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Agriculture will be left practically unaffected by the agreement, which foresees only minor changes and includes a letter of intent to strengthen relations in this field. Representatives of Swiss agriculture described the agreement as the best imaginable as it left their position unchanged. Trade in farm products between Switzerland and the EEC is very important as it is. As for the other sectors of the economy, they will in the main have to face up to increased competition but not be unduly affected.

The machine tool industry, which is responsible for nearly 40 per cent of Swiss exports will hardly feel the change as it is not cost, but technology and quality of service which determine their place in outside markets. Technology will be particularly important to offset the expected shortage of manpower and will require more mergers and larger plans. But this process has been under way for many years and would have been necessary, market or no market. The thousands of small, specialised Swiss firms will survive because they fill a special slot in the world market. Thus the structure of Swiss industry will hardly be affected by the destruction of tariff barriers.

Swiss chemical firms, which are responsible for Switzerland's second export item, are well established in every country of Western Europe and will hardly feel any change from a financial point of view. Their Swiss operations may suffer from labour shortages and require faster rationalisation. Their dominant position in the field of know-how will help them to weather the storms of increased European competition. The only two industries which will have to struggle harder are textiles and watches. Fifty years ago, these were the first Swiss export items. Today, they fall considerably behind engineering and chemicals.

Eurofinance, an organisation specialised in the study of European companies, is not so optimistic on Switzerland's material future. It considers that productivity per employee will rise by only 3.7 per annum during the next eight years, compared with 4 per cent in the rest of the community. Moreover, the labour force will increase by only 0.1 per cent a year, compared with 3.7 per cent on average in the community. Thus Switzerland's national product can be expected to rise more slowly than that of her European neighbours and competition will become stiffer. However, the evidence is that the Swiss will be able to cope with the situation and continue to live prosperously, so long as there is no crisis abroad.

There will be no change politically. Berne is only giving a finger to Europe. There is no question of polling in the European Budget, or being represented in the European Parlia-

ment. Switzerland will not take part in the monetary union of the old continent and maintain intact her institutions. The July agreement has altered nothing in our country's peculiar poli-

tical predicament, which can be described as being friends with everyone while not being committed by any ties.

(PMB)

SWISS EVENTS

FEDERAL

Destruction of Rhine dams proposed

In answer to a written question by a national councillor, the Federal Council announced that the Military Department would investigate whether part of the dams built on the upper Rhine during the war could be dismantled. The Bernese Independent National Councillor, Mr. Baechtold, had called for a complete removal of these dams. He said that they accumulated considerable quantities of effluents and garbage and were environmentally harmful. The groupments concerned with the protection of the area had also called for a removal of the dams. This, said the Federal Council, was only partially possible. The dams had been erected to defend military installations on the north-east border. They could not be pulled down without risk to the defence organisation in that sector.

The Air Force to get thirty "Hunters"

The Federal Council will ask for Parliament approval to the purchase of thirty second-hand Hunter jet fighters as a stop-gap solution while the Air Force decides on a new aircraft. The decision follows the decision not to buy either the "Corsair" or the "Mirage-Milan" as planned for the past two or three years. The thirty Hunters would be paid for over the next four years. Their cost has been estimated at 108 million francs. Last year, Switzerland passed a first order of thirty Hunters to complete the fleet of a hundred that she already had. The first of these Hunters was delivered this month.

Visit of Indonesian Head of State

President Subarto of Indonesia visited Switzerland and was greeted in Berne by the President of the Confederation and the Swiss government. He was accompanied by his wife and by his Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Malik. He and his following were invited for lunch in a Berne hotel by the Federal Council. The official part of their visit in Switzerland lasted 24 hours. The President also visited Geneva.

Parliamentary Agenda

The Winter Session of Parliament opened on 27th November. The main problems which will be discussed by the National Council will be the 1973 Budget, the purchase of property by foreigners (Furgler Law), the increase of federal taxation and the transformation of the Cavalry. Both Houses will examine the federal budget and the budgets of the railways and the post office.

There will be a number of substitutions: Mr. Roger Bonvin, actually Vice-President of the Confederation, will succeed Mr. Nello Celio. Federal Councillor Brugger will be the new Vice-President. Three new federal judges will have to be elected. Mr. Hans Tschopp will be the new President of the Federal Court. The chairmen of the National Council and the Council of States will be replaced. Mr. Franzoni will replace Mr. Vontobel in the former, and Mr. Marius Lamoert will replace Mr. Feruccio Bolla in the latter.

