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ture on opera. "Why should the tax payer pay for something which nobody wanted to go to?" was his reaction, and doubtless one shared by millions of people. The people of Basle behaved otherwise some years ago, when they voted to spend considerable funds in enriching the arts museum with five Picasso paintings. In the event, an ingratiated Picasso offered them two more paintings free.

The fact remains that the artist is an outsider to community living. He may be paid officially for decorating the walls of a secondary school, but his work has no other meaning than to put aesthetics on a surface that would otherwise be blank. That decoration has no relation to the features of the city, to modern life and to the games of the children in the playground.

Samuel Eugster wants art to play a vital role in the life of the community. Like most artists he abhors the notion that art should just be "something to fill space agreeably". But this is unfortunately just what official art has to be in a capitalist society devoid of any ideological goal and where art is by-the-way.

(PMB)

SWISS NEWS

WHY PEOPLE WON'T GO TO THE POLLS

Geneva is reckoned to hold the world record for political abstention. Following two motions tabled to the Great Council of the canton in 1964, an official enquiry has been carried out on this civically distressing situation and yielded a 450-page document bristling with statistic and data.

It sets out to find out the underlying reasons to voting participations which can fall to as low as 10 per cent, and an average which is definitely the lowest in Switzerland. During the prosperous years of the beginning of the century, the people of Geneva were already prone to neglect their democratic duties. It was only during the years of the great depression and the politically unsettled times of the thirties that the situation tended to improve.

But after the war, the trend reversed and participation figures fell relentlessly, the trend being abetted by the mingling of populations and the introduction of women's votes. There is a natural correlation between prosperity and abstentionism, although not everything can be explained in terms of Switzerland's continuing economic boom. Other factors to be taken into account are the accelerated urbanisation and the increasing isolation of the individual. Life in the cities and in cramped tower blocks has dissolved the sense of belonging to a community. This is confirmed by the high voting participation to be found in Geneva's rural communes.

The report states the case of a vote in Jussy, where a 90 per cent attendance was not very far from the Soviet absolute. Voters in these communes have fewer electoral lists to choose from and are in human contact with their administrators. The citizen's political consciousness depends on the opportunities of human contact and dialogue. In a big town like Geneva communications between the electorate and the political class are broken.

Abstentionism is more a case of indifference than principle. Only 10 per cent of men and 25 per cent of women will not set foot in a voting office on principle, all the others are occasional poll dodgers. They will vote as soon as they are emotionally concerned with the issue put before them. The best example was the vote on the Schwarzenbach initiative last year which attracted 72.5 per cent of the Geneva electorate. Culture and class also have an incidence on voting participation. The residential district of Champel will usually show higher attendances than the working class areas of La Jonction and Les Acacias.

The report also showed that abstentionism was not a result of discontent. It was, on the contrary, when things were not as people wanted them to be that participation increased. The multiplicity of political parties didn't help the situation either. It tended to confuse the voter, to make him hesitate and thus to favour his tendency to abstain.

Having taken so much pain in tracing the causes of abstentionism in Geneva, the reporters could not have completed their work without giving the remedies. They prescribe more education, more social integration and more information on social matters. It is only through education that the future citizen can pick up the good habit of going regularly to the polls. Education should give him a sense of responsibility, both at work and at play.

Citizens should be more integrated socially, or feel that they belong to a community, by a new distribution of responsibility within local political life. The life of local societies (brass bands, gymnastics, choirs, sports, etc.) is primordial and should be encouraged, particularly by the Press. Finally, it should be the ambition of the Press to kindle public desire for more political contact and participation in community life.

A SIMPLIFIED FINING SYSTEM IN ZURICH

The Zurich police have simplified the fining procedure against offending drivers. Formerly, a person fined for a parking offence had to present himself at the police station and pay his fine personally. The new parking ticket will be composed of two halves, one indicating the nature of the offence and the

other, a postal order tear slip which can be conveniently mailed to the police. It will naturally still be possible for a driver to ask the police for a report.

