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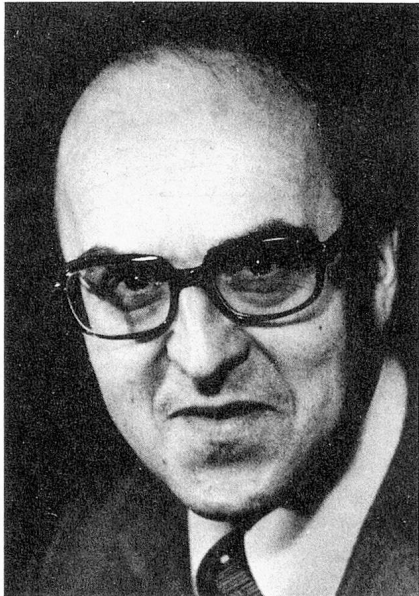
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The Federal Authorities 1985:

President of the Confederation:
Kurt Furgler



Born in St Gallen on 24th June 1924. Place of origin Valens/Pfäfers. Grammar school in St Gallen. Studied law at the Universities of Fribourg, Zurich and Geneva and the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva. Doctorate 1948. Lawyer in St Gallen. National Councillor 1954 to 1971. Chairman of the Christian Democratic Group in the Federal Assembly 1963 to 1971. Military rank: brigadier, ultimately commander of a frontier brigade. Elected Federal Councillor on 8th December 1971. President of the Confederation for 1977 and 1981.

Vice-President of the Federal Council:
Alphons Egli

President of the National Council:
Arnold Koller

President of the Council of States:
Markus Kündig

President of the Federal Court:
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Otto Stich

Department of Public Economy:
Kurt Furgler

Department of Transport,
Communications and Energy:
Léon Schlumpf

Unemployment Insurance

As a Swiss abroad, are you insured against unemployment?

While you are living abroad you are not insured against unemployment under the Swiss unemployment insurance scheme. Nor is it possible for you to join the insurance scheme voluntarily. However, you may be covered by an insurance scheme in your country of residence. This is a question you should clarify with your local insurance institutions. On the other hand, you will be insured against unemployment when you return to Switzerland or go to live in Switzerland for the first time provided your permanent domicile is there. The same applies if you have acquired Swiss nationality abroad through marriage and go to Switzerland with the intention of living there permanently. If you are self-employed you will have no claim to unemployment insurance benefit on returning to Switzerland. Nor can you insure yourself voluntarily at present.

What kind of insurance cover will you have on your return to Switzerland!

– You will be insured *without having to pay contributions* if you return to Switzerland after living abroad for more than a year and can prove that you have been in *paid employment abroad for at least six complete months* within the past two years. However, this cover provided by insurance in Switzerland only lasts a year. As in the case of all insured persons who are exempt from contributions, there will be a waiting period of 10 days (from the date when you register as unemployed in Switzerland) before you can start to draw benefit.

– If you have *lived abroad for more than 12 months for occupational training purposes* you will also be covered on your return without having to pay contributions. You can only claim this right within one year after the end of your training. You will have to wait 20 days (from the date when

you register) before starting to draw unemployment benefit.

– However, if *your employer sent you abroad to work*, you will be treated like ordinary unemployed persons in Switzerland provided you received your salary from an employer established in Switzerland and he paid contributions on it to the Swiss Old-Age and Survivors'/Disability/Loss of Earnings/Unemployment Insurance funds. If you are unemployed there will be no waiting period.

– If you have *lived abroad for less than a year* you will have to fulfil the same conditions as unemployed persons in Switzerland in order to be able to claim.

– There are special regulations for Swiss nationals returning from the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Liechtenstein or Austria (see below).

What must you do upon your return?

Upon arrival in Switzerland you must report *without delay to the job centre in your place of residence* if you are unemployed and wish to obtain paid work. The waiting period in respect of your claims will only start on that day. You must, without fail, submit your claim to unemployment benefit within a year after your return/entry to Switzerland, otherwise you will lose your right to insurance cover for good. In addition, you must fulfil the same conditions as other unemployed persons in Switzerland.

How much unemployment benefit will you receive?

– You will be entitled to 85 days' benefit in two years if, before you became unemployed, *no contributions* (Old-Age and Survivors'/Disability/Loss of Earnings/Unemployment Insurance) were paid on your salary. Single persons without obligations to support or maintain dependants receive benefits amounting to 70%,

and all other insured persons 80%, of an insured salary determined according to a blanket rate. Depending on one's training, the blanket rates for the insured salary are 80/100/120 francs per day.

– However, if you were sent abroad to work and while there *contributed* to the Swiss unemployment insurance scheme, you will be placed on the same footing as other insured persons in Switzerland. The number of day's benefit (85/170/250 days' benefit in two years) is determined by the duration of previous jobs in which you had to pay contributions (6/12/18 contribution months).