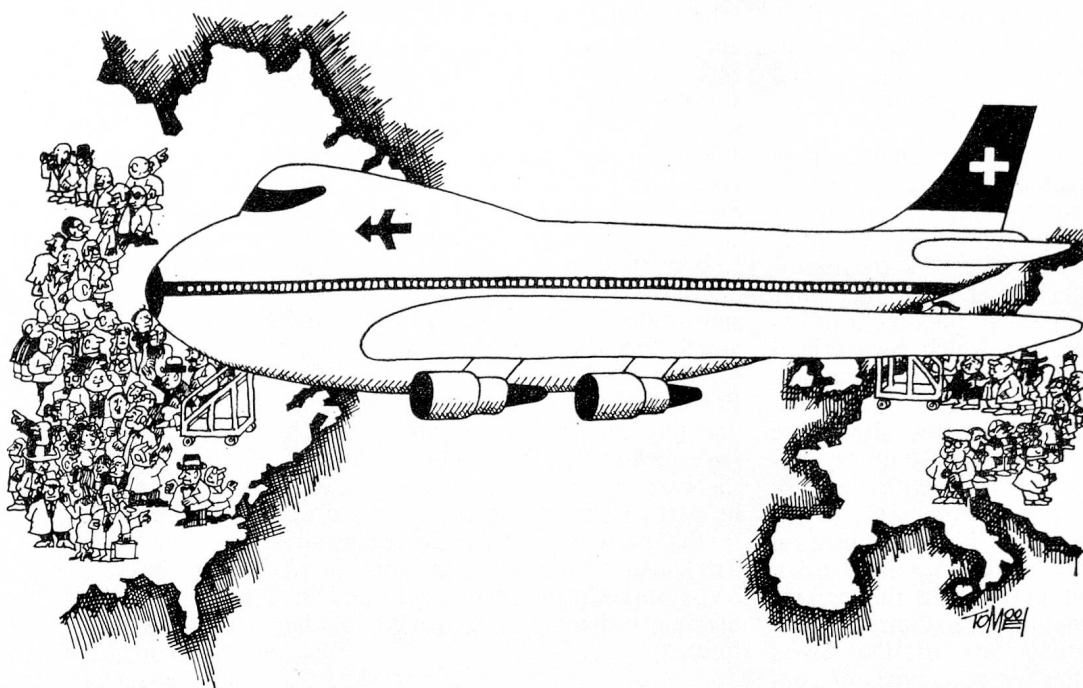
The Civil Service

There are 128,000 federal employees. Of these, 90,491 have the status of civil servants. This means they are re-elected every three years by the Federal Council or a subordinate body, by the Federal Court or the Federal Insurance Tribunal. 28,618 civil servants work in the federal administration and the federal chancery, 29,355 work in the GPO and 32,518 work in the federal railways. The latest service report of the department of the general federal administration recalls that 638 civil servants have not been confirmed in their status for the 1973-76 administrative period.

596 of them because they were approaching the age limit, and 41 because of their attitude and behaviour. Of the latter category, three have been given notice and 38 have been kept in their jobs as simple state employees.

Switzerland at the European Security Conference

Switzerland has sent a delegation to the preliminary talks which have opened at Helsinki in view of a conference on European security. Berne is



As the native Swiss air transportation company that it is, Swissair here publishes an unretouched profit-and-loss statement for the first Jumbo year.

ALMOST everything about the Jumbos was known before they arrived, because Swissair prepared for it all very carefully: the pilots had trained on the big bird, and felt it flew marvelously. The passenger buildings had been enlarged to meet the expected onrush; the maintenance technicians knew every nut and bolt of the Boeing 747B; the chefs were ready to provide larger quantities of meals; the hostesses had grown used to finding their way about the huge passenger compartments; and the financial wizards had made available the funds for the juicy bills to come from manufacturers and maintenance services.

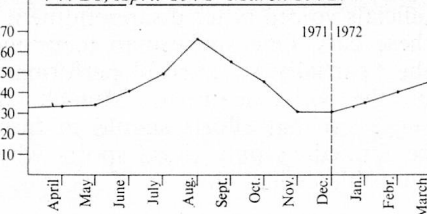
Meticulous analysis on the basis of hypothetical North Atlantic flights with the 747B offered promise of successful operations. But would our passengers really accept the new aircraft to the expected degree?

Well, scarcely were the first two Swissair Jumbos in service before most people desired to fly with them. (Because the 747Bs are so splendidly large and comfortable and one never feels cramped? Because the service is so pleasant, the food so good, the entertainment program so varied? Or simply because it's smart to fly by Jumbo?)

At all events, in the introductory phase it proved possible to avoid any significant difficulties, though certain irregularities in the operational behavior of the engines arose as predicted. Still, the two Swissair Boeing 747Bs turned in some 8500 flying hours by the end of March 1972, equivalent to an average daily flight performance of 12 hours each (almost two hours more than other airlines).

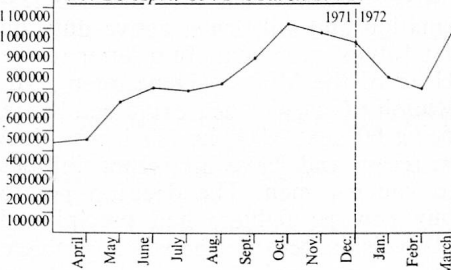
Our two Jumbos increased Swissair capacity by 27%; demand rose by 14%. (Even this was definitely better than the figures of other companies flying the North Atlantic.)

Seat factor of the two Swissair Boeing 747Bs, April 1971–March 1972.



Through the end of March, 158,851 passengers flew by Swissair Jumbo in both directions across the Atlantic—156 passengers per flight.

Cargo weight on the two Swissair Boeing 747Bs April 1971–March 1972.