(ATS)

HOW THE SWISS ARE INFORMED ON THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Federal Political Department and a number of development organisations asked the psychological institute of Zurich University to make a study of public attitudes towards developing countries.

The survey showed that indifference and especially scepticism towards these countries was widespread among the Swiss public. There was a correlation between attitudes towards home affairs and foreign affairs. Namely, those sections of the population with given opinions on the problem of foreign workers, the environment, the renewal of society, showed similarities in their judgment on the problems of the Third World.

Before holding their inter-denominational conference on "Switzerland and the Third World", the Churches of Switzerland, aware that this state of things was due to the cultural environment, asked the Institute of Journalism of Fribourg University to see how the Swiss Press covered the affairs of the Third World. The Institute studied the contents of dailies in German and French over a period of six weeks. They found that 27 per cent of the news covered was related to the Third World, but when wars and crises such as Vietnam and the Middle East were left out, there remained only eight per cent coverage.

The newspapers therefore gave information on immediate and sensational events, but left readers unaware of long term processes. So much news on wars, hijackings and coup d'etats coming from the developing countries helped to create a feeling of mistrust and scepticism among the public. It was beginning to take cliches from the Third World seriously without however being aware of the depth and magnitude of the problems giving rise to such agitation. It was suggested at the Inter-denominational Church Conference to open an information office on the Third World.

According to a survey by the Institute of Psychology of the University of Zurich, one Swiss in three thinks that Swiss aid to the Third World should be increased.

(ATS)

GABONESE DIPLOMATS TO THE RESCUE OF DR. SCHWEITZER'S WORK

To mark the opening of a new Switzerland-Gabon Swissair route, a number of official personalities from Gabon toured Switzerland and visited the representatives from the Commission concerned with the Lambarene Hospital. Dr. J. Isler, the President of this Commission and Dr. H. Hellstern oriented them. A Gabonese diplomat, Mr. Fanguinoveny, was among the delegation. He conveyed the very keen interest among his people for the maintenance and modernisation of the Lambarene Hospital to its Swiss sponsors. An International Association for the Albert Schweitzer Hospital at Lambarene had been formed in Libreville. As he explained, it was Mr. Fanguinoveny's father who had sold Albert Schweitzer the historical site of Lambarene 50 years ago.

(ATS)

BOATING WILL BE LIKE DRIVING

A motion introduced last year in the National Council by Mr. Baechtold, a Bernese National Councillor, has now been passed by the Council of States and will be taken under consideration by the Federal Council. The motion was to introduce legislation on all aspects of boating on Switzerland's lakes and rivers. There are currently 70,000 sailing ships, motor boats and rowing boats of all kind on Switzerland's waterways, and Mr. Baechtold feels that the time has come to impose on them the same kind of regulations as those applying with motor cars, particularly in respect of pollution and security. Boat owners should have a licence and lakes should be equipped with safety signals. Mr. Baechtold envisages the introduction of a code of sailing and compulsory sailing and boat building licences.

THE RED CROSS PAVES THE WAY FOR A NEW INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

An international conference of experts representing the governments of members of the International Red Cross met in a first session in June to pave the way for a new convention on human rights adapted to the actual conditions of war.

Their preliminary work, to be completed in a second session in the autumn, will enable the convocation of a diplomatic conference to lay down a new code of human rights. The various groups of study have considered the problems of the sick and wounded in national and international conflicts. They have drafted a preliminary resolution demanding the extension of protection by the warring parties of sanitary personnel and doctors, together with their vehicles and buildings.

It has been proposed that the care of the wounded and famished should be entrusted to international organisations in the case of an internal conflict. There were problems in defining a code of human rights in the case of guerrilla warfare. Traditionally the Geneva Conventions applied to combatants, recognisable by the fact that they carried a weapon or an insignia. The experts had to conclude that such a definition of a combattant precluded the existence of guerrilla and that the best that could be done was to limit the distinction, when possible, to that between civilians and non-civilians.

