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National Superannuation raised to 68

Economiesuisse, the Swiss equivalent of the New Zealand Business Roundtable, wants the Federal and State Governments to freeze their ever-increasing expenditure and has given suggestions on how it can do this.

Firstly, by gradually raising the national superannuation age from 64 for women and 65 for men. This would mean that by 2018 the qualifying age would be 68 for all.

Other suggestions include cutting the Swiss military expenditure to an absolute minimum, operating the motorway systems privately, which could mean user pays and toll-gates. Economiesuisse would also like to see a withdrawal of State grants and subsidies from sports and cuts to arts funding.

Under the State medical insurance, the patients' contributions for medical treatment could be doubled from 10 per cent to 20 per cent.

The Federal Socialist Party and Trade Unions were apparently just as clear with their answers to the suggestions made by Economiesuisse.

The whole idea was "stupid and small-minded", they said, and instead of helping the economy would likely cause a constriction to it instead. Clearly some minor adjustments were necessary from time to time, but nothing as radical as the full proposal from Economiesuisse.

Source: 'Tages Anzeiger'.

Garden for the Year

In my garden I would first plant five rows of peas:
Patience, promptness, perseverance, politeness, and prayer.
Next to them I would plant three rows of squash:
Squash gossip, squash criticism, squash indifference.
No garden is complete without turnips:
Turn up for worship, turn up for meetings, turn up with a smile, turn up with a new idea, and turn up with determination
And here's to a beautiful garden.

What is very light, but can't be held for long?
Your breath.

What is the difference between a wife and a mistress?
About 45 kilos.

What is the difference between a husband and a lover?
About 50 minutes.



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This and That Corner

I hope to make "This and That Corner" interesting for you, profiling a canton of Switzerland and providing you with a recipe from that part of our homeland. Most recipes won't be modern ones, as you can find most of them in cooking books. I would like to give you old, hearty recipes our grandmother used to cook. They will be easy to prepare, and I am sure they will be healthy too!!! Bon Appetit!!!

Canton Uri



The first inhabitants of the canton of Uri were probably nomad hunters. Even today the people of Uri are still faithful to nature and their main income is farming, especially cattle for meat and milk. Five roads over the mountains link up canton Uri and its neighbours. It is because of the Gothard (initially road and then tunnel) that Switzerland was started in 1291. The Gothard is called the backbone of Europe. Due to the Gothard and the influence of Tessin and Italy, the way of cooking in Canton Uri became the most interesting of Central Switzerland. They soon introduced maize, rice, garlic and hot spices in their traditional way of cooking. Here is a typical recipe of Uri.

Leek and Rice

1 kg leek
1 tablespoon oil
100gr cheese - preferably tasty
1 onion
2 cups of rice
6 cups of water
salt and pepper according to taste

Wash the leek, cut in small pieces. Cut onion finely and fry in the oil together with the leek. Add rice, water and spices and cook to satisfaction. Stir occasionally, and if necessary add water. Before serving, add grated cheese.

Leek is well known in the mountain regions because it will grow easily and it doesn't mind the frost or snow.

Lisette

Terrorism: Stiffer Penalties

The Federal Council has adopted two UNO decisions. One was to 'dry up' all known or suspected financial wheeling and dealings of terrorist groups as much as possible. The other was for government to impose maximum penalties on terrorists found guilty of such crimes.

"Because of their abhorrent nature, such crimes should be punished by the strongest penalties," said Federal Councillor and Minister of Justice, Ruth Metzler.

"With the adoption of both these resolutions, the Federal Council wants to show the terrorists that Switzerland is no soft option for organising such activities.

"The Federal Council will introduce to parliament as soon as possible special anti-terrorist empowering regulations to deal with and punish heavily such activities," said Councillor Metzler.

Source: 'Tages Anzeiger'