

# Latest news from the Swiss Embassy

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand**

Band (Jahr): **59 (1993)**

Heft [4]

PDF erstellt am: **08.08.2024**

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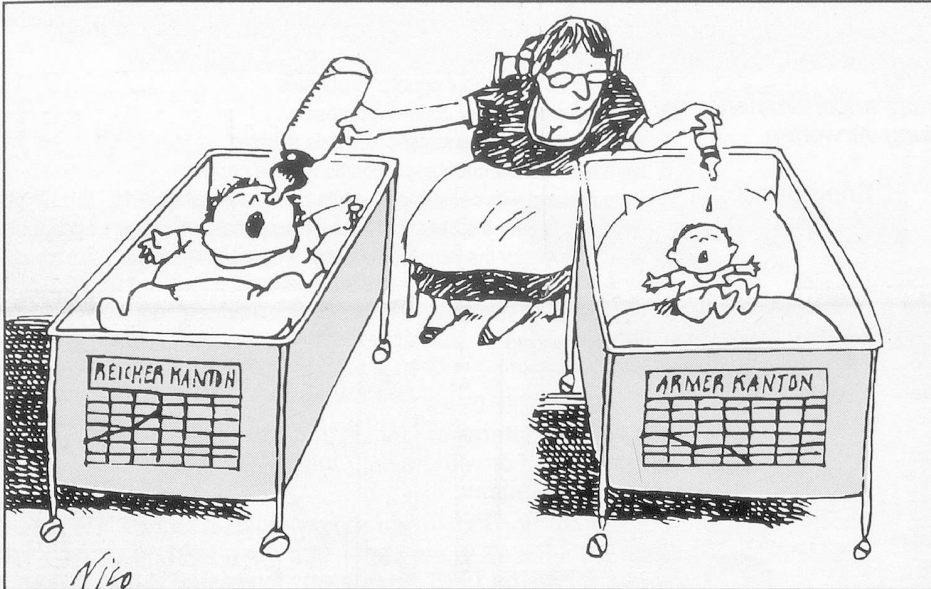
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## UNEQUAL TREATMENT

The Federal Government pays more and more money to the Cantons and yet the inequality between the various Cantons is growing. The payments of over 1.3 billion SFR are obviously moving in the wrong direction. It appears that the "rich" Cantons receive more funds than the poor ones. A new system is to be worked out whereby rich Cantons such as Zurich, Zug, Geneva and Basle would have to forfeit funds for the benefit of the poor Cantons: Uri, Jura, Obwalden, Wallis, etc. But the problem is that the so called "rich" Cantons are having financial problems of their own. They claim that they have to maintain Universities, specialised hospitals and airports for the benefit of the other Cantons for which they claim compensation from the Federal Government. On the other hand the poor Cantons claim compensation for the maintenance of their protective forests and for protection works against floods and avalanches. It must be a real headache for the Swiss Federal Government.



Mother Helvetia tries her very best to be fair wherever she can....

## LATEST NEWS FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY

### NEW FEDERAL COUNCILLOR

Following the resignation of **Mr. René FELBER**, which took effect at the end of March, the United Federal Assembly, in the second round, elected as new Federal Councillor **Mr. Francis MATTHEY**. However, Francis Matthey did not accept his nomination and requested time to discuss the matter with his political party. Finally with the approval of Francis Matthey himself, the party put forward the candidacies of **Mrs. Christiane Brunner** and **Mrs. Ruth Dreifuss** in order, once again, to have a woman representative in the Federal Council.

On March 10, in the third round, the United Federal Assembly finally elected with 144 votes **Mrs. Ruth DREIFUSS** as new Federal Councillor. Mrs. Christiane Brunner obtained 32 votes.

### LATEST SWISS VOTING RESULTS

**Increase in petrol tax: Accepted.**

YES 1.257.386 54.4% NO 1.052.793 45.6%.

**Lifting of law against gambling casinos: Accepted.**

YES 1.664.618 72.4% NO 633.329 27.6%.

**Initiative against tests on animals: Rejected.**

NO 1.650.430 72.2% YES 634.970 27.8%

Participation in the voting: 50.4%

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