Other possbilities envisaged was the creation of protected and neutral zones for civilians. Mr. Pictet, Vice-President of the Committee of the International Red Cross, was confident that these two sessions will be the prelude of a more adaptable Geneva Convention.

RESEARCH INTO PEACE

The investigation into the ways and means of maintaining peace has been promoted to the rank of a scientific discipline. In German it is called *Friedensforschung*. The French call it by its opposite, the study of war, with the term *polémologie*.

Dr. Anton Roy Ganz is Switzerland's most eminent peace scientist. He considers that with the advent of nuclear weapons mankind has reached the objective limits of defence. The time has come for channelling the warlike instincts of man into non-military outlets. Conflicts will have to continue by virtue of human nature, but they must be of a different nature if mankind is to survive.

The problem is to find, scientifically, the ways of preventing armed conflicts. This is peace research. Dr. Ganz finds that plenty has been done in this field abroad but that it has been neglected completely in Switzerland. It was to make good this ommission that the Federal Council commissioned him with drafting the plans of a *Friedensforschunginstitut*. Dr. Ganz has done this job and a project is now under study with the Science Council.

The objectives of the "Peace Sciences Institue" will be to find the answer to the following perennial Swiss questions: The meaning of the Red Cross, its neutrality, organisation and structure; Switzerland and the United Nations' peace keeping missions; the value of Swiss mediatory services; federalism as a factor of peace; the small state and defence industry; Swiss participation in former peace efforts; the future possibilities of Swiss mediation in international conflicts; analysis of Swiss development aid; United Nations sanctions and Swiss neutrality.

THE JURA FIGHTS FOR ITS CULTURAL IDENTITY

La Société d'Emulation is a society devoted to upholding the local culture of the Jura. It met for its Annual Assembly in late June and arrived at a number of decisions. The Society is going to sponsor the creation of a six-volume encyclopaedia of the Jura embodying all the aspects of knowledge on this small but animated province. The Society has demanded public sub-

sidies in the building of a "Jurassian Cultural Centre".

It has awarded the Jurassian philosopher and mathematician *Fernand Gonseth* with the "Jules Thurmann Prize". It has announced the completion of the 17th book of the French-speaking Swiss Alliance. It is a 170-page publication on the Jura written by 40 Jurassians living in and out of the motherland.

Finally, the Society has discussed a problem to which it is particularly sensitive: the possibility of Jurassian secondary school teachers studying elsewhere than Berne. According to a law passed in 1952, the French-speaking school teachers of the Jura have the right to obtain a diploma in a university outside the canton. So far, administrative impediments have stood in the way and teacher trainees study in a special institute within Berne University. The *Société d'Emulation* wants them to be given the opportunity of studying in a Latin environment, such as in Geneva, Lausanne or Fribourg.

(ATS)

HOFFMANN LA ROCHE FOUNDED 75 YEARS AGO

The world-known chemical firm, Hoffmann La Roche will have been in existence for 75 years on 1st October.

The company doesn't plan to celebrate this event with any particular manifestation. The coming AGM is expected to vote a gift of 10 million francs to a "Roche Research Foundation for Scientific Exchange and Biochemical Collaboration with Switzerland" and a further 22 million for a Hoffmann La Roche Foundation for the benefit of its associates and employees, but for which details have not yet been made public.

Shareholders will receive 6,500 gift bonds. At present the company's equity is of 16,000 shares, an incredibly small number for a company of this size. Hoffmann La Roche has always adopted the policy of self-financement whenever it could, ploughing back profits in the undertaking. The result is that nominal equity is as low as permitted by law appearing on the balance sheet for the record, and that it is covered by huge tangible assets.

The consolidated turnover of Roche was near to five billion francs in the past financial year. The company employs 29,000 people, 4,000 of them in research. It has continued to expand in using its productive capacities to the full. It has invested vast sums in research and new plant. The high cost of research has led to a slow down in the growth of profits.

