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Three Federal Councillors Resign

The Federal Councillors Tschudi, Bonvin and Celio have announced their resignation. This news was given to Parliament by the President of the Council Franzoni at the opening of the meeting on Monday, 1st October. The Federal Assembly will elect their successors during the December session.

The question has been asked for some time whether the disunion in political purpose within the Government allowed sufficient collaboration to face approaching obstacles with unanimous policies. At least one cannot reproach Federal Councillors in office that they only think of themselves at the moment of resignation. It must be stressed that the resignations no doubt correspond to the individual wish, but at the same time equally strongly to that of their colleagues. After discussion in the Federal Council, members agreed that the moment was right and that it was important to leave three vacancies. There cannot be any question of Government crisis. Before relinquishing their posts, the three departing Federal Councillors wanted to render a last service: to step down in such a way so as to facilitate the problem of their succession and the elections and to make possible a certain change in Cantons and Parties. This can now be realised. Of course, it meant that one or another of the resignations had to be advanced, a necessity in order to carry out the elections in a flexible way and with satisfactory results. This treble decision could not be put off. The risk of an individual resignation in the course of the coming months were too big. At any rate, the danger would have existed to have put up with the inconvenience of even more numerous resignations after the expiry of the present period of legislature, i.e. immediately after the general parliamentary elections.

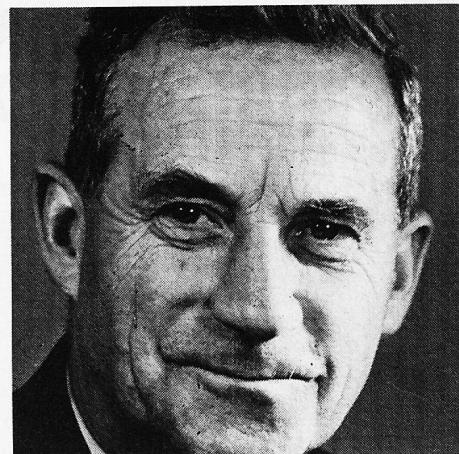
Three personalities are leaving. Their performance as Federal Councillors is judged in different ways. There is no doubt that each of them has tried to make the best of a difficult task. Therefore, one cannot let the three men depart without expressing appreciation of

all the work they carried out in the service of their country.

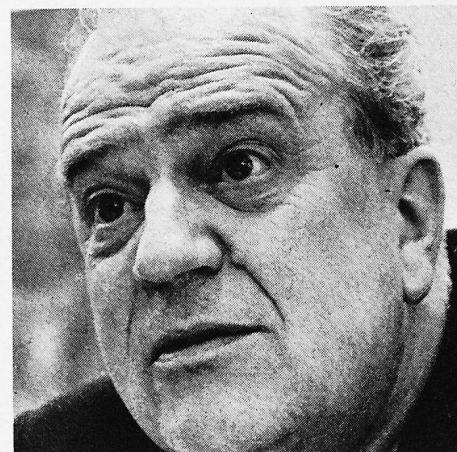
Federal President *Roger Bonvin* was born at his place of origin of Icogne near Lens. He studied at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. He was elected to the Federal Council on 27th September 1962. For the following six years, he was head of the Department of Finance and Customs and since 1968 of the Department of Communications and Energy. In 1967, he became President of the Confederation for the first time.

Federal Councillor *Nello Celio* was born at Ambri on 12th February 1914. He studied law at the universities of Basle and Berne. After three years on the National Council, he was elected Federal Councillor on 14th December, 1966. His first office was that of head of the Military Department in succession to Monsieur Paul Chaudet. On 1st July 1968, he changed over to the Department of Finance and Customs. He was President of the Confederation in 1972.

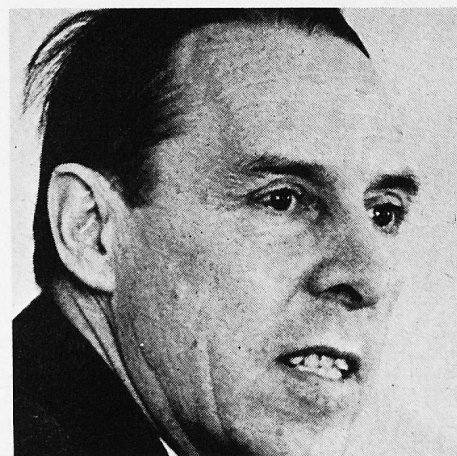
Federal Councillor *Hans-Peter Tschudi* is citizen of Basle and Schwanden (GL) and was born in Basle on 22nd October, 1913. He studied law in Basle and Paris and received his doctorate at the University of Basle in 1936. In 1953, he was elected to the Council of States and on 17th December 1959 to the Federal Council as head of the Federal Department of the Interior.



Roger Bonvin



Nello Celio



Hans-Peter Tschudi