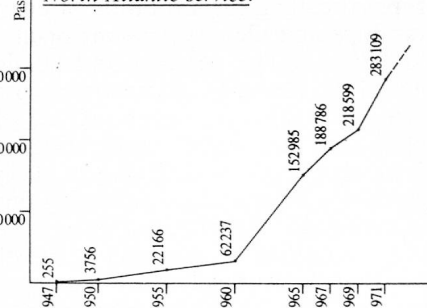


With 9.6 metric tons of goods and 649 kg (1428 lbs.) of mail per flight, the cargo load factor of the big aircraft was also very

satisfactory. The resulting average load factor of 48.3% is above the profit threshold: the two Swissair Jumbos thus operated in the black during their very first year.

And along with our pleasure at the good showing, there's a small anniversary to celebrate: just 25 years ago Swissair began flying the North Atlantic (destinations today New York, Boston, Chicago, and Montreal). And if you look at the chart below, you'll see that the success of the first Swissair Jumbo year fits in perfectly:

Passenger traffic in the 25 years of Swissair North Atlantic service.



Permit us to remark here that the next unretouched profit-and-loss statement will appear in the winter of 1973/74—the figures for the first year of Swissair DC-10s.

Thank you for your kind attention.



willing to partake in all the non-military discussions of this international forum which will attempt to lay the foundations of a durable peace in Europe. The Swiss team will submit proposals which will go one step beyond plain resolutions condemning the recourse to arms.

The Political Department's plan of two types of conflict: those amenable to an international legal agreement (either by application of international law or bilateral conventions) and those that are not. In the latter case, it is necessary to institute a different procedure, for which Switzerland has the following solution: Conflicts which cannot be settled in the framework of international law should be examined by a court of inquiry, mediation and conciliation with the task of finding a solution acceptable to the parties concerned. This commission could however not enforce its verdict, as this is not possible in the present state of international relations.

The groundstone of the Swiss proposal is that for both types of conflicts, the parties concerned have to resort to the mediation of either an international court or peace searching commission. Berne intends giving new force to the principles of law which have been eroded by the conception of "Realpolitik" and purely pragmatic solutions. The Swiss plan reflects a long tradition of neutrality and will prove that Berne means to take the Helsinki talks seriously. Berne may eventually submit further proposals, particularly in the field of European economic co-operation.

The purpose of the Helsinki talks is mainly to prepare the agenda for the future European Security Conference, which should take place some time next year. It will be the first time for many years that Switzerland will take part in an international conference of such political importance.

The Swiss delegation soon brought itself prominently to the notice of foreign observers by backing a Romanian proposal calling for a rotation of chairmanships and plenary sessions open to the Press. The Swiss ambassador backed the changing chairmanship proposal. He said that each of the 34 delegations had equal rights. He suggested that the first chairman be designated by a draw and the following ones be called in alphabetical order. The Romanian proposal was in conflict with the French suggestion of having a standing President and closed, informal sessions. The difference was soon described as a quarrel between small and large countries. The French proposal had the support of the 15 NATO delegations.

RESULTS OF 3rd DECEMBER REFERENDUM

51.2 per cent of the Swiss people turned up at the polls on 3rd December,

to vote for the Swiss-EEC Agreement and Government proposals laying down firm foundations for private pension schemes offering, with Old Age Insurance, a guaranteed income of 60 per cent of pre-retirement earnings and various facilities, such as transferable schemes. The EEC issue was by 1,345,057 "for" and 509,350 "against" votes, i.e. a three-to-one majority. The Swiss people turned down the unrealistically generous proposal of the Labour (Communist) Party, which was offering a universal state Old Age Pension 1,481,249 to 294,477 votes and voted for the Government counter-solution by 1,394,031 to 417,680. The Press was nearly unanimous in condemning the Labour proposals which were reckoned to cost about a third of the earnings of the average man and be particularly vulnerable to any drop in the present high in the economy. They also went against the traditional Swiss appreciation of foresight and individual responsibility in caring for the future.

Support for sports

Federal Councillor Rudolf Gnaegi had to placate disappointed sports organisers about the reductions from five to three million francs in federal subsidies to sports. He was speaking at a reception given by the Swiss Olympic Committee marking the end of the Olympic year. All Swiss athletes who had won medals in Munich or won fourth to six places in the events were invited. They saw the first screening of a Swiss film on the Winter Games at Sapporo. Mr. Gnaegi explained that the budgetary cuts, made inevitable by economic policies, had "not been made light-heartedly". Several Swiss sports officials voiced bitter disappointment at these cuts. One spokesman mentioned the "partially successful" performance of the Swiss team at Munich and suggested that efforts should in future be limited to only those sports where our athletes had chances of success.

Air Force chief resigns

Colonel Eugen Studer, Head of the Swiss Air Force, has presented his resignation and will leave active duty on 1st July of next year. In a letter to the Head of the Military Department, Mr. Rudolf Gnaegi, he explained that, being 60 next May, he felt it was time to resign and leave his responsibilities to younger men. The decision not to buy new jet fighters had precipitated his decision, because the whole problem had to be tackled from scratch by a new man. In his letter, Colonel Studer stressed the need for lowering the age of the Army's superior officers. His resignation was accepted by the Federal Council with thanks for services rendered.

