

Swiss events

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potentialities of the atom.

What is surprising is the apparently ineffectual results of these vast conferences on the progress towards peace. Four thousand eminent technicians and scientists from all over the world came to discuss the peaceful uses of the atom—that should have some sort of perceptible impact. Yet, less than a mile away another conference was being told that defence spending had almost trebled in eight years. These education-

ists, incidentally, were assembled to speak on "The social surroundings of schoolchildren and their chances of success".

The distance between the *Palais Wilson* and a Ghetto school is so infinite that one almost senses an element of luxury in these international congresses. They are necessary, but an awful lot of talking seems to be required to get the world moving for the better. (PMB)

SWISS EVENTS

FEDERAL

Recognition of North Vietnam

The Federal Council has granted recognition to the Democratic Republic of North Vietnam. As though this gesture required "excuses", the Federal Council explained its decision with a series of humanitarian reasons. In 1966 the Swiss Ambassador in Peking had first approached the North Vietnamese government. His efforts were continued by his successor. The present recognition is therefore the result of four years of diplomacy behind the scenes. Switzerland has also been involved in North Vietnam from a humanitarian point of view and Swiss Red Cross teams have operated there.

Many circles are asking why it was necessary to wait for so long to recognise North Vietnam. The recognition of partitioned states has always been a horny political problem. Strict neutrality would have required a recognition of both East and West Germany, North and South Korea and North and South Vietnam. So far, only the pro-West halves of these divided countries have obtained Swiss recognition.

Troops to leave Zurich and Geneva airports

The attempts on an El Al airliner two years ago, followed by the explosion of a Swissair "Coronado", climaxing in the hijacking and destruction of two airliners in the Jordanian desert led to the occupation by the troops of the international airports of Geneva and Zurich. They were first posted on 28th September, 1970. Each airport received a battalion. Since then over 18,000 men have performed their annual military service at one of the two airports.

Considerable equipment has been engaged in protecting them. At Geneva airport, ten watch towers were erected (three of which burnt down accidentally), 50 km of barbed wire protected its approaches, and machine-gun nests guarded its boundary.

All this arsenal is now to be moved away and both airports freed from militiamen. This follows the opening of a Palestinian office in Geneva and assurances given by the Palestinians. It would therefore seem that they have given up hijacking as a means to an end. The Military Department believed that the troops were no longer necessary under those circumstances. The visitors platform at Cointrin will once again be open, as it has been for some time at Kloten. The shopkeepers at these airports are relieved by the troop departure and allege that their presence has caused a substantial loss of business.

Some airlines, such as El Al, are concerned by this relaxation of security and have complained to the military authorities concerned.

COMMUNICATIONS

A second TV channel for 1974?

In the course of a recent reunion of the Central Committee of the Swiss Broadcasting Society, a body covering the activities of the three linguistic networks, it has been decided that broadcasting staff should take part in the management of their services. Two commissions with equal representations from management and staff are planned to lay down the guidelines of this future participation.

The Central Committee has also established the principles which will govern programmes during the forthcoming federal elections. Every party will be given the opportunity to put its views on the air and programmes will be planned to inform the public on the scope of these elections.

A previous decision to install a second TV channel has been reaffirmed. The starting date has been fixed for 1st January, 1974, a delay which will give the Swiss Broadcasting Society the time to make the necessary arrangements. French-speaking Switzerland will also enjoy a third channel through which the Swiss Italian programmes will be relayed.

Increased telephone charges

The board of management of the Swiss GPO has approved proposals for increasing telephone subscriptions, the cost of telegrams and the cost of receiving radio broadcasts through the telephone system, because rising costs will pull the Post Office into a deficit this year. These demands will be submitted to the Federal Council.

It has been definitely decided to maintain the new "B" professional directory. It appeared with a number of errors giving rise to widespread criticism. The Post Office has decided that as long as no other publication offers the 350,000 items of information contained in the Professional Directory, it shall continue to be published. Conversations will be held with newspaper associations and publicity agencies in order to improve the future editions.

