

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1970)

Heft: 1602

Rubrik: Swiss news

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COMMENT SWISS NEWS

THE INITIATIVE THAT FAILED

The most controversial issue to be submitted to the Swiss people's examination during the last weekend of September was an initiative seeking to inscribe in the Constitution the fundamental right of citizens to have a roof over their heads. This initiative was rejected by a fairly strong majority, although the main towns accepted it. This result was natural enough as the shortage of housing is more acutely felt in urban areas than in provincial cantons.

This "right to lodgings" initiative was abundantly debated in the Swiss press before the 27th September vote and, apart from an editorial found in the Swiss Mercantile Society's central organ, all papers that I have chanced to see were against the initiative and its implications.

The shortage of housing is one of the most pressing problems in Switzerland. Although 60,000 new flats and houses were completed last year, a fair figure, many people in the lower wage groups still have difficulty in finding appropriate accommodation at acceptable rent. The average Swiss spends a higher proportion of his income on housing than the people of most other developed countries. A constitutional initiative that purported to do something about the situation had therefore every chance of arousing interest and support. But the idea of implicating the constitution in a practical problem due to the economic conjuncture of the moment was equivocal. By adding an article providing for the "right" of every citizen to be adequately housed, the voter was left wondering whether the initiative only wanted to inscribe an obvious principle in the book of rules of the nation, or whether the Confederation was thereby given permission to make sure that this right was effectively assured to all. This would have meant such measures as appropriations of unused houses—and the spectre of stage totalitarianism was soon raised by the opponents of the initiative.

But the argument revolved upon economic considerations. So far, the Confederation has not helped housing otherwise than by special grants. Local authorities do not build entire housing estates in the same way as they do in England, and the state has made a point of not interfering with the supply and the economics of housing. The proponents of the initiative wanted to see the Confederation take control of the market situation and maintain rents at acceptable levels by its own enlarged means. The assumptions on which these desires rested were that the Confederation could effectively keep housing prices down and put a clamp on speculation. The mechanisms of a liberal

(continued on page 14)

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN GENEVA?

Will the United Nations assembly be removed from its towering glass palazzo on Hudson River to the more inviting setting of the Palais des Nations in Geneva? Many delegates in New York have been asking this question because New York is reputedly not an easy town to live in. Afro-Asian delegates are ruffled by local racial discrimination and have to pay the exorbitant rents of down-town accommodation. The information which comes to them and on which they must rely for their working sessions is relayed through the American Television network. New York also has a maddening rhythm of life and even the cleaner and more policed parts of this outgrown metropolis offer only relative physical safety.

Jean Ziegler, Socialist national councillor for Geneva, discussed this possibility in the *Tribune de Genève*. He noted that a trans-Atlantic transfer of future general assemblies, although appreciated by many countries would have a weighty disadvantage. It would prompt the American Government to whittle down its financial contribution to the United Nations. The Americans supply a lion's share of present UN funds and the Senate would certainly react strongly if the most meaningful political function of the United Nations were to be staged elsewhere than in New York. The recent American decision to cut funds to the International Labour Organisation on the grounds that one of its new directors was a Russian can be taken as a warning of things that could come.

Berne has not so far made any hints to the American Government that it would be prepared to invite future UN assemblies. Elementary rules of tact had to be respected. But if major UN functions were actually to seek a site in Europe, then the Swiss Government would campaign in favour of Geneva. Switzerland's advantage in playing host to so many international organisations are not always obvious. Shopkeepers and hoteliers may naturally welcome this surge of international diplomatic nomads, but the ordinary wage earner has more to lose than to gain. The gilt salaries paid in international organisations contribute to raise the cost of living. The moneyed international executives are able to afford the better flats and leave many compatriots unsatisfied with the accommodation they can find. Swiss taxpayers have paid some 250 million francs between 1960 and 1970 to finance the enlargement and erection of international buildings. The Confederation allocates a special grant of 30 million francs to



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Geneva to compensate for the city's loss of revenue resulting from diplomatic tax exemption. There is also a plan to create a new "diplomatic" satellite city at Gland, on the way to Lausanne, and thus relieve the housing shortage which is hitting ordinary Swiss in Geneva.