Serious floods in the north of the Plateau

Vast areas in Lucerne, Zurich and Berne were under inches of water at the end of November as torrential storms swept over the Alps. Langenthal and Buchrein were particularly badly hit. Several roads were closed and many buildings inundated. The Berne-Zurich motorway was cut between Oftringen and Rothrist on 23rd November.

New Hotels in Zurich

Zurich's hotel bed capacity has soared from 8,000 in 1969 to over 11,000 today. The boom is continuing. Accommodation for 1,500 beds is presently under construction and it is planned to increase Zurich's hotel capacity by another 4,000 beds during the next five years.

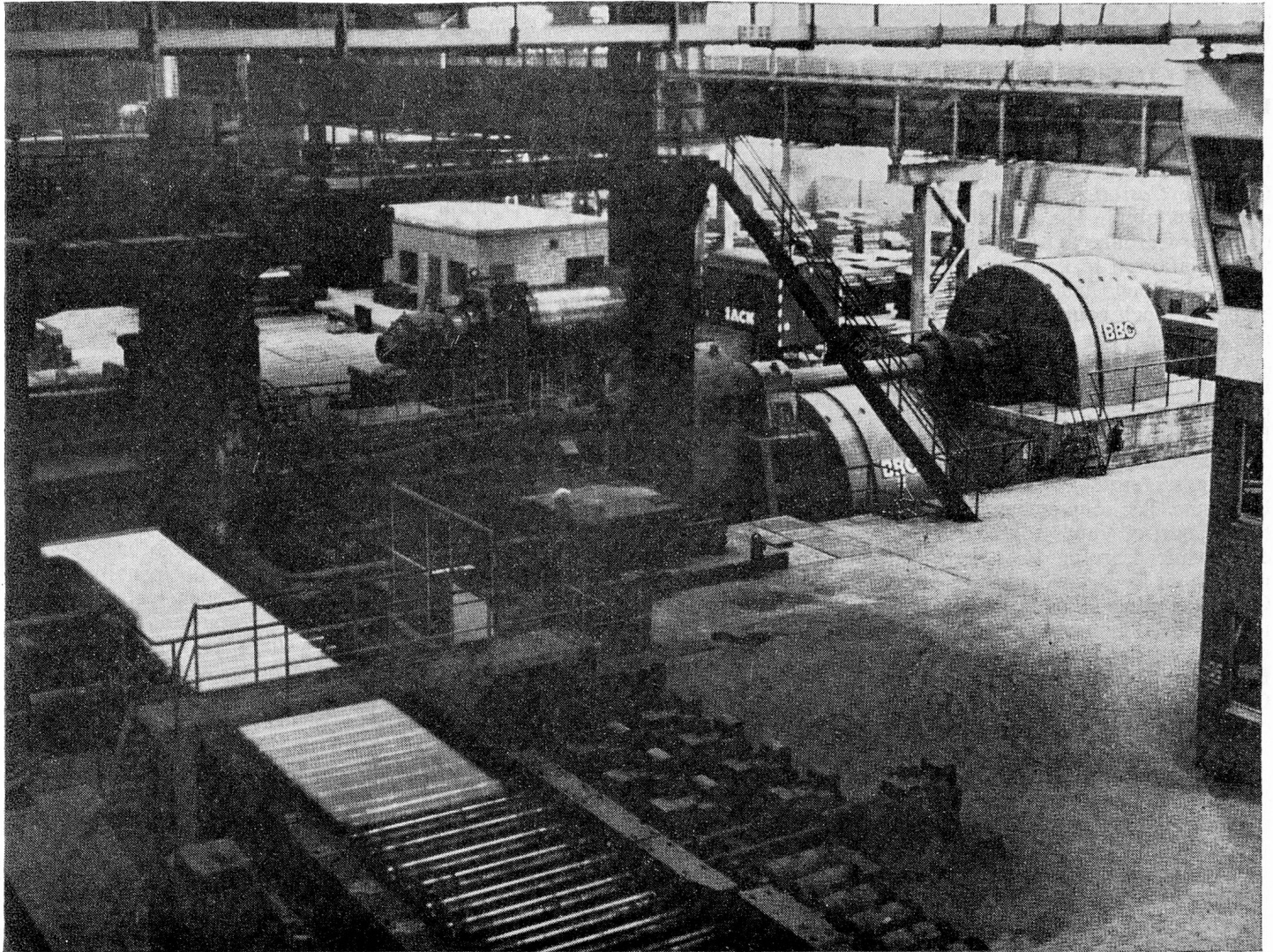
Most of the new hotels have been giant jet-set constructions of an international character. The October issue of "Echo" reports on their somewhat anonymous and unwelcoming atmosphere, and deplores that there is nothing "Swiss" left for the prosperous traveller to find in them. The main new hotels are the following: Airport-Hilton (320 beds, 61-106 francs a night); the Alpha (Kloten, 64 beds, 67-117 francs); the Atlantis (west of Zurich, 330 beds, 67-117 francs); the Atlantis Gästehaus (west of Zurich, 100 beds, 45-55 francs) the Rustica (Limmatquai, 50 beds); the Continental (Zurich, 250 beds, 87-98 francs); the Intercontinental (Oerlikon, 700 beds, 64-98 francs); the Novapark (west of the centre of town, 400 beds, 49-56 francs) and the Zurich (near the Limmat-Sihl junction, 400 rooms, 70-100 francs).

