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# The Swiss Observer

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# COMMENT

## DOES SWITZERLAND REALLY NEED THE COMMON MARKET?

The countries presently knocking at the door of the European Economic Community are doing so on the assumption that the expanded market that entry would offer them would boost their export and business opportunities. It is what the famous White Paper on the "Cost of Entry" termed as the *dynamic effects*, and it is on these unquantifiable but expectedly favourable consequences that the Pro Marketeers of Great Britain are banking. A wider market means enlarged scale of production, more encouragement towards rationalisation, more competition and in general a sane prod to produce more and better.

Switzerland does not intend to enter the Common Market, at least not under the provisions of the Treaty of Rome. Still, her negotiators have been lingering in Brussels for many months in an attempt to get out of the EEC the most that they can. Should these discussions not lead anywhere, there are reasons to hope that Switzerland will not be the worse off for it.

The growth of the countries of the EEC has been high and has often been compared with the low British rate of growth by the Pro Marketeers. But the rate of growth has been just as high in Switzerland, if not higher. If Switzerland should want to secure some advantages with the Community, it is presumably to improve her already extraordinary pace of economic expansion. This of course would mean more prosperity for the Swiss people, which is always desirable, but also more bottle-necks, more dependence on foreign

labour and higher over employment inflation.

A European market of three hundred million consumers would favour economies of scale and stamp out the remaining industries with artisan methods and favour national specialisation.

The first point has already been cleared by a series of private agreements between Switzerland's giant companies and their subsidiaries abroad or other European companies operating in the same field. The working agreement between Brown Boveri and French electromechanical companies was made outside any Common Market framework and good business will continue whether or not Switzerland joins the Club.

Secondly, Swiss industrialists have not waited for the outcome of negotiations in Brussels to build up their strength, as attested by the Ciba-Geigy merger. The major Swiss firms are strong enough to hold out whatever the political future of Europe may be. At the present time many of them are so overburdened with export orders that they have to defer production to their European subsidiaries and import back from them the goods which labour restrictions prevent them from manufacturing at home.

Switzerland will not need the prompting of a hypothetical affiliation to the EEC to specialise because it already is, industrially speaking, one of the most specialised countries in the world. There is a wide gamut of machines, watches, precision products, foodstuffs and specialised equipment which the Swiss will always sell because they hold the undisputed lead. In the same way the French buy more Japanese transistors and cameras than home-made ones, although Japan is not in the Common Market, and the Americans will always sell their Jumbo jets because no one else produces them.

The situation may of course not always be so rosy and the intention of the Swiss negotiators in Brussels must be to provide for the long term. It can perhaps be argued that the material situation of the Swiss would be better in the event of an international recession if Switzerland were a member of the EEC. But at present Switzerland is not suffering from a lack of export business (although her trade balance admittedly shows a deficit) and her dealings with the Common Market have never ceased to increase.

The case of Great Britain is both bleaker and more urgent. The White Paper on the "Cost of Entry" gave an indication of the considerable initial cost as the British will have to pay for dearer European food prices and fund the European agricultural kitty. Switzerland, which already gets supplied by Europe, would not have to suffer an austere transitional period.

This important document has to our knowledge no Swiss equivalent. Its findings have been debated at length,

but all commentators agree that with an uncertainty in its estimate of the cost of entry of a billion pounds, it can't be considered as a final answer. But as long as the returns are interesting then it is worth paying for the cost. But it is harder to estimate these than it is to put a tag on the cost of entry.

The expectation of every pro-Marketeer is that, once in Europe, England will export *more*. But the opposite can also happen and the British find themselves paying an exorbitant price for their entry into Europe and finding themselves inundated with cheaper continental goods. This is what would happen if the *dynamic effects* should go the wrong way.

Mr. Nicholas Kalder, the inventor of Selective Employment Tax, fears that Great Britain could become the Northern Ireland of Europe. In a pertinent article in the "New Statesman" of 12th March he notes that British productivity has improved at a much slower pace than elsewhere in Western Europe and that this has a cumulative effect helping developing countries to grow yet faster and impeding the progress of the stragglers. Mr. Kaldor reckons that the British will have to accept a diminution of 10 per cent of their real income if these *dynamic effects* are to work in the right direction. Enough to give the Prime Minister many sleepless nights.

(PMB)

# SWISS NEWS

## ENVIRONMENT

A conference on the protection of nature took place recently at Radolfszell. Some of the participants gathered that a massive derivation of the waters of Lake Bodensee into Germany had been decided officially and rumours to that effect soon began to spread.

This called for a statement by the Federal Department of Transport and Communications. They reassured all nature lovers that nothing had been decided on eventual hydraulic works on the Bodensee, namely on a regularisation of its level. This point has been topical for many years and a decision will almost certainly be taken in the coming decade to build a regularising dam protecting the borders of the lake and the Rhine from the inconvenience of floods and low waters.

But these works, reassured the Department of Transport and Communications, would not be undertaken before the publication of a detailed report by a team of experts. They would make sure that any eventual regularising works would not in any way change the quality of the water of the Bodensee or have negative environmental consequences. This report is expected to be ready in 1972.

The experts involved with it have been appointed by the International Commission for the Protection of the Bodensee, a body with representatives from Switzerland, Germany and Austria. All decisions on the regularisation of the lake would be taken in common by the three countries. Another point which troubled the conference at Radolfzell was the possibility of Germany tapping off considerable quantities of water from the Bodensee for industrial purposes.

