



*THOUGHT FOR JUDGES?: The more we put ourselves in the competitor's place, the less likely he is to put us in ours.—Farmer's Weekly*

### 'NATIONAL' WEEKEND

As we write these notes the National is some three weeks ahead but by the time this issue of the mag. is on the bookstalls the great annual get-together will be in full swing, and Nottingham University will be the scene of yet another mammoth competitive wine show. There is nothing quite like this annual conference of winemakers anywhere else in the world, and although Canada and America now have their national conventions they are not—as yet—on the same scale, (though undoubtedly they quickly will be, judging by the speed with which things seem to develop on the other side of the pond). We at the A.W. are looking forward to meeting many of you again this year, so don't forget to look us up at our stand.

### THREE-TIER STRUCTURE?

Incidentally, we were interested to hear that the idea of a three-tier structure for the National Association, which we have always persistently advocated, has been revived for discussion this year by no less than the hard-working Association of Federations. As was pointed out at the association's a.g.m., it has now been in existence five years and has loyally backed the National by providing an organisational framework which circles have found most useful and productive but which the Association of Federations does not really have the finance to run. The National, on the other hand, has the finance but not a satisfactory framework, so the Association of Feder-

ations is to suggest that it be integrated into the National. In our view nothing but good could come of such a "marriage", and the whole winemaking movement would be immeasurably strengthened, both organisationally and financially. The idea should produce some interesting and one hopes fruitful discussion.

### MORE WORKABLE

When we say that the National has unsatisfactory framework we imply no criticism of the executive for the present set-up is a product of history. It's just that, with one National membership secretary having to deal with all individual members and all circles, the administration must be unwieldy and, in these days of high postage costs, very expensive. What would be more workable and viable, we have always thought, would be a three-tier structure—National, Federation and Circle. There would then be a two-way traffic between the National and the Federations, and between the Federations and the Circles, who would enlist and look after individual members, so that all members of Circles would automatically become members of Federations (as is largely the case now) *and* of the National. The load on the National administratively would be vastly diminished, but the importance of both National, Federations and Circles in the whole structure of an intergrated movement would be greatly increased, and the National executive would find itself at the head of a really powerful movement in terms of membership. That is what really counts in these days of the big battalions, and an adjustment of the constitution and subscription arrangements to make the set-up self-financing would be a small price to pay for the immense advantages it would bring.