Among the ventures into which Roche are making headway, a new medicine for Parkinson, diagnostic equipment, audio-visual programmes for medical training count among the most important. Roche remains world leader in the production of bulk vitamins. The main investments in manufacturing capacity for the near future will be made at Villageneuf, in Alsace and Grenzach, the neighbouring German town which was Roche's second birthplace. The company will also make investments at Sisseln, Kaiseraugst and Pratteln, and Kamakura in Japan. The yearly report states that the important British plant at Welwyn Garden City is doing very well and expanding.

Roche is the world's leading supplier of chemist shops. The following is a chronological list of the main phamaceutical products invented and marketed by the firm. *Thiocol, Sirolin* (cough syrups, 1897); *Digalen* (digitalis for heart and circulatory ailments, 1904); *Pantopon* (drug for narcosis, 1909); *Sedobrol* (drug for nervous diseases, 1912); *Vitamin C synthesis*, 1923; *Vitamin A synthesis*, 1946 (leading to vitamin-based medicines such as *Redoxon, Benerva* and *Arovit*); *Allonal, Persedon* (sedatives); *Saridon* (analgesic, 1933); *Prostigmin* (stimulant); *Rimifon* (prophylaxia against tuberculosis); *Librium* (psychotropic drug efficient against anguish and tension, 1960); *Valium*, 1963, *Mogadon* 1965 (calming drugs) and *Larodopa* (drug alleviating Parkinson's disease, 1970).

SHOULD THE SWISS SHORT WAVE SERVICE HAVE PROGRAMMES IN RUSSIAN?

Mr. Walter Hofer, a national councillor from Berne, asked the Federal Council last March whether it considered that an extension of the Swiss Short Wave Services to Russian was appropriate. At present, the service sends programmes in the three national languages, in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic. The Government came out with its answer at the end of June, indicating that it was desirable to broadcast the Voice of Switzerland in the greatest number of countries. This was however to be balanced with the currently high cost of such additional services, particularly in view of the currently difficult financial situation of the Swiss Short Wave Service. A half-hour daily programme in Russian would involve an additional expenditure of 37,000 francs a year. The Federal Council considered that such an outlay was not justified at a time when the economy was overburdened and when the only new resources left to the postal services lay in an increase of charges. Furthermore, there was no means of guaranteeing the good reception of these programmes in eastern European countries.

(ATS)

THE NATIONAL FUND FOR SCIENCE

The National Fund is the main dispenser of funds for academic research. It runs on a yearly budget of 70 million francs satisfying demands for 603 projects. This is 111 less than the totality of projects for which applications have been made last year because the Fund, although its resources have been increased recently, finds itself incapable of financing all the research projects submitted to it.

The money is spent in the following way: Research in the exact sciences (such as physics and chemistry) 20.9 million; biological and medical research 27.3 million; research in human sciences 9.1 million francs;

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mathematics 1.5 million; study grants 3.1 million; research in clinical medicine 1.25 million; grants to personal researchers 2.6 million.

Other minor items include subsidies for the publication of doctorates and research papers and administrative expenses. These 70 million francs form an appreciable part of all the sums devoted to pure research in Switzerland, most of the rest is supplied by the cantons and the confederation and is included in the running costs of universities and the Federal Institute of Technology. Obtaining a research grant from the National Fund is the academic scientist's usual worry. Whether the grant is to be given to him or not is left to the decision of a body of professors and experts who sit at the Foundation's Council of Research. The supply problem in the universities is actually unsettled and there are frictions in the gearing between the various institutions concerned with research. Many researchers feel that Switzerland's research policy should be reviewed.

THE B.L.S. MAKES A PROFIT

The Basle-Loeschberg-Simplon Railway, Switzerland's most important private railway has made a profit in 1970, an unusual result for Switzerland's struggling and subsidised private railways. Shareholders are to get four per cent dividends. The company's income was 70 million francs, 26 million of which came from passenger transport. B.L.S. also operates the pleasure steamers on the lakes of Thun and Brienz and this branch of the business made a small profit on its 3.6 million franc turnover.

