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If I Had to Make a Speech Commemorating the 1st August

I would of course start off with the changed climate in the economy of the country. The facts are so obvious. During the period of a year many things have become different. On the labour and employment statistic where in June 1974 only 62 unemployed were registered; in June of this year the number was 7531. One could say that this wasn't very bad when on the same places 3071 vacancies existed. The unexpected, and by many regarded as an impossible increase of unemployed, is an indication that we cannot ignore the seriousness of the situation.

So it is near at hand to woo the spirit of the founders of our confederation and acknowledge their stand which made it possible for them to stand the trickery of the times and accomplish something that stood the test of time, namely Self-reliance — Justification — and Reliance on God. Self-reliance, when we talk to others about the current situation and prospects for the future we can often hear the optimistic expression, "We will also be able to cope with this problem". This confidence looks to me justified. Every nation grows with the difficulties which it tries to solve with the help of the people; every man grows with the risks which he is able to accomplish or to conquer.

Justification demands justice for all; it is therefore one of the principles of solidarity and humanity. These will in the near future demand some definite action, namely the demand for a justifiable distribution of employment and places for labour. The evolution of the last few decades to accomplish as much as possible by as few as possible has lead us into a situation where greater quantities of goods and services are produced by relatively few people. How this problem can be solved can only be said by experts. Sure is, shortening of the time worked and earlier retirement will not be enough and also sure is, working and doing something useful is one of the fundamental rights of every man.

Reliance on God: "The Bundesbrief" of 1291 starts in the name of God. We should not hesitate in the time of universal brotherhood of man to speak of God. We live in His Name and in His Name do we fulfill our obligations as citizens of this world, who have it in their power to change this world for better or worse. So we do rely on Him and look forward with confidence.

P.A.B.

Translated by Walter Risi from an article in the Nidwaldner Volksblatt 30/7/75.