## Claims

1. Method for indicating the position of a hydraulically actuated armature, having a cylinder (1.2) for actuating the armature (1.1) which is connected by means of two hydraulic lines (2, 3) to a switch valve (7) through which the hydraulic lines can be switched between pressure-conducting feed flow and pressureless return flow, wherein the flow of the hydraulic fluid flowing through one of the hydraulic lines is converted into a number of electric pulses, each of which pulses corresponds to a pre-determined unit of volume of the hydraulic fluid,
the switch valve (7) is connected to supply lines (P, T), to which further switch valves (7) are connected for actuating further armatures (1.n), and
the switch valves (7) are connected via a branch line (T1) to the return line (T) common to all armatures (1.1 to 1.n),
characterised in that
at each switch valve (7) in the branch line (T1) to the return line (T), a preload pressure is maintained which is higher than the pressure in the common return line (T).

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein by means of a hydraulic means (8) connected to the two supply lines (P, T), the preload pressure in a line portion (Tv) is maintained, to which all switch valves (7) are connected.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a preload pressure in the order of magnitude of approximately 3 to 5 bar is maintained at the switch valves (7).

4. Device for displaying the position of a plurality of hydraulically actuated armatures (1.1 to 1.n), each of which has a cylinder (1.2) for actuating the armature, which cylinder is connected by means of two hydraulic lines (2, 3) to a switch valve (7) through which the hydraulic lines can be switched between pressure-conducting feed flow and pressureless return flow, and a pressure medium sensor (5) is provided in one of the two hydraulic lines, which converts the flow of the hydraulic fluid flowing through the hydraulic line into a number of electric pulses, each of which corresponds to a pre-determined unit of volume of the hydraulic fluid,
characterised in that
a hydraulic means (8) is connected to supply lines (P, T), to which all switch valves (7) are connected, and the hydraulic means (8) maintains a preload pressure in

relation to the pressure in the common return line (T) in a line portion (Tv) to which all switch valves (7) are connected.

5. Device according to claim 4, wherein the hydraulic means (8) has a pressure limiting valve (8.1) and return valves (8.2, 8.3) between pressure limiting valve and supply lines (P, T).