The company has financed the doubling of 45 km of the 83 km long Thun-Brique railway line by its own means. But the remaining stretches, which include the Loetschberg tunnel, will require federal help. The cost of these 38 km of alpine railroad is expected to reach 450 million francs. The chairman of the company said at the AGM that an appeal to the Confederation ws justified in view of the 25th Article of the Constitution, which lays down the role of the Federal State in the maintenance of railways. B.L.S. also plans to double the Moutier-Granges line.

(ATS)

YOUNG ENGLISH GIRL KILLED ON THE MATTERHORN

An 18-year-old girl from Bradford, Miss Beverley Heliwell, was one more name added to the list of the legion of British tourists who have left their lives on the Matterhorn. Her body was found at the foot of the east face of the Hoernli ridge. She had attempted to climb this ridge with a young male friend met in Zermatt on the same day. He was exhausted half way up and decided to rest at the Solvay hut. The girl carried on alone and as she didn't reappear on the next day, the Englishman gave the alert.

(ATS)

A "SPY" TRIED IN LAUSANNE

The trial of a former employee in the commune of Lausanne accused of spying was opened in early July at the Lausanne Tribunal Correctional. The case showed that the Russian information services leave no stones unturned and do not spurn small jobs.

The accused, a 58-year-old man named Marcel Buttex who had militated in extreme left organisations, applied to the Russian Embassy in Berne in 1962 for Marxist literature. He was soon approached by one of the diplomatic attachés, who was in fact a Soviet information agent. He asked Buttex to make use of his professional function at the town registrar and supply the Russian Embassy with identity cards, forms for obtaining Swiss passports, nationality certificates, address of former communist militants, information on the pro-Chinese "Swiss Communist Party" and indications on the military obligations of Swiss citizens.

He met Embassy officials on 70 occasions and worked for them between 1962 and 3rd February, 1970, the date at which he was arrested in Lausanne by the Federal Police in the company of a Russian diplomat. The idealistic spy had furthermore been commissioned to find a "letter box" abandoned in Germany and to collect the contents of two other letter boxes in Lugano and Sion. The rewards for these services were 1,900 francs and a transistor set.

Marcel Buttex gave an explanation to these activities by invoking his desire to support the victims of an eventual fascist coup in France following the Evian agreements ending the Algerian war. His defence pleaded mitigating circumstances, stating that the psychiatric expertise saw in the accused an infantile character. It nevertheless added that it was difficult to believe that Buttex did not realise to which ends his cooperation could have been put to use.

The prosecution required three-and-a-half years of imprisonment (less six months of custody), a fine of 2,000 francs and the deprivation of eligibility in the civil service for ten years for political espionage and violation of professional secrets. The sentence was reduced by the jury to 15 months of jail. The charge of military spying was not held.

(ATS)

THE COST OF ADVERTISING ON TELEVISION

The limited company responsible for advertising on Swiss television, has announced the rates for 1972. A minute spot screened on the whole television network will cost 10,700 francs, a small increase on present advertising rates because the company reckons that the number of TV licences will have increased to 1,402,000 at the beginning of 1972.

Most publicity spots last less than a minute, and rates for regional broadcasts are naturally lower. A publicity film is usually passed about ten times. The articles most vaunted on television are successively: packaged foods, household durables, cleaning and washing products and non-alcoholic drinks.

BERNE NOT CHOSEN FOR THE POSTAL CONGRESS

Berne, where the headquarters of the International Postal Union are situated, was expected to be the host of a world postal congress to take place in 1974. However, the postal services decided that Berne was not a suitable venue in view of the fact that plans for the proposed congress building were not yet finalised and that the building could not be realistically erected within three years. The new national clamp down on building involved further complications.

Many Bernese were disappointed at the change and *Der Bund* said that Mr. Roger Bonvin, Head of the Department of Transport and Communications, had been responsible for this change of venue by influencing the administration of the Postal Service and thus been "unloyal and unelegant". The Post Office denied these allegations and said that the point at issue was not the choice between two towns, but the reputation of a country.