While acknowledging the excellent service and the good food offered by these new hotels, the author of the "Echo" article regrets the "Spartan" aspects of individual rooms, which make one feel "in a student hostel" and not in a room for which one has paid up to a hundred francs. On closer investigation, one notices a television set and a refrigerator containing a bottle of Pommery. Small consolation. The advantage of the new international tower hotels of Zurich are the splendid view of the city which can be admired at night. The author reckons that for a 100 franc bill, 60 francs must be attributed to the view and 40 to the room. He wonders how a guest reacts on rainy and misty days.

Most of these hotels are situated outside of town. This would be an imperative reason for offering pleasant amenities encouraging patrons to spend their evenings at the hotel. But the author notes that lobbies, for all their marble, feel like airport lounges, banqueting rooms look like film studios

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and bars, with their weird and monstrous decorations, are so dark that a customer needs a torch to check whether his bill is correct. The report has two nostalgic pictures of the "Dolder" and the "Baur au Lac" and concludes with the author wondering why the new hotels of Zurich should be so devoid of Swiss personality and resemble those opened every year in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Los Angeles.

Linda Desramault kept waiting

Mrs. Linda Desramault will have to wait until the final decision of the *Cour de Cassation* on her husband's appeal to obtain the custody of their daughter Caroline to know whether she will be allowed to keep the child. Her husband René had appealed to the highest French court of appeal against the decision of a Paris civil court to give her custody of the child. Mr. Desramault with his child had disappeared from his home in northern France before the arrival of the court officers with the orders to remit Caroline to her mother. He was found in Lausanne last September. The Cantonal Court of Vaud took charge of the case while Caroline was kept in a nursery at a secret address in the Canton. Owing to the complex legalities involved and the absence of any relevant convention between Great Britain and Switzerland, the Cantonal Court decided to await for the decision of the *Cour de Cassation* before handing Caroline back either to her father or mother. Meanwhile, René and Linda Desramault have each been given the right to visit the child.

Commemorative March in Geneva

The only political demonstration with fatal casualties registered in Modern Swiss History, "Bloody Wednesday" of 9th November, 1932 in Geneva, was commemorated by two separate left-wing marches through the streets of Geneva. Forty years later, witnesses of the tragic events which saw the death of 13 demonstrators at Plainpalais met for a march organised by the Geneva trade unions and Socialist Party while 25,000 left-wingers set out on a separate and unauthorised demonstration in another part of the town. There were no incidents.

The Plainpalais tragedy occurred during one of the dark chapters of Swiss history, when there were about 8,000 unemployed in Geneva alone. Demonstrators led by the socialist Leon Nicole were fired on by young and inexperienced recruits on Plainpalais Green. Thirteen demonstrators were killed and over sixty wounded. The organisers were held responsible for the shooting and Leon Nicole was sentenced to six months imprisonment. This trial led directly to the victory of the socialists in Geneva and was a

landmark in the history of Swiss socialists. The officers who had ordered the troops to fire were completely acquitted.

CANTONAL

The Jura: Berne publishes a new plan

The executive council of Canton Berne has published plans for the self-government of the Jura and will submit them to the Great Council. These plans, the outcome of several years of study by a special working group, expresses the views of the Bernese government on how the Jura question should be solved and follows the inclusion of an amendment to the Cantonal Constitution in March 1970 on the Jura. That amendment provided for a special status of autonomy within Canton Berne or eventually complete cantonal independence after a plebiscite.

The new plan suggests that a third administrative entity should be created in between communes and cantons. This would be the Regions. Jura regions would group together and thus reinforce the autonomy of the Jura. The Executive Council rejects the idea of a Jura region Councillor of States, but suggests that Jura constituencies could be delimited for the elections to the National Council. All constitutional amendments concerning the Jura should be accepted by the majority of voters in both the Jura and the "Old Canton" whereas new laws concerning the Jura regions would only require a majority vote in the Jura. The Region can thus be considered as Berne's answer to questions on autonomy and "intermediate status" for the Jura. The French-speakers of the largest of the Swiss Cantons are offered a semi-independent administration with far reaching competences in the framework of a "Region" which falls short of a 25th Canton. The anti-Separatist "Union des Patriotes Jurassiens" would not comment immediately and said that the Report of the Executive had to be examined closely. The Separatist "Rassemblement Jurassien" was quick to describe the new plans as a "joke" and rejected them outright.

Death of Mrs. Margrit Stucki-Sahli

Mrs. Margrit Stucki, widow of Minister Walter Stucki has died in Berne at the age of 83. Minister Walter Stucki was one of the most powerful personalities of the pre-war Swiss political scene. He was head of the Swiss Mission in Paris, and then in Vichy, from 1937 to 1940 and is one of the leading figures of Professor Bonjour's account of Switzerland's wartime history. Mrs. Stucki played an active part in helping her husband to organise the welfare of the Swiss occupied in France.

