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Textile Institute picks Lucerne for conference

THE Textile Institute has chosen one of Switzerland's loveliest and most historic cities, Lucerne, as the venue for its next annual conference, to be held from September 9-14.

The Institute has a strong connection with Switzerland at the moment as its President for 1981-83 is Dr hc Hans Locher, managing director of Zellweger Uster AG, famous for its testing equipment. Dr Locher will open the conference and also introduce the 1982 Mather lecturer, Mr Hans Schneider.

The theme for 1982 is "Textile Machinery: Investing for the Future", a subject vital both to the world's textile manufacturers as they plan for the upturn from the general recession, and to the

machinery makers of Switzerland, who supply a large and growing proportion of the world's textile machinery.

Aside from the technical sessions proper, delegates will have the opportunity to visit some of these internationally famous companies through a series of works visits.

Delegates, who will be representative of the Institute's membership spread over 95 countries,

will find their days well filled.

A series of social events and excursions will provide them with ample scope for relaxation and sightseeing. Accompanying family members will find even greater scope for exploring Lucerne and its environs through their own special programme.

The Textile Institute, whose international headquarters is in Manchester, first held a conference in Switzerland in 1921.



Textile Institute president Dr hc Hans Locher, who will open this year's conference in Lucerne.

Heating? It's in the can!

CANNED and other convenience foods have certainly made life much easier for many people, but there are still many occasions when a quick, hot meal would be welcome – if only there were some way to heat it.

Campers, desk-bound office workers and many outdoor people – forget your primus stoves and hot plates! A Swiss company, Blanchut and Bertrand of Geneva, has the perfect solution.

The company has developed a can which can actually heat the food inside it when you are ready to eat. Simply pull a tab on the outside of the can and a chemical heating element will be activated. Food will be cooked within minutes.

The manufacturers say that these cans could be produced for only 25p more than the cost of an ordinary can. They also have a large version which can hold up to a pound in weight.

Why are the Swiss saving less?

ACCORDING to Switzerland's national accounts, savings of Swiss households in 1980 represented barely 3.3 per cent of the total available income. The part played by savings has decreased by two-thirds in 10 years, since it amounted to 11.5 per cent in 1971, the record year.

What are the reasons for this downward trend, when the Swiss are considered among the biggest savers in the world?

To find the answer to this you have to consider the primary income, which is defined as the remuneration of wage-earners, the income from property and from the rental of premises to private individuals. By deducting direct taxes and social security contributions, and adding social

security benefits and state subsidies, you arrive at the available income.

The major part of the available income is absorbed by consumer expenditure, what is left constitutes the savings of households. Consumer expenditure relates expenditure on food, housing, education, leisure, transport etc. These expenses, such as rent for example, are for the most part constant.

The inflation factor must also be taken into consideration. What can then be saved therefore depends in the first place on the effective income, in other words the nominal income adjusted for inflation.

With regard to the evolution of effective income since 1971, it

can be seen that wages and salaries during the last few years have increased at a definitely slower pace than that observed at the beginning of the 70s. In addition taxes have absorbed an increasingly large part of the primary income. The services and payments offered by state insurance schemes, health insurance and above all pension funds having been considerably improved during the last 10 years, premiums have had to be raised. Therefore, a larger proportion of personal savings is taken over by enforced savings.

The proportion of overall savings in the gross national product has dropped, falling from 32 per cent in 1971 to 25 per cent in 1980.

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Bank forecasts drop in GNP, rise in cost of living

ACCORDING to the forecasts of the Union bank of Switzerland, a rise of more than five per cent in the cost of living is expected in Switzerland in 1982.

A slight drop in the GNP is also forecast, unless the franc weakens.

The Union Bank of Switzerland states that the export industry foresees a stagnation in the overall demand from its main markets during the first half of 1982 at least.

Besides, the revaluation of the

franc since last autumn will not only have repercussions on this sector of the Swiss economy but will favour a slightly more marked penetration by foreign competitors on the home market.

In the second half of the year foreign demand could, however, increase owing to the revival of activity in the main industrial countries.

As domestic demand will remain practically stationary and the reserves of work on the books at the beginning of 1982 will be less than at the same time the previous year, the majority of firms will probably cut down their output.

A large, generalised reduction of the labour force is, however, excluded, the labour market being tight already. On the other hand, as a result of the increased costs, the profit capacity of firms will deteriorate.

In 1982, the economic situation will be stimulated in particular by consumer expenditure. In spite of the precarious situation of the finances

of the Confederation, the various cantons and the communes, public consumption will however continue to increase on the whole.

In real terms, private consumption will also grow, even though slightly, as a result of the rise in wages – seven per cent on average – applicable as from January.

The length and extent of the growth will depend to a large extent on the moment when inflation starts to decline and the actual size of the decrease.

In spite of the National Bank's restrictive monetary policy and the fall in the prices of imported goods, resulting from the revalua-

Banker elected chairman

SWISS banker Dr. Fritz Leutwiler has been elected chairman of the board of directors and president of the Bank for International Settlements, which is based in Switzerland.

Dr. Leutwiler has been chairman of the governing board of the Swiss National Bank and a member of the board of directors of the Bank for International Settlements since May, 1974.

To all those who think we only move furniture.

14056 Swiss people in Britain. And no-one wants to return?

A fairly momentous question for a true Confederate! For a transport undertaking with collective deliveries to Switzerland it is the basic question.

We have therefore made a few investigations. The Department for Statistics was able to help us immediately. With figures: of these 14056 Swiss people (a number for the year 1977) 5.5% returned to Switzerland in 1978.

