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News from Switzerland

ZURICH MEN ONCE AGAIN DENY THEIR WOMEN THE VOTE

On Sunday, 20th November, 1966, the electorate of the Canton of Zurich had to go to the poll to decide whether suffrage should be granted to the women of the Canton. The preceding campaign was fought with great determination, both for and against. The result is disappointing to the advocates and supporters, but gratifying to the opponents, such as the "Federation of Zurich Women against Votes for Women." They maintain that political rights are for men only who should be made aware far more strongly of their responsibilities as members of a democracy.

Participation in the voting was high, 73%, and 93,372 ayes were registered as against 107,773 nayes. All the rural districts rejected the proposal, and out of 171 Communes, 153 were against. Only 18 Communes accepted it, amongst them the town of Zurich. Ground has been won, however, for the total number of citizens who disagreed was 39% as compared with 48.6% in 1959. Strangely enough, Winterthur rejected the proposal, and the Commune with the largest majority against was Andelfingen.

A few days after the plebiscite, the **Frauenstimmrechtsverein** of Zurich called a meeting to take stock. Some 200 women and some men gathered, including the Chairman of the Campaign Committee "Stimmrecht fur Mann und Frau," the former Municipal President of Zurich, Dr E. Landolt. There was a lively discussion, and it was felt that much work was to be done so that one day, not too far away, Switzerland could sign the Human Rights Convention.

It is difficult to understand, especially outside Switzerland, that such a highly democratic country should still deny its women the vote. It must be remembered, however, that in Switzerland, matters of great public importance have to be decided, unlike in most other countries, including Great Britain, where the vote is used every few years only to elect an M.P. and the local Councils. It is precisely for this reason that many women inside Switzerland feel they are not ready for such tremendous and far-reaching political responsibilities.

But Swiss women are active in public life just the same, and in Zurich they have been on school commissions as long as 67 years. Since 1911 they have been eligible to sit on Trade Tribunals and a year later they were admitted to school authority bodies. Since then the field of their public activities has been widened and today they are **Jugendanwalte** and **richter**, Clerks of the Court, **Kanzleibeamte**, etc.

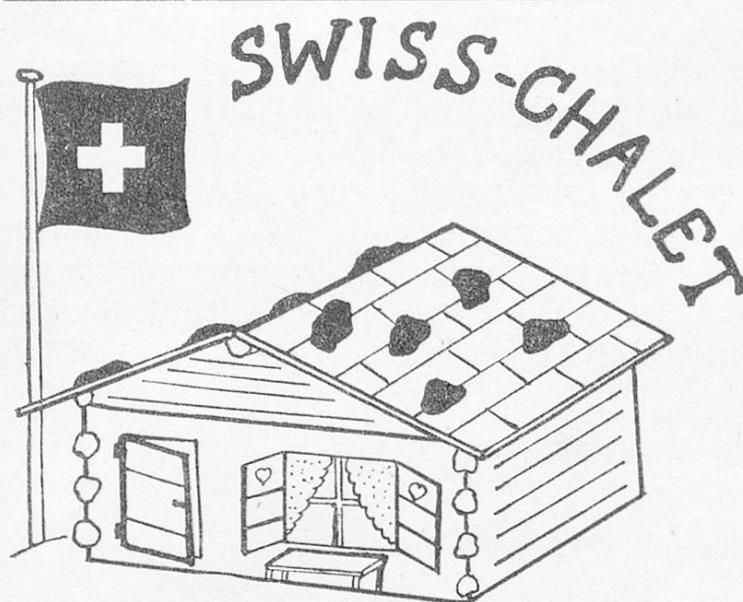
LUXURY MOTEL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ZURICH

This city's only motel to date is situated in the Wollishofen Quarter, just off the new N3 Highway which leads to the Grisons. Called the Jolie Ville Motor Inn, the motel offers a well-conceived combination of modern comfort and informal atmosphere. All 75 rooms have bath or shower, toilet, telephone, Tv. and wall-to-wall carpeting. A coffee-shop and snack bar serves as breakfast room and between-meals eatery (no alcoholic beverages served).

For those seeking more elaborate fare, the same management operates the nearby Grut Farm, a country-style inn featuring an interesting menu and good range of wines. A few years hence, the motel is due to be replaced by a luxury hotel with several hundred rooms.

A SWISS SHOEMAKER CONQUERS LONDON

In London, in his premises in the fashionable artists's quarter of Chelsea, the Swiss shoemaker Walter Steiger creates and sells his entirely new style of shoe, which has conquered the most exclusive of London's fashion circles. The young and gifted craftsman, born at St Gall (one of the textile fashion centres) and brought up in Geneva, learned the trade of shoemaker in Switzerland before working for two years as a designer in the Paris shoe designing department of a big Swiss footwear factory. Today, while still designing models for the Bally collection, he sets the fashion in the very smart district of Chelsea, and stars like Petula Clark, Sandy Shaw and Sophia Loren are among his clients. (OSEC)



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THE BEAUTIFUL SIHL FOREST

Just half an hour from busy Zurich by train or auto, in a southerly direction, lies the thousand-year-old Sihl Forest, a haven of peace. Boasting Europe's oldest conservation law, which made of it a natural preserve for the pleasure and use of city dwellers back in the early Middle Ages, the woods are a favourite excursion spot for the people of Zurich. Passionate walkers take great delight in the thick stands of pine and fir, the resinous scent in the air, and the untouched flora and fauna. On a thickly wooded rise stand the ruins of the legendary Schnabelburg, site of the tragic ending of a medieval regicide named Walter von Eschenbach. The hike southward from the Schnabel up to the Albishorn (altitude 3135 feet) culminates in a sudden panoramic view of the Alps and pre-Alps in the heart of Switzerland. The entire area calls to mind Salomon Gessner, 18th century idyllic poet who was also Zurich's municipal forester. After hiking through the region, one returns tired but enriched to the Forest House Inn, an historic old hostelry in which Goethe and other prominent literary figures are supposed to have stayed.

INCREASED AIRPORT TRAFFIC

Throughout last year, Zurich/Kloten airport recorded a continual increase in traffic. The number of arrivals and departures of commercial planes amounted to 71,135, i.e. an increase of 11.4 per cent over the previous year, with a daily average of 195. In passenger traffic on regular airline services, 60 per cent of all movements involved jet planes. The total number of passengers passing through Kloten airport amounted to 2,715,271, i.e. 301,366 more (12.5 per cent) than in 1965; the figure is made up of 2,446,749 passengers leaving or arriving at Kloten—in turn broken down into 2,293,708 on regular services and 153,041 in charter planes—and 268,522 passengers in transit. The transport of freight totalled 45,061 tons (plus 21.8 per cent compared with 1965) and postal transport 4929 tons (plus 2.9 per cent). (OSEC)

Laugh a little . . .

UPON the question as to why amply bosomed ladies, but with little talent, seem to have such success in show business, Alfred Hitchcock knew the following answer: "The television screens get larger and larger; after all they have to be filled with something!"

"WHY do you have such grimy hands?"

"Because I saw my wife off on the train."

"But how could you get them so dirty?"

"Because I patted the locomotive." —Nebelspalter