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Owing to the complexities of organising an event like this, Mr. Nicolet is supported by a team of specialists, and a firm of auditors. This is necessary since much of the capital invested in the fight has been raised by various Swiss groups.

Mr. Nicolet is closely in touch with "Video Techniques Inc" the American firm that launched the original idea and is organising the world-wide close-circuit TV transmission of the fight. He explained that he had accepted the job because of his admiration for President Mobutu. He said that he would do his best to keep the profits of the fight, expected to reach 10 million dollars, inside Zaire. Mr. Nicolet said that he would try to have this money used for the building of a hospital for handicapped children in Zaire.

A MINISTER TRICKED OUT OF 3,000 FRANCS

A minister from a Zurich lakeside parish was swindled of 3,000 francs by a man posing as "Prince Erick von Rastenberg". The man called on the minister claiming that he had been robbed of an important sum of money, his diplomatic passport and a ticket for himself and his "secretary" to Beirut, where he was to negotiate the return of ex-King Constantine of Greece to his country.

The minister made a casual check of the man's identity and then gave him 3,000 Francs (£4000). The "Prince" left with his "secretary" and the parson called at the Airport to confirm his visitor's identity. He asked for an employee whose

name the "Prince" had given him, but was told that the employee didn't exist. Realising that he had been tricked, the minister, who was not named by the Press, lodged a complaint with the Police.

Where international law comes in useful

It is not often that knowledge of international law can be helpful in business. A Swedish tradesman has found a perfectly legal way to profit by the recent agreement signed by Switzerland, West Germany and Austria on navigation on Lake Konstanz. This agreement states that waters away from the shoreline where depths reach 20 metres or more are "international". Consequently, the tradesman transformed an old passenger boat into a duty-free shop with a wide variety of groceries, cigarettes and drinks. In no time, he was doing roaring business on the international waters of the lake.

Locarno Film Festival

The Annual Locarno Film Festival took place last month and enjoyed more success than ever. This was due to a new attitude by the organisers, who are becoming more selective and breaking from the traditional pattern of these festivals. Mainly, they have made an effort at reaching a wider public by the choice of their films, which remain small-scale productions by cineasts. The Festival opened with the "Extradition", by a young Swiss director, Peter von Gunten. He relates the story of a Russian revolutionary who found refuge in Switzerland in the early 1870s and was

eventually expelled. The film was generally praised, and was noticed as one of the cheapest historical films ever made. An ancient street and an appropriately dated building were about its only sets. Among other well-noticed Swiss contributions were Alain Tanner's "Le milieu du monde" and David Schmid's "La Paloma".

The Swiss Cinémathèque has been refused a federal subsidy of 40,000 francs to save old Swiss films in its Archives. Some of these films exist in only one copy and cinema circles were angry at the Government's miserly attitude. Although 40,000 francs barely pays for a few yards of motorway, it was considered as too high a price to pay for the preservation of old freelance productions in times of official thrift.

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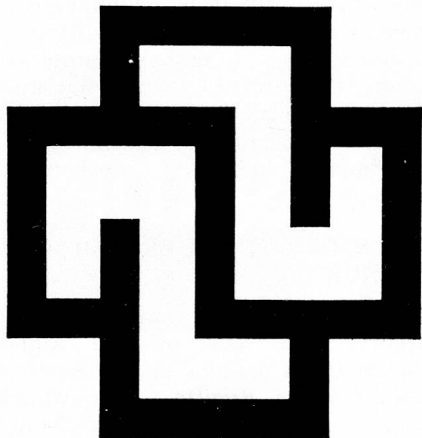
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