The Department answered that Germany had indeed announced that it envisaged pumping 20 cubic metres per second of water from the Bodensee at some time in the future. This project would help to raise the low-water levels of the river Neckar and feed the region with drinking and industrial water. However, works of this importance would not be undertaken without prior consultation with the countries bordering the lake and a proper expertise on their possible effects.

### A PIPELINE TO BE BUILT ACROSS SWITZERLAND

An Italian gas company based in Milan which converted its option to buy Dutch natural gas has been negotiating with Swiss gas distribution companies and the federal authorities to build a wide gas pipeline across Switzerland.

The Swiss Government has given its approval to the project and a company will be set up to build the pipeline and provisions formed for the necessary expropriations. Aside from a wish to co-operate with neighbouring countries, the reasons which motivated the Swiss Government into giving its consent were the fact that the laying down of a pipeline would be harmless to the environment and, especially, the recognition of the importance of natural gas as a source of energy.

A contract has been signed whereby Switzerland will have the right to tap 500 million cubic metres of natural gas annually from the pipeline on the same terms as the Italians, who are to receive a tenfold volume of gas.

(ATS)

### BASLE MAY HAVE AN INTER-CONTINENTAL AIRPORT

A Commission of the Great Council of Basle specially created to study the problems of an eventual airport for Basle has recommended that such a project should be carried out.

Considering that the airport of Basle-Mulhouse had definitely been inscribed in a federal air transport policy and that both the Canton and the Confederation had already spent 122 million francs in modernising it, the Commission agreed that it was time to recommend an estimated expenditure of 26 million francs to cover the cost of extending the main runway to 4,000 metres. The airport would thus be able to fulfil all the requirements of a modern inter-continental airport.

Many considerations had been weighed and expanded during the twelve sessions of the Commission, not least those of pollution and noise. But it was felt that the growing importance of air transport as a means of communication no longer reserved for an elite, as well as the privileged position of Basle justified the development of the Basle-Mulhouse airport. If the people of Basle accept these proposals, Switzerland will have three fully-fledged international (and maybe inter-continental) airports.

Many critics have asked why Switzerland should have three such airports when countries like Holland and Belgium only have one. One reason is that a decentralisation of air transportation is the best solution in the Swiss context, and the other is that air traffic to and from Switzerland is considerably greater than in these countries.

Another important event concerning the airline world was the 40th anniversary celebrations of Swissair. This prosperous airline was founded on 26th March, 1931, being the merger of two former airlines, "Ad Astra" and "Balair". It started with a capital of a million francs and 13 aircraft with a total seating capacity of 86 passengers. Swissair became a national company in 1947, when the State took a 30 per cent share of its 20 million francs capital. This share has remained approximate-

ly the same now that the capital has grown to 335 million francs. The company employs 13,150 people and serves 75 cities in 55 countries.

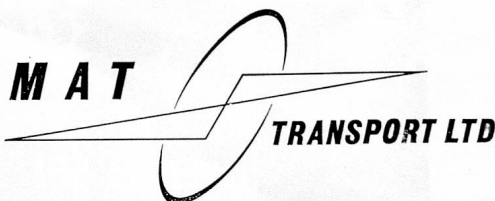
### TO COMBAT INFLATION

The monthly bulletin of the Union Bank of Switzerland and the Chairman of the 63rd General Meeting of the National Bank both laid a certain amount of responsibility for the present state of inflation in the Swiss economy on an excess of public expenditure.

90 per cent of a total investment of 17.2 million francs in 1969 were made by the communes and the cantons. This total had increased by 50 per cent since 1964. The UBS bulletin revealed that public expenditure was not balanced. This served to sustain the present boom in the building industry and generate business in the private sector. It was possibly a situation welcomed by private business, but had the effect of overstraining the economy.

Both the UBS monthly bulletin and the Chairman of the National Bank, Mr. E. Stopper, maintained that the accounts of the state should be balanced at a time when the economy was getting out of hand. The public income should show a profit. The state should refrain from spending this profit and circulating its monetary mass in the economy. The situation in Switzerland today was such that many investments in communications and social equipment could be postponed until such a time as they could be undertaken without overburdening the economy.

However, monetary restrictions were not a cure in themselves against the growing inflation hitting Switzerland and other countries of the West. The main single factor producing inflation was wage demands. Mr. Stopper said that conditions should be examined in Switzerland to prevent wage claims from degenerating into a struggle for an excessive share of the national income, leading to a decrease in the general standard of living.



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## THE SCHMID REPORT

The problem of adapting our national defence to the exigencies of modern warfare has been the object of many reports and of much thinking by policy makers and strategists in the past. The most recent, and perhaps most important piece of research to be published in this field was a 155-stage report drafted by 22 specialists working under the direction of Professor Karl Schmid of Zurich University. The report was presented to parliamentary press correspondents by Mr. Rudolf Gnägi, President of the Confederation and found general approval and praise.

This work is entitled "The foundations of a strategic conception of Switzerland". Its aims are expressed in the title. They are to lay down the data and the basic facts upon which the future strategy of the country is to be built. The report does not therefore give the ready answers, but serves as a basis on which to elaborate them.

In order to understand what Swiss strategy should be, it is necessary to understand what the term means for Switzerland in the second half of the 20th century. It is thus necessary to study the foreign political scene, as strategy and defence are allied to politics, and see how Switzerland's own solution to the problem can be adapted to these data.

