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fields such as industrial management, banking, insurance, public administration, trade, transport, stock-brokering and international organisations. In the rare cases where a woman reaches an executive position in a large organisation she is likely to be a spinster, a graceless, ambitious woman disliked by most of those who work under her or with her. Such is the price of professional success for women in a man's world.

The Head of the Personnel Chief of the Federal Administration recently explained on Swiss television that if a man and a woman appeared as candidates for a vacancy, the man would almost automatically be selected. He said this in a matter-of-fact way adding that women had children to look after and were consequently not reliable staff. These and other arguments are standard in large organisations. They are not always unjustified, but show that a great amount of mental adaptation will be necessary to open executive positions to women in large administrations.

The situation is more likely to cause suffering and frustration to women expecting more out of life than non-responsible tasks or plain domestic existence, because of their particular upbringing and personality.

There will always be a fraction of bored or unsatisfied housewives. The proportion appears to be pretty high in Switzerland. A kind of McKinsey report published by the Sociological Institute of the University of Zurich under the auspices of UNESCO showed the

appalling situation of so many Swiss marriages. This report was in fact criticised by women's organisations for the way it portrayed Swiss married women.

However, the problems of the home are likely to be aggravated in those social categories where it is almost impossible for women to find a professional outlet. In the working classes the problem is solved by an abundant supply of labour in industry and in offices. In the middle classes, several situations can arise. In many cases wives will find satisfactory jobs as school teachers or secretaries. Among some elderly, middle-class households, the husband will not allow his wife to work. It is probably in the higher reaches, where a housewife needn't work to bring in money and cannot accept any "small" job. Women of that category often have none of the training required by the higher job market. They may have a law or arts degree which can't usually fructify because they are out of touch with their specialisation by the time their children no longer need their immediate care. Many women in that category take refuge in an elaborate social life or become hinged to their husband's concerns and career.

The present establishment is certainly not designed to help women of a certain age, social and educational background. The women who are most to pity are unhappy married women who fail to find an adequate way of otherwise using their potentialities, or the

unmarried women prevented by a man's world from making a career.

P.M.B.

SWISS EVENTS

The average Swiss works 44.2 hours a week

The average working week throughout Swiss industry and business was 44.2 hours in 1973. A report by an employers' association showed that the working week was only 6 minutes shorter in 1973 than the year before. 19.4 per cent of all workers still put up weeks of 46 hours and over (as against 20.3 per cent in 1972). 17 per cent of all workers and employees work less than 44 hours a week (15.4 per cent in 1972) but only 3.9 per cent (3.5 in 1972) work less than forty hours a week.

It can therefore be seen that the Swiss have a longer working week than elsewhere, and in particular than in Britain, but as overtime is unknown the actual time spent at the work bench is shorter. Swiss workers generally refuse to work overtime. This requires that they

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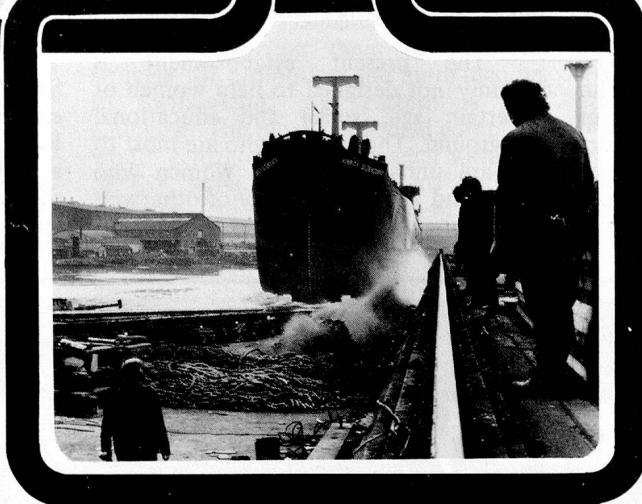
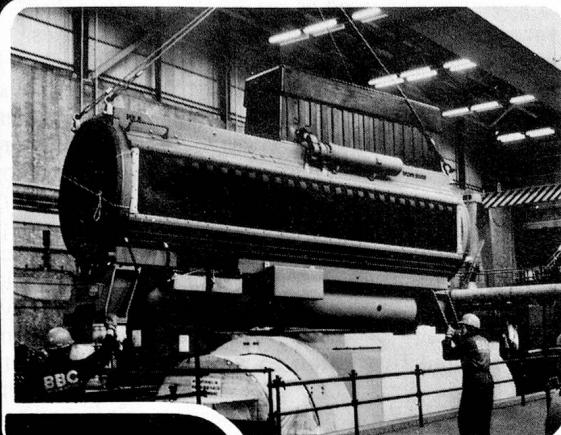
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get properly paid during regular hours and that their wages are matched by output.