The Congress of the International Postal Union will bring together representatives from 150 countries and will sit for six weeks. It was already necessary to make preparations for such a vast event.

ONE FOREIGN CHILD IN FOUR IN THE SCHOOLS OF VAUD

A census of the children of the schools of Vaud showed that there were 64,943 of them in 1970, 3.5 per cent up on the year before. There were 9,856 children in kindergarten, 39,071 in primary schools, 4,142 in higher primary schools, 9,135 in secondary schools and 2,739 in higher secondary schools. The proportion of schoolchildren in the secondary level has increased and now 28.4 per cent of all schoolchildren study at secondary school.

The proportion of foreign children

has increased at every level of education. It has risen to 26.1 per cent in kindergarten and 22.8 per cent in primary schools. This means that the average foreign population in the lower classes of all the schools of a large canton is one foreigner to four Swiss. At secondary level this proportion falls to 9 per cent. These figures are due to the increase of the foreign birth rate in Switzerland in the recent past. The trend is fortunately about to reverse. In 1968, 36.6 per cent of the births in Vaud were "foreign", the figure had fallen by 1 per cent a year later.

(ATS)

TENANTS UNITE IN ZURICH

The inhabitants of the Alte Feldeggstrasse in Zurich have formed an association to prevent the demolition of four buildings along this picturesque street and have sent an open letter, stating their cause, to the municipal council of Zurich, to the housing office and to the "Pino AG" estate agency, owners of three of the buildings.

They want to persuade the owners to conserve these buildings and continue letting them as they are. The flats to be evacuated could serve they maintain, to house the innumerable workers and wage earners seeking accommodation in Zurich. Many other tenant associations have already been formed in a fight to prevent tenement buildings in Zurich from being demolished.

(ATS)

SNTO NEWS

New method of garbage disposal

Today it is generally agreed that the three operations involved in garbage disposal — collection, transport and destruction — should be integrated in planning. While suitable solutions have been found for collection and destruction, the same is not true of transport, especially over long distances. The answer to this problem is provided by a new system of garbage transport developed by two big Swiss firms possessing considerable experience in the rationalisation of transport. According to this method, after collection the garbage is poured into high capacity containers where it is compressed by a special hydraulic device. Transfer is effected automatically and requires no special staff, since recording and safety devices ensure that all operations are properly carried out. For the transport of containers of up to 700 cu. ft. capacity, use is made of a tip-loader capable of lifting, unloading. The tip-loader can be mounted on the chassis of trucks or trailers. In garbage disposal, volume varies greatly from one collection to the next and, as transport has to be effected anyway, vehicles are not always used to full capacity. Thanks to its tremendous possibilities of use, the tip-loader produced by two Swiss firms offers very special advantages. A firm can in fact use this universal vehicle for transporting various building materials and machines, as well as liquids in special tanks, for removals, and for internal transport purposes, etc.

Swiss machinery for the Italian automobile industry

During the past twenty years, pressure die-casting has made considerable progress. Being the most direct way of passing from the raw material to the finished part, this process is therefore particularly suited to mass-production, especially in the automobile industry. Bühler Bros. Co. Ltd., Engineering Works at Uzwil (Switzerland), although famed above all for their manufacturing programme serving the world foodstuff's industry, have also made a great name for themselves with their pressure die-casting machines. The largest, with a pressure of 2,500 tons and a weight of 130 tons, manufacture parts in aluminium and magnesium alloys with injectable weights of up to 111 lb., such as automobile gear boxes and engine housings. Italy's leading automobile manufacturers recently placed a fresh order with Bühler Bros Co. Ltd. for 23 big pressure die-casting machines developing pressures of 1,500 and 1,000 tons and weighing 72 and 38 tons respectively.

New blanket for hospitals

A textile firm at Liestal (Basle-Country), specialising in the manufacture of sheets and blankets, has just placed on the market a new type of

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