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present system also means that even when the decision is reserved to the whole Federal Council, the head of the Department concerned exercises to all practical purposes a determining influence.

Collegial executive can hardly be completely collegial, be there seven or more mandates in a modern and technical society. A compromise has to be found with the bureaucratic machine.

(PMB)

SWISS NEWS

TWO CASES BEFORE THE FEDERAL COURT

The Federal Court has rejected an appeal by the central office of Swiss conservation organisations against the Commune of Thyon (Valais) for having felled 800 hectares of forest in view of setting a ski-run. The written authorisation from the relevant department in Berne had been received by the local administration only on the day when the clearing of the forest had actually been completed. The Federal Court, however, wished to manifest through its verdict its desire not to interfere with local appreciations and decisions. It nonetheless deplored the fact that no notice had been given to eventual plaintiffs.

The Federal Court has accepted an appeal by a woman who had been condemned by a Geneva Court for distributing tracts in the streets. This is forbidden in Geneva without prior authorisation, but the Federal Court had overruled the Geneva decision because it felt that this legal provision, which was specifically Genevese, went too far.

(ATS)

IOS SEEKS TO PRESENT A NEW IMAGE

Investors Overseas Services Ltd., the troubled investment company based in Geneva, held a much awaited press conference three weeks ago. The new chairman, Sir Eric Wyndham White, reported profits of 10,282,000 dollars, as compared with 14,369,000 dollars the year before. This drop was partly explained by the transfer of funds to a "possible loss" account. Assets had increased from 1.5 billion to 2.1 billion dollars from the end of 1968 to the end of 1970. They have decreased since then as a result of the crisis that befell the company. It will now be striving to restore confidence and respect. The main task will be to reduce operating expenses and increase cost control drastically. IOS will also seek to co-operate with established banks. The company had made unwise and unrealistic investments in the recent past and this had provoked a massive fall in IOS shares.

(ATS)

MR. TSCHUDI SPEAKS AT A STUDENT CONGRESS

The Union of Swiss Students held a Congress in Lausanne to mark its 50th Anniversary. The students invited Mr. Hans Peter Tschudi, President of the Confederation, to speak to them. He made a searching speech on the role of education in society, and the responsibilities shared by authorities and students alike in safeguarding the future of the University. He urged students to keep the public on their side, as their cause would then find more willing ears. Students should by all means take action with their assistants and their professors to improve and modernise their universities and high schools. But they should know what they wanted. There should be agreement within their ranks, so that the impression should not prevail that time for action was being used up by unending squabbles. Mr. Tschudi was in favour of student participation and considered that its principle had now been admitted generally. The difficulties resided in practical applications. But he agreed to the necessity of reforming the structure of the University and of revising the syllabus. He defended the present partial reorganisation of the Federal Institute of Technology as a valid first step to a renewed higher technical education. The Polytechnikum should devise what it stood for and this could not be detached from a certain vision of the world. Mr. Tschudi also added that equal chances of education should be given to young people from all classes. The co-ordination between the various cantonal universities and the Confederation was also a question which, he said, was to be examined more deeply.

(ATS)

TWO NEW "WISE MEN" TO HELP TOWARDS THE SOLUTION OF THE JURA PROBLEM

The independent, four-man Commission named by the Federal Council to find a peaceful way of settling the Jura problem has been enlarged by one member, thus becoming a college of "five wise men". Mr. Pierre Graber, one of the French-speaking members, had to leave the Commission as he had become a federal councillor. The two new men are Mr. André Sandoz, a national councillor from La Chaux-de-Fonds and Mr. Reto Bessola, a professor in Italian Literature at the University of Zurich. The latter will be expected to play a pacifying role and will be representing the Italian speaking part of Switzerland on the Commission. The four wise men last year devised a way out of the Jura crisis by advocating the interim arrangement of an "autonomous Jura". The positive outcome of the cantonal vote of March 1st expressed a majority backing to the Commission's solution.

(ATS)

A WOMAN IS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF AN IMPORTANT UNION

For the first time in the history of the Swiss syndical movement a woman has been elected as President of a union. The 32nd Congress of the Swiss Federation of Public Services Employees (the fourth Swiss union, with 39,000 members) has elected Mrs. Ria Schaerer-Zaugg, an employee in the military compensation office of Basle town to the Presidency.