"Air and Space" in Lucerne

In 1972, the Swiss Transport Museum in Lucerne will house the biggest exhibition in Europe devoted to the theme of air and space. The new hall, which will measure approximately 200 ft. by 100 ft., has been designed with a view to enabling visitors to approach the exhibits as closely as possible, and with an escalator connecting the different floors. Twenty aircraft, from the DC-3 to the Fokker F-7-A, will be among the many items on display in the "Air and Space" Exhibition, which will be devoted mainly to the history of aviation, air traffic, safety in the air, meteorology, etc. But the Lucerne exhibition will also have a section devoted to space, and visitors will have an opportunity of seeing the latest achievements in the field of space conquest, rockets, communication satellites, etc. In addition, a special section will show the part played by Switzerland in space research and industry. Inaugurated in 1960, the Swiss Transport Museum recorded a total of nearly 3.5 million visitors between 1st July, 1969, and 21st June, 1971; the "Longines Planetarium", opened in 1970, has given new impetus to this ideal tourist attraction.

EDUCATION

Flying start of the International Baccalauréat

One of the domestic consequences of the upsurge of free states and multi-lateral diplomacy has been the difficulties of giving adequate education to the children of diplomats posted abroad. There were only 50 independent states in 1939, now there are over 160. Organisations such as the World Health Organisation, the International

Labour Organisation, the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade and many others have sprung up and have given birth to a sizeable international personnel.

The problems of diplomatic families are well known. In some cases, families have to be separated. In other children are taught certain disciplines, such as decimal fractions, in two or three different ways by moving from continent to continent.

An end can be put to all this with an internationally recognised examination accepted in higher educational establishments across the world. The seed was sown by UNESCO, which opened a service charged with defining a common school curriculum.

Experiments carried out for UNESCO at the International School of Geneva and other studies have led to the adoption of an "International Baccalauréat" considered to be at par with the French Baccalauréat, the German Habitur, the Swiss Maturity, the British GCE and the American CEEB.

As a result of an 11-nation symposium held in Sèvre, France, in 1967 an Office for the International Baccalauréat was created in Geneva (11 Chemin Rieu). It has finalised plans for a common examination and during 1968 and 1969 some 650 students have taken it.

The International Baccalauréat is not yet universally accepted. There is still some way to go before children across the world will feasibly be able to prepare for this same exam, and before all the universities will recognise it.

At present, the universities of Zurich, Lausanne and Saint Gall accept holders of International Baccalauréat certificates with the exception of their medical and pharmaceutical faculties. The International Baccalauréat is already accepted in certain British universities, in Iran, Scandinavia, Spain and Italy.

URBAN PLANNING

Satellite town for Zurich

The Municipal Council of Zurich disclosed a hitherto secret plan to convert a 3-mile strip on the Adlisberg forest above Zurich into a city for 100,000 people. Its buildings would be uniform 100-metre high concrete blocks forming a kind of rampart along the boundaries of the town. The main motivation for this ambitious and somewhat astonishing project was to stem the outflow of inhabitants from Zurich. This loss of population has been going on relentlessly since 1962 and the authorities are afraid that one day Zurich will be so spent of its element that it will no longer possess the vitality becoming to a capital of trade and commerce.

Zurich has enlarged its communal boundaries in 1891 and 1934, but it is not possible to repeat these steps today. The "forest town" will keep the population within Zurich and not in other neighbouring towns. About 27,000 new flats are planned. The 30-storey buildings erected on the wooded hill above Zurich would also comprise offices and schools. Rent in the new town would be no higher than in Zurich itself and the whole area is already city property.

This project is bound to give rise to considerable objections, as have the other important public works planned for Zurich. The greatest objection lies in the wrecking of a vast wooded area suited for ramblings and relaxation. It is feared that the 45 hectares allotted to the future satellite city may only be the beginning of a new expansion.

MEDICINE

The controversial methods of Dr. Paul Niehans

Dr. Paul Niehans, who died on 1st September, at 89, was well known for his work on cellular therapy and the "rejuvenating" treatment given to a gallery of famous personalities, including Pope Pius XII, Chancellor Adenauer and Somerset Maugham. The son of a Bernese surgeon, he was born in 1882 and pursued extensive studies in surgery, medicine, philosophy and theology. Having followed courses at the universities of Berne, Neuchatel, Oxford, Berlin and Vienna, he settled at Buvier, near La Tour-de-Peilz in Vaud. Having been the surgeon of the hospitals of Vevey, Montreux and Aigle he opened a clinic in Clarens (Vaud). It is there that, apart from bringing considerable money from his wealthy customers eager to add years to their lives, the method of cellular therapy which he applied from 1931 onward earned him a worldwide reputation.

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He had been active during the first world war in a hospital for war casualties in Belgrade and had been surgeon on the Dolomite front. During the second world war, he worked for German and French prisoners of war.

