

Federal elections in October : a win for the Right?

Autor(en): **Plomb, Georges**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Swiss review : the magazine for the Swiss abroad**

Band (Jahr): **10 (1983)**

Heft 2

PDF erstellt am: **23.07.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-906864>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Contents

Federal elections in October	3
Instruction by Correspondence for Swiss children	6
The Basle Paper Mill	7
Official Communications:	
– 25 years Solidarity Fund	9
– A little guide for Swiss Abroad in the National Council	11
– Late entry to the OAI/DI by wives of Swiss Abroad	11
Local News	12-16
Communications of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad:	
– Change at the Head of the Organization of Swiss Abroad	17
– Citizenship Campaign	18
61st Congress of Swiss Abroad	19
World Economy and Switzerland	20
Switzerland – UNO	21
Practical Development Assistance by the Senior Expert Corps of Swisscontact	22

Consulting Representation

in the field of management of business affairs, finance, contracts, company law and taxation in Switzerland

Fiduciary Sven Müller

lic. ès sc. comm.

24 hours service to secure the assets of a deceased

Birkenrain 4
CH-8634 Hombrechtikon ZH
Phone 055 42 21 21
Telex 87 50 89 sven ch
Telegram TLX 875089
Telecopier 01 211 64 18

Federal elections in October A win for the Right?

(G. Pb) The deadline is the 23rd of October, 1983. The Swiss nation will elect the main body of the members of the Federal Chambers; the entire National Council and the majority of the Council of States. Who are the likely winners? The Right Wing with the Liberals, the Radical Democrats, the Swiss People's Party, or even the National Group for People and Fatherland? Who might be the losers? The Social Democratic or Communist Left Wing, the Independent Union? The significant unknown factors: the Christian Democrats, the new parties forming the Group for the Protection of the Environment. It is still anyone's guess what the outcome will be.

These speculations are based on the results obtained in the most recent cantonal and local elections. There was a swing to the traditional and nationalist Right almost everywhere, whereas the Left and the Independents lost ground and the Christian Democrats marked time. As far as the Group for the Protection of the Environment is concerned, a great deal depends on the success of the attempt they are currently making to form a coherent union.

The big parties in the government and the small ones outside

The election campaign leading up to the 23rd of October is all the more complicated by the fact that power is divided amongst the parties in Switzerland to an extent unequalled in the rest of the world. The big parties form the government while the small ones are excluded. This formula has functioned comprehensively



since 1959. The four most important groupings – the Social Democrats, the Radical Democrats, the Christian Democrats and the Swiss People's Party – are represented in the Federal Council more or less proportionally, as well as in a large number of cantons and municipalities. This is the magic formula.

In most other pluralistic democracies, the battle for supremacy is fought out between two big parties or coalitions, only one of which finally wields the power of government. On the other hand, in Switzerland, each large party or coalition has a share of this power, which is a startling discovery for the uninitiated observer.

Let us take a look at the Swiss parties, one after the other, and see how they are preparing themselves for this peculiar contest.

The Social Democrats – avoiding the worst

Up to the end of 1982, the *Social Democratic Party* was predicted to be heading for the heaviest losses in the coming federal elec-

Wer sonst schreibt einem Auslandschweizer jede Woche einen engbeschriebenen 16-Seiten-Brief mit allen Neuigkeiten aus der Heimat?

Nur die Tages-Anzeiger-Fernaussgabe die viel verspricht und noch mehr hält.



Ich abonniere die Tages-Anzeiger Fernausgabe.

Gewünschte Zustellart:

- Luftpost
 gewöhnliche Post

Gewünschte Zahlungsweise:

- jährlich
 halbjährlich
 vierteljährlich

Die ersten 4 Ausgaben sind gratis.

Zustell-Adresse:

Name: _____

Strasse: _____

PLZ/Ort: _____

Land: _____

Abonnementsrechnung an:

Name: _____

Strasse: _____

PLZ/Ort: _____

Coupon einsenden an: Tages-Anzeiger
 Vertrieb/Verkauf, Postfach,
 CH-8021 Zürich 7016

Die Preise der Tages-Anzeiger Fernausgabe in Schweizer Franken.