Thus while the benefits to business and prestige of Swiss international life are undeniable, this does create some difficulties and even sacrifices. But the Swiss Government wouldn't hesitate a moment to assume more sacrifices of this nature as long as it felt that the unique atmosphere and facilities offered by Geneva were in fact an important contribution by Switzerland to world peace.

(*Tribune de Genève*)

FREE WORKING HOURS AT SANDOZ AND SUCHARD

Sandoz and Suchard, the chemical and chocolate giants, have experimentally introduced mobile working hours. All workers can come and leave as they choose, provided they accomplish their prescribed stint. At Sandoz, the fare is 42½ hours a week in five working days starting at a freely-chosen morning hour lying between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. to a finishing time somewhere between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. The rule is the same at Suchard, with the margin of choice somewhat reduced. Sandoz have introduced the new scheme in a limited number of departments only. The management plans to spread it to the whole plant if results are conclusive. Suchard has already reached positive and definite conclusions and intend to generalise the introduction of mobile working hours to all its departments.

(*ATS*)

DISAGREEMENT AMONG SWISS PACIFISTS

Swiss pacifists do not appear to have reached a common entente on the kind of support they should give to the initiative recently launched by the teachers of a "Gymnasium" in Basle-Country for allowing the hundred odd annual conscientious objectors to serve a civic service instead of military service. The initiative committee are now about to collect the necessary 50,000 signatures.

Mr. Braunschweig, President of the Swiss branch of the War Resisters' International found that the Initiative was too mild. He maintained that the proposed civic service should not just be a neutral stint devoid of any political significance but an *active engagement* which would achieve something towards world peace. All the initiative had suggested was to replace national service by some non-military activity when it should have put forward a positive peace-promoting service. Mr. Braunschweig said that one should think in terms of an *international* civic service.

Mr. L. Haflinger, one of the drafters of the Initiative, said that any

specific mention of an "international" service would have frightened the Swiss electorate. The Swiss were not yet ready, he believed, to absorb the notion of such an international civic service. But he defended the wording of the initiative, which did *not* preclude various forms of international service. He added that if the international civic service put forward by his pacifist opponent had to be of any use, it should be far longer than the present four-month duration of basic military training. Mr. Braunschweig answered that he had indeed a long-term international service in mind.

There thus seems to be important differences in the degree of international involvement advocated by the different Swiss pacifist movements. The churches are not opposed to the initiative but have not yet made their official position known.

THE ANTI-CHOLERA HOAX

Students from the Basle *Technikum* disguised as doctors, sporting white blouses and wearing the badge of the World Health Organisation, set up an anti-cholera vaccination post outside Basle's main station. They distributed their mock vaccine to credulous commuters—distributing lumps of sugar imbibed with water and handing out forms prescribing them to repeat the treatment within three weeks. Some twenty "patients" had been thus inoculated when an incensed doctor who saw this reported it to the police. The leg-pullers were lead away to a nearby police station and released only when their hoax had been clarified. The Hygiene Office of Basle was left to consider whether the laughing doctors deserved more serious reprisals.

PROPOSALS TO SPEED UP THE MOTORWAY PROGRAMME

It will be possible to drive all the way from Geneva to Zurich by motorway by 1983, the planned date of completion of the N1, a central axis which

is to link the two cities via Berne. A motoring magazine felt concerned about this long delay and put forward proposals to advance the date by about ten years. The argument was that the N12, or Berne-Fribourg-Vevey Motorway, could be ready within three years with the help of an extra injection of 200 million francs, as works are already considerably advanced on the Fribourg sector of this future route.

