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News from Switzerland

AN AMERICAN AWARD FOR A SWISS TAPE-RECORDER

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood recently made an award to the Swiss engineer, Mr Stephan Kudelski, for his "Nagra" III professional portable tape-recorder. This well-engineered, high quality, compact and versatile recording system is an invaluable aid to the motion picture industry for sound recording. It is interesting to note that the "Nagra" recorder, powered by its own batteries, has been used on a number of expeditions and is standard equipment in a great many film, radio and television studios; it is manufactured industrially by the engineer Kudelski in his own factory at Paudex near Lausanne Switzerland.

SWISSAIR'S RESULTS IN 1965

The annual report and accounts for 1965 of the Swiss airline company Swissair shows that profits amounted to S.Fr. 18,614,000 (\$4,320,000) for receipts totalling S.Fr. 633,308, 527 (\$146, 7,0,000). The board of directors proposed paying a sum of 5 mill on Swiss francs (\$1,160,000) to the staff insurance fund and 2 million (\$464,000) to the statutory reserve fund. A dividend of 6 per cent on a registered capital of S.Fr. 140 million (\$32.6 million) will account for S.Fr. 8.4 million (\$1.95 million); a bonus of fr. 7 (\$1.62) per share will take another 2.8 million (\$650,000). The amount carried forward, taking into consideration the credit balance from the previous period, amounts to S.Fr. 1,191,490 (\$276,200).

SELF-SERVICE STORES IN SWITZERLAND

At the end of 1965, there were in Switzerland 1706 self-service food stores per million inhabitants, 1061 of which had adopted the system partially and 645 completely. In Europe this proportion is bettered only by Sweden, Norway and West Germany. Complete self-service has been adopted mainly by the big chain stores, which accounted for 3797 self-service stores in Switzerland at the beginning of the year as opposed to 3429 the previous year. Partial self-service, which is generally preferred by independent tradesmen, was adopted in 5867 stores at the beginning of this year as opposed to 5547 twelve months earlier. Retail food stores in Switzerland total approximately 20,000.

"SPACE-WALKER" EQUIPPED WITH A SWISS CHRONOGRAPH

A big Swiss watch factory recently displayed at the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle a replica of the chronograph worn by the first American spaceman to walk in space in June 1965, during the Gemini IV exploit. This model, which is widely used in scientific circles and industry, is nevertheless a mass-produced Swiss chronograph available on the market.