He belonged to many learned societies and had been awarded several European distinctions. His therapy was based on the fact that embryonic cells contain the substances necessary for their activity and regeneration. In the ageing process, certain metabolic transformations come to hinder the renewal of cells, which are the building blocks of the organs of a human body. Niehans believed that in bringing embryonic cells to a tired organism he could bring about a reactivation and a rejuvenation of this organism. Naturally, the introduction of outside tissues brought with it the expected immunological rejection, yet embryonic cells could be transplanted with more ease than adult cells. It is probable that the embryonic and grafted tissues had the time to diffuse useful elements balancing their differed rejection, and this may have accounted for the success of the Niehans method.

Although his therapy remains highly controversial, it remains nonetheless a good starting point to a further research in gerontology. The importance of this research will be of increasing importance owing to the relative growth of the old age population.

Besides his "cellular therapy", Dr. Niehans has published papers in surgery, endocrinology and urology.

(From the Journal de Geneve)

The drugs that fail their test

The Intercantonal Medicine Control Office is the national watch dog ensuring that what the chemist sells is safe. It had to reject a seventh of the 1,487 drugs submitted to its control

last year. This was due to more stringent and exact testing rather than to manufacturing carelessness.

The Intercantonal Office also concerns itself with the current abuse of medicine. In a survey made between 1964 and 1969 it has established a net increase in the use of sleeping pills, amphetamins and since 1967 of cannabis and LSD. A special commission chaired by Professor Heinemann from Berne, has been investigating these developments and studying the means of combating it. Together with the Medicine Control Office and the cantons it will launch a campaign urging the public to consume less drugs of all kinds.

BEHAVIOUR

A new style of alcoholism

A report commissioned by the Great Council of Geneva serving as the basis of new spirits-control legislation has just been made public. Among its findings the report establishes that the import of strong drinks has increased almost four-fold since the war. In 1946 the Swiss imported 800,000 litres of spirits. Today, with the high in the economy aiding, imports amount to 4 million litres.

The "misery alcoholism" existing in former times has given way to "prosperity alcoholism", far more difficult to detect because of its privacy. Federal purchase tax on drinks has brought in 120 million francs. Parliamentary commissions have considered various possibilities of struggling more efficiently against alcoholism. Those currently envisaged are a federal law similar to that already in existence for the obligatory treatment and support in the case of tuberculosis and an amendment of social security legislation.

The new law for which the report will serve as a backing places anyone

losing the ability to work or support his family through drink under compulsory hospitalisation.

A far west scene

Those who travel in Switzerland may wonder why they must so scrupulously fill in forms at every hotel they chance to stop. The reason became obvious when the police of Neuchatel visited the "Fleur de Lys" hotel at dawn and made a routine check of the forms filled in by its guests.

They discovered that one of them, a Frenchman, had been prohibited entry in Switzerland. They immediately made for his room to ask him for explanations. Having knocked at the door, they invited the man to follow them to the police station. He obliged without showing any signs of surprise and followed them. Suddenly he turned round and dashed to his room and locked himself in. A few seconds later he fired through the door in the direction of the two policemen and fortunately missed them both.

They immediately informed the local police and gendarmerie so that within minutes the hotel was besieged. Seeing this deployment of forces, the Frenchman was hit by a kind of madness and destroyed everything that lay in his room. Using big means, the police eventually reached the room and arrested him. This incident naturally set the whole neighbourhood astir.

Forgers caught red-handed

A cafe owner and a company director decided to improve their standard of living by forging 100-dollar notes. They hired an offset machine from a Geneva office equipment firm, bought the necessary block-making equipment, a microscope, various inks, lighting installation, a paper cutting machine and set to work in a garage in the Plainpalais area of Geneva.

The police had knowledge of their efforts through unknown tip-offs but decided to wait for the right moment to pounce on the two forgers. When they did, both were at work in their garage and had already produced 40,000 100-dollar notes. Their "amateur" forgeries were excellent imitations, with the exception of the low quality of the paper.

