

# Comment

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Multihotels run a vast 78-flat chalet called the *Marigny Club*, at Crans. A similar one is due to be opened at the same estate and another one, about a mile away, will be opened near the golf course. This will be called *ahte Caddy's Club* and will be of particular interest to golfers.

There are five categories of flats at the *Marigny Club* ranging from 2-bedroomed studios facing up-valley and luxury 6-bedroomed penthouses with a balcony facing towards the Rhone Valley, the high Alps of the Zermatt area and, of course, the sun. The 2-bedroomed studios costs from £168 a fortnight in the low season to £580 a fortnight in the high season. Corresponding costs for the penthouses are £1,600 and £5,000. Naturally, the furniture, kitchen

appliances and other household goods attached to these flats are used by their various successive occupiers. While the idea of commonly-shared property may detract some, I must say that the furniture is of superb quality and likely to last for a good part of the lease. It is naturally kept clean and in good condition by a house-keeping service. The *Marigny Club* is also equipped with a nursery, a restaurant and a swimming pool. In winter there is a regular mini-bus service to the slopes.

Another point which is not without importance is that Montana-Crans has 319 days of sunshine a year, which makes it the sunniest resort in Switzerland. Should anyone be tempted, please ask for more details by writing to Multihotels, 36 Ovington Square, London, S.W.3.

War caused it to fall after the German defeat. When it was bought back in 1922 by a printer from Rorschach, Ernest Loepfe, it had 380 subscribers left.

Today, it has become a financially healthy and well-established magazine relying on only a third of its page area for publicity. Its caricaturist, the famous Carl Boeckli, made the magazine one of the most daring of the time with his cartoons on Nazi Germany and the leaders of the Third Reich. Its present Editor, Franz Maechler, has given the paper a liberal, middle-of-the-road orientation, taking a laugh both at the Right and the Left while at the same time "respecting the foundations of Swiss democracy".

#### Death of Carl Jacob Burckhardt

Carl Jacob Burckhardt, former diplomat, President of the Red Cross and High Commissioner of the League of Nations, has died at his home near Rolle at the age of 82. Hailing from a well known Basle family, Carl Jacob Burckhardt was one of the leading Swiss diplomats of his time. Before the war, he was the League of Nations' High Commissioner in Danzig. Despite the wavering support of the declining organisation, he tried all that was in his power to persuade Hitler not to invade Poland. Among the responsibilities of an exceptional career, he was Switzerland's first post-war plenipotentiary minister in Paris, and he signed Switzerland's adhesion to the European Organisation for Economic Co-operation. His widow is the daughter of the famous Swiss historian Gonzague de Reynold.

## HOME NEWS

#### Swiss managing directors not too badly off

A recent survey by a market research firm in Zurich showed that the Swiss executives were the best paid in the world.

Using the exchange rates quoted last September, they find that a Swiss managing director's average take-home pay was 240,000 francs a year (nearly £30,000). His American counterpart earned 228,000 francs, followed by French (165,000 francs), Italian (120,000 francs) and British (90,000 francs) chief executives.

The reason why Swiss managing directors are the best paid in the world is because they pay less income tax. The scale of gross income is altered slightly. It is as follows: America 410,000 francs, Germany 375,000 francs, Switzerland 320,000 francs, France 212,000 francs, Italy 202,000 and Britain 150,000 francs.

#### The "Nebelspalter" celebrates Centenary

The "Nebelspalter", a satirical magazine which makes thousands of German-Swiss laugh every week, has recently celebrated its Centenary. Published in St. Gall and enjoying a circulation of 64,000 (or about 40,000 less than "Punch"), the "Nebelspalter" has survived several campaigns and threats of disappearance. It was founded in Zurich by a man called Jean Noetzli as a militant publication concerned with the country's internal problems. Noetzli gave it an anti-clerical tack and threw his magazine in the "Kulturkampf". In 1900 it was taken over by a Hungarian, Friedrich Boscovits, who converted it into an inoffensive entertainment so as to reach a wider public. But the "Nebelspalter" lost its original savour. Its readership dropped and the pro-German attitude it took during the First World

## Comment

#### A NEW PLAN TO SAVE THE LANDSCAPE

When future historians write the history of the seventies, they will be able to appreciate that the shift of mentalities apparent in every aspect of life was particularly strong in one area, that of the environment. A new consciousness has set in and new words introduced in the common man's vocabulary.

