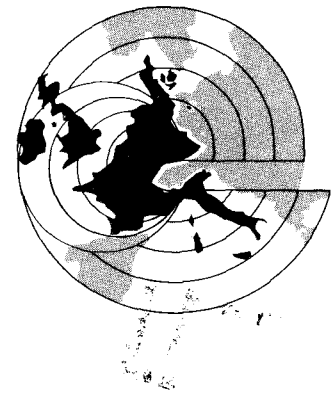


European Community



European Community Information Service
350 Sparks Street, suite 1110, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S8

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CHOOSES SIMONE VEIL AS PRESIDENT

Simone Veil, former French cabinet minister, was elected President of the European Parliament on 17 July on the second ballot at the Assembly's inaugural session in Strasbourg. The position resembles that of Speaker.

Mrs. Veil, who resigned as Health Minister when she won her seat in the Parliament in its first direct elections in June, won 192 of 377 valid votes cast.

Italian Socialist Mario Zagari won 138 votes and Communist Giorgio Amendola received 47.

French Gaullist Christian De La Malene and Italian Radical Emma Bonino withdrew after the first ballot, in which Mrs. Veil failed by eight votes to win outright.

Jenkins: "A New Democratic Authority"

Addressing the ceremonial opening of the Parliament's five-year term, EC Commission President Roy Jenkins said a commitment to move to greater European unity was more important than "rather sterile blueprints about the exact form of political organization at which we shall ultimately arrive. It will not, in my view, be something which can be found in the traditional text-books of political science."

He continued: "We cannot simply look it up under a model labelled federal or confederal. It will have a unique character of its own, arising out of a balance between our need for unity on major issues and our strong and even disparate national traditions..."

"This Parliament, resting as it does on a wide popular support and commanding a new democratic authority, represents an important evolution for the Community. It is right that it should exercise to the fullest possible extent its powers to question and to subject to criticism the way in which the Commission exercises its powers and the way in which the Council of Ministers reaches - or does not reach - its decisions..."

"It is right too that the Parliament, as a major partner with the Commission and the Council in the formulation of the Community's budget, should assert itself in the development of the financial muscle which underlies Community policies. This is an area of potentially great

../2

NR (79) 27
18 July

significance for the internal development of the Community, where this House will have an essential influence. Equally, it is right that the Parliament should aim to broaden the basis of popular support for the Community's Institutions and create a greater sense of involvement in policies."