The aims of Swiss strategy can only be clearly defined once the aims of Switzerland as a political entity have themselves been defined. This is what the Schmid Report sets out to do. It makes the observation that strategy, understood as a means of national assertion by the great powers, does not only rely upon weapons but also upon political, financial and psychological means. Switzerland's strategy must be entirely geared to the preservation of a national heritage and way of life: it is therefore basically defensive.

This having been established, the Report shows that national defence must call on all the resources of the nations—which means more than purely military resources—and vindicates once again the concept of "total defence" which came into fashion three years ago.

The practical aspects of what this total defence should be are described at length and the Report gives a practical representation of this strategic and political concept.

Having placed Switzerland and its strategy against the outside world, the Schmid Report confronts this same strategy with the Swiss people. Indeed, the Report asks: Who are the men to carry out Swiss strategy? How can a modern defence policy tally with the institutions of a country, and especially a changing mentality? The Report notes that the belief in national defence is dwindling among intellectuals and is not blind to the new face of youth and the hippy phenomenon.

All national strategy will be found

ded on men willing to abide by certain rules and the Report notes that "Swiss order" is decreasing, although less dramatically so than in other western countries.

The Swiss political context is also brought up and the Report underlines the basic differences between a direct democracy, in which authority springs from the people, and defence, in which authority must proceed from a handful of specialists, down "from above" to the people. This necessarily entailed the problem of informing the people of ensuring their co-operation.

## SWISS JOURNALISTS REFUSED A RISE

The central committee of the Swiss Press Association was displeased to learn that the employers, the Association of Swiss Newspaper Publishers, had flatly refused to grant journalists the 15% increase in real salary that they had demanded. The journalists found this attitude to be all the more unfair as increases had been awarded to technical staff. They had not received an increase since 1965 and consider having given ample notice to their employers. The reason put forward by the latter for their refusal to satisfy them was that newspapers could ill afford to satisfy the journalists' demand. (ATS)

## PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS FOR THE THIRD WORLD

The two chambers have recently given the Federal Council the authorisation to lift certain protective tariffs on goods imported from the third world. These reductions will benefit, in a first stage, semi-manufactured goods and may, at a later stage, cover agricultural goods as well.

They will initially imply a loss of customs revenue of about 10 million francs. If all Swiss imports from the developing countries (excepting petrol) were to enjoy total exemption from duty, the loss in customs revenue would totalise about 26 million francs a year. This is a small sum in comparison with the billions of yearly imports, but will nevertheless help developing countries in exporting more towards Switzerland and encourage them to diversify their exports.

It is a well known fact that their national revenue rely in many cases almost solely on the exports of certain basic agricultural commodities whose price on the world market fluctuate from year to year, thus preventing these countries from a guaranteed revenue and dragging them into increased indebtedness. A fifth of Swiss exports are directed towards the third world, whereas a tenth only of her imports come from them. Switzerland has al-

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ready joined international agreements tending to stabilise the price of cereals and cocoa. But this unilateral venture will be in keeping with other similar commercial agreements. The European Community, for example, has exempted all imports from the third world from customs duties, when they do not exceed a given level.

### CLUBS FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE

The church weekly "La Vie Protestante" had a feature on the growing number of clubs for elderly people in the cantons of Geneva and Vaud. Ten years ago, there were no such clubs. The only events organised for the aged were reunions organised by their former unions three or four times a year and church get-togethers and annual outings.

The first club specifically for old people in Lausanne, the "Club de Chauderon", had an immediate success. All retired persons who were interested could join, meet each other, play cards and talk with each other mornings and afternoons. Now all the important parishes have their own club for the aged and the frequency of their meetings have been intensified to once a week.

Their activities are varied. Gymnastics, bowling and outings are regular possibilities. The church authorities responsible for this fortunate development are now seeking to include in these activities ecumenical gatherings, film shows, co-operation with other parishes and the younger generations. But it has proved necessary to co-ordinate the efforts of the various parishes involved in this generous drive to make the life of the aged in our society less lonely and more bearable. A new secretariat has been created in Lausanne with this in view.

Many communes are interested in the movement and are ready to give their support. There is, however, a constant danger which the organisers are determined to avert. It is that when a group of old people is established, it should get closed upon itself and constitute a kind of "ghetto" outside of any social, economic or political reality. Various possibilities are open to prevent this isolation. One is to launch a public debate on the problems of old age and involve the aged, even if they are as old as 80, to be involved in their own fate and take an active interest in the problems concerning them. This is really to induce old people's participation in the institutions being set up in their favour. Another way for them to break from the "ghetto" is to be given the chance to meet younger people.

The parish of Vennes, for example, has organised a New Year camp in which both young and old took part. The Migros and the Co-op are said to be contributing to this effort. Two ecumenical gatherings took place in the old peoples' home of Balaigus. Their

object was to encourage its elderly inmates to practise work therapy and to develop the art of leisure. One positive outcome of the exchanges was that stronger ties have been created with the population of the neighbouring village.

Indeed, a prime objective of those who have the welfare of old people at heart is to inform the public of their condition, more particularly of the kind of existence they sometimes have to lead in old people's homes. Their aim is to pull their inmates out of isolation and passivity, but this naturally requires the co-operation of an understanding public. Youth animators working in youth centres should have their counterparts in old people's clubs.

The promoters of these clubs believe that the time has come to employ full time and qualified "old people's animators". They should ensure the co-ordination of the activities of the various clubs. They should stimulate these groups and supply new ideas to keep them moving.

(*La Vie Protestante*)

### THE NEW "B DIRECTORY" CONSIDERED UNUSABLE

The publication of a new professional telephone directory in Vaud has given rise to much criticism. The Chamber of Commerce of the Canton of Vaud has made an enquiry among its members to see what they thought of this so-called "B Directory".