TOURISM

New recreation area in Western Switzerland

Between Lausanne and Geneva, halfway down Lake Lemans coastline, a new recreation area was created at Signal de Bougy in the canton Vaud at an altitude of about 2,320 feet above

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sea level. During this year's meeting of the members of the Swiss National Tourist Office which was held at Romont, a romantic little hilltown in the canton of Fribourg, the conclusion was reached that what was most needed in the long run was to make sure of holiday regions if Switzerland wanted to remain competitive as a vacation country. For the 21st century tourist in search of recreation, as already the present-day trend toward individual tourism clearly shows, will first of all be a man of leisure looking for regeneration in a region conducive to better health. It was important to secure such quiet and health-giving regions.

The new holiday centre on the scenic lookout terrace above Lake Lemman has an area of about 200,000 square yards. It was opened to the public by the "Migros" Co-operative. In addition to a farm where city children may become familiar with domestic animals, there are numerous children's playgrounds and an open-air theatre. Small artificial ponds and a rushing brook add variety to the area of woods and meadows. In a special enclosure 20 fallow deer are gamboling, a gift to the Foundation Pré Vert du Signal de Bougy from Mrs. Adele Duttweiler, wife of the founder of "Migros".

A self-service restaurant replacing the old hotel fits well into the landscape. There are 152 seats indoors and 240 on its terrace. Additional benches and tables in the area may be used for picnics. Picnic food may be bought at a kiosk. Restaurant and kiosk are open seven days a week from 9 in the morning until 10 at night. Every Sunday from 12 to 12.15 there is an ecumenical meeting at the amphitheatre.

Hiking oneself fit in Oberhalbstein

For lunch "servelat" sausages may be broiled on an open fire, according to the folder on the special hiking weeks being held in Savognin (canton of Graubünden or Grisons) until the middle of October. On August 22 once again seven days' hikes started under

expert guidance in the magnificent Oberhalbstein region. The daily tours are planned so as to leave enough time after returning for other hobbies such as swimming, minigolf, riding and tennis. The new and upcoming vacation resort on the road to the Julier Pass is proud to offer not only a heated swimming pool but also an indoor pool, sauna, massage and sun-tan equipment.

Abbatis cella—Appenzell— 900 years old

In Eastern Switzerland's pre-Alpine region, at the foot of the Alps, the large locality of Appenzell is celebrating its nine hundredth anniversary. We are thus reminded of the year 1071 when the old and venerable monastery of St. Gall ordered a small church to be built there (Abbatis cella or the Abbot's Cell). Before long it was surrounded by numerous houses. Later on the village became the capital of the Appenzell country. In 1597 it was divided into the two half-cantons of Ausserrhoden and Innerrhoden. The contrast between the Catholic (inner) and Protestant (outer) part of the country can still be felt. However, all of Appenzell's farmers have been known since the Middle Ages for their valour and courage. In 1513 the Swiss Confederation had accepted the country of Appenzell as its 13th canton.

The village of Appenzell surprises the visitors by its magnificent homes adjacent to the church and council hall. The church celebration featuring a cantata will take place on September 22. It will be followed by a big cattle and general merchandise market with dancing and jubilation (September 26 and 27) and the 900th anniversary celebration from October 1-3.

Expanded Abegg Foundation reopens

In the green foothills of the Bernese Alps, close to the village of Riggisberg, the Abegg Foundation of

Berne has reopened to the public its galleries and study rooms which now house its recently expanded collection of ancient art. The public is admitted every week-day afternoon until mid-October. A tour of this exhibition, rich in surprising items, takes the visitor through 20 galleries including the extensive annexe which now contains works from the Gothic and Renaissance periods, leading through the art of ancient times, the Middle Ages and more recent periods. He can admire the splendour of the wall decorations, the rare silks, the tapestries, the gems of the art gallery, the sacred frescoes and sculpture in the Roman style and the wealth of handicraft implements and decorative items. Glass walls provide a delightful glimpse of bubbling fountains and green countryside.

Highlights of musical life

The month of September in Montreux-Vevey featured the 26th Music Festival. The visitors had a large selection of concerts. The National Philharmonic Orchestra of Warsaw (Poland), the "Orchestre de la Suisse Romande" and the Symphony Orchestra of the Basle Orchestra Society, both of Switzerland, and the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra of Japan played at the Pavilion of Montreux, always with different conductors and soloists. In addition there were two Sunday afternoon concerts, candlelight serenades at the Casino, twice historic music at the Castle of Chillon and a grand pop concert (on September 18) at the Pavilion, with a large number of participants and featuring the premiere of a work. At the church of Vevey were performed concerts of classical and modern music with choirs, groups of instrumentalists and organists participating.

