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Prefatory Note

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Prefatory Note:

The year 1991 was for Switzerland a year of celebrations. Numerous commemorative events reflected on the centuries that have passed since that memorable August in 1291 when Uri, Schwyz, and Unterwalden concluded their first documented covenant.

The year 1992, in contrast, forces Switzerland to face the future. In 1993 European countries will unite on many levels and impose on Switzerland the difficult choice between a hard-won autonomy and centuries-old neutrality on the one hand, and a much needed membership in a United Europe on the other. With nuanced and sensitive understanding, Professor H. Dwight Page of Tusculum College in Greenville, Tennessee, explores some of the issues that the Swiss people need to assess in the months to come. His careful research and direct contact with leading Swiss such as Mr. Ruffy, the former President of the Swiss National Assembly, will be helpful especially to those Swiss living abroad who in due time will be called upon to cast their vote.

With the passing of Fritz Marti, the Swiss community of the United States has lost one of its most vibrant, imaginative, and committed members. He fought against a destructive rationalism he called ratiocination in favor of genuine spiritual depth and inner growth. His influence as a philosopher, translator, and educator will endure and testify to a life well lived.

In conclusion, the editor thanks again Ms. Natalie Hector for her expert editorial assistance.

Leo Schelbert