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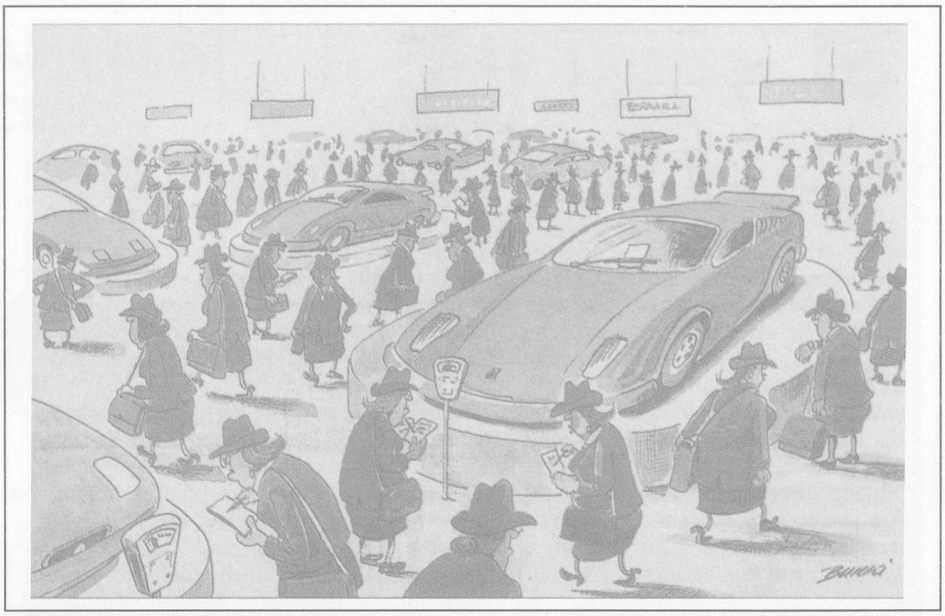
at all. That little vexing problem is only there for the pensioners, the workers, the self-employed and the average business man, but certainly not for the super-rich. Thanks to your wealth, you automatically belong to the so called "high society", a circle of powerful people where you rub shoulders with world renowned bankers, lawyers, accountants and occasional prime ministers who would have advised you long ago about certain tax avoidance (or is it tax evasion) schemes that are put at your disposal by certain countries where laws have been drafted in such a way as to accommodate people just like yourself. Alternatively, you can sink your money into a whole and complicated web of trust funds which you of course control completely, but without owning them, so that you can claim to own next to nothing.

Have you ever wondered why super-rich people seem to spread their housing properties all over the world: a cattle ranch in Texas, a luxury chalet in Gstaad, a beach mansion in the Bahamas and an apartment in Monte Carlo for instance? The idea is never to stay long enough in any one country so as to be considered as a resident. And, provided you draw your income from a large number of companies spread all over the world, no single government tax department will ever get its grip on your total assets and income. Wherever you go in the world, you will be treated as a guest. You will be wined and dined by government ministers and by the local high society and, as a guest, no one will ever dare presenting you with a (tax) bill.

Wealth and power go hand in hand. If you can achieve both, you can live a life of luxury that no one outside your very restricted circle could imagine even in their wildest dreams. But if you were forced by some magic law to spend your wealth during your lifetime, you would think twice before you would go on robbing mankind of your second billion.

But of course such a scenario is and will for ever remain a day dream.....



METER MAIDS

The Geneva Government decided to drastically increase the fines for overparking, just at the very time when Geneva's famous "Le Salon de l'Automobile" (motor show) opened its doors. To add insult to injury, the Geneva Government also decided to employ more staff to monitor the parking meters. This coincidence inspired this cartoon which you could entitle: METER MAD or METER MAIDS according to your preferences.

SWISS POLICE IN WASHINGTON

Switzerland has appointed the first of ten policemen to be based overseas or outside of the country were they will be working in close connection with the local police. George Marbuis, specialist in currency dealings and drugs, will be based in Washington. The second policeman will be sent to Lyon to work at the headquarters of Interpol.

The Swiss Police Department has indicated that this move was necessary to combat international criminality especially in the sectors of drug dealings and money laundering where quick information from overseas is often required.

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UNUSUAL EMERGENCY LANDING

A Swissair flight from Djedda in Saudi Arabia to Geneva was forced to make an emergency landing in Rome because two drunken passengers got themselves into such a violent fight that the captain became concerned about the safety of the other passengers on board, his crew and the aircraft itself. The two antagonists were promptly off-loaded in Rome and taken into custody by the police. Swissair would not comment on the reason for the fight nor on the identity of the two passengers involved.