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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

THE TICINO AT THE TILLER!

No doubt it has not escaped you that in the coming year the Parliamentary wheel of fortune at home has brought it about that during the coming year 1972 the "plum" jobs will be in the keeping of "Ticinesi" namely:

President of the Confederation: *Nello Celio*, head of the Finance & Customs Department.

President of the States Council (Upper House): *Ferruccio Bolla*.

President of Federal Insurance Tribunal: *Pietro Mona*.
And, for good measure:

Vice-President of the National Council (Lower House): *Enrico Franzoni*, who is President of the democratic-christian (formerly conservative) parliamentary group.

I wonder whether any of the "big three Cantons" (Berne, Vaud and Zurich) can boast of a similar record?

Yours dutifully,

J. Eusebio.

BIRTHDAYS

AND ANNIVERSARIES

We are pleased to announce the following birthdays and anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. A. Boog, of 48 The

Boulevard, Pevensey Bay, Sussex, are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary on 1st March.

There are two 80th birthdays that we know of:

Mr. F. Gerber, Chatsworth Private Hotel, Salisbury Road, Hove, Sussex, will have his 20th actual birthday on Leap Year's Day, having been born on 29th February, 1892.

Mr. René A. Marchand, "Chez René", 2572 Sutz, Switzerland, will be 80 on 9th March. He came to London in 1910, and he and Léon Jobin founded the well known watch business of Marchand and Jobin Ltd. He was very active in the Swiss Colony and a prominent freemason.

Mrs. E. Jamieson will be 72 on 20th February. The former Swiss Ambassador in London, Monsieur Armin Daeniker, Berne, will be 74 on 24th and Mr. O. Grob, KSG, 72 on 26th of the month. Mr. E. Hardmeier will have his 84th birthday on 3rd and Mr. L. Gradmann her 74th on 9th March.

Many happy returns and warmest congratulations!

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Charles H. Willi. He died at Aigle on 27th January in his 89th year. An obituary will follow.

F. G. SOMMER, 80



It gives us great pleasure to announce the 80th birthday on 1st March of Mr. F. G. Sommer, of 3 Red Gables Court, Whitehall, Bletchingley, Surrey.

Mr. Sommer was born in Berne and educated at the *Progymnasium*, Burgdorf. After a commercial apprenticeship and obtaining the diploma of the Swiss Mercantile Society, he continued his studies at what was then called the Academy of Commercial Science in Berne, graduating with honours.

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Next, Mr. Sommer spent one year in a bank, three years with a manufacturing concern in Italy and two years at Sulzer Bros. in Winterthur.

During the first world war, Mr. Sommer came to London, where he held a responsible position with A. Wander, Ltd. until he retired some years ago. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Company Accountants and of the Faculty of Corporate Secretaries.

If his business career was one of great distinction and success, his activities in the Swiss community are legion. The countless services he rendered the Swiss Church during very difficult years left an indelible mark. As Trustee of the Swiss Mercantile Society he was of great value not only to the society, but also to the many thousands of young compatriots who attend its College.

He also worked untiringly in the field of welfare. He was Chairman of the Swiss Hostel for Girls and President of the Swiss Benevolent Society. Previously, he had been President of the Foyer Suisse and of the Swiss Male Choir.

These are just a few bare facts which represent many years of unselfish and devoted work by a man whose loyalty and integrity have always been unquestioned. I know that Fred Sommer's modesty will not altogether like such praise, but as I said on his 75th birthday, such devotion to public service should be held up to others as an example at a time when it becomes more and more difficult to find personalities of his calibre.

And again, I cannot do better than repeat what I wrote in February 1967, that his strong sense of duty has always been helped in his rich life by a great and strong faith in the Almighty. He has been fortunate in having a loving wife at his side, and we join her, their family and large numbers of friends here and in Switzerland in wishing him many happy returns of the day and God's rich blessings in the future.

(MM)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UNIONE TICINESE. Annual General Meeting, Sunday, 12th March, at Swiss Hostel, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3 at 5.30 p.m. followed by Salame and Cheese Snack.

