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Ruth Dreifuss, the new Federal Councillor.

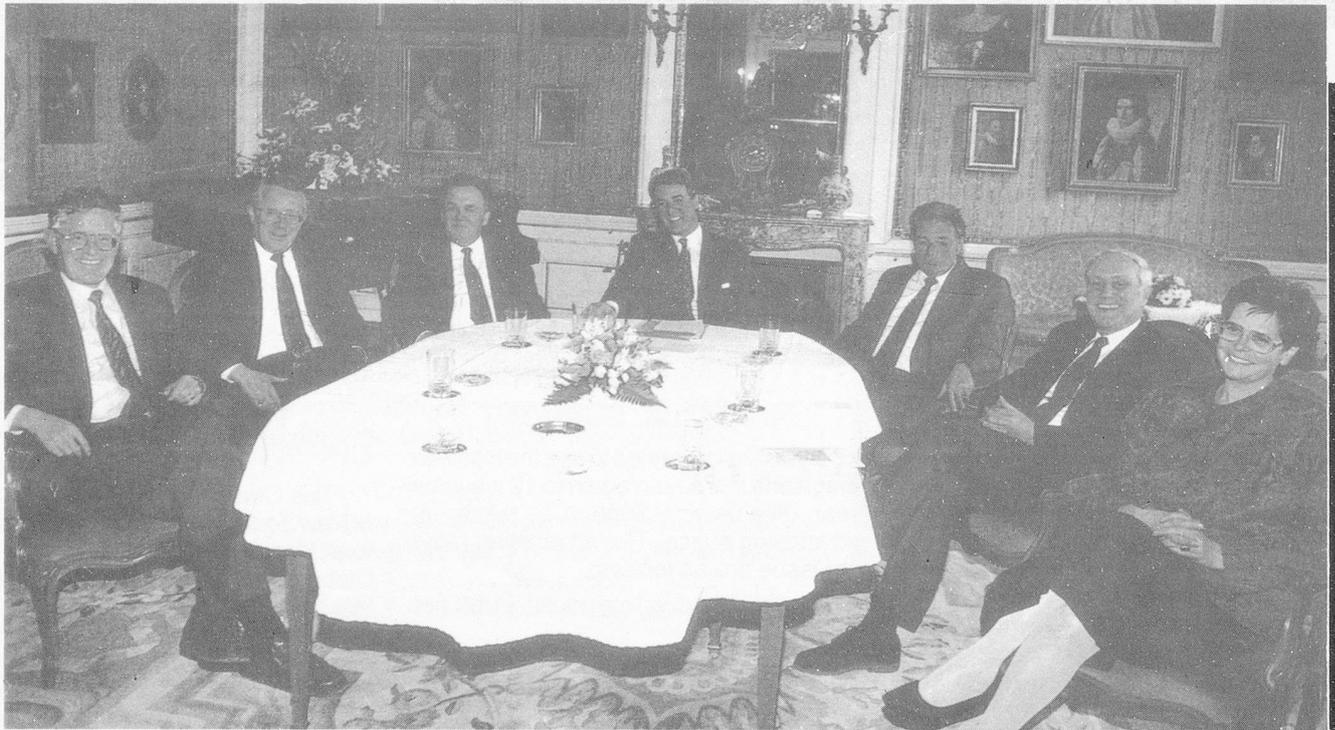
NEW FEDERAL COUNCILLOR

Ruth DREIFUSS is not only the second woman nominated to this high position, but she is also at the same time the one hundredth Federal Councillor. Ruth Dreifuss who speaks 5 languages was born in St Gallen in 1940. She lived successively in Geneva, Berne, Tessin and then back in Berne again. An interesting fact is that Ruth Dreifuss had never been a member of the Federal Parliament when she was elected to her present position.

A rare picture of the whole Federal Council. From left to right: Kaspar Villiger, 52. Arnold Koller, 59. Otto Stich, 66. Adolf Ogi, 50. Jean Pascal Delamuraz, 56. Flavio Cotti, 53 and Ruth Dreifuss, 53.

EASY GOING BANKING MACHINES

In one single night over Easter, some very crafty thieves have stolen over one million SFR from 10 banking machines in central Switzerland. According to the police, it must have been the work of one or several top experts in the field. Between 11.00 pm and 5.00 am they cleaned out machines in Lucerne, Schwyz, Küssnacht, Brunnen, Horw, Emmenbrücke, Sursee and Hasle. Thanks to their nocturnal activity, many customers who needed money over Easter were left empty handed. The machines hit by the thieves were of an older type and they will now be replaced as quickly as possible by newer machines which are supposed to be fool or rather thief proofed. A typical case of shutting the door after the horse has bolted.



SWISS GELATI ?

Talking about taking coal to Newcastle. Will the Italians soon be eating Swiss ice-creams? Rumor has it that Nestlé is planning to purchase several Italian ice-cream manufacturers which would practically put the major part of the famous Italian "Gelati" production under Swiss control.

SIMPLON LINE EXTENSION

The last 4.6 km of single track line between Salgesch and Leuk (Wallis) will be doubled up before the year 2000. The new railway line will be built through a tunnel so that the space that becomes available can be used for a new road.

FARMERS' INCOME

The revenues from farming in Switzerland have shrunk by 6000 SFR or 8% per farm last year. The main reasons were the combined effect of increases in production costs and price reduction of farm goods on the market. The average loss in revenue is therefore around 18 SFR per day and per farm worker.

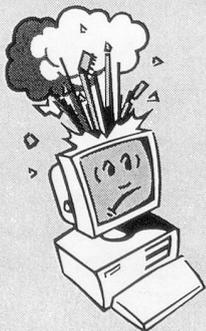
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