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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF ZURICH

CANTON OF ZURICH

The new President of the Zurich Cantonal Parliament for the period 1965/66 is Dr. Fritz Honegger (Liberal), Rueschlikon. Dr. M. Dennler (BGB), Affoltern a/A, and J. Nigg (Christian Socialist), Zurich, were elected Vice-Presidents.

The President and Vice-President of the Zurich Government are Dr. Robert Zumbuehl and Franz Egger.

A first series of additional credits for 1965 have been submitted to the Cantonal Parliament. The high sum of nearly 30 million francs was needed in connection with invalidity insurance, ground improvement and extraordinarily heavy frost damage during last winter. It also includes the acquisition of further snow ploughs.

Between 1952 and 1964, the Zurich Commune taxes went back every year. For 1965, there has been an increase again for the first time. The average has gone up by 3%. Of 171 Communes, 35 have increased the rate, 116 have adhered to last year's, and 20 reduced it.

The Cantonal Tribunal (Obergericht) had asked for three more judges. The Cantonal Parliament has now decided on an increase by 4 members to a total of 31. The number of "Handelsrichter" has been increased to 60.

Another increase is that of the Cantonal Police to 800.

In 1957, the Zurich electorate had voted 5½ million francs for improving and enlarging the Institutes for Social and Preventive Medicine, Microbiology and Pharmacology. For various reasons, the building programme has met with difficulties and delays, and another 2.5 million francs are now needed to complete the project. The Institute of Anatomy is badly overcrowded, and a solution must be found. Another project is that of a research pavilion for radiobiology (over 3 mio) in the grounds of the Burghölzli. Parliament granted contributions to the Foundation for Applied Psychology, the Municipal Library of Winterthur, for the construction of three nursing homes in the town of Zurich, to the Agricultural College Weinland at Wülflingen, the workers' settlement of Ringwil and the Foundation "Pro Aventico".

In the new Education Law, the various types of schools (Gymnasium, Oberrealschule, Handelsschule, Unterseminar—Lehramtsschule) have been added to by a "Frauenbildungsschule". Planning is being continued for a Cantonal School for the "Zürcher Unterland" at Buelach. The Pestalozzianum which also receives an annual (now increased) subsidy, is to house the youth laboratory of the Swiss National Exhibition.

On 25th August, 1,376 situations were vacant on the Zurich labour market (July: 1482). At the same time there were 64 unemployed (16 more than in July).

1964 was a good year for Zurich economy. With 8,539 dwellings erected, the figures was much the same as in 1963. Exports by the machine and textile industries were high. Agriculture had a good year; its biggest problem is still shortage of labour.

The Zurich Church Synod decided in June to join the Working Community of the Christian Churches. A credit was granted for a commemorative publication to the Second Helvetic Avowal by Heinrich Bullinger, published in Zurich 400 years ago.

The fishing fraternity of the Canton of Zurich have demanded an office to co-ordinate water protection. In

August, a new lifeboat started operating at the Zollikon post of the Lake Life-saving Service. The first passenger boat "Waedenswil" which has been in service for nearly 70 years, finished its last journey in June.

Finally, some statistics regarding divorce in the Canton of Zurich: 1,385 marriages were dissolved in 1964 (53 more than in 1963). Of these 1,245 were due to general breaking up of the marriage and 148 to adultery.

TOWN OF ZURICH

The International Union of Official Tourist Organisations worked out that Zurich accounted for 0.8% of the world's tourism in 1964 (834,000 arrivals). From the same source came the estimate that 320 million francs were spent in Zurich, though the authorities in Zurich reckon with only 17,000 mio gross income. Of nightly stays in Switzerland in 1964, Zurich's share is 6%. There was a slight decline as against 1963, though the number of beds had increased by 81 to 7,550. More foreign visitors than in the previous year accounted for 78.8%. In 1950, 14,204 people were employed in the tourist industry in Zurich. Ten years later the figure stood at 16,505 of whom 7,085 were foreigners. It is expected that this figure may easily be higher now by about a 1,000.

The Zurich swimming baths made a loss in 1964 of 1.4 million francs, to which should be added the deficit shown by the "Hallenbad". Originally, the swimming, sports and recreation grounds of Heuried (in place of the ugly clay pit of 30 years ago), was to cost 13 million francs. Like most things, the final sum was higher—17 mio, and the beautiful grounds were officially opened on 28th August. Sportsgrounds at Witikon will be erected soon—the land has been acquired for 3 mio francs. The Hospital for Chronic Diseases at Bombach was also officially opened this summer. Zurich has a problem of providing housing for old people, and several more settlements have been planned. Special prizes have again been awarded for particularly good buildings. The number of people living in Zurich has gone down by 4,112, more than half of them foreigners. More office buildings have gone up than dwelling houses. Some of the building projects include an extension to the Dolder Grand Hotel, a Girls' High School at Riesbach, the schools Riedhof and Altweg. A comprehensive plan for the redevelopment of the Escher-Wyss Platz will cost 42.7 million francs. A new project was published for the Werd-/Morgartenstrasse in Aussersihl, to be realised by the firm of Buehrle & Co., Procalor A.G. and the R.C. Foundation of SS. Peter and Paul, whose church is to be included in the project.

New students' homes have been opened at the Roetelstrasse, and the first (temporary) pavilions of the students' settlement on the Hoenggerberg have been completed. The school children of the town have answered a general inquiry with a surprising majority in favour of the ninth school year. There is a shortage of teachers—210 were wanted, and only 36 applications were received. The Municipality decided to take over a studio for artists at the *Cité Internationale des Arts* in Paris, the Canton intending to be responsible for a music studio.

