



dellenback Report

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DELLENBACK

CONGRESS SHOULD REJECT PAY RAISE

"What's this I hear about you Members of Congress getting another pay raise?"

The Oregonian who put that question in a letter to me was disturbed and, frankly, I am too. As a Member of Congress, I am opposed to the recently proposed raise in pay for U. S. Representatives and Senators, and I intend to vote against the measure if and when it comes before us for a vote.

My principal objection is based on the fact that one of Congress' major tasks of the moment should be to exercise and demonstrate leadership in cutting federal spending as a crucial part of controlling inflation. With inflation, unemployment and general economic instability all around us, moving ahead with this proposed increase is showing the wrong kind of leadership.

I fully understand the arguments in favor of the raise. They include the fact that it has been four years since the last Congressional raise, with no coverage since then of the same cost-of-living increases that everyone else has faced. They also include the fact that proposed salary raises for key executive personnel are blocked by the ceiling of present Congressional salaries, with the result that a number of critically important people may be lost to government if Congressional salaries are not raised.

An additional objection I have, in spite of these arguments, is that the recently proposed raise may go into effect without Congress ever taking a direct vote on it. I believe all Members of Congress should be called upon to go on record one way or the other on any salary raise which benefits them, and I'm joining in efforts to try to force the Floor vote on the proposal.

In 1969 Congress passed legislation establishing a Salary Commission to make recommendations to the President on pay raises for the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the federal government. The basic idea of a Commission, independent of all three of the branches and therefore in a position to make independent judgments about salaries for these branches, is sound. The flaw in the system is that, once the President has transmitted to the Congress such recommendations of the Commission as he deems justified, the recommended increases go into effect automatically unless either the Senate or the House passes a resolution disapproving the raises. I think this is backwards; Congress should have to pass a resolution approving raises before they become effective.

When President Nixon submitted his budget requests to Congress earlier this month, he included the official transmittal of the Salary Commission's recent recommendation for pay raises for all three branches of the federal government. Congressman H. R. Gross of Iowa has introduced a resolution of disapproval in the House, but so far this measure has been bottled up in the Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

The resolution must pass the House, or a similar one pass the Senate, by March 10 if the pay raise for Members of Congress is to be disapproved. Besides pushing to bring this resolution to the Floor of the House for a vote, I am also cosponsoring proposed legislation to make any pay disapproval resolution eligible to come up for a vote any time the principal sponsor of the measure calls for it.

Requiring a direct recorded vote by each Member of Congress on any proposed pay raise for Congress is one reform I think should be in the present salary procedures. I also think there should be a delay in the effectiveness of any Congressional pay raise, now or in the future, so that no Member would receive any portion of such a raise until after the beginning of the next session after such raise was approved.

These are reforms I'd like to see put into effect on a permanent basis. But my immediate goal is to see that the House does not permit this "back door" raise for its Members.

THE LEGISLATURE:

A Minority View

"1974 SPECIAL SESSION"

House Republican Leader, Gordon Macpherson
Senate Republican Leader, Victor Atiyeh

spotlight some of the major action in each House.

The first real newsmaker was the legislature's override of Governor McCall's veto of the bill which created a 50-mile Fisheries Conservation Zone off the Oregon Coast. The votes were decisive: 53 - 6 in the House, 27 - 1 in the Senate. Hopefully such a strong showing will convince the federal government we have a problem off our coast.

Legislators also overturned the Governor's veto of legislation allowing grocery stores to sell so-called dessert wines. You will undoubtedly soon be able to buy your favorite sherry in the grocery store.

The farm communities got some good news from first week action as both houses approved the bill to allow port districts, such as those along the Columbia River, to replenish water wells and reservoir supplies during peak runoff periods and

Following a brief outline of some of the major legislation approved by the assembly during the first week, each of us will

use that water for irrigation purposes.

The following is a spotlight on activity in each house of the legislature.

SENATE (Senator Atiyeh): As Rep. Macpherson will mention below, Oregon has been striving to keep its politics above board and open to the public for their scrutiny. The Governor vetoed a measure which would have allowed "arms of political parties" to receive and distribute money for campaigns and only report this 16 days before the 30 days after the General Election. As a result the public would not know during a Primary Election where the money came from and occasionally large sums of money are poured into a campaign just prior to election day.

