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TECHNICAL ITEMS

The Swiss foodstuffs industry abroad

The Swiss company Nestlé Alimentana has obtained a majority share in the Grosjean Cheese-Works at Lons-le-Saunier, in France. This company, specializing in the manufacture of soft cheeses, has a turnover of 50 million French francs (US \$ 8.84 million). Its production represents about 3,800 tons, i.e. 10 p.c. of the French soft cheese market. Then again, the firm of Knorr-Foodstuffs Co. Ltd. at Thayngen (canton of Schaffhausen) has signed a contract to cooperate with the Yugoslav firm of "Kolsinka Tovarna Hranil" in Ljubljana. Apart from the rights for the use of the manufacturing recipes and trade marks, the contract includes in particular assistance and consultation in different fields relating to the project. New plant for the manufacture of soups and bouillons has been put into service thanks to the technical and financial backing of the Swiss firm. "Kolinska Tovarna Hranil" employs some 600 workers and is one of Yugoslavia's chief foodstuffs concerns.

A Swiss watch for Concorde

On October 1st, 1969, Concorde broke through the sound barrier for the first time. At 11.29 a.m., Paris time, the plane reached the speed of Mach 1, while the plane's navigational chronographs and the digital watches specially designed by the Swiss factory OMEGA in Bienne (canton of Berne) recorded the passage of the seconds. The conditions of supersonic flight are such that all the navigational instruments, ranging from the automatic navigation systems to the five independent electronic watches indicating GMT or the time elapsed, have been submitted to much more searching trials than all those applied up till now in the field of civil aviation. Today, after 60 hours of flight, both subsonic and supersonic, the Omega navigational watches have completely fulfilled the conditions imposed by the maker.

A watch factory distinguishes itself . . . in the movies!

At the New York Film and TV Festival, the Zenith Watch Factories of Le Locle (canton of Neuchâtel), were the only watch firm to win a prize, two awards in fact, one being a gold medal and the other a silver medal. The film "Watch Show", which won the gold medal, is an animated cartoon of a new kind, symbolizing the avant-garde position Zenith occupies in watchmaking. It was made by a Le Locle film producer. The film "2000 hands" (silver medal) by the same producer explains that the manufacture of a quality watch is more than a profession, more than an industry; it represents a passion for precision. It gives a true picture of the modern watch industry.

Switzerland's GNP: +7.6 p.c. in 1968

Switzerland's nominal gross national product, at market price, amounts to 70,400 million francs (U.S. \$16,370 million) for 1968, which represents an increase of 7.6 p.c. compared with the previous year. The rate of growth was slightly lower in 1967: 6.5 p.c. Generally speaking, the results for 1968 confirm that the Swiss economy is going through a new stage of expansion, the fifth in fact since the end of the second world war. The fourth post-war cycle, which started in 1959, came to an end in 1967, a year marked by the biggest slowing up of the situation since 1958. The new speeding up of the growth is to a large extent due to the evolution on foreign markets. Owing to the marked improvement in international trade, the rate of increase in sales of goods and services abroad has almost doubled. The same is true of the revenues from abroad. On the other hand, domestic demand remaining moderate at first, imports have advanced only slightly compared with 1967.

From 1968 to 1969, the number of foreign workers subject to control has increased in Switzerland

In August 1969, the number of foreign workers subject to control in Switzerland totalled 591,888 (without border workers), for a population of six million inhabitants. The increase amounted to 6,895 or 1.2% compared with August 1968. The number of border workers, who do not belong to the resident population, also advanced by 4,279 or 6.8% to total 67,341, so that the total number of workers subject to control amounted to 659,229 at the end of August 1969. These figures refer only to non-independent foreign workers, who are holders of a temporary permit allowing them to exert a profession in Switzerland for a certain length of time. Foreigners who exercise a lucrative activity and have a permanent residence permit, whose number will surely go up once again, are not included in the present statistics since, from the point of view of the labour market, they are not subject to any check on the part of the aliens' department. If the foreign workers subject to control are classified according to countries of origin, the Italians continue to be in the lead with 398,929 or 60.5%. Next, far behind come the Spanish with 95,696 or 14.5%, the Germans with 57,199 or 8.7%, the French with 36,842 or 5.6% and the Austrians with 19,865 or 3.0%. In addition, 50,698 or 7.7% of all the workers subject to control are nationals of other countries.

Swiss Consulting Engineers in great demand

Switzerland, which depends to a large extent on her exports—in certain sectors she exports nearly 90 p.c. of her production—is no longer content merely to supply other countries with finished

products. In fact, since the end of the second world war, the export of the work of Swiss engineers has been systematically organized and encouraged. The seven biggest firms of consulting engineers have formed the Union of Swiss Consulting Engineers Companies (USSI). Each of these firms is capable of handling individually the risks and responsibility for huge, complex projects, not only in Switzerland but also abroad. A great many of the developing countries see in the excellent reputation enjoyed by Switzerland's higher technical institutes the guarantee of first-quality work. A newcomer on the "brain" market, Motor-Columbus Consulting Engineers Co. Ltd. was recently founded by the Board of Directors of Motor-Columbus Co. Ltd., a big electrical plant firm in Baden (canton of Aargau). The new company, which has some 400 specialists, is independent of Motor-Columbus Co. Ltd. Although created only recently (early 1969), Motor-Columbus Consulting Engineers Co. Ltd. has already signed many contracts abroad. The latest involve the technical supervision of the plans and work of the Atucha atomic power station in Argentina, the use for economic purposes of the Humaya and Lindo rivers, in Northern Honduras, and finally technical and economic advice with a view to the mining of the iron ore deposits in the region of Wologisi, in Liberia.