Three newspapers co-operate

Three papers which have found difficulty in surviving: the "Journal de Genève", "la Gazette de Lausanne" and "La Nouvelle Revue de Lausanne" have passed an editorial agreement according to which some pages will be shared by the three dailies. The two pages on economic activities are written by the "Journal de Genève" in Geneva, and two pages on Swiss events are written in Lausanne. The pages are technically transferred from one paper to the other by means of flogs which are transported by road at night before used in the printing installations of each paper. The agreement has resulted in at least one paper having to typographical layout in the same issue. This will probably lead to more co-operation.

The publishers of the three papers stressed the need for preserving an "independent press of opinion" in French-speaking Switzerland.

Death penalty against hijackers

The Saint Gall section of the Swiss Radical Party has called for a re-introduction of the death penalty in the Swiss penal code for hijackers who take hostages. In a declaration, the Radicals of Saint Gall appealed to the Swiss Government to consider very seriously the possibility of re-introducing the death penalty in these special cases. They note that hijacks are not only being committed by politically motivated individuals, but also by ordinary criminals. Ordinary prison penalties have not deterred hijacks, but have encouraged them to resort to blackmail. If international hijacks are to be prevented, then individual countries should be prepared to make the necessary sacrifice. The legal procedure which the Radicals want to see instituted against hijackers who have taken hostages and threatened them with death should be swift and rigorous.

The re-introduction of capital punishment had already been demanded on several occasions since it was abolished in January 1942. The last execution in Switzerland was carried out in Sarnen (Obwald) in 1940. The previous year, an execution was carried out in Zug. The guillotine had to be brought over from Schaffhausen and a volunteer executioner was hired.

The 1848 Constitution banned executions for political crimes. Several cantons successively banned the death penalty altogether. One of them, Fribourg, re-introduced the death penalty twenty years after having abolished it, in 1854, Zurich in 1869, Tessin and Neuchâtel abolished the death penalty in 1971.

Attempts to abolish the death penalty in the whole country had failed in 1865, 1866 and 1872. It was only in 1874, when the Constitution was totally

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revised, that it was decided to do away with the death penalty in the country as a whole. But five years later, on 18th May, 1879, the people voted for its partial re-introduction after a series of crime. Henceforth, the Constitution entitled Cantons to sentence criminals to death. Ten cantons availed themselves of this right. Thirty people were sentenced to death and nine actually executed in these cantons up to 1940. Statistics tend to show that the institution of the death penalty had no influence on the crime rate.

The Swiss branch of "Amnesty International" reacted promptly and sent an open letter to the President of the Confederation, asking him to state publicly his reprobation against the position of the Radicals of Saint Gall.

The Algerian Treasure

A second phase of the ten year old quarrel between the Algerian Government and the Swiss banking establishment over the Algerian Liberation Army (FLN) War Treasure opened at the beginning of November, when the Algerian Government appealed against the decision by a Geneva court to keep the treasure in the custody of the "Banque Commerciale Arabe", a Geneva-based establishment. The treasure amounts to about forty million francs, but the Algerians claim over fifty million. It was created during the war of independence, mainly from contributions by Algerians working in France, and was entrusted to the National Liberation Front. It remained in the care of the Movement after independence, when Mr. Mohammed Khider, Treasurer and former Secretary of the FLN, fell in conflict with the new Algerian leader, Mr. Ben Bella. Mr. Khider was assassinated in Madrid in 1967. He had used the FLN funds to finance opposition against Ben Bella and later against Colonel Houari Boumediene. The main argument of the Defence is that the money was deposited in the name of the FLN, and not by the Algerian Government, a different entity.

Letter bombs

Five letter bombs were discovered at a sorting office at Cointrin Airport, Geneva. The five letters were addressed from Bombay to the Israeli Mission. They were similar to those which had been discovered two months before in Geneva, London, Paris and other capitals.

The federal legal authorities launched an appeal to the population to report on any other suspicious letters.

MODERN LIFE

Help to the ATS

The Federal Council will take immediate measures to help the Swiss Press while the background for a new constitutional article on federal aid to the Press is drafted. In the short term, it is planned to help the Press, and particularly the smaller publications, by subsidising the Swiss Telegraphic agency for their home news coverage. Many papers rely entirely on the Agency for their home news coverage. By receiving federal support, the ATS will be able to reduce fees to its subscribers.

Pro Juventute

For the past sixty years, the month of November has seen the appearance of new and colourful *Pro Juventute* stamps and greetings cards. This year's Pro Juventute stamps depicted animals and roses. The roses, appearing on four different stamps, are painted by the artist Anne Marie Trechslin, a well-known Swiss flower artist born in Milan. The proceeds from the sale of these special stamps go to the work of the Pro Juventute Foundation, the principal Swiss charity concerned with children and young mothers. The Pro Juventute stamps issued for the first time in 1912 are now worth 50 francs if they have postal markings, and 85 francs if they are on a posted envelope.