"William Tell" stays alive in Altdorf

For the capital of the canton of Uri it is always a grand time when a

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"William Tell" play year comes around. Where the Gotthard Pass Road manages to squeeze through narrow streets with elegant old homes, the Tell Monument by the sculptor R. Kissling keeps up the memory. The communities in the whole valley enthusiastically participate in the performance of Schiller's "William Tell", eight of which are scheduled for September. The distinguished theatre built for the Tell performances, with two murals by H. Danioth, is a most effective stage for Schiller's poetic language.

(SNT0)

LAUSANNE OPENS THE DOORS OF ITS 52ND AUTUMN FAIR

September 11th-26th, 1971

The Palais de Beaulieu makes available to the Swiss National Autumn Fair's 2,400 exhibitors a total area of over 1½ million square feet of exhibition space, divided into 38 sectors.

This big economic event, whose pavilions of honour house the official displays of two foreign countries—this year Argentina and Madagascar—continues, more than half a century after its foundation, to give an overall picture of the main branches of Switzerland's economy. A prominent place is given to industry with the emphasis on consumer goods; agriculture puts on a large display ranging from the products of the soil to cattle-breeding; craft-work is also represented with its most modern creations. Two big new groups have been introduced this year: one devoted to sport, the other to the home. Attention should also be called to a scientific exhibition put on by the Canton of Vaud Electronics Group.

The Lausanne Fair is often said to be one of the last trade fairs in the world to preserve its national character, thus offering the foreign visitor a vivid picture of Switzerland's ways and customs.

AIRLINES

Swissair to increase share capital

Swissair's Board of Directors will propose an increase in the share capital by about Sw.Frs. 52 million to an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders to be held in Zurich on August 27.

The increase is to be made by means of a rights issue of one new registered or bearer shares of Sw.Frs. 350 nominal for every six registered or bearer shares held, at an issue price of Sw.Frs. 400 per share. A corresponding reduction in the conversion price will be granted to holders of convertible bonds. The new shares are to rank for dividends retroactively from January 1, 1971.

Swissair's share capital totals at present about Sw.Frs. 335 million, including shares available to satisfy convertible bond holders' conversion rights. The further increase is proposed in view of the large investment requirements in the coming years.

The best that money can buy

Kuoni Tour Operator, a well-known Swiss affair with offices in New Bond Street, has sent us its package prospectus for 1971-72. Kuoni tours are not of the £10-for-a-Spanish-weekend type. They are a little more exclusive pricewise, but still an interesting proposition for the reasonably well-off.

For example, a 16-day safari trip to Kenya and Tanzania costs £260. A safari to the Congo costs £349. A 17-day holiday to Mauritius is offered for £369. The Seychelles are at your reach for £193. A round trip of South Africa is at hand for £369. A Far East package including Bangkok and Hong Kong costs £294, and includes Japan for an extra £95. A fortnight in Thailand costs £198. A round trip of China costs £290. The exciting itinerary comprises stops at Hong Kong, Canton, Shanghai, Soochow, Peking and a visit to the Great Wall. Other destinations are Malaysia, India,

Australia, the U.S. and the Bahamas.

The above had already been set when we read in the British Press that the China tours had been provisionally cancelled. China, it was stated, was not yet ready to receive a stream of western tourists.

The "Times" teases Swissair

(picked up in "Business Diary", September 9th)

No accusations that any significant misrepresentations is involved, but — turning to another airline — the present Swissair advertisement in *Punch* does seem rather peculiar. It extols Swiss accuracy in all things — "a country where punctuality is almost a national sport" — and says "the national airline has to make extra efforts to stick to its timetable", and also runs a headline, under the picture we reproduce, stating "at the third jet it will be 12.50 precisely".

So far so excellent, but then the copy underneath the picture says (among other things): "And 12.50 was our long range DC8 off to Tokyo via India. You could set your clock by it". You could find that difficult, even with a punctilious Swiss watch, for the plane illustrated is a jumbo, not a DC8. Why this bizarre departure from the indescribably accurate, we asked the usual "spokesman"?

Nothing to do with the attempts of *Punch* to be a humorous magazine. According to Swissair the advertisement has been used in other media, and arises from the management's desire to show a picture of the recently-introduced 747's, while sticking to the copy which gives departure times. The headline remains technically accurate, though much at odds with copy, since Swissair does have a jumbo in the air at 12.50 five times a week: the Zurich-New York flight. So if you want to set your watch, go to Zurich. By some plane or another.