Present work on the Lausanne-Vevey motorway will be ready by 1973, which means that the motorway link between Lausanne and Berne could be established by that date. So far Canton Berne has concentrated its efforts on the Zurich-orientated stretches of the N1 (it is now possible to drive up to Lenzburg by this motorway and Zurich will be linked next year) and on the N6, which will connect Berne and Thun. But work has been slower on the three other important projects, namely, the Berne-Flamatt stretch of the N12, the Berne-Morat and Berne-Neuchatel motorway connections.

There is an overriding reason why the opening day of a trans-helvetic motorway should be speeded up. It is that both the Italians and the Germans have extended motorways leading towards Switzerland. If traffic is only streamlined on one side of the border, then Swiss roads could soon become an international bottleneck.

THE CIBA-GEIGY MERGER

The merger of the two chemical giants Ciba and Geigy which was arranged a short time ago will involve some considerable re-organisation among their respective departments. But the main higher-level novelty will be the creation of a temporary executive council assisted by a personnel committee, an investment and an integration commission holding consultative responsibilities. This Council will have executive and implementing power in the enterprise. The Board, naturally, continues to be responsible for general

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policy decisions.

Ciba and Geigy expected some difficulties before this merger from the Americans, who are very particular with mergers since they have a strict anti-trust legislation. Sure enough, a civil action was filed against the proposed merger at the American Department of Justice. As a result of the Department's deliberations, the Ciba-Geigy concern will be obliged to sell away some of its pesticide, pharmaceutical and dyestuff interests so that its competitive power in these sectors will not become greater than that of the two individual founding companies.

Ciba and Geigy were said to be relieved by the leniency of the American ruling. It had inevitable disadvantages, but they were outweighed by the benefit of a worldwide joint organisation. Total sales of the two companies in the U.S. were 432 million dollars last year, an honourable figure, but a fraction of the American market. The Department of Justice has now authorised the newly-formed conglomerate to pursue its operations in the U.S.

ARREST OF TIME BOMB EXPLORERS IN ZURICH

The Zurich public had almost forgotten the two explosions which shattered the windows of the central police station and damaged the *Rathaus* in the winter of 1968. It certainly didn't expect an elucidation of the crime after such a long time. This was due to the grim determination of a few dogged detectives at the Zurich CID who were

helped, it must be said, by a fair stroke of good luck.

The authors of these bomb assaults against the police headquarters and the town hall had left anarchic hand-written letters on the spot accusing the "rape of the individual by the State". The police therefore compared hundreds of hand-written specimens in an effort to isolate the culprits. They controlled 800 persons and visited in vain over 3,000 depots, construction sites and stores where explosives might be found. A year after these enquiries had been abandoned, a wanted anarchist named Angelo della Savia who had blown up 17 buildings in Italy with loss of life was arrested in a Lausanne library. The Lausanne police thought of linking him with the Zurich bomb assaults but couldn't find any solid lead and handed him to the Italians. But the Zurich police sought to get more out of this man and, having made contact with their Italian colleagues, learnt that Della Savia had been in Zurich at the time of the Globus demonstration and again in the winter of 1968, when the first explosion hit the police headquarters. Della Savia disclosed the telephone number of one of his Zurich friends, bringing the police in Zurich a step nearer to the clearing-up of the crime. But the final breakthrough required and help of the many photographic records of the Globus demonstration. By studying the hundreds of photographs collected after this "subversive" event, the police picked out Della Savia in the crowd of milling

demonstrators and noticed that three youths were constantly at his side. These turned out to be the authors of the bomb assaults. They were two boys and a girl, all under 21.

They had met Della Savia in the preparatory stages of the Globus demonstration. He indoctrinated them with his anarchic philosophy and incensed them with the desire to blow up public buildings. When he came back to Zurich in September 1968, he told them that he wanted to blow up a building in Zurich and that he had brought all the necessary explosives with him. The three youths suggested that the police building at Uraniastrasse was the best living embodiment of the stifling principles of bourgeois order, anathema to anarchists, and an ideal target. They made their device explode with a bang which shook half the town from its sleep on Christmas Eve. Della Savia then invited his three Zurich friends to Milan, where he initiated them in the art of fashioning time bombs and concocting explosives. Five weeks later they were accomplished guerrillas and ready to return to Zurich to try their skills. They blew chunks off the Stadhaus wall in a resounding explosion on January 31st.

