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**SWISS TOURIST REVENUE IN 1973**

The gross receipts of Swiss tourism in 1973 amounted to 5.3 billion francs. They comprise the expenditure of foreign tourists in Switzerlnad – last year 33.4 million nights were recorded in hotels and other accommodation – as well as international transport. The growth in revenue, which amounted to 350 million francs (7.1 per cent) compared with the previous year, was due in the main to the increased cost of Swiss tourist facilities. As for gross tourist expenditure, i.e. the sums spent abroad by Swiss tourists for their stay and travel, it amounted to 2.66 billion francs in 1973. The growth of 260 million francs (10.8 per cent) compared with the previous year is accounted for by the fact that the rise in prices abroad was largely compensated for by the more favourable rates of exchange enjoyed by Swiss tourists. These figures show an overall balance of 2.64 billion francs in Switzerland's favour, i.e. an increase of 90 million francs or 3.5 per cent over the figures for 1972. In 1973 therefore, tourism once again came 3rd for net receipts in Switzerland's balance of revenues; on its own it made up for 40 per cent of the traditional deficit in the balance of trade, which amounted to 6.64 billion francs in 1973. On the European level, gross receipts from tourism in Switzerland placed the country 7th; per head of the population Swiss tourist revenue amounted to some 850 francs in 1973.

# LETTER FROM SWITZERLAND

**Do the Federal Councillors talk too much?**

According to official information, given at the request of the Press Service of one of the ten officially listed political parties, 2.3 speeches are made per week by members of the Federal Council. 2.3 speeches per week corresponds to 119.6 allocutions per annum or 17 per head. In giving this information, the various Federal Departments have stressed that only the "Highly official" orations are listed in Berne, whereas unoffical short speeches and congratulatory addresses are not counted.

If the truly heavy departmental daily work of the Federal Councillors is taken into account as well as their appearances and interventions when the two chambers of the Federal Parliament are in session, the task of having to compose some 17 speeches in a year must indeed be felt as a considerable additional burden. Actual ghost- or speech-writers, such as many foreign statesmen employ, are not known in Berne. Consequently, while some departmental functionaries may be helpful in providing statistics and other raw material for magisterial speeches, the main work of shaping the 17 allocutions per Federal Councillor per annum still falls on the individual heads of department. Some of them, it is true, like to hear themselves talk and one in particular is very often the object of humorous comment on the radio as well as the victim of some cartoonists. While having to make 17 speeches may be burdensome for our Federal councillors, listening to around 120 of them per year may also be burdensome from the consumers point of view. It has once been said that a good magisterial speech should be like a beautiful young lady's bikini: short enough to be interesting, yet long enough to cover the essentials. While one or two of our Federal Magistrates seem to bear this in mind and can talk brilliantly, one or two others do not seem to realise that shortness can be a virtue and tend to carry on, and on, and on, as if they were paid by the line.

A certain amount of tension exists at present between some high functionaries of the State and the so-called media. It is obvious that in a democratic state the mass media – press, radio and television – have an important controlling function over those who represent the power of the state to fulfill – and vice-versa. Justified criticism of actions of the state should not automatically be condemned as being "anti-state activity", always provided such criticism is not only justified, but also constructive. The fact that the state must, of necessity, have a supervisory function in relation to the media, whereas the latter in their turn must remain free and unfettered to fulfill their task as "the fourth power" thus creates, at least potentially, a certain amount of tension. This is the background to a great deal of talk which is going on at present, about the need for a special article concerning the radio and television in the federal constitution. Article 55 of the constitution regulates the freedom (and its necessary limitations) of the press, or, to put it differently, of the printed word. But as far as radio and television go, the confederation's supervisory powers are, at present, limited to their technical functioning. As far back as 1957 the population rejected, in a nation-wide plebiscite, an attempt by the federal authorities to extend these powers. The problem has, as I have mentioned, now become topical once more. Whatever the result: it appears that in a democratic state like the Swiss Confederation a certain amount of tension between politicians and media is unavoidable. Perhaps it is also healthy.

Gottfried Keller

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**The Army calls on data storage**

A central computer system containing information on every soldier in the land is to be set up to unburden federal and cantonal military administrations. The system will initially be fed with the basic information – presently in the hands of regional military authorities – regarding incorporation, service record and age, but will in a later stage be fed with details relating to the particular competence of serving men. The idea is to enable the Military Department to pick out specialists in various fields should the need arise. This computerised storage of personal data which will virtually concern every man in the country will be regulated by various safeguards protecting the privacy of the individual. The Military Department stressed this point, and added that those with access to this information would be carefully chosen and limited in number. The system is to cost 50 million francs.

# PIERRE JACCOUD FIGHTS FOR RETRIAL

Geneva lawyer Pierre Jaccoud, the central figure of one of Switzerland's most spectacular murder cases, began another stage last month in his ten-year legal battle for rehabilitation.

Mr. Jaccoud, now 69, former president of the Geneva Bar Association and prominent in local politics, was convicted in 1960 of murdering the father of his rival in love after a trial which rocked Geneva society.

He was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, but released after serving two-thirds of his term still protesting his innocence, as he did throughout the trial. In 1964, Mr. Jaccoud began legal action for a re-trial and in November 1965 a Geneva appeals court ordered an "additional inquiry". Proceedings dragged on slowly over the years, hindered sometimes by Mr. Jaccoud's ill health and the age and deaths of experts involved in the case.

At his trial, in 1960, the prosecution alleged that Mr. Jaccoud shot and stabbed to death Charles Zumbach, a Swiss businessman, on May 1st, 1958, after a furious argument in Zumbach's villa about an affair Zumbach's son, André, 24, was having with Mr. Jaccoud's 37-year-old mistress.

The trial, lasting more than two weeks, attracted wide attention throughout Europe and detective-story writer Georges Simenon was among the spectators in court.

Mr. Jaccoud, married with two children, was brought to court from hospital and listened to the proceedings lying on a couch. He wept as love letters he wrote to his mistress were read in court and fainted when his wife gave