Large sums are also being spent on extending electricity and gas works. Zurich is to have non-poisonous gas. The gas price is to be increased by nearly 8 cts to 29.5 cts per cubic metre. Thirty-three million francs will be required for a garbage incineration plant in district 11 (towards Opfikon).

More news concerning large expenditure: an electronic computer for the Municipality will cost 8½ million francs, 4.5 mio will be required for an increase in the cost of living grant to old-age pensioners, and the Commune Council agreed to additional credits for various building and road construction schemes of nearly 10 million francs. One million francs is needed for the development of the Pfingstweidstrasse, to name but one. The Zurich traffic causes more and more problems, and special "City-Vereinigungen" are considering plans for improvements. The rebuilding of the Zurich main station is about to begin. One of the most important construction sites at the moment is between Enge and Sihlhölzli where the Ulmberg Tunnel is being built.

The tram and bus services of the town have to be put on a better financial basis. The proposed fare revision was rejected by the electorate in April, and a new plan has been worked out. The automatic ticket cancelling which has been in use for Zurich trams has been successful and saves staff and time. Ninety trolley carriages and 40 trolley buses are to be introduced.

The Zurich Police runs an information office for the prevention of crime. This has been moved to the fifth floor of the Municipal Police Barracks. Crime in Zurich is naturally higher than in smaller Swiss towns. Some well-known criminals have been arrested, jewel thieves in March, a cheque forger in April, as well as an international house-breaking gang, a German group in May, and later members of a group of copper thieves, and two Italians responsible for the theft of jewellery from parked cars (total value of various acts 1.7 million francs).

It would fill pages to enumerate all the conferences, meetings and rallies which have been held in Zurich during the past few months. Suffice it to mention just a few. Well over 53,000 visitors went to see the HILSA Exhibition for "Heizungs-, Klima- und Sanitärtechnik". The European Finance Institutes, military musicians from eight countries, the International Society of Neuropathologists, radio, TV and electronic experts (FERA), German, Austrian and Swiss anaesthetists, and the Latin-American Institute of the University of St. Gall chose Zurich. The "Sechseläuten" was spoilt because no horses were allowed on account of horses' influenza. On the other hand, the June Festival Weeks were a great success with concerts, operas and plays and an exhibition of the masterpieces of the Gottfried-Keller-Foundation: "Swiss Art in Nine Centuries." Incidentally, the town of Zurich is purchasing the house in which Keller was born. The Zurich Municipality held open house in July; and at the Helmhaus there was a graphic exhibition of the history of philosophy (*Tua res agitur*).

The "Kaufleuten" and "Pro Ticino" each celebrated the Golden Jubilee and the "Kunsthaus" its 75th anniversary. The oldest Swiss envelope factory, Wagner & Co., celebrated its centenary, as did the students' organisation "Teutonia".

WINTERTHUR

The annual accounts for the town are contained in a document of 350 pages. They ended with a surplus of something over 78,000 francs, revenue standing at 63 million francs. The Social Democrat Jules Schneider is the new President of the greater Commune Council. After 27 years in office, the Municipal President Dr. Hans Rüegg, is resigning. In July, the electorate accepted the proposed fare increase of 30% for buses and trolley buses, but rejected, by an accidental majority, of 35 votes, the proposal for an increased grant for the "Flughafen-Immobilien-Gesellschaft". A committee has been appointed to study the prob-

lem of rooms for students at the "Technikum". The renovation and extension of the Municipal Library and Museum will cost nearly two million francs. The "Technische Fach- und Meisterschule Hard" has celebrated its 30th anniversary and the Summer Theatre its centenary.

OTHER COMMUNES

Bubikon's new school "Mittlistberg" was opened at the end of June. The town wall of Buelach is to be preserved. The Cantonal Music Festival took place at Dietikon in July. The foundations of an old chapel dating to 1370 were discovered in the same village. Duernten will have a settlement for old people, and the new upper school of Elgg was inaugurated this summer. The old station (1894) of Erlenbach makes room for a new building. At Feuerthalen, a plaque was unveiled in honour of the composer Prof. Heinrich Sutermeister who was born there in 1910. In August, the Meiliwiese, the largest school at Hinwil, was opened. Horgen's citizens decided to keep the Commune Assembly and not replace it by a greater Commune Council. A public loan of 12 mio francs has been issued to finance various buildings projects at Horgen.

The castle ruins of Moosburg near Effretikon have been taken over by the Commune of Illnau. Kloten agreed to the last part of the transit water pipes from the lake water pumping system of Zurich and to the construction of a new school "im Nägelimoos" (6½ mio). The Protestant voters, men and women, rejected the plans for a third vicarage. The church of Meilen celebrated its millenium early in September. Neftenbach, too, is to have a new upper school (5.1 mio), and the new swimming baths at Oetwil were opened in July. A Swiss living in Los Angeles has left Fr. 65,000—to his Commune Oetwil. Pfaeffikon, too, is 1,000 years old, together with Uerikon. In June, the water purification plant at Rueti became operational. In spring, Schlieren rejected the proposed 16 million project for an upper school, but Uerikon/Staefa agreed to the extension of the Moritzberg school. The old railway station of Staefa has been replaced by a new building. Thalwil is to have a waste water collection pipe and a school dental institute. The Uster electorate rejected the plan for an upper school Weidli and a school swimming pool. The research station (horticulture, viniculture and fruit growing) at Waedenswil is 75 years old. Federal Councillor Schaffner attended the celebrations on 1st September. Earlier in the summer, new gymnastic and sports-grounds were opened at Waedenswil. After 64 years the gas works Wetzikon have ceased production. Zollikon has been left half a million francs by another American-Swiss to start two libraries.

(News by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

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