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POLITICS

Impending electioneering flurry

Every four years on the last Sunday of October the electorate is called to appoint its new representatives at the National Council. The four years since the last Federal Election will be close this coming October and the parties are already bracing themselves for the big fight.

In contrast to the Council of States, which has two members for each canton, the National Council represents the various provinces proportionately. Originally there was one delegate for every 20,000 inhabitants. But at every census their number had to increase to account for the population growth until the House became too small to contain them all. The prevailing arrangement is now to limit the representation to 200. The mini-cantons with populations below one-200th of the national population are automatically allotted one national councillor. The remaining cantons share the remainder of available seats. The actual share-out within each canton is governed by a subtle arithmetical system, rendered necessary by the existence of many

competing parties and a small number of electors. In fact, a single party is not always able to secure the necessary majority and in the small cantons it is necessary for two or more parties of similar tendencies to share the same electoral list or strike an agreement. Thus in Zurich the Radicals have concluded an alliance with the Democrats.

At the national level the Christian Democrat Party has sought a grand alliance with the Radicals, the Socialists and the Agrarians. These four parties constitute the governmental parties. The Christian Democrats have worked out a revolutionary programme which may explain why the Agrarians and Radicals have refused to engage on a common front during the impending elections.

To the surprise of many, it was the Socialist Party which answered favourably to the Christian Democrat suggestions. Their spokesmen have declared their readiness to sit down at the conference table and work out a common strategy. Their main reservation was that the overhaul of the Council of State should be included in the Agenda. The Socialists have made it known for a long time that the second chamber should be altered because it

comprises only two Socialists out of 44 members. The Council of States is recognised to lean predominantly to the right, yet this has not affected the working of government in any adverse way. The Christian Democrats would object to an alteration of the present system of cantonal representation since their strength is very strong in the Council of States.

This is due to the fact that they are the only party with an absolute majority in certain cantons. No other party except the Radicals in Appenzell-Outer Rhodes can claim to this. The Christian Democrats have the absolute majority in Uri, Schwytz, Unterwald, Fribourg and Valais and enjoy sufficient strength in seven other cantons to have one seat. Thus they have 17 out of the 44 seats at the Council of States.

However, most commentators reckon that the composition of the National Council should not change appreciably as a result of the forthcoming elections. More of it will be televised than ever before and it is not possible to foretell the political impact of the mass media and know which politicians will be skilful in using it to their best advantage.

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The statistics of direct democracy

The popular initiative on employee participation remitted to the Federal Chancery on 25th August, 1971, was the 100th initiative launched since this popular right has been introduced in the Constitution in 1891.

Of a hundred popular initiatives, only seven have been accepted in popular votes. These are the items which really belong to ordinary legislation but nevertheless inscribed in the Constitution. They are: Prohibitions regarding the slaughter of cattle (1893); the prohibition of spirits (1908); the introduction of the referendum for international treaties (1921); the banning of public gambling premises (1920) and the initiative on the return to direct democracy (or on the urgency clauses).

Forty-six initiatives have been rejected in popular votes. In three cases, however, the counter-project of the Federal Assembly was subsequently accepted. Of 100 popular initiatives, 34 have been withdrawn, 27 unconditionally and seven in favour of a counter-project by the Federal Assembly. One initiative was declared unacceptable, one failed to gather the necessary signatures in time and 11 are still pending. They are:

An initiative on the freedom of the Press remitted in 1935; protection of waterways against pollution (27th November, 1967); school co-ordination (1st October, 1969); generalised old age pension (2nd December, 1969); old age pension (18th March, 1970—both initiatives being sponsored by the Swiss Socialist Party); the extension of sickness insurance (31st March, 1970); old age insurance (initiative presented jointly by several parties on 13th April, 1970); the Arms Export Ban initiative (19th November, 1970); the encouragement for building (initiative launched by Denner AG and remitted to the Chancery on 4th February, 1971); and, finally, the initiative on employee participation remitted on 25th August, 1971.

FINANCE

New monetary powers required by the Federal Council

Mr. Nelio Celio, head of the Financial Department, has submitted to the Federal Assembly's approval a decree giving considerable powers in the field of monetary control to the Federal Council. If passed by the Federal Assembly, the decree will be in force for three years if it is ratified by the Swiss people, who will obligatorily be called to vote on it in a year's time.

