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To all this the partisans of the Initiative retort that, in view of the fact that several branches of industry have already adopted the 46- or the 45-hour week, they will have no difficulty in reducing it to 44 hours and in shouldering the compensation for wages. They forget, however that these are the most flourishing branches of industry. In those in which the 47- or 48-hour week still exists and in which economic difficulties have got to be faced, as for instance in the textile, footwear and even watchmaking industries, a reduction in working hours carried out on such a massive scale, and at so rapid a rate, cannot be achieved without repercussions on employment. The Federation of Trade Unions points out, very rightly, that solidarity forbids one to think only of the workers in the prosperous industries, without taking any heed of the others. The Federation is not opposed to a Law on working hours which would, later on, *consolidate* the results acquired through the Collective Agreements, but it wants a Law which will sanction a gradual reduction in working hours.

And, finally, if the Federation is against this Initiative, this is because it considers that a political party which *does not possess any responsibility* for the defence of the interests of workers and of employment has no business to intervene in the regulation of labour conditions. It holds the view that it is for the employers and the workers, jointly, to know what is possible and what is not. The regulation of labour conditions and the solution of social problems should remain subject to the *electoral policy*. The Federation of Trade Unions is of the opinion that, should the concessions made by the employers prove to be insufficient, trade unionism is strong enough to-day to defend the claims which it considers to be legitimate.

#### AN APPEAL.

The Swiss Benevolent Society and the Swiss Churches in London appeal once again to all their compatriots for contributions in kind or in cash in order to provide a little extra cheer at Christmas for our fellow-citizens in need. Articles of clothing, including clean old garments (even if repaired) ready for wear, as well as household goods and furniture will be very much appreciated and gratefully received.

Kindly send parcels, preferably not later than 15th November, to Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, and cash remittances to any one of the following addresses:—

Swiss Benevolent Society, 31 Conway Street, London, W.1; Rev. C. Reverdin, 7 Park View Road, Finchley, London, N.3; Frl. Pfr. D. Voegelin, c/o Swiss Hostel for Girls, 9 Belsize Grove, London, N.W.3; Rev. A. Lanfranchi, St. Ann's Church, Abbey Orchard Street, London, S.W.1.

#### COCKTAIL PARTY.

Monsieur and Madame Marcel Luy, previous to their departure from London, gave a cocktail party on Monday, 20th October, at their residence, 37 Albert Court, Kensington Gore, S.W.7.

Hätten Sie Lust

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Unsere nächsten Lehrkurse beginnen Anfang 1959. Gehalt: 1. bis 6. Monat Fr. 245.—, 7. bis 12. Monat Fr. 440.—, nachher Anfangslohn Fr. 570.— bis 640.— pro Monat, je nach Alter.

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