The Swiss Trades Union Council (Union Syndicale Suisse) has refused to support a popular initiative launched by the "Organisations Progressistes" (POCH) to reduce the basic week to forty hours. The Swiss TUC claimed that the initiative was primarily aimed at gaining political recognition in the country. This attitude shows all the same that the Trade Unions do not consider a reduction of the working week as an urgent and overriding priority.

Death of the Doyen

The oldest man in Switzerland, Mr. Robert Meier, of Baden, died at the beginning of July at the age of 106. Mr. Meier, who was nearing his 107th birthday, had been in good health all his life. He had smoked six Brissagos daily until his death. He had conserved a good memory and an excellent sense of humour.

French pop star sings to Swiss prisoners

The French-Swiss television organisation recently staged a European première by producing a show set in the prison of *Bochuz*, near Orbe (Vaud) with the French pop star Johnny Halliday and his compatriot the comedian Raymond Devos. The film showed the two stars pursue a completely free conversation with three prisoners on the problems of detention and re-integration in society. Johnny Halliday then performed with a 12-man band before an audience of 180 prisoners, and was followed on *Bochuz*'s improvised stage by Raymond Devos, who produced a few sketches. This programme is believed to be the first of its kind in Europe. Johnny Halliday had been refused permission to produce a similar show in French prisons and the event at *Bochuz*, the main prison for long-term prisoners in western Switzerland, made headlines in some French newspapers.

PEACE OF LABOUR AGREEMENT RENEWED

The association of machine-tool and industrial equipment firms has ratified a new agreement with the trade unions continuing the Peace of Labour agreement which has secured a "social compact" in this vital branch and the remainder of Swiss industry. The new convention, which is valid for five years, embodies all the main points of previous renewable agreements between management and unions in the machine-tool and heavy equipment sector. The fundamental principles of mutual good faith and of absolute peace of labour which have proved themselves are maintained, and there are new provisions for extending the arbitration procedure. As before, wage negotiations are conducted at plant level. The new agreement will compel managers to improve further the conditions of work

of their employees. An important new provision will increase the information and contribution of the labour force to their firm's decision-making. Non-unionised workers will be asked to give a "solidarity" contribution to unions represented in their plant.

The new agreement, whose text hadn't been published in extenso at the time of writing, takes full account of changes in the social climate, but represents a compromise between the

unions and management to the satisfaction of both and in full awareness of the fact that "social peace" rests on the will of both parties to co-operate.

A second agreement was renewed with the white collar staff in the same industry. It provides, among other things, for a complete 13th month's pay from 1976 onwards. All employees above 40 will be entitled to a fourth week's holiday and those above 55 will be entitled to five weeks.

Swiss Bank keeps Algerian War Treasure

The Federal Court dismissed a suit by the Algerian Government at the end of a trial vindicating the principle of banking secrecy, which is at the foundation of Switzerland's banking reputation.

The Algerian Government had instituted proceedings against the Arab Commercial Bank in Geneva in order to recover the National Liberation Front's (FLN) "War Treasure", a sum of 40 million francs deposited in 1962 which had grown to about 50 million francs. The money, levied among Algerian workers in France during the war of independence, had been deposited in the Geneva branch of this Beirut-based bank by the Treasurer of the FLN and member of its political bureau, Mohamed Khider.

Taking a decision which is not likely to spell the end of a modern cloak and dagger drama, but which may strain relations between Switzerland and Algeria, the highest court of appeal of the land decided that the funds could not be returned to Algeria as the bank had been legally bound only towards its depositor, Mr. Khider, who was mysteriously assassinated in Madrid in 1967. The Algerian Government was awarded costs of 80,000 francs to the Court, and of 50,000 francs to the two suitors — the Commercial Arab Bank and its former President, Mr. Zouhair Mardham.