UNIONE TICINESE DANCE. Sunday, 7th May, at Dorchester Hotel, 4.30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Harry Vardon's Band. Tickets (inclusive of Tea) £1.50 obtainable from Secretary, E. Morganti, 10 Newport Buildings, Shaftesbury Ave., W.C.2.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE. Thursday, 23rd March, 7 p.m. Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, N.W.3. **OPEN MEETING.** Talk by Mrs. Anna Regula Sharp, Secretary of Swiss Benevolent Society, on "ASPECTS

OF SOCIAL WORK IN SWITZERLAND AND GREAT BRITAIN". All Swiss and their friends welcome. Thursday, 26th April. **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and ANNUAL DINNER.**

CHURCH CONCERT. Friday, 3rd March, Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2. The Concert is in aid of the Swiss Church in London and arranged by Lennart Rabes. Groups and Artists taking part: Choir of Welwyn Garden City Parish Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Conductor: Malcolm Warwick. Brass Quintet from Monks Walk School, directed by Adrian Weddell. John Marsden, Organist. Programme: Old and Modern English Music by Tallis, Byrd, Gibbons, Purcell, Stanford, Wood, Holst. Detailed programme will be available shortly. Please reserve this date (3rd March) to support this Concert.

THE AMBASSADOR VISITS THE S.M.S. COLLEGE OF ENGLISH

Dr. A. Weitnauer paid an official visit to the Swiss Mercantile Society's College of English at Fitzroy Square on Wednesday afternoon, 2nd February. Having been welcomed by Mr. A. Jaccard, President of the S.M.S. in London, Dr. Weitnauer was briefed regarding the life and purpose of the College by Mr. C. Slade, the Principal, and Mr. E. W. Makin, Vice-Principal.

He then visited classes while lessons were in progress and was thus able to experience teaching at the S.M.S. at first hand. He was subsequently invited to address the students of the higher classes, who were assembled in the lecture room. He told them in an eloquent impromptu speech how fortunate they were to be in Great Britain and impressed upon them the importance of the language they had come to learn.

The Ambassador's visit ended with refreshments in the Members' Room where he had the opportunity of meeting the teaching staff and of greeting the members of the Council and the Education Committee present for the occasion. These included Messrs. J. W. Bonjour, O. Grob, F. O. Hausermann, G. Hediger, E. M. Huber and F. G. Sommer. Dr. Weitnauer left the S.M.S. College after this contact with the students and the staff to carry out other duties. (PMB)

WELFARE OFFICE
for
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31 Conway Street, London, W.1
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SWISS CHURCH

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: à l'Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, tous les dimanches à 11h15 et 19h00.

SAINTE-CENE: le premier et troisième dimanche du mois, matin et soir.

PERMANENCE: chaque jeudi de 15h00 à 18h00.

REUNION DE QUARTIER: huit veillées en automne et au printemps: voir "Le Messager".

CLUB DES JEUNES: tous les dimanches de 12h00 à 22h30, tous les jeudis de 15h00 à 22h30.

REUNION DE COUTURE: le 2e mardi du mois.

LUNCH: tous les dimanches à 13h00.

VISITES: sur demande.

PASTEUR: A. Nicod, 7 Park View Road, London, N.3. Téléphone 01-346 5281.

* * *

SERVICES IN GERMAN: at Eglise Suisse, 79 Endell Street, W.C.2, at 10 a.m. At John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1 at 6.30 p.m.

HOLY COMMUNION: every first Sunday of the month at evening service only. On major feasts at morning and evening services.

CONSULTATIONS: every Wednesday 4-6 p.m. at Eglise Suisse.

DISTRICT GROUPS W.4 and S.E.21) and SERVICES OUTSIDE LONDON: see "Stimme".

SERVICES IN ENGLISH: every fourth Sunday at 7.30 p.m.

"KONTAKT" (Youth Group): every Wednesday 4-10 p.m. at Eglise Suisse. Supper at 6.30 p.m. Programme at 8 p.m.

SWISS Y.M.C.A.: see Forthcoming Events.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE: every first Tuesday of the Month.

MOTHERS' REUNION: 3rd Wednesday in the Month, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

VISITS: by request.

MINISTER: Pfr. M. Dietler, 1 Womersley Road, N.8. Telephone 01-340 6018.

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION: at St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street (off No. 25 Victoria Street), S.W.1.

SATURDAYS: Ecumenical Service at 6.30 p.m.

SUNDAYS: Holy Mass at 9 and 11 a.m. (in English). At 6.30 p.m. (mostly in German).

CONSULTATIONS AND CONFESSIONS: preferably on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays in the afternoon or by appointment.

SERVICES EN FRANCAIS: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, W.C.2, on Suns. at 9, 10, 11 a.m. 12.15, 6, 7 p.m.

SWISS CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB — Meeting every Sunday after Evening Mass (8-11 p.m.) Discussions, dance, lectures with members of other denominations at John Southworth Centre, 48 Gt. Peter Street, S.W.1.

CHAPLAIN: Paul Bossard, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, S.W.1. Tel.: 01-222 2895.