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SWISS EVENTS

FEDERAL

SALT to be held in Geneva

The American and Soviet governments have asked Switzerland if she is prepared to welcome the second stage of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks in Geneva. These talks had hitherto taken place in Helsinki and were to be re-opened in Vienna. The Swiss Government and the Geneva authorities have already accepted the demand. No reason has been made known for the switch, but it is probably due to the particular amenities of Geneva, a traditional host to international conferences.

Switzerland and East Germany open trade Mission

Switzerland and East Germany announced on the 14th August, that they had agreed to exchange trade missions. The agreement had been signed on 12th July. The two delegations, with offices at Zurich and Berlin, will be entitled to certain consular prerogatives, such as visa delivery and certification of documents.

Although the Swiss authorities have tended to minimize the political bearing of the agreement, it nonetheless implies an important step towards giving East Germany full diplomatic recognition. However, Berne intends to proceed carefully, slowly and independently. "We will recognise East Germany when the time comes" said a Political Department official. For the time being, observers in Berne believe that the new agreement will allow both parties to start preliminary discussions on reparations for the Swiss properties confiscated by East Germany at the end of the War.

Massive petition by Swiss hoteliers

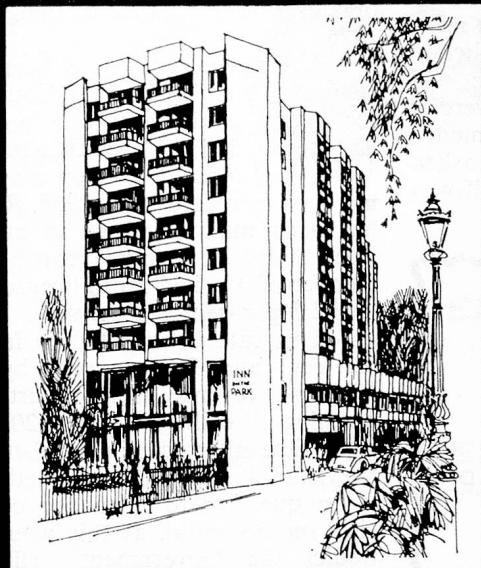
A massive petition has been launched by the leaders of the hotel and catering industry to abolish labour quotas in the trade. The petitioners, who expect to muster 300,000 signatures, will present these to the Federal Council as a backing to their demands to employing as many seasonals as they require.

Swiss hoteliers and restaurant owners, who number about thirty

thousand, are facing a serious staff shortages. According to a recent survey, they have to prepare some two million meals a day and cater for a million tourists who all in all bring in four billion francs each year. New hotels are constantly being opened without any thought about who is going to run them. The petitioners claim that it's well nigh impossible to keep up their service up to traditional standards expected of Swiss hotelry, whose standing may be badly lost before very long.

Fernand Legros extradition still pending

In answer to a written question by the liberal national councilor Raymond Deonna (Geneva), the Federal Council said that the decision to extradite art fraud Fernand Legros belonged to the Federal Court. Mr. Deonna, had wanted to know why a person wanted in France since 1968, and whose extradition has been demanded in June of that year by the French authorities was still allowed to live in all tranquillity in a Swiss mountain resort. The Government explained that Legros had been released on health grounds in December 1968, shortly after his arrest. His doctors had confirmed at subsequent examinations that he was still not in a condition to sustain prolonged periods of detention. Legros' lawyers had launched an action against the



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extradition, and the federal authorities had twice postponed an extradition deadline to as to give them time to prepare their defence and give it every chance. As a result of the lawyers' action, it had been necessary for Berne to seek additional clarifications from Paris. Various unsolved legal details made it necessary to refer the case to the Federal Court, which would deal with it in late August.

Legros is considered as one of the major art frauds of history. He has sued the writer Clifford Irving (now in jail in the U.S. for fraud in connection with his faked Howard Hughes autobiography) for libel damages of 55 million dollars.

Possible reorganisation of the federal executive

The Federal Council held an important mid-August session to discuss government reforms on the basis of a report by the Chancellor of the Confederation which has already been examined and commented by Cantons and the politically organisations directly interested in a modification of the government machinery.

The central issue is to ease the work-load of the seven federal councillors. From the need to preserve the present party balance in the executive coalition, the number of Federal Councillors can either be raised to nine or eleven.

