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Congress Chalks Up Record For Legislation Benefiting Employees Of Government

By A. ROBERT SMITH
 News-Review Correspondent
 WASHINGTON — The first session of the 84th Congress enacted more legislation benefiting federal employees than any session in the history of Congress — from pay raises to allowances for uniforms.

Some observers point out that it all started when congressmen raised their own salaries 50 percent, from \$15,000 to \$22,500, and then galloped on to provide pay boosts for postal, civil service and "blue collar" workers of the government. Congress also boosted from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the total dual compensation retired military personnel can draw in retirement pay and civilian salary or wages. This is expected to permit retired members of the armed services to take better paying positions in civilian life to supplement their annuities from Uncle Sam.

The lawmakers also took care of thousands of civilian employees hired during the Korean conflict and later denied civil service career status.

The productivity of the first session of this Democratically-controlled Congress was considered remarkable in view of the traditional practice of deferring benefit bills until the second session, which falls closer to election time when congressmen hope to be remembered affectionately at the polls by those who gained by the legislation they enacted. Here is what they accomplished this session:

Pay raises — virtually everyone in government but top execu-

tives got a pay boost, including classified, postal and military personnel, congressmen and congressional employees and federal judges. And funds were appropriated to allow for "blue-collar" increases based on area wage surveys.

Career status — congress whipped through in the last week of the session legislation blanketing into civil service status some 50,000 indefinite employees who were hired "off the street" when civil service registers had been depleted during the Korean war. To be eligible they must have worked at least three years with a satisfactory record, have been on the job since January 23, 1955, have passed a competitive exam or an appropriate test of noncompetitive nature within the next year, and be recommended for civil service status by the federal agency they work for.

Retirement benefits — legislation was approved increasing the annuities of government retirees, both civil service and foreign service. Those on the civil service rolls as of last June 30 would be granted an increase of 12 percent on the first \$1500 pension and an 8 percent hike on the amount over \$1500. Dual compensation — Congress passed legislation that had been proposed for years, raising the

CANCER CLAIMS DANCER
 LOS ANGELES, Aug. 8 — Cancer has claimed the life of Mrs. Grace Hartman Abbott, former member of the husband-wife dance team known professionally as The Hartmans. She was 48.

that figure up to a maximum of \$4104. It would not raise any annuity over \$4104. Those retiring after July 1 of this year would get smaller increases, and those retiring after Dec. 31, 1957, would get none of the increase.

Vital Statistics

Marriage License Issued
 McNABB-THOMPSON — David E. McNabb and Jacqueline R. Thompson, both of Winston.

Divorce Suits Filed
 COOPER — William vs. Bertha Cooper. Married Oct. 31, 1933, at Toledo, Ore. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged.

ROWTON — Madeline F. vs. William Mack Rowton. Married Jan. 20, 1953, at Modesto, Calif. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged. Plaintiff seeks custody of three children, regular monthly sum for support and confirmation of property settlement.

RIO — Juanita Lorene vs. Ellsworth Andrew Rio Sr. Married July 6, 1944, at Las Vegas. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged. Plaintiff seeks custody of three children, \$25 per month per child. EARLE — Ada Lea vs. Gordon Earle. Married Nov. 27, 1954, at Tijuana, Mexico. Cruel and inhuman treatment charged. Plaintiff seeks restoration of former name, Cardwell.

ISAAC — James A. vs. Elizabeth L. Isaac. Married Sept. 2, 1947, at Hempstead, N.Y. Deser-

tion charged.

ceiling on outside earnings of retired military personnel. It would boost that ceiling from \$3000 to \$10,000, which is the maximum total income retired persons may have from both annuities and civilian pay.

Surety bonds — for years Congress has considered but never acted on bills to relieve the more

than a million government workers whose jobs require them to be bonded. The bill enacted authorizing their federal agencies to pay for blanket bonds to cover their employees, lifting the costly personal responsibility from the individual worker.

Insurance — the government was authorized to take over the

PATCH UP FEUD

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 8 — Martin and Lewis say they're going to keep on being Martin and Lewis.

After weeks of feuding, Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis met Monday in the office of Paramount boss Y. Frank Freeman. Afterward the studio said that the pair "agreed to continue on as America's highest paid comedy team." There had been talk of a splitup.

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