The principle of the decree is to authorise the Federal Council to take exceptional monetary measures in consultation with the Swiss National Bank

in the event of serious international monetary difficulties. The Federal Council is furthermore empowered to make binding the "gentlemen's agreement" passed between the Swiss National Bank and the majority of banks operating in Switzerland.

The latter would be of assistance in the efforts of the Swiss National Bank to stem the inflow of dollars and other weaker currencies in exchange of Swiss francs by keeping a strict control, if need be, on private operations. The third demand formulated by the Federal Council is to be entitled to the access of speedy banking information enabling it to take ready action in cases of monetary emergency. This information is to be kept secret.

These measures were warmly supported by Mr. Edwin Stopper, president of the Swiss National Bank. However, he added that only a multilateral agreement on the simultaneous adjustments of parities and a suppression of the American surtax will help to stabilise the monetary situation.

At least one commentator questioned whether the Federal Council's new package of demands were really necessary. They pointed out that there was little it could do that had not already been done. In particular, the institution of a double exchange market had practically amounted to a fixation of parities. The National Bank was competent to take the necessary measures and had the support of all the large banks, well aware of their responsibilities in keeping the monetary situation sane at home. Some writers speculated that this package was a first step towards a thorough and definite legislation on economic growth to replace the series of stop-gap solutions applied so far in this domain.

Bulging tax revenue

According to the statistics of the Federal Inland Revenue, the total fiscal income of the State (including cantons) have increased threefold during the last 10 years, although the proportion of taxes in the gross national product has only increased by a third. All the taxes levied by the public services in 1969 amounted to 14,424 million francs, representing 17.9 per cent of the gross national product. Ten years earlier, the proportion was of 14.5 per cent only.

Cantonal taxes have shown the sharpest increase and accounted for 30.5 per cent of all fiscal resources in Switzerland in 1969. The share of communal taxes remains stable and is 25.2 per cent. The share taken by federal revenue has decreased during the 10 years to 1969 from 47.1 per cent to 44 per cent.

The most significant trend derived from the Federal Revenue's survey is

that increasingly more income is derived from income tax, as opposed to purchase tax. Revenue from income tax and fortune tax represented 65.2 per cent of total fiscal resources, the highest figure since the end of the war. The share of purchase tax fell from 37.3 per cent to 34.8 per cent in the 10 years to 1969.

WATCH INDUSTRY

Serious problems of research

Fifty years ago, when the watch industry was dispersed in about 1,400 different family undertakings, the "Centre de Recherche Horlogère" was created in Neuchatel in order to pool into the field of research the means of small firms with usually short term worries. The laboratory has a past of remarkable achievements in chronometry and watch materials. It was also responsible for building one of the first atomic clocks ever built. Having merged with the "Centre d'Etudes Horlogères", it currently employs about 100 experts.

However, the use of the laboratory is being put in question with the changing structure of the Swiss watchmaking industry. Swiss watch manufacturers are eager to follow the Japanese and American patterns of vast concentrations. It is a question of very survival. As an example, the Japanese firm *Seiko* employs 400 research specialists and it is felt that the Centre de Recherche Horlogère cannot compete with such research outfits in its present organisation.

According to *Die Schweizer Uhr*, a trade journal printed in Solothurn, the future of horological research lies within vast watch-making concentrations. Neither the Japanese nor the American watchmaking industries have joint laboratories similar to the "Centre de Recherche Horlogère".

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EUROPEAN NEGOTIATIONS

Taking stock of the results obtained

The Federal Council published a report which was as much a declaration of intent as a draft of the possible agreements with the European Community. Recapitulating the general objectives of Switzerland in the EEC, the Report insists that any agreement should be reciprocal and that its effects on the Community and Switzerland should balance out. Both parties should preserve their freedom of action. This means that any future agreement should neither interfere with Swiss neutrality nor its credibility. The powers of the Federal Assembly and the people should be safeguarded and Switzerland's European obligations should reserve a sufficient leeway for an independent policy towards developing and eastern-block countries.

The Report considers that it is perfectly possible to conciliate these two objectives and maintains that the particular contribution of a neutral state to the construction of Europe should be an additional asset to its economic prosperity.

The main items which have been discussed by Swiss envoys in Brussels and representatives of the Common Market have been the problems of free trade in industrial goods, the provision of special safe-guard clauses, agriculture, co-operation in technical, cultural and non-political fields and the setting-up of institutions guaranteeing that co-operation between neutral, non-member states and the Community should succeed.