But, the Federal Council is firmly against the idea of easing their work by increasing the number of federal councillors. They consider that bringing the membership to nine would not lead to worthwhile rationalisation, whereas eleven would require a permanent chairman and soon arouse the susceptibility of competing interests all wishing to be represented at the highest level. Experience has shown, they maintain, that the present collegial system works perfectly well without a permanent chairman.

Other solutions would be to institute secretaries of state responsible for managing the various departments. This would free federal councillors from administrative duties and give them more time with the job of governing the country. But they feel that their duties require a complete understanding, of their own department and that it would not be possible to loosen the hold on the machinery under their care by delegating these responsibilities to secretaries of state.

Another idea put forward by the Huber Report, would be to unload some of the mammoth departments, (such as those of Public Economy and the Interior) of some of their divisions on the smaller departments. Thus the Commercial Division of the Department of Public Economy, which is headed by Ambassador Paul Jolles and has negotiated the Swiss-E.E.E. Free Trade Agreement, could be incorporated in the Political Department. However, it is felt that foreign trade and home trade are too closely linked to be taken in charge by two independent government bodies.

The solution which may be adopted is to reduce the number of relays in the channels of command. The Head of a Department would be face to face with fewer top officials and there would be wider delegation at a lower level. This would reduce the number of committees and administrative chores incumbent on heads of department.

The cavalry almost abolished

The Federal Council has decided to abolish the Cavalry. If this is accepted by the Parliament, the battle for the preservation of a military relic, for which a petition had elicited 400,000 signatures in record time, will be lost. The Federal Council's verdict was given in a message to Parliament's Military Commission after it had asked the Government's opinion, its half-way

proposal consisting in maintaining cavalry, a strongly depleted cavalry. It had recommended to reduce the actual 18 squadrons of cavalry to twelve, nine or six.

Although the issue is age-old, it had been recently raised by the military authorities with renewed urgency because of the need to find new recruits for the mechanised units. The easiest solution was to take the required troops from the pool of men serving in an outdated unit.

Free Trade Agreement to be put to the people

The Federal Council has asked Parliament assent to submitting the free-trade agreements with the Common Market to the people. The Government was not bound by the Constitution to do so, but the stakes were such that it preferred to have the Agreement ratified and embark on a policy of closer co-operation with Europe enjoying the backing of the population.

The Swiss Consumers Association has welcomed the Agreement and stated in a declaration that it should further the "balanced development of Swiss economy".

Increased TV licences demanded the SRG

The Swiss Company for Radio and Television Broadcasts (SRG) has asked the Government to authorise an increase of television and radio licenses. Annual radio licenses would rise from 40 francs to 60 francs, TV licenses would increase from the present 84 francs to 120 francs. This should enable the Swiss broadcasting organisation to balance its budget until 1976.

A similar request had been made last year, but the Federal Council, at the height of its anti-inflation drive, had rejected it for conjunctural reasons. Radio and television taxes have not been increased since 1968. Revenue has been maintained at an adequate level thanks to annual growth in the number of TV and radio licenses of 10 and 2.7 per cent respectively.

This rate is expected to fall to 5 per cent and 2.4 per cent by 1976. Likewise, revenue from advertising is reaching a ceiling, as the 20-minute daily time allotted to advertisement on television as practically attained. There is no question to introduce commercials on the radio, as this would contradict the Government's efforts to support the Press.

The review "Press Forum" notes that with the proposed increases, the cost of keeping a radio would be 5 francs a month, and a television, 10 francs a month. This sum is considered adequate in the light of a monthly subscription to a daily paper, averaging 8 francs. It would re-establish a certain balance between the various information media.

