

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

## OCTOBER 3—DAY OF GERMAN UNITY

### 10 THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT GERMAN REUNIFICATION

#### 2. A former chancellor tried to rob Germans of their day off



In 2004, former German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder tried to remove German Unity Day as a national holiday.

In a letter defending the plan, Schröder wrote: “the holiday should not be abolished, but moved to the first Sunday of October every year.”

Citing economic reasons, he explained he was committed to reducing the number of national holidays. Unsurprisingly, this wasn't a very popular suggestion, and it remained on October 3rd!

#### 3. Bonn remained the seat of government after reunification

Although Berlin had become the federal capital of the new Germany, the government didn't decide to move the Bundestag (parliament) from Bonn until the following year, and they only just voted in favour of the motion.

On June 20th 1991, the decision to move to Berlin was approved by 338 votes 320. The Parliament and Chancellery only moved to Berlin in 1999, but some departments and many government officials still operate out of the former West German capital.