Agreement has been reached so far on free trade in industrial goods, but the legal framework to ensure fair competition is currently being elaborated. As for agriculture—this great stumbling block of the Common Market—there is little chance for non-members to enjoy the benefits of a common agricultural market. Switzerland appears to be more eager than her European partners to develop non-political co-operation but is on the way to securing agreements on transport, foreign labour and watch-making.

THE JURA

The "Béliers" on the rampage

The recent farce where members of the Bélier Group built a brick wall to close the entrance of the *Rathaus* in Berne tends to show that the Separatist cause has become a suitable outlet to the urge of stirring things up of many Jurassian young people.

Towards 4 o'clock on the afternoon of September 5th about 100 young people began calmly to unload a ton of bricks, cement and ample buckets

of water from a lorry parked nearby to the town hall and quietly transported all this material up the steps of the town hall and wall up its entrance. Their swift masonry operation was hidden by a forest of Jurassian flags. Loafers began to assemble, intrigued by these mysterious works. Ten minutes after the beginning of the erection of the wall a police motor-cyclist passed by, stopped, and shot off to the central police station. At 4.20 p.m. the wall was erected and covered with the poster "*Rathaus, maison close*". The Jurassian dissenters then remained proudly before their work to sing such songs as "La Rauracienne", "A la Caquerelle" and shouting the slogan "*Jura libre, révolution, on continue le combat, DMF = SS*".

The police arrived in force and a fight ensued in which the Bernese onlookers gave a willing hand to the forces of law and order. They snapped the Jurassian flags gleefully. Pierre Grimm, the leader of the Béliers, was dragged by the hair to a police van and a number of youths who had been unable to fight through the police net were detained.

A coach packed with tourists drove in front of the town hall and the guide quickly told the driver to move on. A Bernese woman onlooker said that she felt sympathy for the Jura but that what she saw was a provocation, adding that it would repel anybody from going on holiday over there. A week later 30,000 Jura people dutifully participated to the 24th "*Fête du Peuple Jurassien*" at Délémont and listened to well-worn anti-Bernese slogans.

ENVIRONMENT

Businessmen urged to invest abroad

The August number of "Echo" had an article on a suggestion to ease the problems resulting from an excess of foreign labour. It referred to the proposals of a Geneva lawyer, Mr. Alain Marti, whose ex-party group militated in favour of Swiss investments in border regions.

Instead of building more factories in such highly industrialised border towns as Basle and Geneva and relying on foreign manpower, Swiss businessmen should be prepared to invest across the border. This solution would make life easier for the thousands of borderers who come into Switzerland to work, particularly from France and Italy, and who suffer from the different tax regulations from one country to the other. French workers, for example, may earn more money in Switzerland but do not benefit from French Social Security.

Border regions are likely to be interested by these proposals, as the proximity of highly industrial regions with the possibility of high earnings

carries more disadvantages than advantages. Mr. James Schwarzenbach would also endorse these suggestions. His attacks against the unbounded appetite for expansion for growth of Swiss industrialists had been one of the main themes of his 1970 campaign. He has always maintained that Swiss business should employ foreigners in their own country instead of making them come over to Switzerland.

However, the many cantons now in the course of industrial development would naturally be opposed to such a scheme. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Geneva has qualified Mr. Marti's intentions as "utopic and awkward" and of a nature to give the impression that Geneva wishes to colonise neighbouring France.

EDWARD HEATH IN ZURICH

The Prime Minister's trip to Zurich reminded one of a page of history. It was Sir Winston Churchill, of all people, who launched the idea of a "council of Europe", thus laying one of the foundations of a united Europe, in the course of a celebrated speech in Zurich on 19th September, 1946. He followed it up by attending the first assembly of the Council of Europe in 1949. The idea to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of this epochal Churchillian speech came from Dr. Widmer, Mayor of Zurich, and was aired even before the Political Department heard about it. The actual ceremony had to be held two days before 19th September, on Friday, the 17th, in order to accommodate the timetables of the three foreign ministers present—Mr. Moro, Mr. Schumann and Mr. Graber. Mr. Celio was equally present at the ceremony which took place at Munsterplatz before an audience of 6,000. Mr. Heath endorsed a European summit and said that Europe would never enjoy stability and prosperity if it cut itself from the rest of the world. He was briefly heckled by youths demanding the independence of Northern Ireland.

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