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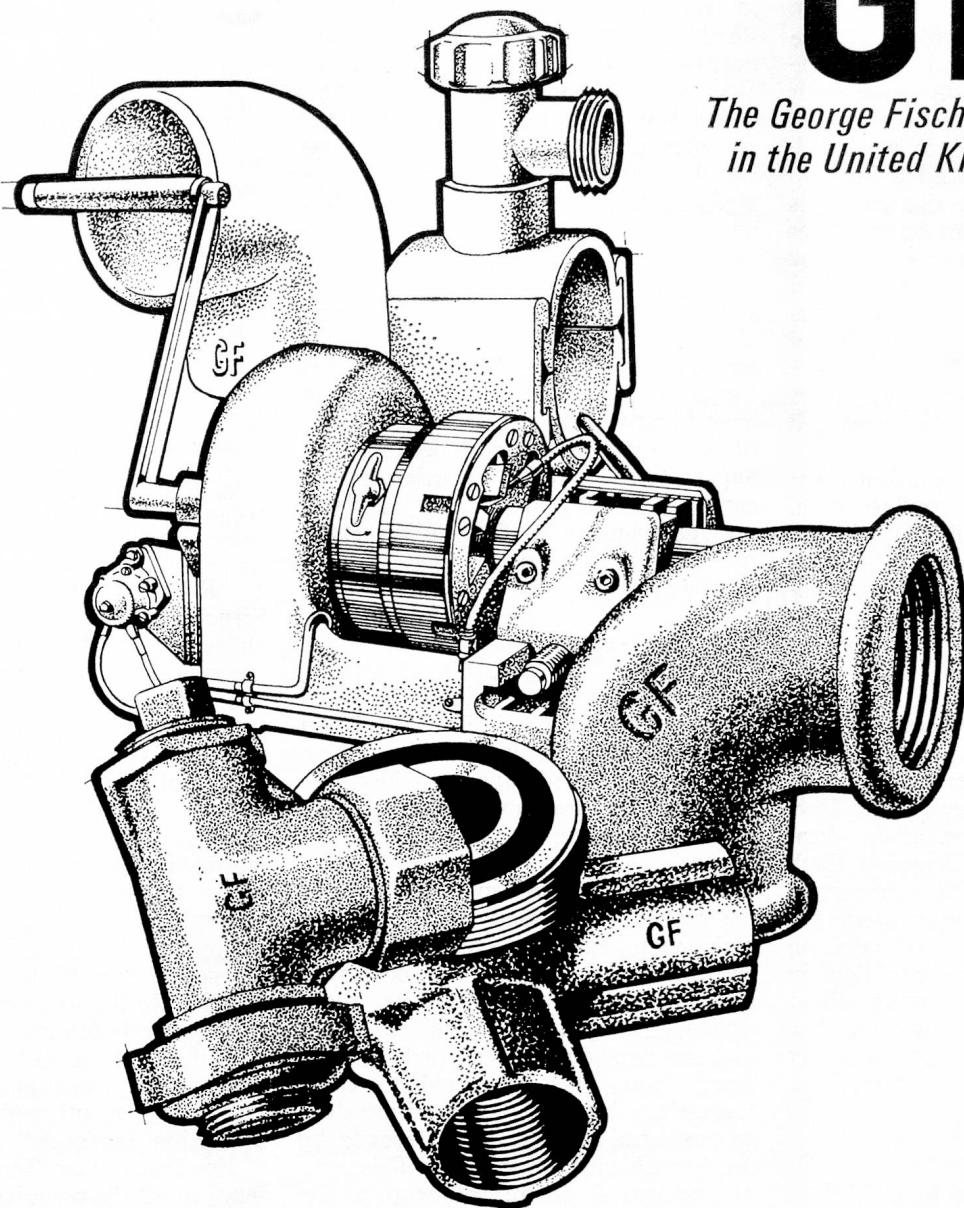
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CANTONAL

Split-second fire at Collonge-Bellerive

A large 110-metre long wooden hut housing 109 seasonal workers near Geneva was completely destroyed by a fire believed to have been started by an excess of oil thrown on a frying pan. Within seconds, the fire had caught the building, giving its occupants only time to scramble outdoors and leave their belongings behind them. Fortunately, no one was either killed or wounded. When the hut was reduced to a heap of charred rafters and charcoal, its occupants sifted through the dust for whatever they could retrieve. Some were lucky to recover a few valuable objects. One had tucked 500 francs under his mattress. Both it and the bed burnt completely, but the notes were intact. Another had locked his savings in a metal box, which he also recovered unharmed.

A canton-wide operation was launched to house the roofless men. Some slept in the school of Collonge-Bellerive; employers found flats for a few more, there were volunteer families to give temporary lodgings to the others.

Three referendums in Fribourg

Three separate referendums aiming at amending Fribourg's fiscal laws have simultaneously been given authorised by the Cantonal Chancery. Each will need to attract 6000 signatories within 90 days. Their main demands are: Establish a register of taxation enabling the people to be confident in fiscal justice; make those family allowances awarded under cantonal law non-taxable; and alleviate the tax burden of small traders not benefiting from these allowances.