The first question was: Is the professional directory useful to you? 85 per cent of the answers were negative. What are the reasons for this? 69 per cent of the firms interviewed said that the directory was plainly unusable, 59 per cent said that it was incomplete, and for 44 per cent it was inaccurate. Was it possible to improve the directory in order to make it a useful tool? 47 per cent of firms answered no, 42 per cent yes, and the remainder had no opinion.

The general complaint is that the professional directory has a bad presentation, it lacks in clarity, there is too much badly-placed publicity and localities are badly indicated.

(*ATS*)

### THE TEETHING TROUBLES OF A NEW RESORT

The resort of Gruyères-Molésion-Vudalla (GMV) in Fribourg has been built, like Anzère and Avorriaz, entirely from scratch by a private company which had mustered 20 million francs to invest in winter sports. But unlike many other new resorts, the "GMV Company" received help from the commune of Gruyère, which placed a hundred hectares of communal pastures at the disposal of the planned resort and saved it the burden of speculative costs.

However, 20 million francs were not enough for it to "hold out" in its beginnings, especially in a period of inflation where every estimate was surpassed by rising costs. The investors,

who had planned a speedy return on their money, were forced to wait a few more years to see the colour of it again and the GMV Company was forced to solve its cash problems by appealing to the State Bank of Fribourg and the Fribourg Electricity Company. The four restaurants of the resort had been forced into bankruptcy (a necessary surgical intervention, according to the Chairman of GMV) and were not included in the salvage. They will be operated until they find new buyers.

Despite the financial difficulties of this privately sponsored resort, it is having plenty of success among skiers from Fribourg and Lausanne. It is situated above the village of Moléson in beautiful and virgin surroundings. It is planned to have 3,000 beds and already has 250. The shortage of funds have moderated the ambitions of its architects but will not prevent the resort of Moléson from being the most important ski centre of the Fribourg Alps.

### A JAMES BOND STORY

Mr. William Taub, a 54-year-old American business lawyer and former collaborator of President Nixon, arrived at Cointrin Airport on a regular flight from New York at 2.30 p.m.

Two men were waiting for him. They were vague business acquaintances. One of them asked Mr. Taub whether he wouldn't enjoy a ride to Divonne Les Bains and visit the neighbouring countryside. Mr. Taub accepted and took place on the front passenger seat of the car and they left for Divonne. Just before arriving at the resort the driver changed his mind and proposed to make an excursion up in the Jura. He turned towards the Faucille Pass and climbed in the mountain.

Suddenly, the man behind Mr. Taub struck him on the head and tried to strangle him. Mr. Taub was found dumped unconscious on a forest path a hundred yards from the French Route Nationale 5. He has since recovered enough to lodge complaints against his aggressors, whom he cannot name as he only knows them vaguely through the business world.

The police are therefore at a loss to crack this mystery, which must obviously be connected with business. Mr. Taub tangled with millions and it is probable that he was the victim of a "settlement of account".

The French customs have found three watches and jewels of value on him and have deferred him to the court of Bourg en Bresse. He was granted bail with a caution of 1,000 dollars. Interpol are bent on his case. They say that the enquiry will be very delicate because, in the words of a French policeman on the case, "financial circles are worse than drug circles".

### THE JACCOUD TRIAL REVISED

On 29th November, 1965, the Court of Appeal of Geneva accepted to open an enquiry with a view to revise the judgment passed on the Geneva lawyer Pierre Jaccoud, who was accused in February 1960 with the murder of the male friend of his mistress. Five years have elapsed and new elements have slowly come to light.

The enquiry ordered by the Court of Appeal, prior to Jaccoud's eventual re-trial, was to involve the interview of 22 witnesses with evidence on the possible authors of the crime, 3 witnesses who could testify on Jaccoud's whereabouts on the night it was committed and three medical experts. The hearing of witnesses took place between June 1966 and May 1967 but the dossier is not yet sufficiently complete to warrant a retrial.

Among the new elements which may come to the aid of Jaccoud were the testimonies of a secretary and a Swiss who had lived in France and Algeria. The secretary, who was working for Jaccoud at the time of the crime, claimed that her former boss had spoken about his hand wound many days before the Plan-les-Outes crime, explaining that he had fallen down a staircase. Other witnesses were ready to corroborate this statement. (This wound on Jaccoud's hand was part of the evidence which helped to convict him, since it was alleged that it had been made in repairing the bicycle which he was believed to have used to reach his victim).

The other testimony comes from a Swiss abroad who had overheard in a Marseilles bar, men saying that Jaccoud's victim, M. Zumbach, had tangled in political activities and been involved with the Algerian Liberation Front. The impression derived from this mysterious eavesdropping was that Zumbach's murder had been a political and disconnected from Jaccoud's sentimental life.

This witness has, however, not yet been officially heard and the enquirers are at pains to understand why Jaccoud, who received the letter from him in 1966, only submitted it to the Court of Appeal in early 1969. There have also been difficulties in getting the experts to testify. One of them has since died, the other has been rejected by Jaccoud as incompetent and the third is only willing to speak on the points raised at the trial in 1960.

