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Who's really untrustworthy here?

Swiss Review 5/04, Commentary

The important thing here is the vote of 26 September and the outcome dictated by the electorate. As a Swiss Abroad with extremely close ties to Switzerland, who spends many weeks a year in Switzerland in order to keep up contacts, and who also exercises his right to vote, I am somewhat shocked and even unsure about my democratic rights after reading your article.

In principle, regardless of the left- or right-wing influence on voters prior to the referendum, the electorate has made its decision in the customary manner for a democracy. In my opinion, this renders any subsequent subjective, tendentious commentary on lack of consensus or "joy and sorrow" superfluous. In the centuries-old history of Switzerland, there has never been a one hundred percent Yes or No on a proposal (though there was under the old socialism). The

electorate always decided, no matter what the margin.

So there are no happy/sad winners/losers after a referendum. The only sad outcome of this referendum was the subsequent bickering between government and politicians and what the press made of them.

In short, one might well ask: Which is more untrustworthy, the electorate or the politics?

Hans J. Breitschmid, Berlin, Germany

Seeking new markets

Swiss Review 5/04, Tourism

I'm not in the least surprised that tourists avoid Switzerland and are no longer willing to pay exorbitant prices. Four weeks ago, I visited my sister and went shopping with her. Afterwards, we stopped to have a glass of mineral water and a deciliter of white wine. I almost fell off my chair when the bill came: CHF 8.60! I find this a bare-faced cheek, and I can assure you that I will never again holiday in Switzerland, and am sometimes

even ashamed to call myself Swiss. I hope that tourism in Switzerland declines even more. Perhaps then restaurant operators and hotel owners will come down to reality with a bump.

Willy Kumschick, Rodange, Luxembourg

gratulate you warmly on your anniversary and express my profound appreciation of your work. You have truly managed to bring much valued information as well as joy into our household.

G. Eichenberger, Mokdo, Cameroon

Greetings from the home country

Birthday congratulations to "Swiss Review". We always look forward to greetings from the home country, and especially appreciate the interesting articles in your magazine. Keep up the good work. We love the "Swiss Review" in New Hampshire as well.

Werner Rebsamen, Meredith/NH, USA

Many thanks

Swiss Review, 4/04, Anniversary

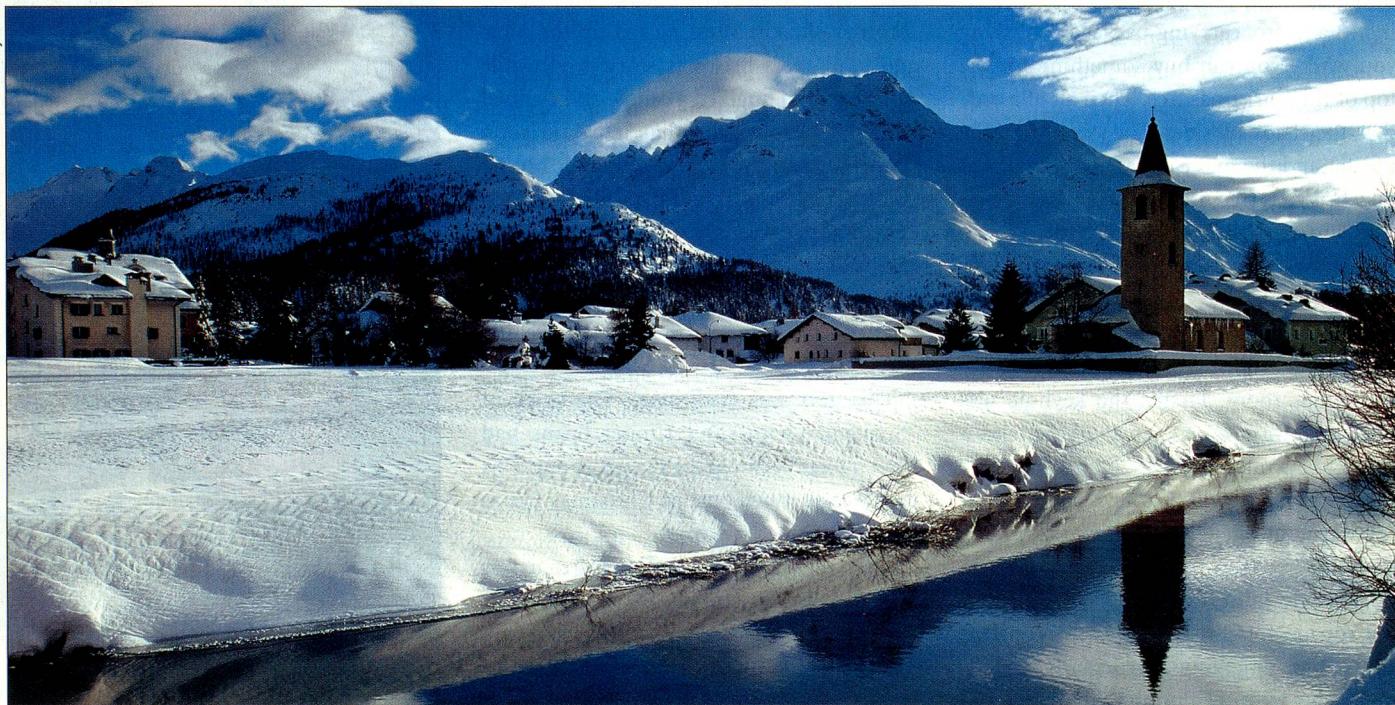
My husband and I came to northern Cameroon as missionaries in 1950, i.e. the pre-Swiss Review era. I would like to con-

Thank you for the "Swiss Review"

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the "Swiss Review" which we have been receiving for many years free of charge. It is always a great pleasure to keep in touch with the old country via the "Swiss Review". Although we have lived in Argentina for 60 years, we still feel Swiss. And ever since we have been able to vote at home, we have done so punctually.

Aline Esther Schiesser - Bleuler, Neuquen, Argentina

Keystone



Winter scene in the Engadine: the spire of the St. Laurence church is reflected in a stream near Sils Baselgia.