The hotel trade

For the first nine months of 1969, Swiss hotelkeeping recorded 27.03 million overnights, that is to say 927,000 more than during the corresponding period of 1968. 10.24 million nights are accounted for by visitors domiciled in Switzerland and 16.79 million (+4%) by foreign visitors. With their 4.48 million nights, the Germans come far ahead of all others among the foreigners; next come the French (2.38 million), the North Americans (1.93), the British (1.84), the Belgians and Luxemburgers (1.36), the Italians (1.08) and the Dutch (1.07).

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Paper industry

In 1968 the consumption of paper and cardboard in Switzerland amounted to 800,000 tons, which represents an average consumption of 288 lb. per inhabitant (as opposed to 79 lb. thirty years ago). This result makes Switzerland the fourth biggest consumer of paper in the world, after the U.S.A., Sweden and Canada. About 80% of the paper consumed in Switzerland last year was produced by Swiss manufacturers; up till 1960, domestic production accounted for some 95%.

Unemployment

At the end of October, 101 fully unemployed in search of work were registered at employment agencies in Switzerland as opposed to 86 the month before and 151 a year earlier. The total number of jobs vacant officially listed amounted to 4,649, as opposed to 4,804 in September 1969 and 3,892 in October 1968.

(By courtesy of OSEC and SNT0)

SCHULER UND LEHRER NICHT AUF GLEICHER EBENE

**Professor Jeanne Hersch (Genf) sprach vor der Jahresversammlung der Staatlichen Schulsynode
Der Lehrer in der heutigen Krise**

Im Mittelpunkt der Schulsynode stand ein Referat von Dr. Jeanne Hersch, Professorin an der Universität Genf, über das Thema «Der Lehrer in der heutigen Krise». Die von grossem Verantwortungsbewusstsein getragenen, durch anschauliche Beispiele bereicherten Gedanken lassen

sich nur schwer in Stichworte zusammenfassen. Im Gegensatz zum Tier, stellte die Rednerin einleitend fest, ist der Mensch ein Wesen, das belehrbar ist. Passives Entgegennehmen genügt allerdings nicht; notwendig ist die Entfaltung einer empfänglichen Aktivität. Die Reaktion auf die traditionelle Schule, unter der man sich ein passives Ueben des Gedächtnisses vorstellt, ist die Ecole active. Dabei wird allerdings leicht vergessen, dass jedes aktives Lernen, Beobachten und Prüfen voraussetzt, dass zunächst etwas anerkannt werden muss, dass ein Maßstab notwendig ist, um kritisch prüfen zu können. Das kritische Denken muss sich auf einen Sinn beziehen.

Den nicht manipulierbaren Menschen gibt es nicht

Es ist nicht möglich, aus der Leere heraus sinnvoll zu denken. Den abstrakten Anfang gibt es für den Menschen nicht. Es muss etwas angenommen werden; erst dann ist eine Neugestaltung möglich. In der absolut revolutionären Lehre gibt es ein Vorurteil, das Ideal des nicht manipulierbaren Menschen. In Wirklichkeit ist ein nicht manipulierbarer Mensch kein Mensch. Er besäße keine Muttersprache, welche die Strukturen unseres Denkens bildet. Vielleicht fliessen das Biologische, das Soziologische und das Kulturelle schon vor der Geburt zusammen.

Die sozialen Ungerechtigkeiten am Anfang des Lebens greifen sehr tief. Wir müssen uns bemühen, sie zu beseitigen, indem wir zum Beispiel für kulturelle Kontakte bei jenen Kindern

sorgen, die solche nicht von den Eltern erhalten. Falsch aber wäre es, den sozio-kulturellen Hintergrund zu zerstören.

Vom Zuhören zum Beobachten

Es gab eine lange Periode, da in der Schule das Zuhören Hauptsache war. Heute steht die Beobachtung vielfach im Vordergrund. Man kann sich aber fragen, ob nicht die ausschliesslich objektive Information, so etwa in der sexuellen Erziehung, den letzten Sinn und den wahren Gegenstand zerstört. Die kritische Reflexion ist notwendig; doch muss zunächst der Stoff verarbeitet sein. Es gilt, die Vielfalt der Denkrichtungen zu betonen, damit der Schüler sich bewusst wird, wie komplex die Dinge sind.

Begegnung im Gegenstand

Die Gegenwart des Lehrers, betonte Professor Hersch, hat gleichzeitig persönlich und unpersönlich zu sein. Der Schüler steht mit dem Lehrer nicht auf gleicher Ebene. Der Lehrer begründet seine Ueberlegenheit aber nicht mit seiner Person, sondern indem er die Form der Klasse darstellt. Indem wir den Veränderungen in der Welt Rechnung tragen, sollte das permanent Wesentliche nicht vergessen werden. Der Lehrer soll während des Unterrichts dem Schüler in erster Linie im Gegenstand begegnen. Er ist nicht der Psychologe des Schülers. Es handelt sich keineswegs um ein Machtverhältnis; vielmehr ist es Ziel des Lehrers, vom Schüler übertroffen zu werden. (Baster Nachrichten)



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