The latter had appealed against the decision taken on 15th June, 1973, by the Geneva Court of Appeal allowing the Algerian Government's claim. This decision had in fact upheld an earlier decision by an inferior Geneva court against which the Bank had appealed a first time. The Federal Court ruled that the decisions of the two Geneva jurisdictions were wrong in terms of Swiss banking law. The Federal Court unanimously ruled that the Geneva Courts hadn't taken due account of all the legal aspects of the case. In his exposition of the background to the affair, the President of the Court stressed that its judgement should be exclusively based on Swiss law and jurisprudence to the exclusion of all moral considerations. In terms of Swiss law, the Bank was only answerable to Mr. Khider, the sole signatory for the transfer of the funds

deposited under his name. Secondly, Mr. Khider had placed the money in Geneva on behalf of the FLN and its successor, the Algerian Republic, was therefore not entitled to any claim on the funds. The Court said that the Algerian Government had failed to consider the only legal avenue which could have prevented the Bank from giving Mr. Khider unlimited access to this account: to submit an official demand for it to be frozen.

The Algerian case was that Mr. Khider had illegally managed the money in 1964 following the dissolution of the FLN's political bureau and the eviction of Mr. Khider as the organisation's treasurer. It claimed that the transfers carried out in that year by Mr. Khider had not been carried out on behalf of the FLN and that these dealings had been made possible by the Bank's illicit complicity. (That FLN Treasure disappeared in 1964. Part of the money was transferred to Germany and funds were also hidden in several numbered accounts. An enquiry which followed legal proceedings instituted as early as July, 1964, by the Algerian Government failed to establish the dossiers of these transactions). However, the Federal Court decided that there was no proof that the Bank had behaved improperly.

It appears that Khider refused to hand back the FLN Treasure to the newly independent republic when he found that its socialist course conflicted completely with the ideals he had fought for during eight years of the war of independence. Together with several leaders of the liberation movement, Khider had fallen out with Ben Bella, the country's first head of state, and decided to use the funds to support a new anti-FLN organisation. This led to his expulsion from Switzerland in 1966. He settled in Madrid where he was assassinated the following year.

A Swiss registered bank has therefore inherited funds deposited by a deceased man to which no one has a legal claim. The fact that Khider was not the owner of this money — much of which had in fact been extorted from Algerian labourers in France — is irrelevant under Swiss banking law. This situation is by no

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means new. The Neguib and Nasser regimes in Egypt tried in vain to recoup Farouk's money after the death in exile of the deposed Egyptian Monarch. Even the late Juan Peron failed to retrieve the fortune which his second wife, Eva Peron, had placed in a separate account. All this may sound immoral to many and spark off the old controversy about "Swiss banks hiding illegal funds". But to the Swiss banking community, it is part and parcel of the system that has ensured its success and worldwide reputation.

JURA: MR. BEGUELIN CONGRATULATED BY QUEBEC SEPARATISTS

Mr. Roland Béguelin, General Secretary of the Rassemblement Jurassien, was congratulated in a telegram by Mr. Léo Jacques, President of the Quebec National Movement, for the Separatist victory at the 23rd June plebiscite. The Quebec leader congratulated the Jurassian people for voting in favour of the "cantonal independence of the Jura" and said that the 23rd June plebiscite contained several lessons for the people of Quebec "in the courage, perseverance and determination shown by a small people fighting for its freedom since 1815".

In concluding his telegram, Mr. Jacques expressed the hope that the young people of Quebec would show as much enthusiasm and drive in their struggle for the linguistic, social, economic and political independence of Quebec as the "Jeunes Béliers" of the Jura.

Complete abolition of tips in restaurants

The abolition of tips in Swiss restaurants has finally been enforced throughout the country. As from 1st July last, all restaurants and other catering establishments are bound by a national agreement to include service in their bills. As the agreement provides for a guaranteed and adequate income to all the employees of that branch, no one is held to add a tip to the bill. Indeed, it has been officially recommended not to do so. The application of the new convention will be supervised both by the Prices and Wages Office, and by a supervisory committee attached to the Swiss catering and hotel trades association. Thus any abuse of the new regulations or an unjustified increase in bills can be reported to these bodies, who are empowered to impose fines of up to 1,000 francs.