KNOWLEDGE AS CONSUMER GOOD

The "Foundation for the Protection of the Consumer", a recently created watchdog organisation, decided that correspondence courses were comparable to consumer goods and de-

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served to be investigated.

A psychologist from Güningen was commissioned to carry out an enquiry into the matter. He secured the co-operation of 30 colleagues, who each applied for a complete correspondence course. These scouts attempted to gauge the general value of correspondence courses by basing their judgment on some twenty criteria ranging from the possibility of abandoning a course to the personal attention offered by the tutors.

Some of the courses came off rather badly from this test. The idea was not, according to a Foundation spokesman, to unmask bad and misrepresenting correspondence schools, but rather to establish acceptable norms in this field. The lowest marks however went to the Famous Artists school, the G. H. Hoffmann Institute, the F. Kunz Publishers, the Maton Institute, the Naturliche Sprachtechnik Eduard Ritter, the Verlag H. Ulrich and the Visaphon-Studio. The Foundation will try to draft an elementary legislation on correspondence courses and establish the legal possibility of abandoning a course with refund.

(ATS)

SWITZERLAND'S SECOND NUCLEAR POWER STATION

The second nuclear power station to be opened in Switzerland after the one at Beznau will be the Muehleberg power station. It is situated on the Aar near the actual hydro-electric dam and is being built by the Bernese Electricity Board. Work has been going on for 41 months and is two-thirds over. The installations have been opened to the public on two weekends in September before being definitely equipped and closed off. The plant will produce 2.1 billion kilowatt-hours a year (the present Muehleberg power station produces only 150 thousand kilowatt-hours) with the help of two 150 MW turbines. The reactor is American-built but the steam generating installations are to be built jointly by Brown Boveri and General Electric. The power station will absorb 11 tons of water from the Aar a second and reject it in the river 15 degrees warmer. This will actually raise the temperature of the Aar by about 1.5 degrees. Local residents and conservationists were concerned about the possibility of this exhaust cooling water contaminating the river through its light radioactivity, and the power station's chimney has been raised to the exceptional height of 127 meters to allay the fears of everyone. The cost of the complete station will lie above 300 million francs, 50 million of which will finance the reactor's nuclear fuel. A quarter of the fuel is consumed every year.

A third, 600 megawatt power station is due to be erected in Kaiseraugst, Ag, after considerable local fears and controversy.

MR. JEAN REVILLIOD RETIRES

Mr. Charles Mueller, at present First Councillor at the Swiss Embassy in Washington, is to replace Mr. Jean Revilliod as Ambassador to Indonesia and Cambodia. Mr. Revilliod has reached the age limit and will retire on 31st December. The Federal Council have extended their thanks to Mr. Revilliod for his past services to Swiss diplomacy.

Mr. Revilliod has many friends in London where he was Secretary for Cultural Affairs from 1961 to 1965. Born in Nyon in 1905, he studied law in Geneva, his town of origin, and practised law in Switzerland and abroad. It was only in 1944 that he decided to enter the Political Department and began his new career in its central administration. Before coming to London, he had served assignments in Peking, Hong Kong and Colombo.

His successor is 17 years younger and began his diplomatic career in 1946. His previous assignments were Cairo, Moscow, Berne and Geneva.

(ATS)

DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN LUXEMBURG

The Federal Council has decided to supplement the present Swiss consular representation in Luxemburg with an Embassy. Mr. Max Feller, head of the European Integration Office in Berne, has been appointed to this new post.

