

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

SERVICE DE PRESSE ET D'INFORMATION

972 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 21, N. Y. REgent 7-9700

Biography

ALAIN POHER

President of the Senate

Alain Poher, president of the Senate, was born in Ablon-sur-Seine (Val-de-Marne Department) on April 17, 1909. He holds a law degree, a diploma from the Ecole Libre des Sciences Politiques and is a civil engineer.

He began his career in 1939 as an official in the Finance Ministry. In 1944 he was chairman of the liberation committee in that ministry. In 1946 he was head of the personal staff of the Finance Minister, Robert Schuman, and was a member of the first Council of the Republic. From 1946 to 1948 he was general rapporteur in that Council's Finance Committee.

In 1948 he was Secretary of State for Finance and the Economy in the Schuman Cabinet, then, Secretary of State for the Budget in the Queuille Cabinet. In November of that year he was appointed Commissary General for German and Austrian Affairs and, in 1950, French delegate and president of the International Authority of the Ruhr.

In 1952 he was elected Senator for the Seine-et-Oise Department on the MRP (Popular Republican Movement) ticket, being re-elected in 1958 and 1959. From 1954 to 1957 and again in 1959-60 he was president of the Senate group of the MRP. He was also a member of the MRP party's political bureau (1959-62) and has been a member of that party's steering committee since 1959.

From 1952 to 1958 he was a member of the Assembly of the ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community) and, from 1954 to 1957, was chairman of that Assembly's Transport Committee, then, of its Common Market Committee.

On November 7, 1957, he was appointed Secretary of State for the Army and the Navy in Félix Gaillard's Cabinet.

Since March 1958, he has been a member of the European Parliamentary Assembly, being chairman of that assembly's Christian Democrat group (1959-66). In March 1966 he was elected president of that assembly and again in 1967. In March 1968, his mandate as representative of France to the Assembly of the European Communities was renewed and he was re-elected its president.



That same year he was re-elected Senator, this time for the Val-de-Marne Department, and joined the Center Union of Democrats for Progress (UDCP) group. On October 3, 1968 he was elected president of the Senate.

He has been mayor of Ablon-sur-Seine since 1945.

He is a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor and holds the Croix de Guerre (1939-45) and the Medal of the Resistance.

Alain Poher is married and has one daughter.



POHER, Alain - Emile - Louis-Marie

- Born Ablon-sur-Seine, France, 17.4.1909
- Mining engineer
- Degree in law, diploma in political science
Administrator, Grade I, Ministry of Finance
Formerly Head of social services
- 1946 : Principal private Secretary to the Minister of Finance
- 1946-1948 and from 1952 : Member of the Council of the Republic for the Department of Seine-et-Oise
- 1946-1948 : Rapporteur for the Finance Committee of the Council of the Republic
- 1948 : Secretary of State for the Budget
- 1948 : Commissioner-General for German and Austrian Affairs
- 1950-1953 : French delegate to the Ruhr Authority
- 1953 : Chairman of the National Council for Commerce
Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Council of the Republic
Mayor of Ablon-sur-Seine
Assistant Secretary-General, Association of French Mayors
- Member of the Common Assembly
- Chairman, Common Market Committee
- Member of the Transport Committee
- Member of the Working Party
- Member of the Christian-Democrat Group.