PARLIAMENT COMPLETES A BUSY SESSION

Parliament wound up its June Session with the satisfaction of having achieved a heavy legislative programme. Both chambers sit each year at the same time for four one-month sessions which are barely sufficient for an increasingly

heavy law-making burden. The present recess will end after the National Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving in September.

The final week of the last session was particularly busy with the National Council sitting up to 8 p.m. so as to pass measures to balance the federal budget. The debate was particularly lively and a bill to block the employment of new staff in the Federal Administration for three years gave rise to heated arguments in the Lower House. Income Tax was also debated but not by the Council of States. It will take the matter up in the Autumn so that definite proposals applicable in 1977, will be ready for the people to vote on next December.

The liquidity problems of the Confederation were at the heart of many debates in both Houses and were brought up during the examination of the Administration's 1973 accounts, and those of the Federal Railways and the Post Office.

Two initiatives were discussed. The first, on worker participation, gave rise to a disagreement between the National Council and the Council of States. The former had more or less accepted proposals submitted by the Government in answer to the Trades Union initiative on the subject, the latter had drafted proposals of its own. This disagreement will delay the final debate on the issue by one year. The second initiative to be discussed was the (third) one against "over-foreignisation". Parliament decided against counter-proposals but overwhelmingly rejected the initiative on which the people will shortly be consulted.

Proposals for an economic policy article in the Constitution also ran against differences between the two Houses. Contrary to the National Council, the Council of States decided that federal action should be limited to three traditional sectors, namely, currency and credit, public finance and foreign economic relations. The National Council is in favour of giving the government further powers for remedial action.

A disagreement also emerged over future constitutional provisions on the management of lakes and waterways. The Council of States, which represents the Cantons, was not prepared to give the government as much power as the National Council would have wished.

The Council of States decided that the Swiss people should not be consulted on the ratification of the Human Rights Convention. The other Chamber has not yet discussed this issue but has approved official aid to research amounting to 710 million francs over five years, and to universities, amounting to 568 million francs over two years.

The Council of States agreed with the other House to give Old Age Pensioners an extra month of Pension this year compensating the increased cost of living. This bonus will probably be distributed next September (and will also benefit the Swiss abroad who subscribe to AHV). It has also been decided to

increase pensions by 25 per cent on 1st January next year.

Other bills approved touched on encouragement to housing and house-ownership; cattle rearing in mountain areas; investments in isolated and underdeveloped regions. Some differences persist on a future and important law on land-planning. In the military field, the National Council approved the Federal Council's Report on Switzerland's security policy, and voted credits of 74 million francs for a new training centre at Spiez. The "Canton's Chamber" accepted the 1974 military procurement budget totalling 968 million francs, but expressed doubts on the performance of the new home-built tank known as the Swiss Tank 68.

A new prices watchdog

A new man has at last been found to succeed Mr. Leo Schurmann as federal Prices Supervisor. He is Mr. Leon Schlumpf, 49, a member of the Council of States from the Grisons. The Prices Supervisor is a recent institution designed to check whether price increases, to be submitted by various producer associations, are justified and permissible. The first holder of the job was National Councillor Leo Schurmann, who had resigned last year but retained the job while a successor was found. Mr. Schurmann, who was also President of the Swiss Monopolies Commission, has been appointed Governor of the Swiss National Bank. The Chairmanship of the Monopolies Commission is to be taken over by Mr. Walter Schluep, a professor of civil law at Basle University.