New physical experiment at CERN

The most violent collisions ever produced by man were recorded at the European Centre for Nuclear Research

at Geneva this summer when intersecting proton storage rings were used for the first time to cause nuclear reactions of 2000 billion electron-volt of energy, as compared with 300 billion electron-volt energies produced by the world's most powerful synchrotron at Batavia, USA. The principle used was to feed two intersecting rings with a steady stream of protons (elementary positive by charged particles) accelerated by CERN's main synchrotron, which was built in 1959. The protons are kept in orbit in the storage rings by electro-magnets, and turn in opposite directions in each ring. They are made to collide at their intersection.

Their fantastic energies should help to unravel the innermost secrets of matter. The technique can only be applied to protons and is not as versatile as the traditional bombardments of fixed targets. That is why more powerful synchrotrons are still needed. The Super Cern particle accelerator is currently under construction and will provide energies of 300 billion electron-volts in its early stages

Miraculous escape

A private plane piloted by a 23 year old English RAF pilot, Mr. Brian Willcocks with his wife and a young passenger crashed against the high ridges of the Jura shortly after take-off from Geneva on its way to Macon, France.

With about ten metres to spare, the plane had crossed the chain at a high point but was pulled down by an air current. The plane destroyed two trees before ending its flight against a third. Although the pilot had severe shock and his wife a fractured spine, they managed to carry themselves for three hours across dangerous terrain before being rescued by the French custom services. This type of accident is fairly frequent in the Jura. Had the plane flown slightly to the east through the *Fort de l'Ecluse*, then the accident would have been avoided.

Press Institute concerned by "Quick" Affair in Germany

The International Press Institute (IPI), an organisation based in Zurich with the purpose of defending the freedom of the Press and the rights of journalists in 65 countries, sent a telegram to the West German government in connection with police searches carried out in Bonn in the offices of the magazine "Quick" after the authorities had found that this magazine had obtained, by various bribes, confidential official documents.

The telegram expresses the "concern" of the IPI and underlines its solidarity with the complaint voiced by the German Publishers Association, who had violently criticised what it alleged was "blatant interference with the freedom of the Press."

Death of Roger Nordmann

Roger Nordmann, a prominent French-Swiss radio personality and philanthropist, died of a heart attack at the age of 53. Born in 1919 at Fribourg and hailing from Seuzach (ZH) he entered Radio Lausanne in 1945 after studying law at his home-town. With Jack Rollan, a well known satirical writer, he founded "Chaine du Bonheur", the most popular national movement of solidarity and Sponsor of a highly successful radio programme. Roger Nordmann was head of the reporting services of Radio Lausanne from 1951 to 1955, when he left the Radio to manage a publicity agency. He is founder of the magazine "30 Jours" and author of a number of books, the two main ones being "Amerique et microphone" and "Ma conviction profonde". He was buried at Epalinges, near Geneva, in the presence of all the prominent personalities of western Switzerland, including former president Paul Chaudet and Mr. Pierre Graber, Head of the Political Department.



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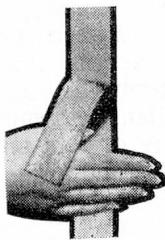
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SPORTS

Federal Wrestling Championships

22.000 spectators at La Chaux de Fonds watched 284 wrestlers fight for the Federal Wrestling (*Schwingen*) Championship on 19-20th August. This unique Swiss sporting event has taken place annually since 1910. The 1972 winner was an outsider David Roschi, from Oberwil in the Simmental. He won the title from the favourites Karl Bachmann and Karl Meli, respectively in second and third places. The former champion Rudolf Hunsperger did not take part in the event.

Traditional Swiss wrestling is distinct from free wrestling and Greco-Roman wrestling, an Olympic discipline. In fact it is a natural sport which cannot be said to have been invented or codified at any particular place or time. It was created spontaneously by mountain shepherds eager to vie with one another. Eventually, wrestling displays were organised in villages and the sport, from a purely local amusement, associated some 5000 amateurs into a wrestling federation, (only 500 of them in French-speaking Switzerland) staging an eminently folkloric annual championships. The average weight of the contenders is at least 100 kilogrammes. Karl Meli, one of the most formidable fighters of all, weighs 120 kilos.