Luxemburg is more important than its size would give one to believe as it is the hub of the European community. By creating an embassy at Luxemburg, the Swiss Government is proving its interest in the negotiations which are now going on between the Six and Great Britain and which will soon broaden into multilateral confrontations between the Community and other EFTA countries. The new appointment was made after the recent visit to Berne of Luxemburg's Foreign Minister. Many residents in London may remember Mr. Feller, who was Secretary of Embassy from 1964 to 1966.

ADAPTING ARCHITECTURE TO DISABLEMENT

There are between 15,000 and 20,000 disabled persons in Switzerland. The active and forceful president of the Swiss Invalids Association, Dr. Manfred Zingg, presented his Association's Jubilee Booklet at a recent Press conference in Berne. His booklet portrayed the vast improvement in the life of the disabled—starting with an efficient invalidity insurance and important innovations in professional rehabilitation. But there remained plenty to do. Architecture and city planning were the most important fields in which consideration for disablement was still wanting. Le Corbusier had postulated in 1963 already that cities should be designed so that the disabled could be able to displace themselves without help. Dr.

Zingg is appalled to see that no attention has ever been given to the problems of disablement in the architectural courses of the Zurich Polytechnikum. The Invalid Association has worked out the guidelines, presented in the booklet, which should make life easier for the handicapped. Door handles should be placed low, kitchen furniture should be specially adapted, thresholds (a Swiss practise) should not be used and doors should be large enough for disabled persons to wheel themselves through without effort. Lifts should also have minimal dimensions. Dr. Zingg recalled that it was of little use to the handicapped to have won the right of earning their living if they couldn't reach their place of work or live in a home by themselves. They remained in a social ghetto of their own and could not in many instances live practically with their families. They had to be housed in special institutions even though every disabled person hates to be segregated from normal humans. They could readily be spared this fate at the cost of simple architectural modifications, said Dr. Zingg. This would leave more space in our costly and overcrowded clinics. Dr. Zingg would like to see all the public buildings redesigned so as to allow the disabled to use them by themselves. They should be able to go in post offices, hospitals, medical consultancy rooms, public administrations, churches, cinemas and theatres without outside help.

Besides putting forward these architectural suggestions, the Invalids Association Jubilee booklet presents a list of the hotels which are ready to receive disabled people and which have rooms designed so as not to make life too hard for them. The booklet also contains a list of spas suited to every particular illness.

THE FERNAND LEGROS AFFAIR

The French art dealer Fernand Legros who escaped to Switzerland three years ago is wanted by the French police for his alleged involvement in the largest art fraud racket in history. The Swiss judiciary was obviously not convinced of Legros's guilt, for he has been allowed to live peacefully at Crans-sur-Sierre ever since.

The Legros affair has had many more repercussions in America. An ill-starred journalist named Clifford Irving first brought up Legros' guilt in a million-dollar art fraud by producing the confessions of a painter employed by Legros, Elmy de Hory, who admitted having painted a number of Renoirs and other impressionists under the orders of Legros. He said that Legros had been his "downfall" and forced him to become a criminal. These late confessions didn't prevent this expert imitator from enjoying the comfort of Legros' luxury villa in Ibiza. Irving's book was however insufficiently patched together and contained a maze of shaky statements and contradictions. This made Legros' counter-attack easy and he

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could have the book seized and Irving sued for libel. Another American writer named Lawrence Jeppson followed Irving's footsteps and wrote a hastily sewn-up story of the Legros affair, with many decorative allusions to former art scandals. This book had no more success than the first. Legros managed again to sue the author for libel and have the work seized.

The allegations contained in these and other books compromised Legros but the facts presented were too hazy and muddled for the Swiss to accept taking any definite action. So while endless legal deliberations over his guilt were going on in America, Legros was enjoying the peaceful freedom of a Swiss resort.