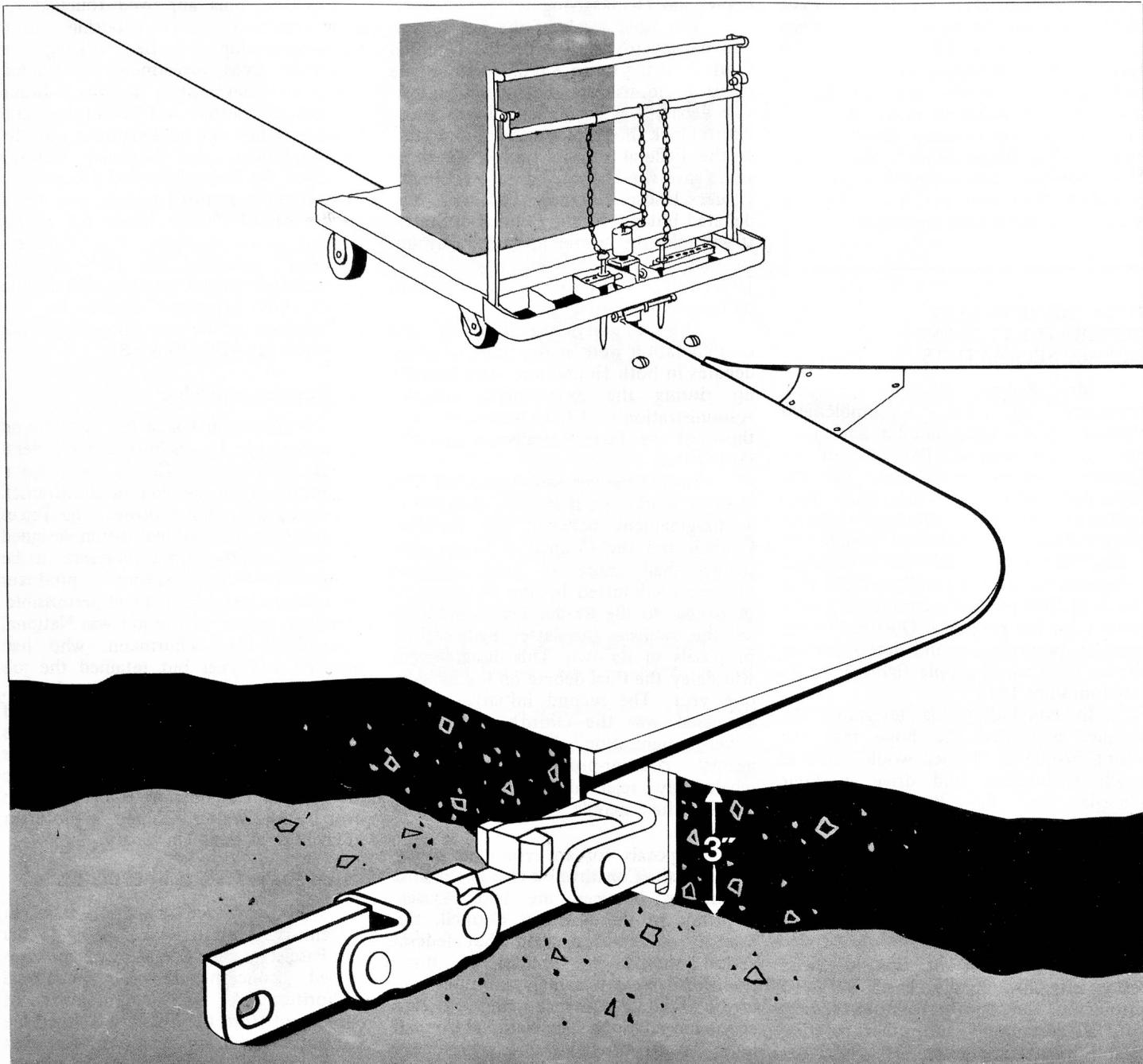
Italian Fascists said to be in the Tessin

The presence in the Tessin of extreme-right militants belonging to the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement has caused concern to the cantonal authorities. A Socialist member of Parliament from the Tessin has asked the Federal Council for precisions on what was being done about this. In its answer, the Government said that the police had kept a close watch on two men most frequently referred to by the Press and added that they had not been arrested as no charges had been preferred against them. One of the two men, Angelo Angeli, was wanted by the Italian police but the Swiss authorities had not received any official extradition demand. He had been assigned to remain in Lugano but had disappeared from the town.

Proliferation of radar traps

Several cantons have installed permanent radars at dangerous points of town and country roads. These radars automatically photograph the number plates of cars going faster than the prescribed limits. Geneva has just installed six of these machines and police claim that their prime purpose is to prevent accidents, not to inflict fines on offenders. These radars are at the following points, all known for their

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These radars are not hidden. Motorists should therefore soon know exactly where they are and slow down for a dozen yards before picking up. Police are well aware of this but claim that if this temporary speed reduction saves lives, the exercise will be worthwhile. Foreigners are the most likely to be caught in these traps, especially if they are not familiar with the city. In order to limit such incidents, large panels warn visitors of the existence of radars at the borders of the Canton.