This is particularly true of Switzerland for several reasons. Its small size is environmentally in conflict with its very high rate of economic growth. The particular ideals of cleanliness and orderliness of its citizens, plus the awareness of the beauty of their landscape and their love of nature, have contrived to "sensitise" the Swiss more than most people to the problems of pollution. While the British, who introduced smokeless zones many years ago, have been accustomed to pollution since the industrial revolution, the Swiss have only recently discovered its misdeeds. These show particularly in the country's lakes and rivers. It is forbidden

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**GROUP RESOURCES EXCEED £500,000,000**

to bathe in Lake Lugano, for example. It is practically impossible — and not very enjoyable — to take a dip in Lake Neuchâtel. With chemicals from detergents and other wastes coming from bordering cities, Lake Geneva has become almost dead and stagnant. These chemicals have produced a massive growth of algae absorbing all the oxygen of the lake. While the blue surface of the Léman still shines under the sun for the pleasure of tourists, the lake's true nature can be found a few inches beneath that surface. The water is almost opaque and evil smelling. Determined steps have fortunately been taken to reverse the situation, but it will be a long process.

The distinction between pollution and environment is clear in Switzerland because of its small size. While pollution refers to dirt and garbage, environment involves protection of sites and landscape from urban development. With 6.2 million inhabitants living on 15,000 square miles, Switzerland is less densely populated than the British Isles. But considering that three-quarters of the population and its activities are on the Plateau, a narrow strip of tractable "countryside" between the Alps and the Jura accounting for a third of the country's area, it is obvious that the environment of the average Swiss is as densely populated or more as the environment of the average Englishman.

Assuming that Switzerland continues to expand economically and demographically, it is therefore essential to organise that growth within the framework of a definite plan. Several plans have already been drafted. The latest official one presented in February is likely to form the basis of immediate intercantonal consultations. Its population forecasts are surprisingly low. According to this plan, which is code named CK-73, Switzerland will have only 7 million inhabitants by the turn of the century as against the 10 million estimates of other forecasts. Nevertheless, these extra one-and-a-half million Swiss will have to be housed in such a way as to preserve the existing landscape. Four new urban areas of 200,000 inhabitants are planned at St. Gall, Lucerne, Biel-Neuchâtel and Aarau-Olten. This is to prevent excessive urban concentrations on the five existing centres: Zurich, Basle, Berne, Geneva and Lausanne. The plan would strike a right demographic balance between the economic and linguistic regions of the country. The emphasis would be laid on the preservation of the landscape, and the farmer's responsibility in moulding and preserving that landscape would be fully recognised.

Rather than attack economic development for its environmental evils, the Swiss are in the process of using the means afforded by development to live both comfortably and in a protected environment. This example shows that man can control his destiny and need not be the helpless victim of his economic system.

PMB

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## IL BOLLETTINO NOSTRANO

BELLINZONA. — *L'avvenire del Cantone*. — "E' necessario regionalizzare il Cantone, cioè ridistribuire le attività e il potere decisionale, oggi concentrati nelle città". Con questa lapidaria affermazione il prof. Jean Billet — autore dell'interessantissimo studio "*Le Tessin, essai de géographie régionale*" — ha sintetizzato nel corso d'una recente intervista radio-fonica, quello che dev'essere l'indirizzo del futuro sviluppo del Cantone Ticino. Infatti l'andamento demografico ticinese in tempi recenti è molto squilibrato. Da una parte l'aumento complessivo della popolazione è stato tale che dovrebbe preoccupare (anche se molti se ne rallegrano). Nello stesso periodo però in vaste zone lo spopolamento è costante. Il perchè di questa situazione va ricercato proprio nella concentrazione delle attività e del potere decisionale attorno a pochi nuclei cittadini denunciata dal Billet. Oggi si dice che le città si allargano a dismisura, che il traffico è caotico, che manca il verde, che manca l'aria, e si dice anche che le valli si spopolano, che l'ambiente si degrada, che la montagna muore... Non si dice però mai che bisogna eliminare le cause di tutti questi inconvenienti che consistono nella concentrazione in pochi

centri delle attività e del potere decisionale. — Le regioni di montagna non devono essere considerate solo come aree di riserva per le città. — Tutte le regioni dovrebbero offrire contemporaneamente possibilità di lavoro e disvago.

*L'educazione sessuale nella scuola*. — Mercoledì, 6 febbraio, la speciale commissione incaricata dell'esame del problema ha tenuto a Bellinzona una conferenza-stampa. E' stato sottolineato il principio secondo cui l'educazione sessuale non può essere isolata dal contesto dell'educazione globale. Venne ribadita la necessità della collaborazione fra scuola e famiglia. I problemi del materiale didattico, delle "domande difficili", dei modelli di comportamento proposti dai "mass media", d'un corso organico in quinta elementare e degli scopi e obiettivi dell'educazione sessuale discussi con un migliaio di maestri di scuole elementari.

"*Marcia, che fa mal i pè!*" — 581 giovani hanno iniziato il 4 febbraio presso la caserma di Bellinzona la loro scuola reclute che si concluderà il 1° giugno. Le reclute sono suddivise in 5 compagnie: la prima è una compagnia di lingua italiana con un effettivo di 114 reclute, ticinesi e