The vote to override the veto and allow this bill to become law was on a party vote with the Republicans voting against and the Democrats for.

The State and Federal Affairs Committee of which I am a member has passed out of committee an energy bill authorizing the Governor to declare a state of emergency and creating and Energy Conservation Commission with the members selected by the legislature's presiding officers. This commission would provide by rule programs for energy resource allocation, conservation, consumption, production and distribution. I personally am reluctant to give blanket powers to either a commission or to

one person. The Constitution has been in effect for 115 years and has served us well in every emergency to date. Thus far in the energy crisis, nothing has been done on an emergency basis that couldn't have been handled by the legislature within one day. (By allowing the legislature to act in an emergency the people would be represented from all sectors of the state. Not by a handful of people, and legislators are held accountable for their actions by the voters in each district.)

HOUSE (Rep. Macpherson): One question is predominant: How do we cope with the existing energy crisis? A Select Committee on Energy was named by Speaker of the House to draft a bill outlining government authority to deal with energy crisis. Three Republicans including myself were named to the nine-member panel. Our proposal would allow the Governor to deal with the crisis within the powers of the bill for up to 30 days before calling the legislature into session for an extension of his powers. Instead of a commission this plan would rely on action by the Governor in consultation with party leaders of both houses.

In concert with the Governor's emergency powers bill, I was proud to introduce, and gain bipartisan support for a bill directing the Attorney General to investigate petroleum distribution and pricing practices in Oregon. It also directs him to take legal action if necessary

to see that Oregon gets its fair share of gasoline and other petroleum products.

Watergate and the Agnew affair have intensified the need for legislation requiring those in positions of public trust (i.e., legislators) to reveal aspects of their private lives so that the citizen may judge whether that person is acting for the people or for some special private interest. Four conflict of interest proposals were introduced in the House. It is the consensus of all legislators, as well as the news media covering this session, that something needs to be done. The solution must balance the people's right to know against the public servant's right of privacy in matters which may be the seed of a conflict of interest.

By the time you read this the legislature will probably be within days of adjournment. At this writing, we would have to conclude that bipartisan efforts have produced an effective special session. Debate on well defined problems has been kept to a minimum; important questions have been earnestly considered. However, we see evidence of the same kind of non-cooperation between the two presiding officers of the legislature as we saw during the regular session. The energy question is a good example. Both Houses are working on the same question. The Senate is bound to pass its version. The House is destined to approve its approach. Which leads inevitably

Customers To Review BPA Rates

The Bonneville Power Administration has presented to its customers preliminary wholesale power rate schedules for their review and comment.

Bernard Goldhammer, BPA Power Manager, told the customers that the present pay-out analysis indicates the necessity for a 27 percent revenue increase. This analysis took into account rising costs for transmission line construction, Federal hydroelectric projects, operation and maintenance, escalating costs of thermal power, and increasing interest rates. A final repayment study reflecting the latest cost and interest data will be completed this summer.

Goldhammer emphasized that the schedules presented to the customers are "completely preliminary," and said that the schedules were arrived at on a cost of service basis. In presenting the sched-

ules to the customers he said that BPA has prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed rate increase and that this environmental statement would be available to them, the general public, environmental groups, and interested governmental agencies by the end of the month.

"No final decision on specific rate schedules will be made until the recipients of the environmental statement have had a chance to review and comment on it," said Goldhammer.

Both the proposed rate schedules and the Environmental Impact Statement are subject to review by the Department of the Interior before

the proposed rates are presented to the Federal Power Commission in July 1974, and the Environmental Impact Statement is presented to the Council on Environmental Quality," he added. "The effective date of the proposed rate schedules will be Dec. 20, 1974, and will supersede the rate schedules presently in effect," Goldhammer said.

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requires that taxpayers report personal property ownership by March 3. Report shall include inventories, machinery, livestock and equipment in industrial or commercial use.

Penalty - \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction of true cash value of property with a \$10 minimum.

Assistance may be obtained at the Assessor's office.

Thank You
CHARLES FITZHUGH
Curry County Assessor