The Federal Council has had to reject yet another petition against the erection of a nuclear power station at Kaiseraugst. The petition, which was backed by the neighbouring commune of Birsfelden, asked the Government to order a definite halt to all works on the power station for which planning permission had been won after years of effort. The Government said, in brief, that although it was invested with the power to supervise the application of safety and environmental regulations, it was not constitutionally entitled to stop work already authorised by cantonal authorities. The Government's letter was particularly detailed since these considerations also applied to other planned nuclear power stations, namely at Verbois near Geneva, which have already given rise to strong local opposition.

THE RASSEMBLEMENT JURASSIEN WRITES TO THE FEDERAL COUNCIL

The Rassemblement Jurassien, the central Separatist organisation of the Jura, has called on the Federal Council to prevent the splitting-up of this French-speaking area. If the orientation given by the 23rd June Plebiscite in the Jura is maintained when the people of the region are next consulted (in March, 1975), then the new Canton of the Jura will consist in the three northern districts (with the hypothetical inclusion of Moutier) while the southern districts of Courteulary and La Neuveville will definitely be part of Berne.

The Rassemblement categorically rejects this solution. It claims in its letter that there can be no question of splitting the Jura which the Bernese constitution has recognised since March, 1970, as consisting of the six French-speaking

districts and the district of Laufen. The Rassemblement therefore calls on the Government to intervene so as to prevent such an outcome. It asks the Federal Council to convene a conference of all the parties and says that it would shortly back this demand with 24,656 signatures collected during a petition.

In another development, a young Separatist militant, Mr. Maurice Wicht, 25, was killed by a neighbour who fired three shots in his direction as he was attempting to plant a Separatist flag on the house of a leading anti-Separatist citizen of Boncourt. This incident greatly stirred Separatist feelings and caused the flags of the movement to be put at half mast.

BLAST AT A SANDOZ CHEMICAL PLANT — ONE KILLED AND TEN MILLION FRANCS DAMAGES

A blast ripped through a chemical processing room in one of the main blocks of the Sandoz factory in Basle. The explosion, which came from an oven for the preparation of chemicals used in dyestuffs production caused an immediate flare-up and within minutes the whole block was ablaze. As the explosion happened before dawn on a Wednesday, there were few staff present, but a Swiss worker, 37, and father of two was killed and another, a foreign worker, was treated for shock. Firemen managed to get the blaze under control in less than

an hour and it was a miracle that the fire didn't spread to the other sections of the factory. Damages were all the same evaluated at 10 million francs. The production of the plant was not impaired since the chemicals produced in the destroyed building can be bought elsewhere. This incident was remarkably similar to the blaze which destroyed part of the Ciba-Geigy plant at Schweizerhalle.

Appeal rejected in Zylla case

The court of appeal of Lugano has confirmed or extended sentences passed on four people last year by a lower jurisdiction for the murder of the German millionaire Egon Zylla, who was killed in August, 1971. The persons concerned are Willy Geuer, charged with organising the crime, his mistress Gisela Kemperdick, the former convict Rolf Manser and an accomplice Romolo Stoppini. The Appeals court has confirmed life imprisonment for Geuer, and 18 years imprisonment for the other two men. It has converted the 18 years' imprisonment previously pronounced on Gisela Kemperdick to life imprisonment in the belief that she had not only been an accomplice, but an active participant. Lawyers of the four condemned persons have announced that they would appeal to the Federal Court. The four had conspired to murder the German businessman Egon Zylla in a classical bid to enjoy the fortune of a rich but naive businessman.

What C.G. Jung said about the Swiss

In a recent brochure distributed by its Press Department, the Pro Helvetica Foundation collected various quotations on the Swiss by the famous psychologist and writer Carl Gustav Jung. These sayings are not always congratulatory. Below is our translation of some of them.

