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Swiss political life

26th October 1975

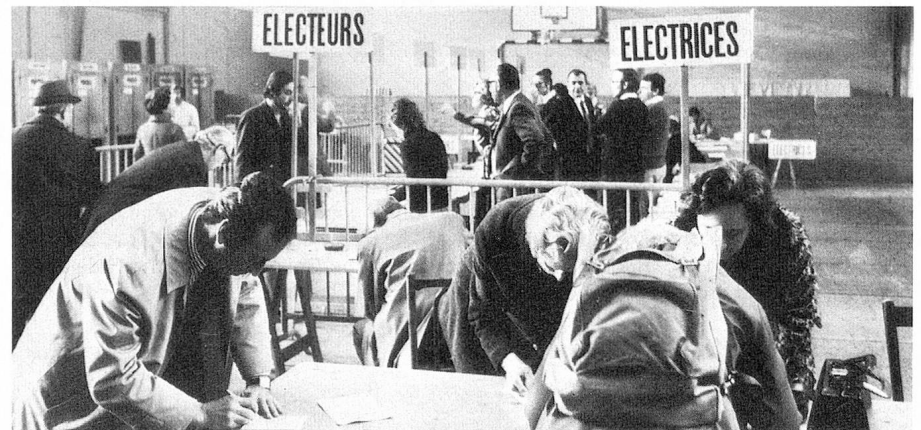
(G.Pb) The Swiss men and women voters elected their Parliament on 26th October 1975. In one go they renewed the whole National Council and the largest part of the Council of States. In the Swiss Confederation, these two Chambers have exactly the same legal rights. The distribution of seats is as follows:

	National Council	Council of States
Social Democrats	55 (+9)	5 (+1)
Radical-Liberals	47 (-2)	15
Christian Democrats	46 (+2)	17
Members of the People's Party	21 (-2)	5
Independent members	11 (-2)	1
Liberals and Evangelicals	9	1 (-1)
Republicans and Nationals	6 (-5)	-
Members of the Workers' Party	4 (-1)	-
Autonomous Social Democrats	1 (+1)	-
Total:	200	44

Several important occurrences marked the elections of 26th October 1975, as for instance:

- Combined success of the four parties which have been represented in the Government since 1959: The Social Democrats, the Liberals, the Christian Democrats and the members of the Swiss People's Party attained a total of eight more seats in the two Councils.

In a voting local (Photopress)



- Individual victories by the Social Democratic Party and in a smaller measure the Christian Democrats. The former conquered 10 seats more in the large Chamber, the latter two.

- Remarkable break-through by the French-speaking Left in the Council of States. It has never happened before that three French-speaking Social Democrat representatives have sat side by side, the Genevois Willy Donzé, the Vaudois Jacques Morier-Genoud and the Neuchâtelois Pierre Aubert. Thus the French-speaking delegation in the Cantonal Chamber very nearly corresponds to the general proportion amongst the Parties (3 Social Democrats, 3 Radical Liberals, 3 Christian Democrats and 1 Liberal). In the German-speaking part of Switzerland, however, the People's Party and the Radical Liberals have an over-strong representation. As hitherto, this is due to several factors: simple majority system for most of the elections to the Council of States (the National Council has been elected according to proportional representation since 1919); frequent alignment against the Left Parties and the «outsiders»; equal number of seats per Canton.

- Stagnation or retrogression of

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