

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 32 (1969)
Heft: [3]

Artikel: Elections in the Federal Assembly
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942225>

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ELECTIONS IN THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY

On 11th December, the new President of the National Council opened the meeting of the Federal Assembly (National Council and Council of States combined) to elect the President of the Confederation for 1969. The Vice-President traditionally moves up, and Federal Councillor Ludwig von Moos, Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, received 166 out of the 212 votes. 227 voting slips were returned in the election of the Vice-President, and with 168 votes, the Head of the Federal Department of the Interior, Federal Councillor Hans Peter Tschudi, was elected to the office.

At the same time the Federal Assembly elected a new Federal Judge in succession to the retiring Dr Kurt Schoch, in the person of Dr Adolf Luechinger (40), Social Democrat from Zurich. Dr Hans Korner, Lucerne lawyer and National Councillor, was elected as new **Versicherungsrichter** as successor to the late Dr A. Boner. Dr Silvio Giovanoli was elected President of the Federal Tribunal for 1969/70, and Dr Paul Schwarz Vice-President. The present Vice-President of the Insurance Tribunal Dr Rene-Frank Vaucher was promoted to its President, whilst Dr Petro Mona was elected as his successor.

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION

The President of the Federal Council who will be the head of the Confederation during 1969 is Federal Councillor Ludwig von Moos. He was born on 31st January 1910 at Sachseln (OW), his commune of origin. He was the eleventh child of the local stationmaster and grandson of a **Regierungsrat**. Bundesrat von Moos went to school at Sarnen and Sachseln and finished his schooling at the Benedictine College at Sarnen in 1930. He studied law for three years at the University of Fribourg and graduated as licentiate of law. He became Commune Clerk of Sachseln and a year later he was elected to the **Einwohnergemeinderat** and to the **Bürgergemeinderat**. He presided over the former from 1941 to 1946.

From 1936 onward he was in the Cantonal Court of Justice. He was also active as editor of the "Obwaldner Volksfreund" and belonged to the Cantonal Council for two years.

The "Landsgemeinde" of 1943 elected him as Councillor of States and three years later into the Government of Obwalden. Four times he was **Landammann**. In 1946 he became a member of the Obwalden Cantonal Bank and in 1954 Chairman of its