This represents 779 people, of whom the important part instructed us to handle their furniture.

We make the return journey Switzerland-England once weekly. So give us a call. We collect your furniture. Pack it if necessary. Complete all official formalities. And transport it by the quickest route to Switzerland.

You can also call us, however, when you are back in Switzerland. We pack, transport and store everything imaginable. From a few grams to several hundred tons: with a wide variety of vans and trucks (lorries). From babies to disabled people: by taxi and coach. We have produced a brochure for all those who think we only move furniture. Order one.

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tion of the franc, rapid results must not be expected.

The probably adaptation of the selling prices of many home products brought about by the increased costs, as well as the rise in rents caused by the increase in the interest rates due to come into force on old mortgages in the spring, lead to the belief that the inflation rate will fall only very slowly.

The surplus in Switzerland's balance of revenues should amount to two billion francs in 1981 and four to five billion francs in 1982.

As for inflation, the rate should drop to five per cent by the end of 1982 (compared with seven per cent at the end of November, 1981).

Interest rates are expected to drop more slowly than elsewhere during the next few months. Under these circumstances, the franc should grow firmer in relation to the dollar.

Praise indeed from Ronay

HARD-to-please Egon Ronay has been casting a critical eye on the restaurants of 11 European airports – and finding many of them wanting.

But his survey, in the latest edition of the Egon Ronay Lucas Guide, gives top marks to Switzerland.

Geneva airport's "Plein Ciel" restaurant gets first place, with 67 points out of 100. And the restaurant at Zurich's Kloten airport comes third with 63 points.

Accuracy for barometer

A PRECISION barometer with accuracy of plus or minus 1 mbar has been developed by the Swiss company Revue Thommen Waldenburg.

The measuring range has been extended to 1,050 mbar with no loss of resolution, the needle executing four revolutions, instead of three, to cover the whole length of the scale.

The barometer can be used at altitudes of up to 11,500 ft.

Swissair score all-time record for passengers

SWISSAIR staff from the North of England, in Arosa for their annual sales conference, were told that the number of passengers Swissair carried between Manchester and Switzerland in 1981 totalled more than 45,000 – an increase of 18 per cent. It was an all-time record for the company.

During the same period British Airways carried 31,500 passengers over the same route – a drop of 13 per cent.

Best month of all was August, when Swissair carried a record 5,670 passengers.

A jubilant Max Zimmerli, Swissair's Northern area manager, told the Swiss Observer: "This splendid result is due to the energetic sales effort that has been made by my staff in the region – plus the fact that we have such an excellent product."

"We have proved once again



Swissair's Northern area manager, Mr Max Zimmerli.

that Swissair is simply the best there is – the Mercedes of the airways".

But other factors must also have contributed to Swissair's success. One is the company's introduction of cheaper fares

A good year for pharmaceuticals

AS sales figures for 1981 become available the Swiss chemical companies must be feeling well satisfied with the performance of their pharmaceutical businesses.

Despite the fact that the sharp rise in the Swiss franc exchange rate will make the rise in turnover less pronounced in the second half of the year the big producers, Hoffmann-La Roche, Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz, appear to have had a better year.

The relative weakness of the Swiss franc during the early part of the year undoubtedly aided pharmaceutical sales. Exports from Switzerland grew much faster than those from competitor countries, and this was supported by increased local sales from foreign manufacturing subsidiaries.

The dark lining to this silver

cloud is that profits are not keeping pace with growing sales. Research and development costs continue to rise dramatically – in Switzerland one-third of those employed by the chemical companies are college or university graduates.

At the same time pricing restrictions and limits on patent protection mean that fewer of the products coming out of research will provide the companies with the money-spinners they need to finance further innovation.

This being the case, companies are now looking to diversify into a variety of related businesses – Roche into Interferon, Ciba-Geigy into transdermal dosing systems. These and other new ventures and acquisitions could be an important stake in future prosperity.

during the year, which would have helped to woo some passengers from charter services. Another is British Airways' misguided decision to start their Club class, which proved unpopular.

Swissair has a full time staff of 20 in the North of England, plus a number of trainees. All are British, except for four aircraft engineers and Mr Zimmerli himself.

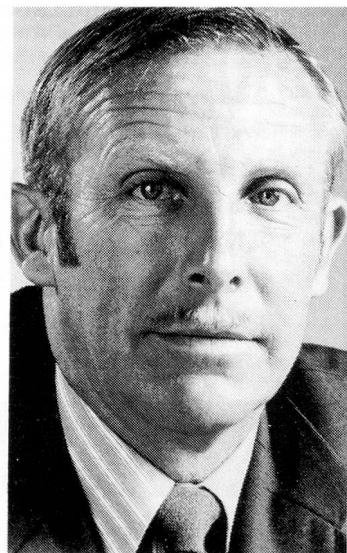
There are five sales executives continually on the move, covering a region stretching from the Potteries to the Scottish border.

Ciba-Geigy appointment

JOHN S. Fraser has been appointed corporate managing director, Ciba-Geigy Plastics and Additives Company, in succession of Dr. K.W. Humphreys.

Mr Fraser will also retain his existing responsibilities as head of the Ilford Photographic Group, managing director and chief executive of Ilford Limited, and a member of the Board of Ciba-Geigy (UK) Limited.

Mr Fraser who was born in Kyabram, Australia, joined Ilford Australia (Pty) Limited in 1968, as marketing manager. He transferred to the UK in 1973 to become marketing director of Ilford Limited. He was appointed managing director and chief executive of Ilford Limited in 1978 and joined the board of Ciba-Geigy (UK) Limited in 1979.



Mr John Fraser