

Swiss Expo 2001

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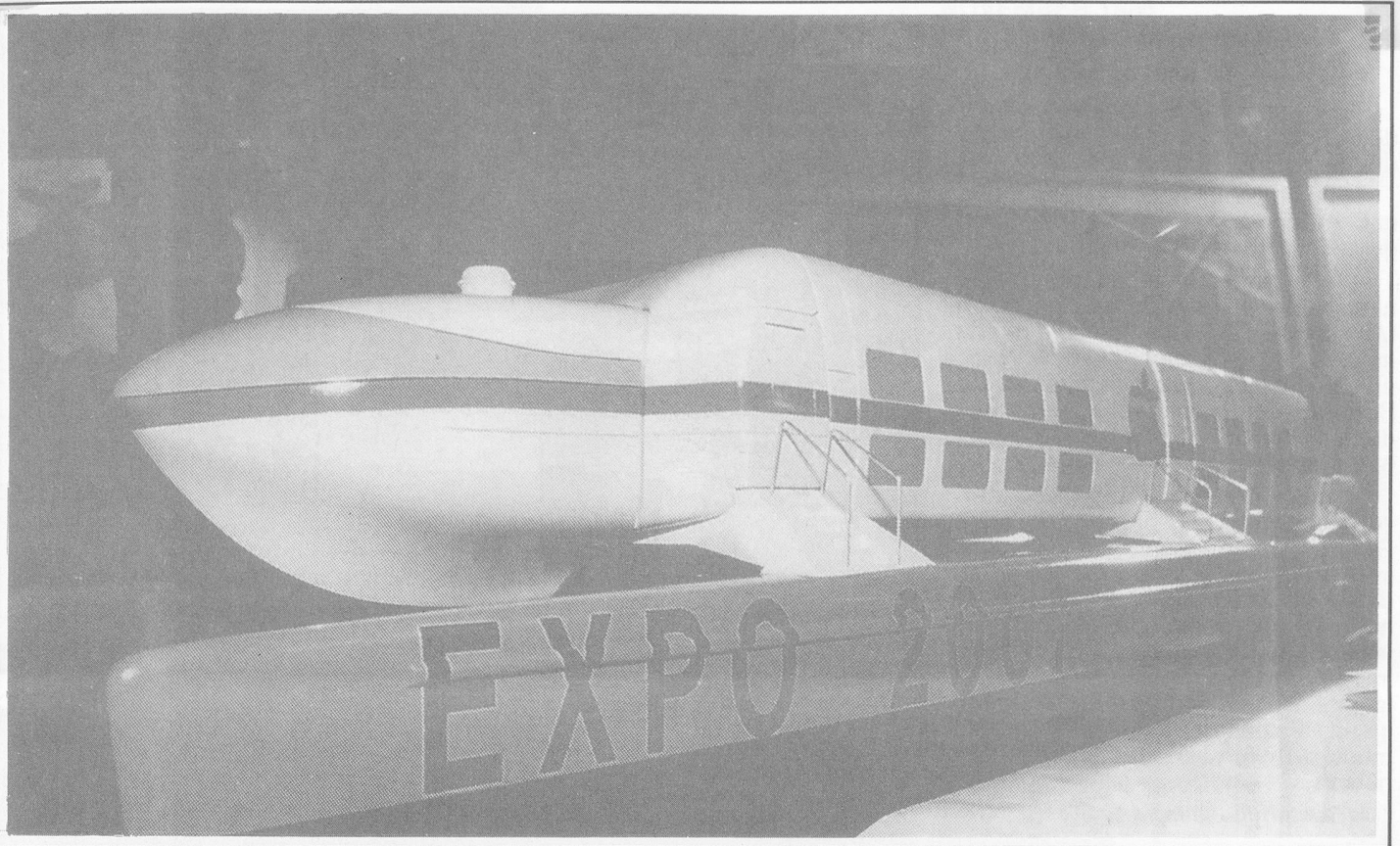
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SWISS EXPO 2001

As the next "Landi" will extend over several cities, cantons and lakes, transport from one part of the Expo to the others is very important. Here is a prototype of a fast boat which, at a speed of 20-26 knots should only produce waves no higher than 30 cm, a very important aspect in order to protect the lakes' ecological systems.

SWISS TAXPAYERS IN ARREAR

Over 11% of the Swiss tax payers are in arrear with their payments of taxes. In 1989 the amount overdue to the Inland Revenue Dept. was around 560 million SFR, in 1994 it was over 1 billion. The economical crisis which has been affecting Switzerland for the past few years is of course the main reason for this situation. With salaries stagnating, high rentals and living costs increasing, many Swiss just have simply no money left to pay their taxes (to many of us, this sounds very familiar).

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Living expenses in Switzerland are such today that people who earn a salary that would be rated as sizeable in New Zealand and who used to be considered as "middle class" are now on the border of the poverty line.

Although the Swiss Inland Revenue Dept. tries to assist people in any way it can, it has to write off between 40-50 million SFR each year as non-recoverable.

PLETHORA OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

According to a survey, over 500 religious communities are active in the canton of Waadt alone. This represents one religious community for every 1200 inhabitants. Of all these communities, 400 are of Christian inspiration. This leaves a staggering 100 communities representing most other religions from all over the world.

An interesting fact is that such movements as the Jehovah Witnesses, Christian Science, Church of Scientology and Latter Day Saints (Mormons) are not listed in the survey as they apparently did not want to take part in it.



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