

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK  
**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom  
**Band:** - (1959)  
**Heft:** 1353  
  
**Rubrik:** Prepaid subscription rates

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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED IN 1919 BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain**

Advisory Council: R. DE CINTRA (Chairman); O. F. BOEHRINGER, J. EUSEBIO, GOTTFRIED KELLER, R. J. KELLER, A. STAUFFER, G. E. SUTER.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SWISS COLONY IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 44. No. 1353.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1959.

PRICE 11d.

## PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES. (Fortnightly issue.)

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	6 issues, post free . . . . .	6/-
	12 issues, post free . . . . .	11/6
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Basle V 5718.)



## NEWS AT RANDOM

### Federal

Four of the seven members of the Federal Council which forms the Swiss Federal Government are retiring at the end of this year, namely Dr. h.c. H. Streuli (head of the Finance Department), Dr. Philipp Etter (chief of the Department of the Interior), Mr. Thomas Holenstein (chief of the Department for Public Economy), and Dr. G. Lepori (head of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Department).

Dr. H. Streuli was born in 1892, and is a citizen of Wädenswil. He studied architecture at the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich, and at the University of Munich. From 1928 to 1935, Dr. Streuli was President of the commune of Richterswil. In 1935, he was elected a member of the Government of the canton of Zurich where he took over the Finance Department, which post he held until his election to the Federal Council in 1953, as successor to Dr. Max Weber. In 1940 the University of Zurich honoured him with the degree of *doctor honoris causa* in recognition of the work he had rendered as president of the organisation committee of the "Landesausstellung" in 1939. In the army Dr. Streuli held the rank of Colonel (Engineering Corps). He was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1957.

\* \* \*

Dr. h.c. Ph. Etter was born on December 21st 1891 at Menzingen (Ct. Zug). He received his schooling at the "Kantonsschule" in Zug, and the "Stiftsschule" in Einsiedeln, after which he studied at the University of Zurich. In 1917, he established himself as a lawyer at Zug. Dr. Etter took a great interest in the politics of his native canton. In 1918, at the age of 26, he entered the "Kantonsrat" Zug, and four years later (1922) he became a member of the cantonal government.

In the year 1930 he entered Parliament (States Council) where he soon made a name for himself as a shrewd parliamentarian. Four years later (1934) Dr. Etter became a member of the Federal Government in succession to Federal Councillor Musy.

Dr. Etter occupied the Presidential chair in 1939, 1942, 1947 and 1953. He belongs to the Catholic-Conservative party, and was the first representative of the canton of Zug to become a member of the Federal Government.

\* \* \*

Dr. Thomas Holenstein, who gives ill health as the reason for his retirement, was born in 1896, and is a citizen of Buetschwil (Ct. St. Gall). He studied law at the Universities of Basle, Geneva, Berne and Rome after which he practised as a lawyer in St. Gall. From 1931 to 1945 he was a lecturer (Dozent) at the Commercial University of St. Gall. In 1936, Dr. Holenstein was elected a member of the Grand Council of the canton of St. Gall, and a year later (1937) entered the National Council over which he presided in 1952/53. In 1954 he was elected a member of the Federal Government. He belongs to the Catholic-Conservative party. In the army he held the rank of a General Staff Colonel. He was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1958.

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Dr. Giuseppe Lepori, who is retiring for reasons of health, was born in 1902 at Massagno, and is a citizen of Lopagno (Ct. Ticino). He studied law at the Universities of Fribourg and Munich, and afterwards became editor of the Conservative paper "Popolo è Libertà" from 1927 to 1935. Afterwards, up till 1940, he practised as a lawyer in Bellinzona, when he became a member of the government of the canton of Ticino. Dr. Lepori sat in the Grand Council from 1927 to 1940. He was elected a member of the Federal Government on the 16th December 1954. During the current year he was Vice-President of the Swiss Confederation.

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The Federal Council has appointed Mr. Robert Boetschi, formerly 1st Secretary of Legation, to the post of Consul-General in Leopoldville and Brazzaville, in succession to M. Theodor Curchad.

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Mr. Armin Jeker, Director of the Federal Finance Control is vacating his post at the end of the current year on reaching retiring age. The Federal Council has appointed as his successor Dr. jur. Eduard Lehmann (43) of Basle and Trimbach, since 1953, "Adjunkt des Rechtsdienstes der Bundesanwaltschaft".

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The Swiss Legation in Bangkok (Thailand) has been raised to the status of an Embassy. Monsieur Erwin Bernath, at present Minister in Bangkok has been nominated as Ambassador.

Dr. Erwin Bernath was born in 1911, and hails from Thayngen (Ct. Schaffhausen). He studied law