If we should prove to be the most stubborn, conservative, traditional and self-righteous nation in Europe, then this would mean for the Europeans that they as a people are really at home in their geographical centre: attached to the earth, unworried, sure of themselves and backward looking (that is, closely linked to their past), adopting a neutral position between the varying and contradictory strivings and opinions of the other nations. It isn't a shameful role to be Europe's centre of gravity.

We need not be ashamed of our national characteristics, nor can we hope to change them. Only those individuals who are able to overcome national prejudices through their psychic growth can hope to change or improve themselves. The national character is given to man as an unchosen destiny, in

the same way as one receives an ugly or beautiful body. The evolution and destiny of nations are not determined by personal characteristics but by superhuman factors: the spirit and the earth which shape people by obscure and often mysterious ways.

The Swiss national characteristics emerging from centuries of history are not the result of pure hazard, but the purposeful consequence of the dissolving, and hence dangerous, effects of the environment. The Swiss are willing to understand why a man like Kayserling spoke so harshly about them, likewise they should understand that their openness to attack is one of their most indispensible possessions.

Our most beautiful mountain, which dominates a great part of Switzerland, is the Jungfrau. Since the most ancient times, the signs of the Zodiac given to Switzerland have been the Virgin and the Bull. This shows that the ancient astrologists had well recognised the earthly character of the Swiss. Their attachment to the earth is at the root of all their good and bad qualities: their standfastness, their limited



View of Morcote, near Lugano (SNTO)

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CREATION OF THE ARAB-SWISS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Living on the spine of a continent, fastened to the earth, live the inhabitants of the Alps, surrounded by powerful people nations owning the whole earth... Their soul clings to what they have because all the others, the powerful of the earth, have the remainder. Their country is small and their possessions small: how will they replace them if they loose them?

Can Switzerland play a meaningful role in the European system, in her retrograde and earth-bound fashion? I believe that the answer to this question is yes. The answers to political problems are not necessarily related to Spirit, Progress and Change, but also to Immutability and Standfastness. Progress can also descend from the mountains, and permanence can still be a solution preferable to the fast tempo of progress. Countries too can become tired and yearn towards a stabilisation of their political and social institutions. One need only consider the meaning of the *Pax Romana* to the Roman Empire.

The Swiss are particularly hostile to alien political and spiritual involvement. That he should stand against all kinds of political interference — this being inherent to the art of neutrality — is understandable. His opposition to foreign spiritual interference is more mysterious but nonetheless true. I can attest to this from my personal experience as a practitioner: Englishmen, Americans and Germans are far more open, as patients, to new ideas than the Swiss. As a rule, a new idea does not involve a risk for others, whereas it does for the Swiss. For them, new ideas are something akin to an unknown and dangerous animal which must either be swiftly avoided or approached with the greatest care.

NEW BUILDING PROCESS

As traditional building methods and even prefabrication no longer fully answer the requirements of the modern economy, a firm at Courgenay (Berne,

Switzerland) has devised a new building process making possible considerable mechanisation and real industrialisation in this sector. The result of years of study and research, this process has been inspired by the engineering industry, where moulds in which the material is cast or injected are used for the manufacture of metal or plastic objects. The equipment devised by the Swiss firm consists of a certain number of items of formwork — the modules — which, like the parts of a building set, can be arranged at will by the architect to form a mould. Before filling or injecting with concrete, the builder inserts into this mould all door and window frames, electrical and sanitary installations, heating, metal reinforcements, thermal insulation, etc. After removal from the cast, only finishing work remains to be done and the floors to be laid. This highly mechanised and rationalised system makes for a very considerable drop in construction costs and a big saving in time and skilled labour. In addition, it offers the advantage of enabling several trades to work simultaneously, resulting in a big reduction in running costs and delivery dates.

NEW DISH-WARMER WITHOUT FLEX OR CANDLE

No self-respecting housewife would be without a dish-warmer, but how often has she experienced the annoyance of candles that go out or a flex that spoils her table decoration. An aluminium foundry at Bellach (Solothurn, Switzerland), specialising in the construction of aluminium appliances, has launched on the market a new gas-heated dish-warmer that is both practical and elegant. It requires no preheating and gives off constant heat with a regular flame for 7 hours; a built-in pressure-regulator ensures a uniform supply of heat, so that the dish-warmer does not gradually grow less hot but continues at a temperature of 150°C

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