(Journal de Genève)

SWISS LITERARY PRODUCTION ON THE INCREASE

With 6,028 new titles published in Switzerland last year, publishing output again marked a strong increase over the previous year. If one includes re-editions, the total figure was 7,001 new editions. The French-speaking literary production was comparatively higher than the German-Swiss, as about a quarter of the new books published were in French and the French-speakers account for a fifth of the total population. The number of original editions in literature stood at 604, raised to 1,079 with translated works. Much of the publishing output was of scientific and academic nature. There were 269 new economic titles (including 4 translations), 407 new theological titles, 214 new books on law and 188 new psychological and philosophical treatises. There was a sharp increase in children's editions with 242 original works. All these new titles were gathered in the National Library in Berne.

(ATS)

THE FEDERAL TAX CONTROVERSY

There is a tradition in the Swiss tax structure that the Confederation receives what comes from purchase tax and that the Cantons have the right to income tax. This principle has in fact been broken 50 years ago when Federal National Defence Tax was introduced, and, much later, when a Federal turnover tax was added to it. These two income taxes were inscribed in the Federal Constitution as transitory provisions—and are still considered as such. Mr. Celio, head of the Finance Department, realistically wanted to see these provisions considered as definite and final, and wanted their quantitative levels erased from the Constitution. The first measure took due account of the increased burdens of the central government increased, (for example, by the recent Federal pledge to help housing and universities) and the second was to give more flexibility in financing the country's expenditure. At present the level of National Defence and Turn-over Tax is constitutionally fixed. This means that the people have to be consulted in referendum each time the government requires to modify direct taxation in a drive to adapt income to expenditure. After some lengthy debates, the Council of States rallied to the National's approbation of Mr. Celio's project. The level of Federal direct taxation will eventually be laid down in a law which, too, will be submitted to the people. An initiative has recently been launched against the idea of erasing taxation limits from the constitution but will probably gain little popular support.

NEW WINDOWS BY CHAGAL AT THE FRAUMUNSTER IN ZURICH

An anonymous couple have endowed the choir of the Fraumunster Church in Zurich with five beautiful stained glass windows designed by the painter Marc Chagall. They were solemnly consecrated in a ceremony at the beginning of September.

(ATS)

FRANK MARTIN AND FERDINAND GONSETH 80

The most illustrious Swiss contemporary composer after Arthur Honegger, the Genevese Frank Martin, has celebrated his 80th birthday. He is still active after 50 years of creative life and a work which has spanned the days of Stravinsky, Boulez and Shoenberg is still evolving.

(Tribune de Genève)

Chaux-de-fonds celebrated the 80th birthday of one of its most illustrious citizens, the mathematician and philosopher Ferdinand Gonseth. He taught at Berne University and at the Zurich Polytechnikum for thirty years. He is the founder of the international journal "Dialectica".

BRITISH HONOURS AT THE GRAMOPHONE RECORD AWARD OF MONTREUX

The jury of the World Gramophone Record Prize in Montreux has awarded three prizes of equal importance to the best of twenty selected recordings. One prize went to "Les Troyens" by Victor Berlioz, a Covent Garden production conducted by Colin Davis, another to "Schubert's Lieder" (Deutsche Grammophon) with Dietrich

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(ATS)

"VENOMS" LAND ON THE N1 MOTORWAY

For five hours a squadron of Air Force "Venoms" practised landing and taking off on a 3 km stretch of the N1 motorway between Kestenholz and Niederbuchsiten. The exercise was taking place within widescale Air Force and anti-aircraft manoeuvres. Its object was to see how easily and readily a motorway could be used as a makeshift airfield in emergency situations.

(ATS)

SCHOOL CO-ORDINATION APPROVED

The conference of cantonal educational directors has closed its September session having reached an agreement on an "intercantonal concordat" on school education. The Commission for intercantonal school co-ordination planned such a treaty in 1967 already. The present results come after three years of debate and negotiations on the cantonal and intercantonal level. The agreement which has been passed on first reading—and which will eventually be presented to the cantons—has sought to iron out the many discrepancies between each individual cantonal school system. The conference has agreed on a compulsory school attendance of 9 years and a minimum age of entry of 6. It has confined the variations in the beginning of the school year to the period between the middle of August and the middle of October, accepted the equivalence of various cantonal diplomas and the possibility of changing schools without repeating a school year. More work will be accomplished in the harmonising of the differing school programmes. The conference has not only endeavoured to streamline a "multi-cantonal" system of education but also sought to improve it by concerting their efforts in a common formation of teachers.