Returning from the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Liechtenstein or Austria

If you return to Switzerland from one of the above neighbouring countries the whole of your contribution periods there as a paid employee will – on the strength of special agreements – be taken into account. You will be able to claim unemployment benefit immediately without a waiting period. The maximum claim will be calculated according to the periods over which you paid contributions in one of those countries and possibly in Switzerland as well.

On the other hand, you must remember that any unemployment benefit you drew in those countries will be taken into account when the duration of your benefit in Switzerland is calculated and may reduce your claim.

Are you entitled to any other benefits?

– On your return you will be able, in certain circumstances, to benefit from the so-called *preventive measures*. Depending on those circumstances, the unemployment insurance scheme

can grant you up to 250 days' benefit, plus expenses, for attending retraining, further training and rehabilitation courses. The cantonal labour office will be pleased to give you further details.

– Depending on the regulations of your particular canton, you may be able to draw unemployment relief.

If you are a «frontalier» (frontier-crossing worker), where are you insured?

As a «frontalier» you are in principle insured against total unemployment in your country of residence, and against short-time working in the country where you work.

Important remarks:

In the assessment of individual cases, the legal provisions are the final authority.

This leaflet is intended as a supplement to the general leaflet for insured persons. There are special regulations for «frontaliers».

The general leaflet for insured persons (No. 716.201f for the «Memento pour l'assuré» or No. 716.201d for the «Merkblatt für die Versicherten») can be obtained from the EDMZ, CH-3000 Berne.

*Federal Office for Industry,
Crafts and Labour*

Federal Ballots 1985

These will be held on the following dates:

10th March

9th June

22nd September

1st December.

Four matters will be put to the vote on 10th March (initiative on holidays, abolition of subsidies for primary education, training grants, abolition of the Confederation's obligation to grant subsidies in the field of public health) and four on 9th June («right to life» initiative, abolition of the

cantonal share in the net proceeds of stamp duties, change in the distribution of the net proceeds of duties on distilled liquors, abolition of aid to growers of bread grain for their own needs).

In the second half of the year there will probably be ballots on, among other things, two matters against which referendums have been called (Swiss Civil Code, amendment of 5th October 1984 concerning the general effects of marriage, the matrimonial property system and the law of inheritance; and the Federal Decree instituting a risk guarantee for setting up small and medium-sized businesses).

Swiss Radio International (SRI)

The SRI shortwave transmissions go out in nine languages (French, German, Italian, Romansch, English, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese and Esperanto). SRI broadcasts to its listeners all over the world for 24 hours a day. The programme brochure for 1985 can be obtained from the following address: Swiss Radio International, Press Service, Giacomettistrasse 1, CH-3000 Berne 15, Switzerland.

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Heavy vehicle levy and motorway disc

In the ballot of 26th February 1984 the Swiss people and the cantons decided in favour of introducing a heavy vehicle levy and a motorway disc.

There are two aspects to these new traffic levies – traffic policy and finance. Motor vehicle traffic, and particularly heavy vehicle traffic, does not cover the costs to which it gives rise. Therefore, the roads are partly financed out of general taxation.

That is the background against which the two levies were decided upon. However, because they are imposed not only on Swiss nationals but also on foreigners – be they tourists or lorry drivers – some problems have arisen with other countries.

Primarily owing to pressure from their road hauliers' associations, several countries announced that they would levy a special impost on Swiss lorries entering their territory. In mid-December of last year there was even a partial blockade of the Franco-Swiss border. A number of Swiss lorry drivers also took part in that campaign in order to protest

against the heavy vehicle levy which had been approved by the Swiss people. These methods aroused no sympathy in the Federal Council or in the population at large.

Meanwhile, the Swiss authorities are trying, through conversations with neighbouring countries and with the road hauliers' associations, to explain the nature and the details of the heavy vehicle levy. They are stressing that it is not conceived as a tax but as a fee for using our roads – such as most of the neighbouring countries charge – and that it does not discriminate against foreign commercial vehicles.

In particular, we must keep on emphasizing to our foreign interlocutors that these new traffic levies were not decreed by the Swiss Government but were the result of a sovereign decision by our voters. The political dimension, therefore, is not the least important aspect of the many attempts at home and abroad to rescind this decision.

*Press and Information Service
Federal Finance Department*

New legislation on Swiss nationality

On 14th December 1984 the Federal Parliament approved changes in the Federal Act concerning the acquisition and loss of Swiss nationality. The time-limit for a referendum is 27th March 1985. In principle, the Federal Council should put this Act into force on 1st May or 1st July 1985.

The Act is of particular interest to children born after 31st December 1952 to Swiss mothers and foreign fathers. They will be

able to apply, within three years after the Act's entry into force, for recognition as Swiss nationals or for facilitated naturalization.

We shall let you know the exact procedure to be followed in the next issue of the «Swiss Reviews» (June 1985). The Swiss embassies and consulates abroad would be grateful if you would wait for this information before putting questions to them.