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At this very time an attempt is being made at the Conference on Laos in Geneva to untangle that country from power struggles by giving it a neutral status. Again East and West are in agreement on this point. However, the neutrality of Laos cannot be like that of Austria, similar to the Swiss one. Laos being underdeveloped is dependent on foreign aid. The most difficult aspect of the discussion in Geneva therefore centres on the tasks to be entrusted to an international control commission, one of whose duties will be to see to it that foreign aid, from whatever quarter it comes, is "depoliticised" so as not to infringe on the independence of Laos.

We also believe that, to quote our last foreign minister, "In our disrupted times neutrality can fulfil a useful function as long as there is no world organisation capable of really securing peace and political stability."

—THE SWISS OBSERVER

Laugh a little . . .

The young wife comes to the teller's counter in the bank. "Here is a cheque, can you give me the money?"

"Yes, certainly, just sign the cheque."

"But why? My husband is away and has sent it to me."

"Yes, yes, you only have to sign at the back of the cheque and then your husband knows that we have paid out to you the corresponding value."

The young wife grabs a pen and writes: "Your very loving Edith."

* * *

"Captain, I am terribly seasick. How far away is the nearest land?"

"Three miles."

"In which direction?"

"Vertically."

* * *

Husband of woman driver says: "Why, for the last quarter of an hour you have been driving behind this little car which does only about 20 miles per hour. Why don't you overtake it?"

"But don't you see the red light at its rear?"

"Yes, well . . . ?"

"I expect I have to wait until it turns to green."

* * *

"Why does your wife grizzle the whole day?"

"Because the doctor forbade her to talk."

—From NEBELSPALTER