Despite some apprehension, she could not but have a feeling of pride and joy. Mrs. Schaerer believes that women with responsibilities in their families and in their professions, should assume public responsibilities as well. Men and women, she finds, should co-operate in finding the solutions to their daily problems and not league into separate movements.

This victory of the feminist spirit is all the more resounding that only a tenth of the members of the Union were women.

(ATS)

A RUSSIAN SCIENTIFIC DELEGATION IN SWITZERLAND

The "Vorort" of the Swiss Union for Trade and Industry has invited a high-level Russian scientific delegation to visit the country, to establish contacts with Swiss businessmen and to visit home factories. It is the first time that a similar delegation is invited by industry in general. A few separated exchanges of this kind had been promoted by individual companies (Ciba and Geigy) and by the watch industry. This meeting might result in a strengthening of technological ties and an increase of trade between the two countries.

A MONTH OF NEWS IN BRIEF

The French-speaking and German Swiss members of the Council of States clashed on a plan by the Federal Council to prohibit foreigners from building and buying houses in Switzerland. The position of the German-Swiss, keen on stamping out foreign speculation, was distinctly harder than the French-Swiss position. A passionate debate on the subject left the two

linguistic fractions in persistent disagreement.

The highly publicised export deposit has now been accepted by the two chambers with the understanding that it is not as urgent as was proclaimed by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Celio, in the first draft. He will decide in three months whether or not the deposit should be introduced.

Mgr. Kuhn, director of the Swiss Caritas organisation, has said in Sion that many of the convents of Switzerland will have to be closed as a consequence of lack of vocations. He added that the recruitment of priests and hospital sisters was getting increasingly difficult.

Fifty-six soldiers accomplishing their yearly repetition course sent a letter to the head of the Military Department, Mr. Gnaegi, suggesting that national service should be replaced by a social or civil service. This new kind of service, they wrote, would serve the interests of peace just as well.

Following the recommendations of the Swiss Science Council, the Federal Council has asked a former ambassador and lawyer, Mr. Roy Ganz, to elaborate plans for a future institution devoted to the scientific analysis of the causes of wars. A popular referendum has been launched in Geneva to ensure the Canton's future adhesion to a much talked about intercantonal police force. 7,000 signatures will have to be collected in 30 days. The time of the year is not the best for such a collection but it is expected that the scheme will obtain the support of the Genevise population. An Englishman and distinguished jurist, Mr. Wilfred Jenks, has been elected as the new General Director of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva. He succeeds to Mr. David A. Morse, the former (American) director who resigned on 31st May. The extreme-right "Vigilant" party in Geneva has sent an open and highly publicised letter to the Political Department asking that the Council for Development of the United Nations should not be allowed to be established in Geneva. French delegates at the U.N. in New York had suggested this eventual transfer. The Vigilants, who are staunch anti-foreigners, do not

want any more alien organisations on Genevise soil. The National Council has approved a motion by the Police Department to allow non-uniformed police to inflict fines on traffic offenders.

(ATS)

THE PROBLEMS OF LA CHAUX DE FONDS

The population of the watchmaking capital has tended to remain stagnant for a number of years. It fell by 136 inhabitants in 1968 and owed last year's paltry increase of 40 to the excess of births over deaths. The population now stands at 42,490. 3,385 people left the town and 3,275 settled in it in 1969. The local authorities have made a painstaking study of the causes of these movements in both direction and have found that family and personal reasons were the most important, then came the attraction of higher wages, then the interest of better working conditions, and finally, the beginning or conclusion of a period of apprenticeship. The town's watch industry gave employment to 11,000 persons, and other industries to 13,000. The watch industry is continuing to lose staff, and its effectives diminished by 172 last year, whereas 350 people found new jobs in other industries. Nineteen per cent of the leavers were Italians, followed by the French (8 per cent), the Spaniards (6 per cent) and the Germans (2.5 per cent).

SWISS FOOTBALLERS MISBEHAVE

Three top players of the Swiss Club FC Zurich will be reported to the International Football Federation following wild scenes during and after their draw with Western Australia in Perth. The men are national team captain Jakob Kuhn, Karl Grob and Heinz Kissling.

Grob was sent off for allegedly hitting an opponent and Kissling was said to have punched the referee seconds before the end.

(Evening News)

The death of a journalist

Ernst Naef, the famous Bernese journalist, has died at the age of 62.

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