The anonymous Swiss abroad will have to be interviewed and more testimony gathered from the witnesses defending Jaccoud's alibi before the Court of Appeal decide there is ground for a retrial. His case appears, however, to have been more or less forgotten by the Geneva public and the law court was almost empty when it was brought up recently. Pierre Jaccoud was represented by his lawyers and his health is said to be declining. (*La Suisse*)

### INCIDENT AT THE LUCERNE INTERNATIONAL BOXING CONTEST

A highly successful junior boxing competition took place in Lucerne. There were boxing teams from all over Europe and the winners, on points, were the Germans. The Swiss and the Italian boxing blues also won trophies in the finals.

The match was troubled by an incident in which a frail and somewhat under-developed Austrian youngster of 13 was selected for the competition without the consent of the organisers. Only boys of above 15 were authorised to take part in such a boxing competition. This incident raised considerable comment and the Austrian team organisers fell under heavy criticism. It turned out fortunately that the young lad's opponent, an Italian, refused to take advantage of the situation and boxed with generosity. He was applauded by his Lucerne public.

### DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE CO-OP

The Swiss co-operative group of stores (*Lebensmittelverein*) counts 276 societies, 25 distributing centres and 25 special organisations such as banks, factories and insurance companies. It is also a movement with nearly 900,000 members (one Swiss family in two) and 33,000 employees, 70 per cent of whom are women.

The turnover of the group was 3.4 billion francs in 1970, an increase of 8.1 per cent with respect to the previous year. Nearly two thirds of the volume of sales was attributable to the retail business. The co-operative societies accounted for 8.7 per cent of the total retail sales in Switzerland (31.5 billion francs).

Four of the largest Co-op societies, those of Basle, Zurich, Geneva and Berne, realised 40 per cent of total sales. The Co-op shops in Lucerne, Geneva and Basle have shown the greatest increase in their business. The Co-operative Society of Lausanne has not done so well and suffered a loss of 2 per cent in sales. This was partly due to the closure of 12 shops and to the appearance of a new competitor, the Carrefour supermarket at Romanel, which has achieved a turnover of 44 million francs in the first six months of its existence.

The total sales surface of the stores of the Co-op group has increased. This was solely due to the opening of a few large supermarkets, the most important of which was the "City" at Aarau. The pace of reorganisation of the group has been maintained and no less than 195 traditional shops and 80 small self-service stores have had to be closed down.

More shops will be closed down this year and the aim of the Co-operative group is to attain a turnover in



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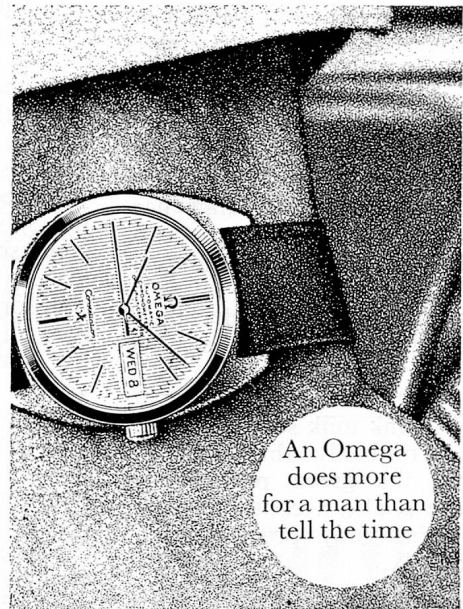
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retail goods of 3 billion francs, to reduce the number of societies to 200 and therefore to enforce about 80 mergers during 1971. There will be a drive to establish fixed prices and to abandon the traditional system of Co-op refund stamps. The management of the Co-op also plans to generalise a system of employee participation which has proved highly efficient in Geneva. The experiments proved that labour turnover was reduced by half in two years.

### RECORD WINE HARVEST IN THE VALAIS

The wine growers of the Valais can look back on an unprecedented wine harvest. The 1970 vintage was expected to be, quantitatively, of 45 million litres. It turned out to be 57.5 million litres. Of this alluvial quantity of new wine, 31.5 million litres was Fendant, followed by 12.1 litres of Dôle, 6.4 litres of Johannisberg and 5.6 million litres of Goron. These results contrasted sharply with the harvest of the preceding year, which were of 32.7 million litres.

1970 was also a good year as far as fruits and tomatoes were concerned, although the pick was slightly smaller than in 1969 and 1968. There were no problems of distribution apart from difficulties with the tomato crop. The cold winter had delayed the ripening of Ticino tomatoes and the warm spring had advanced the Valais harvest, with the result that both crops were spread on the market at the same time.

A sure reflection on the decline of mountain agriculture, the Valais had to increase its imports of milk by a third last year. Tourists at Zermatt and Verbier drink milk sent over from Berne, and probably think that it comes from the green pastures up above. There is also a continuing tendency to drink only processed and pasteurised milk.

### THE REVOLT OF THE SHOPKEEPERS OF BULLE

The shopkeepers of Bulle, the second largest town of Fribourg, decided to remain open on Good Friday, although this went against the law.

This was a collective protest against the Federal laws on work and against the injustice which permits neighbouring Chatel Saint-Denis to keep its shops open on Good Friday. This is because Chatel Saint-Denis and the surrounding villages of La Gruyère are considered to be "touristic" and do not therefore fall under the general prohibition of opening shop on Good Friday, which is a national bank holiday. The Department of Industry and Commerce sent a curt warning saying that: "The laws and regulations in force are to be respected, however imperfect they may be, and we should like to bring to the attention of those who would be tempted to ignore them that they will fall under the penal provisions of the Federal law on work of

1964".

This stern statement was enough to break the resistance of the 80 shopkeepers of Bulle. The Prefect of La Gruyère sent policemen into each of the 80 shops to carry (with a smile) the warning of impending fines. The shopkeepers were, in fact, insufficiently organised and firm to offer resistance to such official intransigence and decided to remain on the side of the law.

