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Very rarely has there been so much interest and even passionate concern regarding the elections of two new Federal Councillors to replace the recently deceased Mr Willi Ritschard (Social Democrat) and Mr Georges-André Chevallaz (Radical Liberal) who had retired at the end of the year. There were two reasons for this unusual excitement in the usually rather calm world of Swiss politics: for the first time in the history of the Swiss Federal State, a woman was an official candidate put up by one of the parties traditionally represented in the Government, the Social Democrat Mrs Lilian Uchtenhagen. In addition, the rivalry between the two Liberals from the French-speaking part of Switzerland, Mr Jean-Pascal Delamuraz (Vaud) and Mr Robert Ducret (Geneva) made a quick decision impossible; the candidature of the Genevois was in the foreground, as his Canton has not been represented on the Government since 1919.

At the meeting of 7th December 1983, the Federal Assembly disappointed the hopes of the people of Geneva as well as that of many women. For it elected the Social Democrat from Solothurn, Dr Otto Stich (124 votes) and the Liberal Mr Delamuraz (130 votes), both in the first round. The Zurich woman candidate scored only 96 votes; the Social Democrat Mr Hans Schmid, citizen of St. Gall and Aargau, retired before the voting, for the Federal Constitution allows only one citizen from any Canton (Mr Kurt Furgler also comes from St. Gall).

The failure of the two candidates whom the Social Democratic Party would have liked most to

see on the Federal Council, was felt as a bitter disappointment; it is by no means certain that the Socialists would not retire from the Coalition Government. This would mean the end of the so-called «Magic Formula» which ensures a seat on the Government of the most important political parties according to the share of electors (two Radical Liberals, two Christian Democrats, two Social Democrats and one member of the Democratic Center Union. The Social Democrats will take a decision at an extraordinary Party Conference in February 1984.

We present the two new Federal Councillors as they were introduced to the Press the day after the elections.

The Editor

Otto Stich

Parliament has elected into the Government a very experienced economist, a discreet but tenacious hard worker. He is 57, very introvert, rather shy and naturally modest, so that few files had to be consulted in order to gather some information about this quiet pipe-smoking man from Solothurn.

He arrived in Parliament towards noon, quietly smiling, almost on tiptoe, practically apologetic for being there at all. When the cameras and the mass of journalists began to converge on him, the new Federal Councillor was almost apprehensive.

Does this mean that an unknown man has joined the Government? No, not really. He has 20 years of experience as National Councillor (1963 to 1983), and he has achieved a solid reputation as an

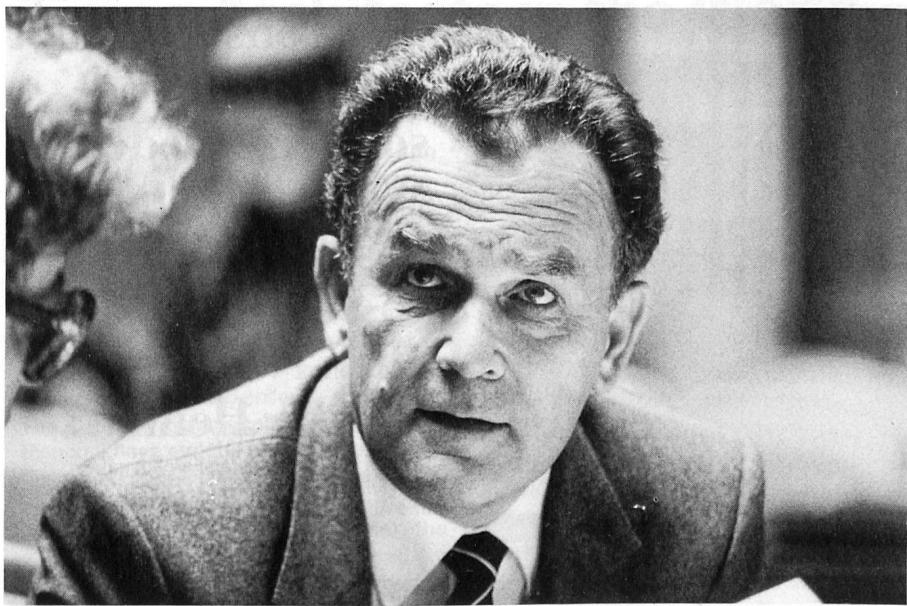
Federal Rifle Shooting Festival in Chur

We should like to draw the attention of the Swiss abroad to the 52nd Federal Rifle Shooting Festival which will take place in Chur from 21st June to 14th July 1985.

The **1st July** will be reserved as the Contest Day of the Swiss Abroad.