Contrary to Japanese, Indian, Russian and other types of wrestling, Swiss traditional wrestling is performed in ordinary working clothes, with leather trousers, on a ring of sawdust. The championships are concluded by the test-strength of throwing the famed *Unspunnen Stone*. It weighs 83.5 kilogrammes and is worn smooth after having highlighted sixty years of championship. This smoothness and its bulkiness makes it very difficult to lift. However, the strongest participants manage to toss it about three metres away.

a round-the-clock watch at the three main entrances on the Vatican and on the papal palace. Their task is to maintain security and order within the Vatican precincts and carry out ceremonial duties at religious functions and receptions. Recruits must be Swiss-born, aged between 19 and 25, Catholics, of good reputation and bachelors. The Corps has 75 men held to a military discipline. Even during leave, the Swiss Guards have to uphold the honour of their function. Their commander expects them to spend their time usefully. They are certainly not allowed to enjoy the Roman "dolce vita" and may not own a motor vehicle of any sort during their first year of service. After a year, a guard may own a scooter, whereas a petty officier may own a car.

Recruits contract to remain in service for two years and then may leave it after giving two-months notice. Before beginning their term, they have to follow courses in Italian. Maximum service is 25 years. Petty officers may marry when they are 25 and over if they pledge to remain in the force for another three years.

After the first two years service, guards are awarded an annual bonus which rises after five years to 4000 francs. They are fed and housed. Including advantages, the earnings of an ordinary halberdier is 1253 francs a month.

The pontifical guards are known to be having difficulties in attracting new recruits.

ENVIRONMENT

Dears eliminated in the National Park

The State Council of the Grisons has decided to "execute" a thousand red deers roaming in the Swiss National park at the end of Autumn, after the trees have shed their leaves. Under the strict control of the authorities, hunters will be given the boon of their career.

This decision follows legal representations by the farmers of the area, who complain that the deers feel too much at home, use up pastures at the expense of chamois, mountain goats and particularly cows. It was decided to put an end this situation as soon and as efficiently as possible.

This was not the opinion of the nine game keepers of the Park, and that of Swiss zoologists. Shocked by this "massacre", they are claiming a reprieve for the condemned animals. They consider that it is wiser to put their numbers in check by introducing wolves and lynxes, their traditional enemy.

SWISS ABROAD

Papal guards

Shopwindows in two streets of the heart of Berne were devoted during the second fortnight of August to the life of the Swiss abroad. These naturally included the Swiss Vatican Guards. Their chief officer, Colonel Nünlist, was present at the opening of a window in the Kramgasse devoted to the Swiss Pontifical Guards and was distributing leaflets on its history.

The Swiss Guards were instituted in 1506 by Pope Julius 11. They keep

Storks in the Jura

Five storks have elected to live above the church of Saint-Marcel at Delement. Five others are nesting on the school roof of Coirteux. Another solitary bird has chosen a private villa at Bevillard. Although the presence of storks is traditionally considered as the portent of an early winter, the old tag may be disproved in this case. The storks had escaped from the natural reservation of Kintzheim in the Alsatian department of Haut Rhin, where they had been freshly imported from Morocco in order to repopulate the Park. The birds have trussed wings and can only hop for short distances at a time. They had nevertheless managed to fly nearly a hundred miles. The manager of Kintzheim had alerted the Swiss authorities to watch over the birds. They have so far been fed by human hand only and would not be able to fare for themselves.

FIGURES

Healthy balance of payments

Switzerland's balance of payment showed a 340 million franc surplus in 1971, 40 million francs more than the previous year. Its 1550 million franc trade deficit was well covered by 1890 million francs of invisible earnings. These break up as follows: Tourism 2270 million francs (Swiss tourists spent 2180 million francs abroad but foreigners spent 4450 million francs at home, considerably more than in 1970, this in turn being due to longer stays, rising hotel rates and increased airline revenue): Income from capital invested

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abroad (3450 million francs) and Services (2310 million francs—these include licensing rights, the expenditure of international organisations, banking commissions etc).

Switzerland is in seventh position for tourism, whose income amounts to 700 francs per inhabitant. Despite these satisfactory figures, general trends have reflected the slow-down in the world economy.

Sulzer landmark

On 11th August, Sulzer Brothers of Winterhur had been producing diesel motors for exactly 75 years. Sulzer Brothers, who were close friends of Rudolf Diesel, constructed their first experimental diesel engine in 1897. It had 20 horsepowers. Today, Sulzer controls through its licenses a third of world production of marine diesel

motors. Its most powerful models have 105cm-bore cylinders developing 4000 each, so that the largest engines develop 50.000 horsepowers. Sulzers of Winterthur have built over 3000 engines during these 75 years.