But they intend pursuing their campaign to keep the shops of Bulle opened on Good Friday. Bulle is in the heart of the Gruyère region and must therefore, they believe, be considered as a tourist centre. They are not prepared to lose the good business of Good Friday to the neighbouring towns anymore.

### ARTISTIC EVENTS

After an absence of several years, Wagner's "Parsifal" has come again to the Zurich Opera. The cast, according to the critics, is first class. Sven Olov Eliasson gives "credibility" to the personage of Parsifal through his vocal qualities and physique.

The artists impersonating Gurnemann, Amfortas and Kundry are all very good and Ferdinand Leitner conducts the singers and the orchestra with a meticulous respect for the nuances intended by Wagner. The weak point of the production lies in the sets. They are shadowy and of greenish hue and the spectator who tries to pierce their mysterious darkness for five hours begins to believe he is in an aquarium.

"Parsifal" is linked to Zurich's artistic history because it was during his stay in Zurich, when he was the guest of the Wesendonk family in the villa which is the actual Rietberg Museum, that Wagner wrote his great opera. It was also in Zurich that "Parsifal" was shown for the first time outside Bayreuth in 1913. This première excited interest across Europe and it became customary for the Zurich Opera to produce "Parsifal" at Easter. The last production was musically directed by Christian Vöchting. His style, say the critics, was both more fervent and romantic than Leitner's.

Another important stage event in Zurich is the Swiss première at the Schauspielhaus of Durrenmatt's "Portrait of a Planet". The success of the play is very moderate, despite an excellent cast and the personal staging of Durrenmatt. The play had been shown in Dusseldorf with little success. It is a series of 24 sketches on the Planet Earth on the eve of a gigantic stellar explosion which destroys humanity. These scenes are partly humorous, partly tragic, some of them are plain and even vulgar. They cover the miseries of today's world—racism, hunger, torture, generation gap, Vietnam—and tend to be a catalogue tinged with irony.

The Grand Theatre in Geneva has included Kenneth Tynan's "Oh Calcutta" in its programme next season. The cast will be Swiss, musical direction will be undertaken by the present leader of the Orchester de La Suisse Romande, Wolfgang Sawallisch, and the proceeds of this Swiss première will go to the Blue Cross Society.

An exhibition of the works of 42 Swiss artists has been staged in New York under the auspices of Pro Helvetia. It has not escaped the criticism of commentators in French-speaking Switzerland, who thought that with only two French-speaking artists and one Ticinese the exhibition was not a fair representation of Swiss Art. Furthermore they thought that the description of the exhibition ("The Swiss Avant-Garde") was misleading because some of the exhibited works were conventional. Pro Helvetia had planned to give the exhibition the faceless title of "42 Artists from Switzerland", but the curator of the New York Museum where the paintings were on show preferred the "Avant-Garde" description because it was one of a series of national "avant-garde" exhibitions he had been organising.

*(I have learned lately from Swiss people visiting London that both "Oh Calcutta" and "Hair" had been banned in Switzerland.)*

### WHAT STRAVINSKY OWED TO HIS STAY IN SWITZERLAND

Igor Stravinsky arrived in Clarens, Vaud, in 1910 and remained in Switzerland during the whole of the first world war. He first lived intermittently near to the "Hotel Continental", where Tchaikovsky had composed a violin concerto in 1878. He then settled in the villa "La Pervenche" at Clarens, and later moved on to Morges, where he was domiciled until 1920. He then went to live in Paris, where he stayed until 1939, before settling down definitely in America. At Morges he discovered that one of his neighbours was the Polish composer Ignacy Paderewski. Their styles were very dissimilar and a rather disgruntled Paderewski used to say: "Stravinski and I both live on the shores of the same lake, but we don't drink the same water!"

Stravinsky's Swiss period was probably the most fruitful of his life. He had just acquired a name for himself by composing "Firebird" for the Russian impresario Serge Diaghilev (in 1909) before coming to Clarens. At Clarens he composed "Petrouchka", he completed his superb "Rite of Spring", he composed the second and third acts of the "Nightingale" as well as many secondary works.

His Morges period is sometimes called his "Ramuzian Period", because it was during these years that he was to co-operate with the great Vaudois writer C. F. Ramuz and be

bound to him by a deep friendship. With Ramuz he worked on the French version of the "Wedding", the "Fox" and "Russian Songs". Both created the "Story of the Soldier", which was produced for the first time at the municipal theatre of Lausanne on 28th September, 1918. Other works composed in Morges were "Pulcinella" (1919), the "Nightingale Song" (1917), "Rag-Time" (1918), "Piano Rag Music" (1919) and "Three works for Clarinette" (1919).

During his stay in Switzerland Stravinsky met and was accepted by the intellectuals of the "Cahiers Vaudois". This group of French-speaking Swiss creators who had set themselves the task of resuscitating Swiss arts included, besides Ramuz, the conductor Ernest Ansermet, the painter Auberjonois, the playwright Fernand Chavannes and some others. Ansermet later wrote that Stravinsky's presence among the "Cahiers Vaudois" group had been immensely beneficial. "He had expanded the horizons of this small circle of artists surviving in a creatively stifling and restricted atmosphere".

On the other hand, Ansermet believed that Stravinsky greatly profited by the influence of Ramuz, and that the music which he subsequently wrote never radiated the sensuous intuition of his Swiss works. After having left Switzerland, Stravinsky became increasingly concerned with the form rather than with the context of his music. It was naturally difficult, wrote Ansermet, for Ramuz to follow him on this path.

