

'German Basic Law comes into force' from the Süddeutsche Zeitung (24 May 1949)

Caption: The day after the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany comes into force on 23 May 1949, the German daily newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung analyses the positive vote of the German Parliamentary Council and details the measures which would make Bonn the new capital of the FRG.

Source: Süddeutsche Zeitung. Münchner neueste Nachrichten aus Politik, Kultur, Wirtschaft und Sport. Hrsg. Friedmann, Werner; Schöningh, Dr. Franz Josef; Gottschagg, Edmund; Schwingenstein, August ; Herausgeber Friedmann, Werner. 24.05.1949, Nr. 60; 5. Jg. München: Süddeutscher Verlag. "Bonner Grundgesetz tritt in Kraft", auteur:tz , p. 1.

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German Basic Law comes into force

Agreement in ten of the eleven *Länder* / Buildings for the seat of the Federal Government

Tageszeitung Bonn (from our own correspondent) — The ‘Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany’ came into force yesterday when it was signed and promulgated in Parliament, following approval by the parliaments of ten of the eleven West German *Länder* — the required two-thirds majority — with the following voting ratios: South Baden 49:2, Baden-Württemberg 80:10, South Württemberg-Hohenzollern 34:16, Hesse 73:8, Rhineland-Palatinate 91:8, Lower Saxony 98:37, North Rhine-Westphalia 153:38, Bremen 77:9, and Hamburg 97:3. According to reports, the Bavarian *Land* Parliament had rejected the law by 101 votes to 63. The West Berlin City Council was not entitled to vote, but it gave its unanimous approval.

On Saturday, the Town and Country Planning Committee met in Bonn under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Arnold of North Rhine-Westphalia. The Committee had before it the task of organising the seat of the Federal Government in Bonn. Members include the Mayor of the Bonn Region as well as architects, representatives of the traffic control authorities, the Bonn Chief Executive, Dr Langendörfer, and the Head of the State Chancellery, Under-Secretary of State Dr Wandersleb. Dr Arnold explained at the beginning of the meeting that it was a matter of providing a *provisional* seat of government, thus emphasising the solidarity of West Germany with Berlin and the Eastern Zone. Following the clear democratic decision of the Parliamentary Council, all argument about the seat of government should now cease, and the practical work should now become the focus of attention. In particular, the *Land* Government fervently hoped there would be an understanding of the needs and difficulties of workers in the Ruhr area, which was, after all, the economic heart of Germany.

Dr Wandersleb dismissed reports published in several newspapers that the choice of Bonn would involve unnecessarily high expenditure. Work on the planned buildings would be carried out energetically just as soon as the *Land* Government gives the order to start building. Work on the conversion and extension of the Pedagogical Academy, which is to be the new home for the Upper and Lower Houses of the Federal Parliament, would go on 24 hours a day. The great new palatial debating chamber should be ready some time in June. With a floor area of 1 028 square metres, it will be about 30 per cent larger than the old Reichstag building in Berlin. An ambitious housing construction programme has also started, and the *Land* is providing finance for this purpose on particularly favourable terms.