DEARTH OF FEDERAL CIVIL SERVANTS

The Federal services are suffering from an acute shortage of labour. The Federal payroll for 1970 was planned to be 124,825. There are actually only 121,515 Federal employees, 3,310 too few. The problem has been felt particularly badly by the Post Office, which not so long ago had to bring down mail deliveries from three to two a day, and now has to rely on a strong force of casual workers.

The reasons are, of course, that the private sector offers in the main better pay and better working conditions. The five-day week has now been generalised almost everywhere and private employers, who are far more flexible

than the State machinery, can thus adapt the pay and working conditions of their staff to changing circumstances more rapidly. Civil servants have had to wait for Parliamentary approval before they could be awarded a 4 per cent increase of real income. Industry has the additional advantage of offering interesting overtime rates and a more satisfactory human environment. It is in times of crisis only that civil servants may have it better and safer. But for the prosperous present the Civil Service will have to improve its professional prospects and make more efforts in rationalisation if it is not to be paralysed by a general exodus towards the private sector.

(Echo)

THE SWISS NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTRE

Work is well under way on the 100-million franc Swiss Nuclear Research Institute at Villigen, Aargau. The creation of this national "Harwell" was decided in 1965, at the time when Parliament voted credits of 444 million francs for the modernisation of the Institutes of Technology of Lausanne and Zurich. Professor J. P. Blaser, the director of the Villigen research centre, explained to the Press that much of the installations will be the first of their kind in Europe and should therefore attract many scientists from abroad. The Institute's research programme is already being planned by a special council. It is expected that half the research staff will be composed of visiting scientists undertaking limited research from periods of two or three months and be housed in a campus which will lie near the institute (which, incidentally, is near to the present Institute for Reactor Research at Wuerlingen). Professor Blaser said that research at Villigen will not only be confined to pure physics, but also to the medical applications of fundamental particles. The Institute will be equipped with an injection cyclotron made by Philips and operational in 1973.

THE EXPANSION OF KLOTEN AIRPORT TO BE CARRIED OUT

The people of Canton Zurich gave the go-ahead to a vast programme of expansion of Kloten Airport with a considerable majority on Sunday, 27th September. The airport, which will have received 4.4 million passengers this year and which is expected to have a traffic of 13 million passengers by 1980, must be equipped with a new runway and elaborate new installations if it is not to reach saturation point within a few years. The cost of the works is estimated at 800 million francs. This will be shared by the Canton of Zurich, the Confederation, Swissair and the Airport Estate Company. An initiative committee was formed around Professor Marcel Beck to combat the proposed enlargement. The Professor put forward a design of the airport that went against official plans. His proposals were that, if a new runway had to be built, it should be built parallel to the present one. All the plans under consideration for Kloten foresee a second runway making a large V with the present one. The only communes to support the initiative were those situated under the approach or take-off path of Kloten's air traffic—communes such as Regensdorf, Ruemlang, Niederhasli, Oberglatt, Wallisellen, Bassersdorf and Bulach. Swissair has received this popular verdict with relief, as the enlargement of Kloten was vital for its expansion.

The people of Canton Zurich voted on the same day in favour of noiseless-zone planning by the Canton. Cantonal decisions in this field will supersede individual communal will. Voters also approved the prohibition of night flights to Kloten. Their vote therefore stressed their opposition to noise and their readiness to take measures against it. They were not prepared, however, to sacrifice prestige of their canton as an inter-continental airline centre for the sake of a minority of noise-plagued communes.



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