

Latest news from the Swiss Embassy

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GENEVA BUS DRIVERS TOO OFTEN SICK

Apparently the Geneva bus drivers are not as healthy as their colleagues in other Cantons. In 1991 the Management of the Geneva public transport company calculated that 33000 working days were lost to sickness, more then 6% of the total working days paid, which cost the company some 8.2 million SFR. On the average, each Geneva bus driver reported sick on almost 24 days a year. This is clearly a much higher average compared with Zurich (15 days), Lausanne (16 days) and Basle (17 days). The company is

LATEST NEWS FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY

Mr René FELBER, Federal Councilor in charge of the Department of External Affairs, has just announced his resignation as from the end of March due to health reasons.

convinced that many drivers take "sickies" and from now on will only accept certificates from "approved" doctors to stop the practice of obtaining false certificates from very lenient and easy going general practitioners.

EDITORIAL

Referenda and people's initiatives are very much in the news here as this is an absolute novelty for New Zealanders, many of whom still cannot (or will not) believe that this form of governing can work. For us Swiss, this is nothing new. Swiss people have enjoyed this form of participation in government on and off since the "Rütlichschwur" in 1291, but more effectively and officially for just over one hundred years.

Many of you might be interested to know how many initiatives were actually launched, what they were all about and what their results were. So in this issue you will find on page 3 the first list of initiatives with all relevant details. Please keep this and the following two issues of the Helvetia magazine to get the complete list of all initiatives since 1880 right through to 1992.

To preserve accuracy, we will publish this list in German as a translation into English would often not reflect the exact meaning of the German wording. In the April issue we will give you also a summary of all the initiatives with their results. Although you may well have forgotten many of them, some initiatives will certainly bring back some good or bad memories to you. We wish you good reading.

The EDITOR

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