Gewöhnliche Postzustellung	3 Monate	6 Monate	12 Monate
BRD, Dänemark, Finnland, Frankreich, Italien, Jugoslawien, Luxemburg, Malta, Niederlande, Norwegen, Österreich, Portugal, Schweden, Zypern	20.-	39.20	77.-
Übrige Länder	24.-	47.20	93.-
Lufpostzustellung			
Europa und Mittelmeerländer, Spanisch	23.30	46.-	90.40
Westafrika	23.30	46.-	90.40
Übrige Länder	26.-	51.10	101.-

Tages-Anzeiger
 FERNAUSGABE

tions in 1983. They lost ground in almost all the cantonal and local polls and the confrontations between the Left Wing and the Right Wing, which were serious enough in Zürich and even worse in Basle, indicated the worst. However, all is not yet lost. In the west of Switzerland, the party is doing well on the whole, with gains balancing losses. It is true that, since November 1982, the Social Democratic Party have shown evidence of considerable unity since the new programme was adopted, placing more emphasis on self-management. In future, the elected members will have to account to the party. However, their will, limited as it is, to have a share in the government has been strengthened. The Swiss Social Democratic Party is on the Left of the Centre, in conformity with the general trend of Social Democracy and similar to the corresponding parties in West Germany and Scandinavia.

The CVP – impetus checked?

The *Christian Democratic Party*, another party that is going through a bad path, has also had to face disappointments in several cantons. Their popularity has fallen off slightly almost everywhere in the west of Switzerland, but in the German-speaking part they are holding their ground with very few exceptions. An unknown factor has arisen with the appearance of a Right Wing closely associated with the employers and industry. This fact could mean that the slow swing which the party of the farmers' Right Wing has been making towards the Centre, which takes the current political situation into account, will stop. In future, the CVP will be gauging its own boldness a little better. Incidentally, the proposed Swiss entry to the UNO was nearly rejected at a congress held recently. Like other Christian Democratic

parties in Europe and the rest of the world, the Swiss CVP belongs neither to the Right nor to the Left: it is in the Centre. However, unlike the Christian Democrats in Holland or Germany, the Swiss party has not been able to penetrate very far into the Protestant section of the electorate and the composition of the party has never really become oecumenical. The body of their voters and their party officials has remained deeply Catholic in spite of an obvious desire to open their ranks to other denominations.

The Radical Democratic Party – in Olympic form

There is an entirely different atmosphere in the *Radical Democratic Party*, which is in splendid form. They have won most of their recent contests. The economic crisis, far from weakening this group, which is closely associated with the employers and with banking circles, has given it wings. Their staunch opposition to expansion of the state, and their resolute commitment to individual responsibility have hit the mark. At any rate, that was the picture up to the end of 1982, and should it continue, the Radical Democratic Party will be the big winner in the October elections. The party is on the Right of the Centre and may be somewhat more conservative than the majority of the parties in the World Union of Liberal Parties, of which it is a member, along with the small Swiss Liberal Party. It was this Radical Democratic Party that founded the Federation in 1848.

The prospects of the *Swiss People's Party (SVP in german)* are also very promising. Broadly speaking, this party, which is represented mainly in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, has done well in the cantonal and local elections. Like the CVP, the SVP has slowly swung away from

farmers' Right Wing towards the Centre, in conformity with modern trends. The convergence of the two trends – that of the Democrats (on the Left of the Centre) and that of the farmers, the business circles and the middle-class (on the Right of the Centre) has provoked this tendency. However, the SVP, like the CVP, of which it is the Protestant counterpart, is moderating its advances. These are the Big Four that govern our country. Some of them may lose, the others may win. However, it would be surprising if their complete hegemony – theoretically the overwhelming majority in both chambers – were to be seriously threatened; on the other hand, it could even be further strengthened.

Upward trend for the Liberals, Independents on the decline

Similar tendencies can be observed among the small parties that have no say in the govern-

ment of our country: some are waxing while others are on the wane. The *Liberal Party* – with representatives in the west of Switzerland and in Basle – has the wind behind it. Its chances are improving to the same extent as those of the Radical Democrats, with whom it has much in common. Its general attitude may be slightly more federalistic. The *Independent Union*, which is at home mainly in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, is sailing into the wind. Their uninterrupted decline since the triumphs of 1967 is gradually becoming a cause of anxiety. The Independents, founded by Migros and committed to open Liberalism in the Anglo-Saxon tradition, were, for a long time, brilliant representatives of protest in the political life of Switzerland. The disappearance of this party would leave a vacuum that would be difficult to fill. In the Federal Councils, the Independent Union sides

with the Evangelical Party, as further Protestant version of the Christian Democratic Party, albeit considerably smaller.