Swiss banks take a stake in a European Business

The Swiss Bank Corporation and the Union Bank of Switzerland have taken a share and a seat on the Board of the Belgium firm Euro-clear, a kind of securities clearing house holding shares dealt in throughout Europe, the USA and Japan on behalf of clients. The system saves about two-thirds of the cost incurred by the physical transfer of securities from buyer to customer. This firm was hitherto controlled by the American bank Morgan Guaranty Trust.

LAND USE PLANNING IN SWITZERLAND - THE MAKING OF A NEW LAW

The man-land ratio of Switzerland is small. The land area is 41,400 km², which means less than 7,000 m² per head of the population, compared to the corresponding figure for the U.S.: 45,000 m², or for Europe, 11,000 m². And the available land area is even smaller, considering that one quarter is forest, one quarter glacier, rock and lake.

In an article for the U.S. publication "State Government", Dr. J. von Ah, Deputy Director for the Development of Agricultural Research at the Swiss Department of Agriculture, has set forth the basic problems in land-use planning.

"With increasing population and growing prosperity, the demand on space which cannot be increased—land, water and air—rises over-proportionately. Today, about 2-3% of the land area of Switzerland is occupied by houses, factories, ways of communication and so forth. The demand for surface per inhabitant may average about 180 m²; this is equal to about 1,100 km² for a population of 6½ million. In the U.S. the demand for surface per inhabitant attains already 700 to 800 m². Assuming that the development in Switzerland will go in the same direction, more than 5,000 km² would be required for settling purposes by the year 2000." The growing demand for land is largely due to scattered settlement and a mushrooming private traffic. By rational town and country planning and an appropriate trans-

portation system, the land requirement per capita could possibly be limited to 230-280 m² within one generation."

In the November 1970 (page 20) and July 1971 (page 18) issues of the Bulletin, the constitutional basis for the land-use planning Law of September 1969, articles 22ter and 22quater of the Federal Constitution and subsequent developments were discussed.

Article 22ter guarantees property rights and full compensation in case of expropriation. Article 22quater is limited to basic principles and defines the duty of the Confederation as follows: "... auf dem Wege der Gesetzgebung Grundsätze für die Raumplanung aufzustellen sowie die praktischen Massnahmen in diesem Bereich zu fördern und zu koordinieren". In June, the Federal Council presented in a Message to the Parliament the draft of the Federal Law, which would provide the necessary enforcement power. The plans will be drawn up by the Cantons and will serve as guidelines to settlement, infrastructure, communications, etc. The deadline is seven years hence. And since that is too long, the Federal Council has taken steps to preserve the status quo in an urgent decision ("dringlicher Bundesbeschluss", 17.3.72). The decision sets aside protected areas on a provisional basis which will have to be outlined by the Cantons by February 1973 at the latest.

In April of this year, the "Institut für Orts-, Regional- und Landesplanung" (ORL), which had been

commissioned by the "Bundesrat" to develop guiding principles ("Leitbilder") as a basis for political decisions, has presented its findings to the Federal Delegation for Land Use Planning (Delegation des Bundesrates für Raumplanung), consisting of Federal Councillors Furgler, Tschudi and Brugger.

The crux of the matter is the delicate balance the legislation has to strike between compulsory federal planning and zoning and guarantee of the property rights of the individual, with the Cantons, implementing the federal rules, somewhere in the middle. According to the proposed legislation, the Confederation will have the right to expropriate land with compensation and to channel possible excess profits into a land use planning fund.

In order to facilitate the task of the Cantons, the Federal Council has appointed a *Delegate for Land Use Planning*, who works directly under the head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, Federal Councillor Furgler. The Delegate is Professor Martin Rotach, former Director of ORL.

The foremost project of the Delegate will be to assist the Cantons in the provisional selection of the protected areas and to enforce the federal decisions where needed. The Delegate will co-ordinate federal and cantonal planning as well as co-operating with other countries. The Delegate's drive is three-pronged: establish the foundations, execute and co-ordinate decisions and provide information and training.

The Advisory Committee, presided by National Councillor Kurt Kim, a kind of "political bodyguard for the Delegate," acts as liaison between the Confederation and the Cantons. The Committee has the delicate task to create an atmosphere of trust and to guarantee the unity of doctrine in land use planning.

(*Bulletin of Swiss Embassy in Washington.*)

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