

Senator's Pay Should Equal That Of Cabinet Member, Sen. Cain Declares

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—(AP)—Senator Cain (R-Wash.) Wednesday demanded a \$25,000-a-year salary for senators and representatives if this sum is voted for President Truman's Cabinet members.



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The Washington senator told the Senate he opposed any salary increases for top-level government officials at this time.

But if Congress does approve the bill to increase executive salaries, he said, then the lawmakers should get as much money as the Cabinet members.

Cabinet members now get \$15,000 yearly. Members of Congress receive \$12,500 in salary and a \$2,500 tax-free allowance.

Cain offered an amendment to the bill to boost the lawmakers' pay to a flat \$25,000 without the tax-free expense money.

As the Senate began debate on the measure, Senator Long (D-La.) argued that the pay increase is necessary to keep the best qualified men working for the government. He said that "enormous savings in efficiency" would more than offset the added cost of the bill to taxpayers.

President Truman asked that the salary of Cabinet members be lifted to \$25,000, but Senate administration leaders have agreed to accept a compromise of \$22,500.

The pay bill also faced a threat from a new economy move. Senator Ferguson (R-Mich.)

Thurs., Sept. 29, 1949—The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 9

Many Educators Oppose Power Of VA To Reduce Rights Of Education

By DOUGLAS LARSEN
NEA Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—The law under which Veterans Administration now wields authority to cancel the GI educational benefits of approximately 4,500,000 veterans was slipped through Congress at VA's urging with practically no public hearing and in the face of the bitter opposition of the country's leading educators.

Under this act, as it is being enforced by VA, any vet who started a course and stopped it, or who has completed one phase of a course, is virtually prohibited from using any more of his educational benefits. VA has the final authority in determining whether he can use the balance of the benefits he has coming under the GI bill.

The act in question gives VA final authority in prohibiting a veteran to get training paid for by the government which might be "vocational or recreational." VA's method of enforcing that seemingly innocuous law is what has U. S. educators up in arms. Actually, the law was put on the books last year by the 80th Congress. But VA only used it very sparingly last year. It was passed in an irregular manner. Instead of going through the congressional veterans' committees, with open hearings, it was included in the VA appropriations bill after secret meetings at which only VA officials appeared.

Vet Groups Ignored
Then claiming that the 80th Congress set a precedent by including the law in its appropriation act, VA this year persuaded the Senate Independent Offices Appropriations subcommittee to renew the restriction, and strengthen it. Again, the matter was not referred to the congressional veterans' committees, the logical groups to process such a law. Again, only the VA was permitted to state its side of the case to the committee.

The only time U. S. educators got a say on the matter at all was one morning when a special Senate welfare committee invited comment on a separate bill which would have done about the same thing as the provision that now exists in the appropriations act. Those who got there in time to speak opposed the measure, but this testimony was ignored by the committee which finally recommended the bill for passage by the Senate.

Although the means by which VA got its authority to curb GI education and training was irregular, its announced reason for wanting it was to save the taxpayers a lot of money. VA officials told the appropriations committee that if they were given that law and an additional \$8,000,000 to enforce it properly, it would net the government a saving of more than \$100,000,000. They got the law and \$7,000,000.

Rights Held Abused
Chief argument advanced by the VA education officials was their suspicion that hundreds of thousands of veterans were using their GI rights to go to school between jobs. At that time unemployment was increasing and the straight GI unemployment benefit died, ending the 52-20 clubs.

In the bitter argument that has developed between educators and VA officials, VA goes back to intent of Congress: "The legislative history of the GI bill reveals that the underlying spirit of the act is to help a veteran, whose training was interrupted or prevented by the

brought the money saving issue up by offering, as an amendment to an executive pay rise bill, a proposal to direct Mr. Truman to cut federal spending from 5 to 10 percent.

Traffic Mishaps Kill Two Youths, Each 20

PORTLAND, Sept. 29.—(AP)—Two young men were killed in separate traffic accidents in this region early Wednesday.

Schwartz Povate, 20, Tongue Point sailor, was run over by a car near Hillsboro. State police said the man turned suddenly and walked into the path of an oncoming car.

Donald Henry Allen, 20, Oak Grove, was killed when his car overturned near Scappoose. Two passengers, who were not even hurt, said Allen was blinded by the light of another car and drove into a ditch.

Two Teen-Aged Indians Get 5 Years For Killings

PORTLAND, Sept. 29.—(AP)—Two teen-age Klamath Indians were sentenced to five years' imprisonment on slaying charges Tuesday.

Perry Choktoot, 17, pleaded guilty to second degree murder in the death of his half-brother, Marx L. Brown, 20, in a hayfield last July. Brown was shot during a quarrel.

Raymond Charles Smith, 19, pleaded guilty to manslaughter. He was accused of fatally stabbing Elmo Lobert, 22, during a beer party at Pine Ridge.

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