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CITY SWISS CLUB JANUARY MEETING

The first monthly meeting of the City Swiss Club, held as usual at the Dorchester Hotel on the 22nd of January, proved to be a great success – not least, may be, thanks to the innovation of permitting members to bring their ladies on this occasion to help providing an adequate audience for the distinguished speakers of the evening. It was made much use of, thus increasing the attendance of members and guests to about eighty. This gratifying response might well encourage the Club to repeat the experiment on some future occasions.

The chief attraction of the evening, however, was the fact that the President, Mr. Ernst Tangemann, had succeeded to get two expert speakers to talk to us after dinner on the highly topical subject of British energy supplies apart from coal. They were Mr. R. W. Orson, Commercial Advisor of the Electricity Council, and Mr. K. Inglis, an economist of the British Petroleum Company, each discussing the theme from their respective angle, interlaced with many humorous asides, but stimulating the audience to a lively discussion at the end.

Our Ambassador, being unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting, was represented by his second in command, Minister Jürg Iselin, who took the opportunity to bring along with him as very special guests the members of a Swiss delegation for environment protection who had spent a week in this country studying the British efforts in this field. They were: Mr. Werner Jauslin, States Councillor, Dr. Bruno Boehlen, deputy-director of the Federal Office for Environment protection, Dr. Peter Duerst, chief of the legal section, and Mr. Bruno Milani, chief of the section for the disposal of waste in that same Federal Office, as well as Dr. E. Iselin, deputy-director Sandoz A.G. and environmental specialist of the Swiss chemical industry.

After an excellent meal the President, having dispatched the Club's business including the admission of six new members commendably quickly, first invited Mr. Inglis to speak. Interpreting the familiar BP sign as meaning Better Petrol for Beautiful People, Mr. Inglis spoke reassuringly of the present oil crisis as a temporary phenomenon which will pass sooner or later with the ever changing circumstances of the oil industry. Before the last war, he declared, oil was a specialised fuel for limited uses. Today we could hardly live without oil for almost all our needs. In a way we ought to be grateful to the Arab sheikhs for making us realise how dependent we are on oil in our completely transformed lives. The competition of coal and atomic energy does not worry the oil industry, rather they take the work-load off its hands. There are no new alternatives to oil available – at least not for the next 10 or 20 years. After the phenomenal growth of the world's economy since the war based on low cost energy the oil

companies have as Mr. Inglis admitted, undeniably "suffered a hell of a beating" these last six months. Yet they remain as indispensable as ever before. The remedy is making a more efficient use of all sources of energy to which task the Arabs' new wealth, which must be invested somewhere, could make a vital contribution.

Mr. Orson of the Electricity Council, starting off with an impressive survey of the British system of electric supplies, arrived at not entirely dissimilar conclusions regarding the right solution of the present crisis. England has today, he declared, the biggest integrated electricity system in the world with assets of £5,000 million and an annual turnover of £3,000 million. Contrary to a widespread impression it has increased the use of coal in the last 10 years, consuming half its total production. Due to the action of the oil producing Arab countries the shortage of oil has come sooner than was to be inevitably expected some time in the future. It forces us to think ahead and seek to remedy the situation by more effective uses of the available energy, such as by better methods of heat conservation and insulation of all buildings and homes where two thirds of the energy are lost up the chimney. Nuclear energy will not rapidly displace coal when the right choice of the next generation of reactors has been made. With proper pricing and tariff policies on which the Electricity Council must of course be fully consulted, all needs of electricity could be met after coping with the immediate crisis situation, although on the other hand the new oil prices look forbidding. Much depends on the use the oil-producing countries make of their increased money flow.

Before the meeting ended both speakers had to answer a variety of questions from the floor, States Councillor Jauslin also contributing a short address to the discussion.

SWISS CLUB, MANCHESTER

It was on Thursday, the 24th January, 1974, that an important number of members and friends of the Swiss Club, Manchester, flocked together at the hospitable Cottons Hotel in Knutsford for their traditional winter party, the "Raclette", for us always an enjoyable and friendly affair. This particular time we had looked forward to seeing our Consul General and Madame Born, an occasion which might be the last one prior to their departure for the U.S.

Our President, Mr. Peter Senn, opening the proceedings, informed us that Mr. Born, during his stay in Berne, was suddenly taken ill and was now in hospital but quickly recovering. This news came as a great shock to us and the most sincere hope was expressed that he may very soon be restored to his good health and that he will be back in Manchester, if even only for a short time, before leaving us.

Mr. Senn then continued by welcoming everybody present, especially the 14 members of our daughter club in Liverpool, who by their presence strengthened considerably our ranks. He then read a letter of good wishes for a successful evening, just received from Prof. Inebnit.

Following our traditional aperitifs taken at the well-stocked bar and everybody having assured themselves of a good supply of the excellent "Fechy" wine (made available to us thanks to the efforts of the immediate past President Dr. Bolliger, who was absent in Switzerland) we had made ourselves comfortable at the nicely set tables.

We were, however, soon directed to take positions in the queues leading towards the 4 Raclette machines, by now in full activity, worked by our President himself and some other Committee and other prominent members. This "Gomser" cheese was well-supplemented by boiled potatoes and other savouries and the popularity of this typical Swiss fare was best borne out by the

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