### "LITTLE RED SCHOOL BOOK"

*We wrote in the issue of March 26th about a new "Little Red Book" and the upsurge that its distribution had caused among Swiss parents and educationalists. We were unaware of its appearance in Great Britain before reading this indignant letter to the "Times" of April 13th, which we here reproduce:*

Sir, As your readers will know, police have seized the publisher's stock of "The Little Red School Book", while the D.P.P. decides whether to prosecute. While the D.P.P. clearly does not require thousands of copies to make his decision, and there is at present no judicial process at work, this police action is entirely unjustifiable.

For an indefinite period, at the discretion of the police, sales of this book will be frozen—a serious matter for a small publisher. More seriously still, by their action the police have permanently damaged the book's reputation. The D.P.P. may decide to take no action, but numerous parents and teachers will conclude that the book is obscene.

This harassment, amounting in effect to censorship by the police, is a development that all of us in the publishing community would do well to nip in the bud. To some extent this practice has been tolerated in the past, perhaps from reluctance to defend books or journals which are near to some borderline of legality, perhaps from a feeling that a branding of a book as obscene may in many cases be

exactly the publicity the publisher is seeking. This compensating factor does not apply in this instance, where we are concerned with a book whose brief chapter on sex contains nothing not to be found in countless books and articles.

The observation that this is not, by any stretch of the most active imagination, an obscene work is entirely in place, as the matter is anything but sub judice.

Yours etc.,

M. W. EVE, Director, The Merlin Press Ltd.

1 Fitzroy Square, W.1.

### THE FRAUENKNECHT TRIAL

Mr. Alfred Frauenknecht, a 45 year old former Sulzer engineer and one of the leading Swiss authorities on reactors, faced charges of military and economic espionage before the Federal Court at Lausanne. He was defended by two top lawyers, Mr. Manfred Kuhn and Mr. M. E. Bucher.

The charges levelled against him related to both the Military and Penal Code. Mr. Frauenknecht was accused of having broken the Articles of the Swiss Military Code on defence secrets, and his crime, under the terms of this Act, was to have endangered the security of the country. He was also accused of having violated the Penal Code in giving away economic secrets.

At the time of writing, the verdict had not yet been made. But it appeared from the first day of the hearing that Mr. Frauenknecht had solid arguments for his defence.



# Swiss Life

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He was arrested on 23rd September, 1969 and found guilty of having sold more than 200,000 blueprints on the "Atar 9" jet reactor which powers the Swiss-built Mirages to Israel for the generous settlement of 860,000 francs. This earned Frauenknecht the reputation of being the best-paid spy of Swiss history. The "Atar 9" reactor was built under licence by Sulzer, Israel, which badly needed spares on its vital Mirages since the French embargo, was prepared to bid very high for the blueprints.

Frauenknecht recognised that he had broken the letter of the law, but strongly denied that he has either endangered Swiss security or committed any kind of relevant economic espionage against his employer. The blueprints of the Mirage reactor would have been handed over by France to the Israelis anyway, he claimed, had it not been for the French embargo. The Israelis could just as well have dismantled the engines in order to have the information to build them themselves. By receiving the blueprints they were only saving time. Another point put forward by Frauenknecht's lawyers was a letter sent by Sulzer to the Licensor SNECMA saying that the "Atar 9" documents were no longer classified and could have a restricted distribution. The only information that remained classified was the know-how on the Mirage turbine blades.

Frauenknecht also denied having prejudiced his firm economically. He said that Sulzer had not amended the "Atar 9" or brought new technology into it, which meant that he had not divulged any trade secrets. He was asked why he had accepted 860,000 francs. Frauenknecht said that he had taken the money as nothing more than a "risk premium". He was earning 60,000 francs a year and was not motivated by lucre. He claimed that he could have asked for 10 million francs, if money had been his real motive, and that the Israelis would have accepted to pay.

He was demonstrably indignant when the Judge asked him whether he would have done the same thing for the same money if the Arabs had offered him a deal. Frauenknecht showed genuine concern for Israel and his defenders sought to prove the idealistic nature of what, according to the letter of the law, was the most serious case of espionage in Switzerland since the war. However, the actual consequences of his crime were not so clear-cut, as far as Switzerland was concerned, and some reporters said on the first day of his trial: "Frauenknecht is guilty! But of what?". The Israelis probably had similar feelings but were remarkably silent about the trial.

## DEATH OF A NATIONAL COUNCILLOR

Mr. Pierre Freymond, a well known lawyer and politician in the Canton of Vaud, died of a heart attack at the age of 50.

This sudden death of a man in his prime surprised all his political friends, who were present in force at his funeral at Duillier-sur-Nyon, Vaud. Among them were the National Councillors G. A. Chevallaz from Vaud, Emile Schaffer from Berne, the Councillors of State Eric Choisy from Geneva and Paul Torche from Fribourg, as well as strong representations from the Radical Party and the Diplomatic Corps. Pierre Freymond was born in Yverdon in 1921. He studied law in Lausanne, Basle, Paris and Cambridge and, after having worked for a while at the international court of La Haye, settled down in Lausanne.

He became a successful business lawyer and represented the Royal Family of Spain and the Shell company. But he had been interested in politics very early on and became the most prominent figure of the Radical Party of Vaud. Having climbed through the various stages of political ascension by being a Municipal Councillor, a delegate at the Great Council and a reporter for the Great Council, he was elected to the National Council in 1967. His most likely successor will be Mr. Maurice Cossy of Saint Saphorin, whom Mr. Freymond had beaten in the 1967 elections.

