

The new leaders of the federal chambers

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FEDERAL COUNCILLOR CHAUDET RESIGNS

Federal Councillor Paul Chaudet, in charge of the Federal Military Department, suddenly and unexpectedly announced his resignation for the end of the year. Federal President Schaffner gave the news on 28th November. Monsieur Chaudet is the oldest in service of the Federal Councillors, elected on 16th December 1954, and twice Federal President (1959 and 1962). Since the "Mirage" affair, there has been great opposition, not to say distrust, because of the way he handled that unfortunate business. When the Socialist Party demanded his resignation in 1965, the Federal Council answered that it carried corporate responsibility for military policy.

His successor will be elected by the Federal Assembly (National Council and Council of States combined) on 14th December. The results will not arrive in time for this issue of the "Swiss Observer". Two candidates have so far (on going to press) been nominated: National Councillor Dr. G. A. Chevallaz, Municipal President of Lausanne, proposed by the Radical Party of Vaud, and National Councillor Dr. P. Glasson, lawyer, nominated by the Radical Democrats of the Canton of Fribourg.

On the other hand, the Ticino has also made a definite claim to a seat in the Federal Government.

[A.T.S.]

THE NEW LEADERS OF THE FEDERAL CHAMBERS

At the first meeting of the winter session, Parliament elected as President of the National Council Dr. Alfred Schaller, Radical Democrat, citizen of Wauwil and Basle, born 1908; since 1941 he has been Director of the *Rheinschiffahrtsamt* in Basle, and President of the Swiss Industries Fair since 1956. He became a member of the National Council in 1947, and was Basle *Regierungsrat* for 16 years until his retirement last year when he was appointed head of the *Schweizerische Reederei A.G.*

The new President of the Council of States is Dr. Willi Rohner, born 1907, citizen of St. Margrethen/St. Gall. His career began as editor of various local papers in the Cantons of St. Gall and Grisons, and in 1957, he became head of the *Rheintaler Druckerei* and is Lecturer for journalism at the University of St. Gall. In 1951, he was elected into the National Council as a Radical and a year later into the Council of States. He represents Switzerland in the Council of Europe.

Both Presidents have been accorded a festive reception in their respective towns.

Dr. Hans Conzett (BGB Zurich) has been elected Vice-President of the National Council, and Councillor of States Emil Wipfli (K.Chr. Uri) Vice-President of the *Ständerat*.

(Based on news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

THE WORLD'S TOP INDUSTRIAL FIRMS

According to the American magazine "Fortune", which each year publishes a list of the biggest industrial firms in the United States and the rest of the world, the Swiss company Nestlé, with a turnover of 1,563 million dollars, came 11th in the list of the biggest industrial firms in the world outside the United States. This list of the two hundred top firms includes the names of another eight Swiss firms: Brown Boveri (61st), Hoffmann-La Roche (80th), Ciba (111th), Geigy (118th), Sandoz (159th), Alusuisse (165th) and Sulzer Bros (176th). By way of comparison it is interesting to note that the biggest industrial firm in the world in 1965 was the American group General Motors with a turnover of 20,734 million dollars and a payroll of 734,594 workers, and that outside the United States the biggest firm was Royal Dutch/Shell with a turnover of 781 million dollars.

[O.S.E.C.]

AMERICAN GRANTS FOR ANTI-CANCER RESEARCH IN SWITZERLAND

For the fifth time, a group of research workers at the Zoological Institute of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich has just been allotted a big grant which will enable them to continue research in the fight against cancer. During the last few years this group of scientists has received almost 100,000 francs from the Damon Runyon Memorial Fund, a private American Foundation with its headquarters in New York, devoted to the encouragement throughout the world, by means of grants and appropriate technical aid, of research into the causes of cancer and the means of combating it. This American financial support for this highly specialised scientific work illustrates the value of the research in this field carried out in Switzerland.

[O.S.E.C.]

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