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ditions of work and pay. Today they also contain regulations as to vocational and further training, housing for workers of a particular line, and long-term integration of foreign workers. A fund was raised to fulfil these tasks.

What effect did the industrial peace have for the employers?

It led to a favourable working climate for all contracting parties. One must realise, though, that such peace has to be paid for. It does not appear out of the blue, and the employers have made considerable concessions. If the system of agreement has worked well for 30 years, one begins now nevertheless to see a few difficulties which have their roots in inflation and labour shortage in all sectors.

It is the industrial peace which itself carries an explanation for inflationary conditions, for every year employers let their staff profit from increased productivity in the previous year. This may be because of trade unions' demand for due to existing agreements. As a result of labour shortage, workers often make their own demands, although the employer frequently has to grant pay increases twice as large as laid down in the agreement. In addition, social insurance contributions have become ever more a burden both for employer and employee. The cost of infra-structure also plays an important part. Thus the employer is driven in a corner and has to pay out annual increased profits four- or five-fold.

How do you judge the future of labour peace?

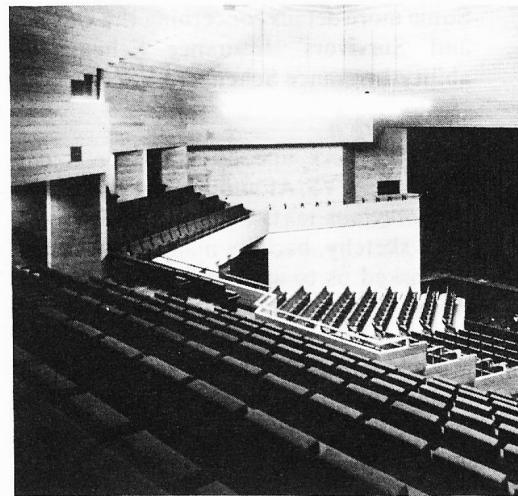
The present order should be adhered to as both parties profit from it. The answer depends largely on the Parties on the Left, which show a certain tendency to take over some of the "anti-labour peace" slogans from small but active groups of the extreme Left, so that they won't lose any ground.

I believe that the system of agreements will stay as long as no better one is found.

LUCIEN PAILLARD

Assembly of the Swiss Abroad in St. Gall

The 51st Assembly of the Swiss Abroad will take place in St. Gall from 17th to 19th August, 1973. Apart from the usual business meetings and question times, the official opening, ecumenical church service and Sunday outing, this year, too, the plenary session will provide a special event. For the theme is "The Activities of Swiss Societies and Institutions Abroad". In order to present a lively and impressive programme, individual talks and discussions will be combined with demonstrations of societies' endeavours. The modern St. Gall Municipal Theatre will be at the disposal of the organisers and will ensure success of the proposed presentation.



The new Theatre



Gallus Square in St. Gall