The new president of the Swiss confederation

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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. René-Frank Vaucher was promoted to its President, whilst Dr. Petro Mona was elected as his successor.

[A.T.S.]

THE 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 *Burgergemeinderat*. 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 board. He was also a member of the board of the Swiss Federal Railways and of many other organisations and institutions, such as Radio Berne.

On 17th December 1959, Ludwig von Moos was elected to the Federal Council as the first citizen of Obwalden and became chief of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, a position he has held ever since.

Federal Councillor von Moos became President of the Confederation for the first time in the EXPO year of 1964. He was then the first citizen who had reached the top in the 115 years of history of the present Confederation. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by Fribourg University the same year.

The new President is a Catholic Conservative and father of seven children. He served as *Luftschutz* soldier in the war.

[A.T.S.]

NEW LEADERS OF PARLIAMENT

In the course of the years, the election of Presidents of National Council and Council of States has become a formality, even though a very solemn and festive one. The new year of office begins on the first Monday in December, and it lasts again to the first Monday in December exactly one year later. Traditionally, the Vice-Presidents move up to the position of President, and there has only been one exception to this in recent times, when the controversial Robert Grimm was not "moved up" on account of his revolutionary past, and he was accorded the Presidency of Parliament only a few years later (1945).

The lawyer and R.C. Conservative son of a country schoolmaster, Max Aebischer, replaces the BGB (Farmers, Citizens and Tradesmen) Partisan Hans Conzett, Zurich, as President of the National Council and *ipso facto* of the Federal Assembly when the two Houses meet together. He is considered a representative of the *Suisse Romande*, although he hails from the Jaun Valley, and he has been in the National Council since 1951. He is an N.C.O. of Artillery and father of five children.

The new President of the Council of States, where each Canton has two representatives, regardless of its size, is *Ständerat* Christian Clavadetscher, Liberal Radical from Lucerne. Originally a man from the farming community of the Grisons, born in 1897, he is also the son of a teacher. He is a farmer, well-trained, and owner of a beautiful farming estate at Dagmersellen. He was elected to the National Council, although he had never belonged to any communal or cantonal authority. After 12 years in the Large Chamber, he was elected Lucerne Councillor of States in 1955. *"Frisch voran mit Christian!"* was the election slogan, and his supporters, Conservatives, Liberals and Farmers, have done well by him. The new *Ständeratspraesident* has risen from *Trainsoldat* to Lieut. Colonel, is married and has three children.

The St. Gall *Regierungsrat* Mathias Eggenberger has been elected Vice-President of the National Council (Socialist) and the Fribourg lawyer Paul Torche (R.C. Conservative) as Vice-President of the Council of States.

(*A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten."*)

SWISS OLYMPIC MEDALLISTS HONOURED

On 14th December, the Swiss Olympic Committee honoured the Swiss Olympic Medallists in Berne. The Head of the Federal Military Department, Federal Councillor Gnaegi, addressed the men and women and sketched plans his Department had to further gymnastics and other sports.

At the General Meeting of the Swiss Watch Federation in Bienne, the Mexican Ambassador to Switzerland awarded the Omega Company a gold medal for immaculate time-keeping and measuring during the Olympic Games in Mexico.

[A.T.S.]

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