

Congressional raise shows incredible gall

Congress is facing a substantial pay raise — the first salary increase beyond cost of living adjustments in a decade — but probably only Congresspeople are pleased at the prospect.

President Reagan authorized congressional salaries to rise from \$77,400 to \$89,500 per year last week; the pay increases will go into effect unless Congress rejects the proposal by joint resolution within the next 23 days.

With a huge deficit looming over America's head, it would be the height of gall for Congress to accept a pay raise. Leaders in Washington first should take care of the country's economic problems before easing their own.

The vice president, cabinet officers and deputy secretaries also stand to receive pay increases of 12 to 16 percent.

The increases come after a presidential commission's report that these federal officials are earning far less than they could in the private sector, allegedly making it difficult to recruit or retain qualified people for top government positions.

However, these officials are mature adults who understood the terms of their employment when they ran for office or accepted appointment.

The government is run on a basis of public service and not on a profit motive. What's more, many qualified government officials are actually vaulted into even higher-paying private sector positions after they leave office.

The outlook is not all cynical. Some congresspeople, including our own Peter DeFazio, have announced their intention to fight the pay increase. We wish these leaders luck in fighting an appalling bloat in federal pay.

Reagan should give up opposing clean water bill

Friday, the House passed 406-8 the Clean Water Bill that President Reagan last year killed with a pocket veto. This action is an expected and welcome indication of the bill's future.

The bill is a necessary extension of the Clean Water Act of 1971, and enjoys wide support among business, labor, environmental, and state and local groups. Last year both houses of Congress passed the bill unanimously.

The bill provides for \$18 billion over eight years to help communities build sewage treatment plants. It imposes tight new controls on toxic chemical concentrations and provides a plan to improve the quality of the nation's lakes.

Reagan's objection to the bill was its cost, calling it a "budget-busting" bill. The president's original proposal for the bill was for \$6 billion, and his most recent compromise was for \$12 billion. However, Congress is correct to stand tough on this bill. It is not going to break America with its concern for clean water.

The House's action is a good sign for a good bill, and the Senate is expected to pass the bill by a wide margin on Monday, perhaps after considering the president's compromise bill.

If the original bill passes, Reagan will face the choice of vetoing the bill and almost certainly being overridden — losing a political battle over the first piece of major legislative action of the session — or quietly acceding to what is right and allowing the bill to become law.



Letters

Explanation

Dear Gitte Naronde, you have created an exhibit that needs an explanation.

Pictures of the type that you have displayed in the Apertures Gallery are used seriously in advertising and promote violence against women.

If this is not your intent, please put up an explanation so that the intelligent minds at this university can be more fully aware of the dangers of this type of photography.

As the exhibit stands, it is threatening and offensive to both women and men who do not understand your intentions.

Carrie Clegg
Russian studies

No pay raise

Many of you have written to me since the election to express your views on policy issues or ask for help in dealing with the federal government.

I regret that I am unable to respond to each and every one of you individually during this transition period.

I was sworn in as your representative on Dec. 6 and will have a staff and office space soon. I expect to hit the ground running and begin to catch up

on phone calls and written responses to your letters.

A number of you have contacted me to express your objections to the impending congressional pay raise. I share your objections.

I do not believe it is appropriate for Congress to reward itself with a pay increase while our federal government faces a record budget deficit and Oregon and 33 other states are still suffering high unemployment and cutbacks in state services.

As I stated in the campaign, I will refuse to accept the pay raise and encourage other lawmakers to do the same.

My best to you for the new year. I look forward to serving as your representative during the challenging times ahead.

Peter DeFazio
Representative
4th Congressional District

Open offer

Rousseve (ODE, Jan. 8), so you're still here — so are we.

Two years ago it was \$100, last year \$200, this year \$400 for a proof of the "irresolvable conflict between religious faith (Christianity) and the secular reasoning."

Yes, the offer is open to anyone, but I must insist that Rousseve make an attempt this time (he didn't even call last time).

Students, encourage this "professor" to respond; Rousseve, stick to the abstract "psychology." It is your only way to save face; don't mess with things that you know nothing of — facts.

Historically, the Bible has been the key to the past. Not one archaeological discovery has ever controverted a biblical reference. And before you want to talk about evolution you should be aware of the fact that S.J. Gould has found no intermediate fossils and has proposed "punctuated equilibrium."

Now our forte — science. Tackle just one of these. Implications of your philosophy

are: Non-living things gave rise to living things, protozoa gave rise to metazoa, invertebrate gave rise to vertebrate, and the second law of thermodynamics was not always the case.

Show us all how analytical you can be. Let me laugh again soon. Show me more of how you enjoy delving into subjects without doing any homework.

Brian Frary
Biology major
Charlie Richards
Economic major

Alarming

Has your first day of class ever been alarming? I don't mean the discovery of three midterms, two papers and a final, but that so many can be misled about a serious issue.

The issue is pesticides, and the situation was the first day of organic chemistry. Discussing alcohols, the professor remarked that ethanol has a lethal dose in rats of about 13g/kg body weight which, he said, is about 30 times more toxic than DDT.

This was the alarming part. I thought, "what, is this the DDT that is a known carcinogen, that drastically impacts wildlife, that is banned in the United States, etc. and it's more toxic than DDT?"

Well, this isn't the case, and I write mostly so that the others in this class won't think that pesticides are not as dangerous as "environmentalists" make them out to be. Remember, a pesticide is a toxic chemical and it is designed to kill.

The facts given above pertain only to the short term, acute toxicity of ethanol and DDT. The professor did not mention anything about DDT's chronic or long-term effects such as its toxicity to the nervous system, reproductive system, its carcinogenicity, its environmental effects, the genetic damage it causes, etc. for not only rats but humans as well.

The whole story of the toxicity of pesticides is quite alarming.

Brett A. Fisher
Biology
Monday, January 12, 1987

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