For further information, please apply to the

Organisations-Komitee des Eidg. Schützenfestes 1985
c/o Vereinigung
der Schützengesellschaft Chur
7000 Chur
Switzerland



Mr. Otto Stich, Federal Councillor

economic specialist and considerable financial expert. This citizen of Dornach (Commune near Basle) is no visionary, no charismatic politician, no orator and no seducer of the masses. Actually, he is a rather modest speaker.

But he is a «workaholic» who has made a firm political career and worked his way up quietly to the highest office. One thing he has in common with his predecessor, Mr Ritschard, the average Swiss can identify himself with the new Federal Councillor.

Otto Stich was born on 10th January 1927 at Dornach (Solothurn). He studied economics in Basle and later received his doctorate in political economy. He taught at a professional school and from 1971, he managed the central staff department of the Co-op Group (over 30000 members). In 1980, Mr Stich, who is married and has two children, became deputy manager of Co-op Switzerland. An interesting detail: Mrs Uchtenhagen is a member of the board of the same company, and in addition, the loser and her victorious rival studied at the University of Basle with the same famous professor Edgar Salin.

Banking tax

In Parliament, Dr Stich had made himself a place in the sun as president of the Finance Commission, the Foreign Trade Commission and the Finance Delegation. The idea of a banking tax which has since been rejected, was his. He was also vice-president of the Social Democratic Parliamentary Group. He became less active when the Social Democrats launched their banking tax initiative. Since 1979, Dr Stich has been a noted member of the Federal Banking Commission.

As a new Federal Councillor, a man with great experience in economic, financial and monetary matters has joined the Government. He has all the abilities to lead the Federal Department of Finance.

Jean-Pierre Gattoni (La Suisse)

Jean-Pascal Delamuraz

Jean-Pascal Delamuraz was born in Vevey on 1st April 1936. He finished his studies at the University of Lausanne with a bachelor's degree in political science. He is married and has two children. He is a captain in the Swiss Army.

The new Vaudois Federal Councillor is an experienced politician. He has a lively temperament and is almost too gifted as a speaker. Not that his words were rambling, not at all! But this man seems to be able to lead a serious discussion and at the same time, without interrupting it, to greet passers-by and to plan his next speech on the rostrum simultaneously. The name Delamuraz, therefore, stands for agility of thought and even for concurrent thought on several levels. He converses with the same ease on the future of regional traffic as on the fate of Europe.

Robust yet relaxed

Without doubt, this man is also capable of going to the root of any matter and of being in command of filed information. That, inspite of adverse conditions, he was elected in the first round, proves that those were at fault who reproached him for speaking much without saying much. In the end, Mr Delamuraz gave the impression that he was trustworthy and stable in a relaxed way. And even if some of the things he says are too outspoken for delicate ears, his sense of humour assures that nobody gets hurt.

«J'aime le pouvoir» (I love power) admits Mr Delamuraz bluntly. He certainly did not let the grass grow under his feet before he acted. At 34, he was Town Councillor, at 38 Municipal President of Lausanne and saved, Zorro style, the seat for the Radical Liberals in 1981. He has been a member of the National Council for 8 years and was particularly successful in the last elections. He has often been at the centre of events, and by his own will. It is said that politics are his only vocation, and that up to now he has never had time to prove his abilities. At the age of 47, he now has a long time ahead of him as a Federal Councillor. Perhaps his abilities can now



Mr. Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, Federal Councillor

be proved fully, for this time he has enough time...

Result of experience

Mr Delamuraz commands a rich vocabulary. In this is a term he likes to use «synergie» which expresses the impact of experience. One may ask oneself occasionally if he isn't carried away himself by his own emotion even to blunder; for this reason, he is sometimes reproached for lack of concentration. A statesman surely has to observe the broad general course and yet remain in touch with individual problems. Within his future considerable responsibility, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz will have the general interest of our country at

heart. But someone who, at heart, is a defender above all of the linguistic minorities, will not forget his own territory. He disclosed his wish to promote the culture and the main concerns of his Canton, his own region of Western Switzerland. With this in view, he will do best if he remains himself. Mr Delamuraz is not the king one sometimes considers him, one of his friends from Parliament told us. The intensive campaign which has just finished, has somewhat modified the abstract heroic picture of the man. Possibly, as a result, some of his human qualities will come to the fore a little better.

Michel Perrin (24 heures)

«Auslandschweizerschulen»

Swiss Schools Abroad

Fritz Kuebler, Editor of the special edition for abroad of the «Tages-Anzeiger», portrays the Swiss Schools Abroad on the basis of his visits in 1981/1982.

«Auslandschweizerschulen unter der Lupe» (Swiss Schools Abroad under the Magnifying Glass) consists of 67 pages. It may be had (Sfr. 8.-) from the Tages-Anzeiger, Verkauf Postfach, 8021 Zurich, Switzerland



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