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Date: October 8, 1984 Time: 7:00-8:30p.m.

Location: Room 101 Student Union Bldg.

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House approves added benefits

WASHINGTON (AP) - The House voted 417-4 Tuesday to guarantee Social Security recipients a cost-of-living raise Jan. 1 even if inflation is held below 3 percent.

There are technical differences between the House and Senate versions, so the measure will have to get final approval from the Senate before going to President Reagan for his signature.

The Senate already has approved the legislation, which was sought by Reagan in July when it looked as though the 3 percent trigger on which current law bases a cost-of-living increase would not be met.

However, the latest Consumer Price Index figures indicate that if current trends continue, there will be a cost-of-living increase ranging between 3.3 percent and 3.6 percent even without the legislation, according to the House Ways and Means Committee.

At present, the average monthly benefit for an individual is \$430, said Social Security spokesman Jim Brown. It would go up by about \$12 a month if the inflation increase is 3 percent, he said.

The measure received strong support from the president and House Speaker Tip O'Neill, D-

But Rep. J. J. Pickle, D-Texas, chairman of the Ways and Means' subcommittee on Social Security, said in floor debate that the bill is "almost certainly" of no substantive benefit to the American public.

"From beginning to end, this bill has been little more than a political football," said Pickle.

He added that the public should know that the "real reason" the bill is being considered "is because President Reagan, as part of his campaign strategy, chose to first frighten the elderly by saying their benefits were threatened and then to assure them by urging the Congress to guarantee the cost-of-living would be paid."

In a heated exchange, Rep. Barber B. Conable Jr., R-N.Y., said that if the bill wasn't passed, "the Democrats would eventually claim that somehow the president manipulated the inflation rate to prevent the elderly from getting the cost of

Timber swings to Jim Weaver

(AP) — In recent years voters in Oregon's 4th District could count on two things about their congressional candidates.

The Republican challenger

would get plenty of campaign money from timber companies unhappy with their U.S. representative.

And, because of his maverick record the Democratic incumbent, Jim Weaver of Eugene, could expect few contributions from business and labor political action committees.

This year, however, the picture is a little different in the district that takes in four counties, including Lane, and parts of four others.

Bruce Long of Roseburg, Weaver's Republican opponent in the Nov. 6 general election, has raised only \$4,000 from timber company executives.

The amount is 42 percent of Long's contributions to date, but far short of what timber executives and companies gave to Weaver's Republican opponents in 1980 and 1982.

Though records filed with the secretary of state in Salem show he had raised only \$9,425 and spent \$8,800 in the first six months of this year, Long said he will collect enough money for his fall campaign.

Long, a Douglas County commissioner, said last week that if the money pledged to his campaign materializes he will have enough to advertise his stand on the issues.

Four of every 10 dollars Long has collected so far come from timber industry sources.

But Long's total of \$4,000 so far is half the amount raised by Ross Anthony, Weaver's 1982 opponent, and a fraction of the amount raised by Mike Fitzgerald, Weaver's 1980

opponent.

Long said there's a simple explanation for the lack of timber industry contributions to his campaign.

Industry executives have been urging Congress to pass legislation to relieve their companies of high-priced federal timber contracts. Weaver sits on the forests subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee, which has passed such legislation.

"Obviously, they're in a tenuous position with contract termination legislation pending, which is a sensitive political issue on their part,"

Long said.
"They face potential bankruptcy. I'm not sure they feel they're in a position to oppose a person who might support that bill, even though they may not agree with the past practices of that representative."

The Senate attached a timber contract relief proposal to a House bill sponsored by Weaver and passed the amended bill last week. The House passed it Monday and sent it to the White House for President Reagan's signature.

In 1982, when the issue was pending before Congress, Weaver received his first contributions from timber interests.

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