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of an ideal

clean power from hydro-electric power generation. But energy requirements are steadily rising, even though there has been a slackening in the growth in the past few years.

As in other countries, the arguments rage over the desirability of various alternative forms of energy supply and their effect on the environment. Few doubt that the energy needs of the future will be met only by considerable sacrifices on the part of nature.

Research is continuing into the possibility of using such energy sources as the sun, the wind, the earth's internal heat and so on when the present energy sources become economically, socially and environmentally unacceptable. At present, costs are prohibitive and efficiencies too low to attract bulk users.

Energy for vehicles is a problem without any real solution even remotely possible at the moment,

yet the damage to the environment and to health is undeniable.

Switzerland's neutrality is not an unmixed blessing. True, it has kept her at peace for over a century but it has also put constraints on her trading stance and caused problems of conscience concerning her international relief activities.

She still agonises over the question of joining the United Nations, even though she is an active member of many of the specialised agencies of the UN and hosts many international bodies.

The role of government in the affairs of the people causes its own problems. Modern society is rapidly changing and the young, in particular, are impatient for change.

But the very stability of the Swiss system of government makes change a very slow business. When the Swiss come to a decision it is a good, well thought out decision, but it may take years to arrive at it.

Military service is becoming increasingly unpopular, even though events in the South Atlantic have shown what can happen to a people who cannot defend themselves. Anyone who considers he has a claim to their territory will not be deterred by anything less than superior force.

Swiss neutrality is not enough to ensure her integrity, unless it is backed up with sufficient force to make any aggression too costly to be attractive. Needless to say, the will to use the force must be evident.

Nothing of any value can be bought without hard work and sacrifice, whether it be freedom, peace, jewels or a happy marriage. Perhaps the greatest danger to the Swiss nation is apathy.

Too many referenda, too comfortable an existence or perhaps just laziness cause people to be reluctant to get involved in the running of the country.

Switzerland would not be the first nation to lose its freedoms by default.

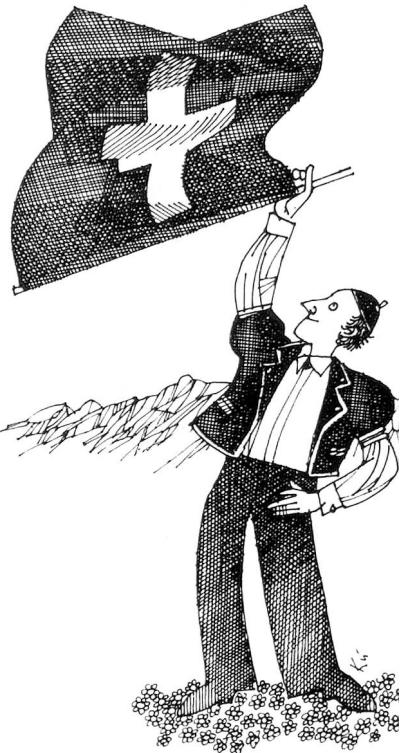
This is a materialistic age and spiritual values are being forgotten

or ignored, or worse still, compromised. The Church, no matter what the denomination, has tried to adapt its teachings to the theories of scientists, sociologists, politicians or anyone else who happens to be fashionable.

Whenever one believes, one either believes it in its entirety or the belief is worthless. Any attempt to water down one's beliefs for whatever reason can lead only to their eventual abandonment.

Without strong beliefs the nation's morals decay and its citizens drift into anarchy, lawlessness and misery, no matter what the proponents of the new liberalism say to the contrary.

Switzerland therefore celebrates, besides the more obvious things such as those already mentioned, an abstract ideal - a democratic alliance of honest men who are their own masters and who deal with each other with justice.



The definitions are as many and as abstract as the ideal they are trying to define. One thing is certain. An ideal that has survived for nearly 700 years must be worth celebrating.

the poorest nations and to prevent the bankruptcy of debtor states. Every one of us is prepared to sacrifice a little of his surplus in order to help the poorest of the poor.

It is also in our interest to expand development and humanitarian aid. After all, we want to be heard on the world stage in order to defend our ideas and interests.

Taking this day of celebration as an opportunity to look back in time, we can see that standing up for freedom, the respect of mankind and the will to more solidarity represents moral values - moral values which, irrespective of all cultural, linguistic and religious differences, are more necessary than ever before if the world is to survive.

May every one of us today, wherever he or she is, be a witness to this past. It is in this spirit, dear compatriots abroad, that I convey to you the best wishes of the Federal Council.

Whether it's Birmingham to Berne or Lausanne to London it's got to be Eurovan!



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