On the far Left, ground could also be gained by the *Autonomous Socialist Party* (PSA) and the *Progressive Organisation* (POCH). The former are active in the canton of Ticino and in the Bernese Jura, while the latter operate in the German-speaking part of Switzerland (Basle and Zürich). Their appeal lies in their youthfulness and sensitivity to new problems, such as protection of the environment. On the other hand, the Communist parties of the classical type, the *Party of Labour* and the *Workers' and People's Party* (PDT-POP) might suffer further losses. They have already lost ground in almost all of their cantonal bastions, in particular Geneva and Vaud. Unlike the PSA and the POCH, these parties have to contend with the obsolete ideas of aged party members.

For your retirement in Switzerland in Montreux

the sunny shores of the Lake of Geneva or in the beautiful Vaudois Alps at

Villars s/Ollon

Attractive flats

with two, three or four rooms, with sauna and swimming pool at reasonable prices, in excellent position and with beautiful view.

Enquiries to the construction company:

Emile Kohli S.A.

1884 Villars sur Ollon, Telephone 025 35 15 33

Detach

Please send information to:

**Swiss Nationals
Your Chance
of Investing
in Switzerland**

**HIGHLY SECURE INVESTMENT
QUALITY OF LIVE GUARANTEED**

From our three residential programmes you can choose the following:

- Valais Alps Vaudois Alps
- Vaudois Jura
- Studio Flat Maisonette (2 floors)

Please write to:

**Atelier d'Architecture et d'Urbanisme
Henri CEVEY S.A. – CH-1896 Vouvry
Telex 456 167 CESA – Tel. 025 81 33 01**

Name:

Address:

..... Tel.

Business address:

..... Tel.

Distribution of the Parties

(G. PL) – This schedule shows the repartition of forces during the period of legislation 1979–83. The Independent's Union and the Evangelical Party form a parliamentary group; the Party of Labour, the Progressive Organisation and the Autonomous Socialist Party form another one.

	Federal Council	National* Council	Senate**
Radical Democratic Party	2	51	11
Social Democratic Party	2	51	9
Christian Democratic Party	2	44	18
Swiss People's Party	1	23	5
Liberal Party		8	3
Independent Union		8	
Evangelical Party		3	
Party of Labour		3	
Progressive Organisation		2	
Autonomous Socialist Party		2	
National Group for People and Fatherland		2	
Vigilance (Geneva)		1	
Independent Social Christians' Party		1	
Group for the Protection of the Environment		1	
Total	7	200	46

* As a general rule the election for the National Council follows a proportional representation.

** Every Canton delegates two (every Half-Canton one) representatives to the Senate; they are elected according to the majority principle (except in the Canton Jura).

The return of the Nationalists

The Nationalists have one representative from the *Vigilance* in Geneva and two from the *National Group for People and Fatherland* in Berne and Zürich. These are the only survivors of the big explosion of 1971, but their parties appear on the surface again from time to time. The slight increase in the number of foreigners, the influx of refugees, the shortage of accommodation and the level of unemployment – the

interplay of all these factors is giving impetus to these parties.

The Ecological Parties could also make progress. At present they have only the *Group for the Protection of the Environment* (GPE) in the canton of Vaud. However, in preparation for the federal elections, they are attempting to form a «green» union with parties in other cantons, although two trends – a left and a right – have emerged.

The *Independent Social*

Christians' Party has only one representative, in the Jura, but there are smaller, related parties – half of which are of a Social Democratic nature, the other half being Christian Democratic – in the cantons of Fribourg, Valais and Lucerne.

Every one of these fourteen parties has a foothold – or at least a toe-hold – in the Federal Councils, and it seems highly unlikely that any other party will be able to shake their confidence for the time being. It is clear that with fourteen parties, there is a danger not so much of a vacuum, but rather of an excess.

Georges Plomb
born 1938, Reporter in Berne
for «La Suisse»

Instruction by Correspondence for Swiss Children

In the course of last year, the Swiss Teachers' Association has been investigating a proposal whether correspondence courses could be organized for Swiss children temporarily abroad, so that, on returning to Switzerland, there would be no problems or at least smaller ones.

A first inquiry in the «Tages-Anzeiger Fernaussgabe» showed that many Swiss abroad for a contracted period had problems with their children's schooling, specially in remote places.

We should, however, like to have some more opinions and appeal to the parents concerned to answer the following questions:

1. Age and school year of the children, and if any of these school years were spent in Switzerland and in which Canton.
2. Present school situation. Kind