How to deal with left-wing demos

A Lausanne Police Chief, Commandant René Huber, made an exposé to the "Association for the Defence of the State and Civil Rights" on the means of fighting the growing threat of left-wing subversion. He was speaking at the Annual Meeting of this movement consisting mainly of lawyers and law professors. According to Mr. Huber, the security of our society is facing a growing threat by disruptive organisations claiming an ever increasing membership. The presence of 65,000 policemen in Paris was nearly insufficient for protecting the French State from collapse in May 1968. What would happen to Zurich, which can call on a city and cantonal force of 1,200 men if it were faced with similar circumstances? Geneva could only call on 150 men, and Vaud on 200 men to keep eventual demonstrations under control. The Speaker insisted on the need for training the police in handling riots and for taking the necessary legislative measures to prevent left-wing or subversive organisations from preparing demonstrations and acts of violence which imperilled the existence of a peaceful society. He said that there could be no question of relying on the Army, which was trained to face and destroy an enemy. This task should be assumed by an already over burdened police force. Mr. Huber enumerated some of the basic rules of riot control:

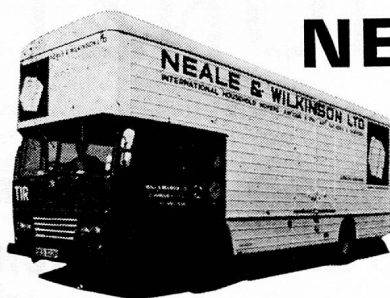
—The security forces should be highly mobile so as to appear more numerous than they actually are.

—Demonstrators should never be driven back into a dead end.

—Tear gas should very rarely be used. In all events, it should be used massively.

—Bear in mind that the flight of a few demonstrators usually leads to that of all others.

—In serious confrontation, the decision to use weapons belongs to the political power.



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Football

Switzerland was crushed 5-1 by West Germany in a friendly match played in mid-November before an attendance of 70,000 spectators in Dusseldorf. Gerd Muller scored no less than four goals. There was no bitterness among the Swiss players as they left the pitch. They were perfectly conscious of the superiority of the West German team, which probably ranks as the first in Europe.

A month earlier, Switzerland had managed to draw against Italy in the World Cup preliminary round. To take part in the 1974 World Cup, Switzerland must come out first of her group, which includes Italy, Turkey and Luxemburg. It is rather unlikely that Switzerland will be as lucky for the replay against Italy next year.

Anthology of Swiss music

Over 40,000 records offering an anthology of Swiss music have been sold, mainly in the USA and Japan. This anthology has been prepared by a "working community for the promotion of Swiss music at home and abroad". It consists of 257 different works by 142 composers—34 classical and 108 modern composers. The "community" gathers the Swiss Broadcasting Organisation, the Union of Swiss Musical Interpreters. The records are produced by the Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft.

"Cervelas strike" by consumers

The decision by the Federal Veterinary Office to allow the use of polyphosphates in the preparation of fine paste meat (cervelas, Frankfurters, veal sausages) and ham provoked a strike by women consumers in Vaud. They appealed to all their supporters not to buy these products. Polyphosphates help to absorb water and fat in the preparation of these various meat pastes. Switzerland was one of the last countries to ban them in Europe for all other kind of meat. They were authorised for cervelas and other similar meat products at the demand of producers. They are harmless but can increase fat content without the consumer noticing anything.

French and Swiss schools twinned

The cantonal technical school of Saint Imier (Jura) was twinned with l'Ecole Jules Bernard, in Paris. The twinning ceremony, which was held in Saint Imier in the presence of several French and Swiss official personalities, was said to be the first of its kind in Europe. The two schools had co-operated for several years and exchanged students. A ball was held after the

twinning ceremony to which were invited some 120 students from the Jules Bernard School in Paris who had come to visit Saint Imier for three days.

In another development, the working group set up to study proposals for creating a "Jurassian Cultural Centre" with the purpose of preserving the French-speaking Jura's cultural identity estimated that plans submitted in an earlier report would cost 40 million francs. The building of several regional centres and a central building to be sited in one of the main towns of the Jura would spread over ten years. Costs would be shared 50-50 by the Canton and the Communes of the Jura.

Wild cats free at Le Noirmont

Thanks to the co-operation of thirteen communes in the Jura mountains of Canton Vaud, a 32-square kilometre natural reservation has been created between Le Noirmont and Marchairuz, near the Lake of Joux. The reservation is called the "Parc Jurassien Vaudois". In an effort to re-introduce wild animal species which have disappeared in the last century, two pairs of wildcats and a pair of beavers have been set free in the area.

Young girl sold to the underworld

A "white-slaver" was sentenced to three years jail and a fine of 10,000 francs for having "sold" a young barmaid working at Vouvry (Valais) to the French underworld for the sum of 20,000 francs. The accused, of French nationality and 29-years-old, was also banned from re-entering Switzerland for 15 years. He was the keeper of the bar whose young employee was to spend six months in a Marseille brothel serving 120 customers a week. She managed to alert a friend in the Valais who in turn alerted the police. The

young girl is at present in a psychiatric hospital, hopefully to be healed of the sequel to her terrible experience. Her lawyer had demanded 20,000 francs damages. The case was considered as one of the most pathetic ever tried in the Valais.

