

Dialogue

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The press in transformation (SR 3/98)

The eclipse of the "Journal de Genève et Gazette de Lausanne" is only momentary. The authorisation to concentrate with the "Nouveau Quotidien", given by the Monopolies Commission has been brought before the Federal Supreme Court and the Federal Assembly for this main reason. While the said commission has, according to the law, the task of protecting free competition, the authorisation consecrates the quasi-monopoly of one press firm in French-speaking Switzerland, Edipresse. The tasks which the commission has laid on the concentration companies are not being respected. If, until now, the politicians have remained strangely silent, the fact that the matter has been brought before Parliament's Management Commission should encourage them to speak up.

Pierre Engel, Switzerland, President of the association of friends of "Journal de Geneve et Gazette de Lausanne"

Your article on the changed media landscape in Switzerland was very interesting but two mistakes slipped into the box "The 15 biggest Swiss newspapers". I doubt that "Sonntagsblick" has the biggest circulation, but "Blick" must surely have this. According to my memory, "Sonntagsblick" sells fewer copies than "Sonntags-Zeitung".

Guido Casanova, Brazil

A mistake did appear in that we simply forgot the Swiss newspaper with the biggest circulation, i.e. "Blick". But the circulation of "Sonntagsblick" is still higher than that of "Sonntags Zeitung".

The Editors

Official News (SR3/98)

The article "Roads for all" is quite simply wrong. The Automobile Club of Switzerland (ACS) is certainly anything other than green.

Hans Peter Amrein, Australia

This must be due to a mistake in translation. The sponsor of the initiative "Roads for all" is the Traffic Club of Switzerland (VCS).

The Editors

Thanks to "Swiss Review"

I thank you infinitely for sending me "Swiss Review", which gives me great pleasure. It enables me to keep up with

a country which we love greatly. Health and age hardly allow me to travel any more.

P. Lambelet, France

Since I miss my country very much, it is with great anticipation that I look forward to receiving each issue of Swiss Review and great pleasure in reading its interesting articles. Congratulations and thanks to you for providing the Swiss Abroad with such a high-quality and informative publication.

Liliane D. Partain, USA

Switzerland in the Second World War / Switzerland desired as a model

The "Humanity – carefully rationed" article in the 2/98 issue dismayed me, particularly the painfully short reference to the position of the Catholic church. If Catholic church historian's Urs Altermatt's citation of bishop Franz von Streng's pastoral letter at the end of the war is representative of his book, it is fair to assume that he hardly portrays the true attitude of the church leaders. It is obvious that he badly misinterprets von Streng's gratitude for the readiness and alertness of our authorities and our army.

Walter C. Bauer, USA

Certainly during the war, alongside the notorious Dr. Rothmund, there were upright officials who helped where they could. Apart from the city president of Schaffhausen, Walther Bringolf, mentioned in "Swiss Review", the head of the Basle Police Department, Fritz Brechbühl, deserves praise in this respect. My father was friendly with him and received from him information which helped to bring Jewish refugees in danger of their lives across the border.

Abraham Blum, Israel

Neither the Americans nor anyone else have the right to criticise or judge the acts of our predecessors. The only useful thing is to take account of the errors committed, to accept them, and to repair them if that is still possible, but not at the expense of our youth.

G. Simarro-Diaz Monod, Spain

Without doubt, Switzerland must have been put in a position of dire necessity by the Federal Council's refugee policy. That was the official Switzerland, but there were individuals amongst the Swiss who did much that was humane and respectable. My uncle was SBB station master at Hüntwangen-Wil in

Letters from readers

The editors of "Swiss Review" are delighted about the numerous echoes from readers. In particular on the subject, "Switzerland/Second World War we receive letters on a daily basis. But we would also like to treat other subjects in the section "Dialog". We ask for your understanding that on the one hand not all letters can be printed and on the other hand that we must reserve the right to abridge those we do publish. We do not conduct correspondence about readers' letters.

the Rafzerfeld enclave. He gave many refugees a ticket to Zurich, dispatched some of them under goods wagons and gave people instructions about how they could melt unseen into the city from Zurich's main station.

Gerold Gino Baumann, Costa Rica

I can agree with the thoughts of Tim Kaeser because he rises above the trampling on Switzerland. At the same time it must be recognised that there is real lack of enlightenment when he thinks his grandparents were to blame. It is pointless to argue about Switzerland's neutrality. If it had not existed, you can discuss whether a Tim Kaeser would ever have been born.

Carl Kauz, Germany

Switzerland always shared. No one talks today of the Swiss help during and after the war. In 1945, when the war was at an end, thousands of children were invited for a three-month stay in Switzerland. My brother and I were among them. We thought we were living in fairy land. We were also astonished at the friendliness of all the people.

Herta Stadler, Australia

I do not believe that Swiss reputation and integrity have suffered as much as the Swiss press would want you to believe – this is a subject matter that would seem to have a lot more appeal in the halls of government and with self-serving politicians than with the people in general. I agree with much of what Tim Kaeser says. However to bring the American Indian affair into the picture is misguided at best. Perhaps he should be reminded that it was the American war effort and casualties that brought an end to the terror regimes of the 40's.

Armin Kunkler, USA