## OTHER NEWS

The Geneva football team Servette met Lugano before 37,000 spectators in the Wankdorf Stadium in Berne for the Swiss Cup Final. Servette won 2-0 thanks to the services of their costly German international Doerfel. It was the third Cup Final victory by Servette in fifty years of cup history.

The Swiss of France are holding their 13th Congress in Marseilles on the 24th and 25th of April. This will be an opportunity for the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in France to stage a Swiss Fortnight in Marseilles and the south-east of France. The Consular district of Marseilles was created in

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Frauenknecht's involvement with Israel began with the visit to the Sulzer works of an Israeli delegation led by a certain Colonel Kahn. This military saw the development on the Mirages and had the good idea of approaching Alfred Frauenknecht. It took many secret encounters with Israeli officials before Frauenknecht, who was sympathetic to their cause, gradually nicked the documents on the manufactured reactors and crated them to Israel. These documents were destined to be destroyed but Frauenknecht managed to substitute them by worthless old papers with the help of two accomplices, one of whom appeared with him before the Federal Tribunal, the other being still at large in Germany.

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1789 and is one of the oldest in France. The Swiss are particularly active in this city.

Imitating their French comrades, whose Lycée Revolution has been upsetting France, the schoolchildren of the secondary school "Le Belvédère" in Lausanne staged a massive demonstration to protest against the sacking of one of their teachers. The authorities relented and the man was reinstated in another school of the town.

In a message sent to the International Centre for the Rehabilitation of Political Exiles in Scheffnau, Germany, the Swiss Christian Democrat Party has supported the candidature of the Swiss Consul Chares Lutz for the Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Lutz, who now lives in Berne, was in Budapest in 1944. He managed to oppose the design of the *Obersturmbannführer* Adolf Eichmann and save the lives of 50,000 Jews.

The first conference of "French-speaking ethnical minorities" was held in the third week of April in Geneva. It was organised by the Rassemblement Jurassien, who were the real cornerstone, and the French-speaking Belgians and Vaudois of Italy. According to the official communique, the meeting was highly successful and a second one was planned to take place in Liège, Belgium, in the spring of 1973.

The Editor of the "Swiss-American Journal" published in New York, Mr. Franz Xavier Amrein, died at the age of 71. He was found dead, bent over his typewriter in his apartment.



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Swiss Consulate,  
Sunley Building, 18th Floor,  
Piccadilly Plaza,  
MANCHESTER (Tel. 236-2933).

# NEWS FROM THE LAND

(by courtesy of SNT0)

## A city of small theatres

In Berne anyone will easily find his way to the City Theatre which offers a diversified repertory of opera, operetta, ballet and plays. But it is also tempting to stroll through the centre of the city and to discover one or the other of the numerous smaller theatres. In any case it should be fun to look around and come upon one of the following "off-Broadway" stages: the "Atelier-Theatre" (Workshop Theatre), the "Keller-Theatre" (Cellar Theatre), the "Theatre am Käfigturm" (Theatre at the Cage Tower), the "Kleintheatre" (Small Theatre), "Die Rampe" (The Ramp), the "Theatre am Zytglogge" (Theatre at the Clocktower), the "Katakömbli" (The Little Catacomb) and the Puppet Theatre. They occasionally offer entirely new programmes that radiate their own charm or even are of literary value. Theatrical art can flourish even in a basement!

## New highlight in the Alpine village of Arosa

The Hotel Tschuggen, a luxury hotel nestling against the southern slope of the popular skiing mountain after which it is named, has been reopened at the beginning of the winter sports' season of 1970/71. The impressive new building dominates the village scenery. Located at an altitude of 1,850 metres (6,610 feet) above sea level facing the sun, this hotel tries to follow the old Swiss tradition according to which the guest is king. In spite of a general shortage of help, there are 180 employees catering for 208 guests. The hotel is equipped with all modern

amenities, from an indoor swimming pool to a roof garden restaurant, all designed to make a stay here a pleasant experience. Including this new hotel, Arosa, one of the most popular mountain resorts in the canton of Graubünden (Grisons) offers its visitors 68 hotels and boarding houses with more than 4,200 beds.

## The "Titlis Express" of the Lucerne-Stans-Engelberg Railroad

From January 31 to March 28, 1971 the Lucerne-Stans-Engelberg Railroad added on Sundays a special rapid train from Lucerne to Engelberg, called the "Titlis Express". This train leaves Lucerne at 8.09 a.m. and Engelberg at 5.25 p.m. Thus it provides a connection with the "Innerschwyz" (Central Swiss) Sports Train from Basle to Göschenen. In the evening this special train is reserved for holders of sports tickets.

## Lenin's hair was too short . . .

According to local gossip, two revolutionaries called Lenin and Trotsky were once denied admission to Zurich's most famous literary cafe, the Odéon, because "their hair was cut much too short". More than five decades later, one has tried in vain to keep "longhairs" out of this place of informal meetings. They have "occupied" the same marbletop tables where once upon a time celebrities of such different calibre as Mata Hari, Toscanini, Franz Lehar and James Joyce are said to have sat, meditated or chatted. In order to lure back some of the real literary people and introverted reading men who had apparently stopped patronising it, the famous cafe has created a new room shortly before its sixtieth anniversary. It is one flight up and the romantic art nouveau period

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