

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 33 (1970)
Heft: [2]

Rubrik: Laugh a little...

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Bernese and middle-of-the-road tendencies, the Jura problem could not be solved by a dialogue pursued solely between the Rassemblement and the authorities of Berne. The four wise men have refused to credit the Rassemblement with a fully representative quality and have insisted that the discussion should be joined by all parties. The Separatists have wriggled out of their 1959 defeat, which showed that the majority of the Jura was anti-Separatist, by various theories. One of them is that Berne exerted massive psychological pressure on the non-gallic population of the Jura: the defeat just reflected the bad will of voters who were not even true Jura citizens. Another way to demonstrate that the 1959 results do not prove anything is to go back over a century in the Canton of Vaud, where, at one time, an initiative for the return of Vaud to Berne gathered 20,000 signatures. "Which of the descendants of these signatories would dream today of bringing Vaud back to Bern?" argue some Separatists . . . "in the same way, which of the descendants of those who have voted against separation would do so, in a few generations, when the Jura will have become free?"

The other point on which the four wise men and the Rassemblement disagree concerns those who should be entitled to vote for the creation of a new canton. The Federal Commission stays faithful to the Federal Constitution's 43rd article, which says that only those who have their domicile in a particular canton may vote there and that no-one may be a voter in two cantons. Any change of this rule should be preceded by a referendum aiming at a revision of this particular aspect of the Constitution. The Rassemblement agrees that the 43rd article is perfectly acceptable in the case of matters which concerns the resident-voters directly, such as local investments, but that an issue such as the very-existence of a canton ought to be submitted to all those who are its citizens, irrespective of whether they actually reside in it or not. Therefore the 47,000 Jurassians who live outside the Jura ought to be given the right to voice their opinion on the separation issue. As an example pointing to the justness of their views, the Separatists like to cite the case of Sarrebrücken, whose inhabitants were called to make known their wish concerning their eventual reannexation to Germany in 1935 and where Sarrebrücken citizens came from all parts of Germany to vote on their province's fate.

(Continued next issue.)

Laugh a little . . .

John asks Jack, whom he has not seen for a long time: "I seem to remember that you used to be much in love with a girl . . . is that still the case?"

Jack answers: "Oh, certainly not, I have married her".