountant's services during the present emergency can be of greater importance than his contribution in increasing productivity of a business or industrial unit. Success of any business depends on how well its operations have been planned and organized, on how successfully responsibility has been delegated to subordinate executives, on how promptly performances at every level are watched, appraised and reviewed, on how quickly weak areas or spots in the plan and performance are discovered and corrective measures initiated and in all such normal functions of business executives management accountant forms an integral part. Just consider the large number of small and medium sized industries in our country and how ill-equipped and ill-organized they are. They need all the help that our profession can make available. We have but to sharpen our tools and make ourselves well-poised to give the required advice and help.

As to measures concerning price regulation and obtaining supplies for the defence at reasonable prices faithful observance of these will be the natural function of Chartered Accountants. Manufacturers and businessmen all over the country have pledged that they would not take advantage of the scarcity conditions that may develop. It is the duty of Chartered Accountants associated with business to see that these declarations and pledge are faithfully observed and profligating at every level is checked by advice, influence and persuasion. Providing proper guidance and checking the development of any antisocial urges should be the constant concern of chartered accountants.

Chartered Accountants are already rendering commendable services to various charitable and social institutions. The area of such social service will now be enlarged to cover large number of voluntary service organizations that have sprung up to undertake a variety of activities to help the war effort. How to maintain the efficiency of the profession in the trying times ahead and render the services so essential for the smooth operations on the economic front will test the mettle of our profession. Simplifying our procedures, showing greater willingness to assume responsibility and cutting our redtape are the need of this situation.

Accounting is a vital function in a modern economy, in peace time as also during war. In doing the tasks for which a chartered accountant is naturally fit he will be doing a national service no small importance. ■