

the dim prospects for the future under these conditions. Mrs. Tennenbaum described the effects which the European Union agricultural reform and the GATT agreement will have on Europe's business and agriculture, and outlined what that would mean for the rest of the world.

People were shocked as Kremmeter—who still farms 110 hectares and feeds 2,000 hogs—described how agropoliticians see his farm as only a tiny operation without any future, and how he was told that he would have to grow four times as much in order to remain “competitive.” The audience was also upset by the official calculation that by the year 2000, at least one out of every two farms in both eastern and western Germany will no longer exist. For Switzerland, with its small-scale structures and extremely intensively farmed fields, such a policy would raze the countryside.

Many farmers already know this, and their attitude is correspondingly angry, especially against elected and farm association figures. Just recently, the Farmers Association agreed to a reduction of the milk price by 10 Swiss centimes (6.9¢) per liter. Association members tersely and fittingly dismiss their representatives as “chieftains of the Takeit family,” as NBKS President Rudolf König put it. But here as everywhere, the problem is, as one person put it, “How do we get rid of these characters?”

### ‘Now we have to mobilize’

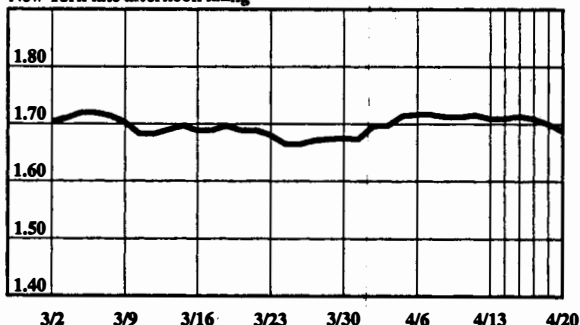
Most speakers at the meetings called upon their colleagues to stand together and show unity in order to repel the common enemy. “The farmers,” one person proudly said, “are more powerful than industry or small business. Now we have to mobilize.” And indeed, that is what they intend to do. To the outsider, this spirit of independence and combativeness is quite impressive. As Mrs. Tennenbaum reminded the listeners, it is rooted in Switzerland's history. The fight for independence waged by the mountain people 700 years ago against the overweening power of the Hapsburg monarchy continues to shape people's consciousness down to the present day. They are proud of their direct-participation democracy, and are ready to defend it with tooth and nail. “To be free as our forefathers were!” the speaker quoted from the Rütli Oath as dramatized by Friedrich Schiller in his play *Wilhelm Tell*.

And now the Swiss must defend this independence—an independence which has burned brightly for centuries, and has served as the guiding star for the rebelling farmers in the great German Peasants' War of 1524-25—against today's power elite. If they do not succeed, Mrs. Tennenbaum warned, their forefathers' struggles will all have been in vain; but if they succeed, their victory can unhinge the entire European Union and GATT system of exploitation. This accounts for why the enemy launched a huge media salvo, a flood of newspaper articles, radio reports, and even defamatory slurs on television, in an attempt to split the NBKS and fatally weaken it.

## Currency Rates

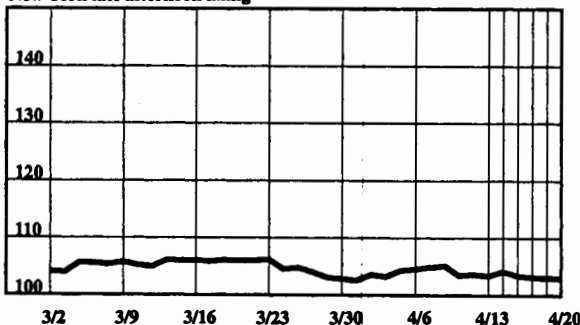
### The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



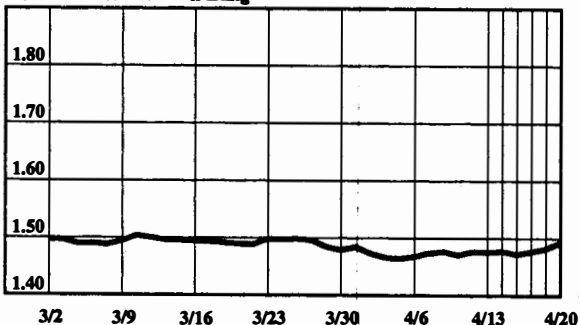
### The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



### The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



### The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