The case of Mr. Giordano

When a candidate to a school of teaching gets a refusal on account of his past record and his political stance, the national Press does not necessarily write about it in the top columns of its home news. But when such a case occurs in the Jura, its developments are told every week. When Mr. Victor Giordano was refused the right to an accelerated teachers training course by the Berne Department of Education on account of his rather shifty professional record and his incendiary journalistic contributions, Separatist demonstrators staged a sit-in at a school in the Jura and the higher circles of the Rassemblement Jurassien seized this opportunity of highlighting Berne's cultural imperialism.

Giordano got the support of a lawyer to counter attack those who he claims had slandered him in the Press, while all the professional journalists of the Jura accused the Department of Education of stifling the freedom of expression. At the time of writing, the waves set in motion by Mr. Giordano were still rocking the sensitive opinion of French-speakers in the Jura.

The Pfuertner Affair again

No Dominican intellectual has caused as much upstir in Swiss conservative Catholic circles as Father Pfuertner, the holder of a chair in morals at the Theological Faculty of the University of Fribourg. After a one year ban from teaching decided by the Catholic hierarchy of Fribourg, which

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had received instructions from the Vatican, Father Pfuertner was reinstated at the beginning of the present university year. His teachings have shocked traditional Catholic opinion by its liberalism on sexual ethics. People are equally shocked in the Valais, a Catholic canton where the majority of the educated classes have been at Fribourg University. Mr. Roger Lovey, a lawyer in Sion and Editor of the Christian-Democrat paper of the Valais, announced in a resounding leader that he would refuse to contribute to a yearly collection in favour of Fribourg University. "Despite the presence of other faculties, the faculty of theology is the one that counts in Fribourg. If this faculty runs off its tracks, then everything else is put in question", said Mr. Lovey. He concluded that the teaching actually being dispensed at the theological faculty went against the teachings of the Church and said that it was "scandalous" that no one seemed willing to put this situation in order.

A week later, the Press broke the news that Father Stephanus Pfuertner had been deprived of the right to teach by his Order. This put the Executive of Fribourg in a delicate position, as it shared responsibility with the Catholic Church for running the University. According to an old convention between the Church and the Canton, the Executive is entitled to give notice to a member of the professional staff but it was reticent in taking sides in a purely theological issue. The situation was

complex because as there were four parties concerned: The Dominican Order, Rome (Vatican and Congregation of the faith), the Swiss Synod of Bishops and the Executive Council of Fribourg. The Swiss Bishops, although critical of Father Pfuertner's teaching, did not believe his expulsion would have been wise, but seemed held to abide by the decisions coming from above, namely Rome. The Pfuertner affair had originally been examined by the Congregation of the Faith after Bishop Pierre Mamie of Fribourg had asked Rome for advice following a lecture on sexual ethics by Father Pfuertner contradicting the teachings of the Church. Father Pfuertner was eventually ordered to take a sabbatical year. The last development of this affair, which has aroused the interest of the foreign Press, is the demand by the Executive of Fribourg for a re-examination of the conventions passed with the Catholic Church on responsibilities in running Fribourg University.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Reversing a previous decision and falling in line with the Federal Council of States, the National Council voted for the total abolition of the cavalry by 91 votes to 71 on 5th December. Switzerland's remaining 18 squadrons of dragoons will thus disappear between now and 1975.

Three bomb attacks against military installations by Jurassien Separatists were recorded in less than a month. The last one was directed against an ammunition depot at Bure (Vd). Another bomb was discovered nearby but defused in time.

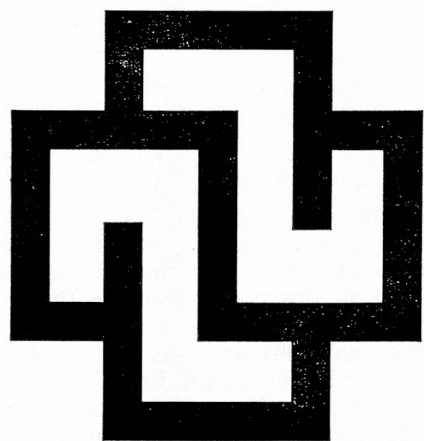
Fernand Legros, the French art dealer living in Switzerland wanted under a French extradition order for art forgery, disappeared before his trial at Sion for homosexual indecency.

Swiss diplomats were instrumental as intermediaries in the talks that have opened between America and Cuba on the ways of fighting hijackers. Mr. Alfred Escher, former Swiss Ambassador to Vienna, has completed his special UN mission in South West Africa amid strong criticism from African countries who accused him of too much complacency towards the South African regime.

Federal Councillor Roger Bonvin has been elected President of the Confederation for 1973. Mrs. Margrit Bigler-Eggenberger has been appointed as the first woman to sit at the Federal Court.

The Federal Council announced a series of five measures to control inflation. The package includes credit ceilings, fiscal restrictions on investments, control of building industry, possible price controls and recourse to export deposit. Inflation in November amounted to 0.8 per cent.

Switzerland has exchanged ambassadors with East Germany.



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