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World Economy and Switzerland

Our economy nowadays is faced with decisive choices. It has not been spared the deep recession which has plagued the West. It may be said, though, that our helvetic production machine has so far proved extremely resistant. Last year, unemployment never touched one per cent of the working population, but it looks as if this percentage will increase at the beginning of 1983. Certain industrial sectors, such as the watch and machine industries, are more exposed to these dangers than others. In many companies, the future looks clouded. Yet, at national level, positive elements are still much in evidence: a fairly low rate of inflation still receding even further, the rate of employment is such that it would be considered most gratifying in other countries, a favourable balance of payments, a slightly overvalued Swiss Franc on the foreign exchange markets, and traditionally lower interest rates than abroad. Why therefore, these fears?

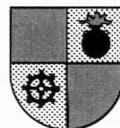
Switzerland, like every small industrial country, is very much integrated in the world economy. This is evident from the importance of trade with other countries. We are also well placed to judge the nature of the crisis. Certainly, the general trend of the economic recession is undeniable. But this is not the only and not the most important aspect of our anxieties. We know that we have been hit by something more profound than simply a weakening of our economy. There are two vastly differing phenomena. On one hand the technical revolution – microprocesses and new knowledge in general – and on the other the development of robot and office machinery. Consequently various production machines in the public services as well as in industry be-

come obsolete very rapidly. As a result, capital investments are devalued more rapidly, also some vocational training. This revolution is financially onerous and humanly difficult to bear. In addition, the integration of the various nations of the Third World in the industrial complex limits the chances of competition in part of our industry. Japan's performance also contributes to the difficulties. Seen as a whole, the crisis which we are facing is more one of structure than of a general economic trend.

Do we really have to choose now? Not exactly. Our reactions are imposed upon us and dictated by the international environment. In order to keep up one of the highest standards of living on this earth, we are compelled – partly by the Third World – to produce nothing but goods of the highest technical perfection, which de-

mand high-quality workmanship. Since we are forced to export much in exchange for the missing raw materials and part of our foodstuffs, we must remain competitive. For this reason we must not hesitate to introduce the highest technical production methods, regardless of the resulting irreconcilable difficulties. The free economy in our country condemns us to act, rather from an obligation than from virtue. Where have we the choice? The path has already been smoothed for us by the state of world economy. This restructuring which affects the products as well as the types of production, can not be stopped. It is happening at this moment and not without sacrifices having to be made.

In order to keep the prosperity of our country we have to pay that heavy price. *François Schaller*



Commune of Ittigen

Appeal

to all citizens of **Bolligen**, canton of Berne.

With the coming into force on 1st January 1983 of the separation and independence of the two Communes of Ittigen and Bolligen, the chance is given to all citizens (men and women) of Bolligen to declare if they wish to become citizens of Ittigen. This **one-time declaration of intent may be made within ten years**. This, however, is only possible if they are registered with an official Swiss representation (Embassy or Consulate) abroad and if all changes in their civil status as, for instance, births, marriages etc. have been transmitted to the authorities of Bolligen. For this change in citizenship, no charge will be made by the Commune of Ittigen.

Particulars

Dual citizenship is possible, that is to say, there is the possibility of becoming a citizen of Ittigen without losing the citizenship of Bolligen.

In the absence of a declaration of intent to a change in citizenship, **that of the Commune of Bolligen will remain valid**.

The Zivilstandamt Ittigen, Rain 7, 3063 Ittigen, Switzerland, will be pleased to give further information and to accept any declaration of intent.