

Nine Senators Could Make More Through Retirement

By **ARNOLD SAWSLAK**
United Press International
Washington—(UPI)—It is said that many members of Congress could make more money in private business. But there is a small group of lawmakers who might collect about \$350 a week by not working at all.

The group consists of nine senators and house members who have served in Congress for 32 years or more. If they have contributed to the con-

gressional pension system for all their service these members could collect \$18,000 a year. That would be 80 percent of their present \$22,500 government salaries.

Actually, any congressman retiring now at \$18,000 probably would have more income after taxes than if he continued on the job at full pay. This is because the lawmakers—like others under similar retirement systems—do not pay income taxes on their benefits

until they have drawn out the full amount they contributed.

But don't look for many congressmen to take advantage of the fact. The glamor and prestige of the job is such that congressmen rarely retire. Unless, of course, the voters insist.

May Refuse System
Congressmen and their employees are covered by the Federal Civil Service Retirement system. Unlike other

government workers, however, they may exclude themselves from the system.

If they do not contribute to the fund, they get no pensions. If they do participate, they must kick in 7½ percent of their pay, or \$1,687 a year at present scales.

Congressmen were brought into the pension system in 1946. As a result, none has paid into the fund longer than 17 years. However, members who held other Federal jobs before coming to Congress can have such service credited to their record by making retroactive contributions.

Under the law, pension fund officials are not permitted to disclose whether a member of Congress is either eligible for a pension or how large his benefits will be. However, Sen. Carl Hayden, D-Ariz., is at the top of the list of congressmen who are in line to collect the maximum pension, provided he has met all the requirements. Hayden's 51 years of service—15 in the House and 36 in the Senate—means he had completed 34 years in Congress before members even were brought into the retirement plan.

Hayden won a new six-year term last fall and gives no indication he is thinking of retirement.

Members of Club
Other members of the elite 32-year club are Reps. Carl Vinson, D-Ga., 48 years; Sen. Lister Hill, D-Ala., 40 years (House and Senate); and Rep. Clarence Cannon, D-Mo., 40 years; Emanuel Celler, D-N.Y., 40 years; Joseph W. Martin, R-Mass., 38 years; Speaker John W. McCormack, D-Mass., 34 years; Rep. Wright Patman, D-Tex., 34 years; and Howard W. Smith, D-Va., 32 years.

Of course, these nine veterans are not the only congressmen who could collect pensions if they retired now. The plan provides a long list of options, some of which permit retirement as young as 50 with reduced benefits.

However, any member aged 62 who has five years of service can retire and collect his pension at the full rate for his service, a member can quit at 60 without financial penalty.

Pensions Described
The full rate for congressional pensions is 2½ percent of the average salary over a five-year period multiplied by the number of years of congressional service. Other gov-

ernment service is credited at a rate ranging from 1½ to 2 percent.

One reason for the disparity is the fact that a politician cannot be as firm in planning his career as an individual in private business.

With House members required to stand for re-election every two years and Senators every six years, a pension plan tied to longevity alone would attract few contributors.

One of the attractions of the retirement system is that a member can get credit for lower-paid military and government service performed before entering Congress while his pension, after five years in Congress, is based on the \$22,500 member salary.

For example, Rep. Albert Thomas, D-Tex., is leaving Congress in 1965 after 28 years of House service. As-

suming he has participated in the pension plan, he will get credit also for the six years he worked as an assistant U. S. district attorney in the 1930s.

This would put him in the 32-year class. The non-congressional service is credited at 2 percent, however, and he would get less than the \$18,000 maximum.

Top Pension Earned
Another member, Rep. Philip J. Philbin, D-Mass., could get the top pension even though he has served only 20 years as a House member. Philbin would qualify because congressional employees get the full 2½ percent rate on the first 15 years of their service. Philbin was a Senate aide for 19 years before winning election to the House.

Rep. Krank Karsten, D-Mo., who was a House committee clerk for 12 years before start-

ing his 17-year congressional career, would get similar full credit.

Members get the top rate for military service performed while they are serving in Congress (some members took leaves, for example, to serve in World War II), and for up to five years of military service before serving in Congress.

Under that clause, Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield, Mont., who has 20 years in the House and Senate, also could get the top rate for his two years in the Army and one of his two years in the Marines. Only his sixth year in the military would be credited at a lower rate.

New Freight Cars Undergo Test Series

St. Charles, Mo. — (UPI) — A "friendly" 1,250,000-pound squeeze is part of the indoctrination given to freight cars of the future at the new ACF Industries research center here.

The lengthwise squeeze is only one phase of an extensive series of torture tests a new car is subjected to, to determine its ability to withstand the bumps, bunts and bangs that can be expected in freight train service.

CHILD DROWNS IN TUB
Gooding, Idaho — (UPI) — Clayton De Main, 18 months, drowned in a bathtub at his home here when his mother was called out of the room last night.

Man and Space

Project Mercury May Continue in Space Test Role

By **ALVIN B. WEBB JR.**
Cape Canaveral — (UPI) — Project Mercury, the U.S. man-in-space program that had been expected to get the ax after the flight of Astronaut L. Gordon Cooper Jr., may yet win a stay.

The reason: Under the original scheme of things, the United States has suddenly found itself facing an 18-month eclipse of manned space flights.

That sort of lag could be difficult to explain, particularly in light of this nation's \$20 billion pledge to put men on the moon about five years from now. Eighteen months is nearly one-third of that time — a long stretch to do without so much as one practice run in space.

Project Mercury, the \$500 million effort that first put America in the man-in-space business, had been scheduled to end with a successful flight by Cooper.

Shift Into High
Plans called for an immediate shift into high gear on Project Gemini, the program designed to put two-man teams of astronauts into earth orbits for periods up to two weeks, and a resulting stronger push for the man-to-the-moon Apollo Project.

But, as a poet once said, "the best-laid plans of mice and men" oft go astray. There has been some question as to whether the U.S. manned space flight plans have been the best, and they certainly have gone astray — particularly in the realm of Project Gemini.

D. Brainerd Holmes, director of manned spaceflight for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, recently told Congress that the first manned flight in the Gemini program has slipped into the last quarter of 1964 — which means that project is further in the future now than it was six months ago.

Some sources have pinned the blame on the refusal of the Kennedy administration to appropriate supplemental funds for the program in the fiscal 1963 budget.

Reshuffle Likely
Whatever the reason, a full-scale reshuffling of America's man-in-space effort is shaping up along three fronts:

—There is a strengthening drive within NASA's ranks for at least one more Mercury flight to help fill the gap between now and Gemini.

—Gemini itself is caught in a squeeze. With a stretched-out Mercury program and with the Apollo Project essentially on time, Gemini's role in NASA's grand scheme is rapidly eroding. There is a chance the whole works may be palmed off on the Air Force before the first two-man spaceship ever leaves the ground.

—Apollo is the kingpin. A push is under way to channel still more money and manpower into this budding giant, even at the expense of Gemini, to get the first Saturn-boosted Apollo flights off the ground and into earth orbits for rehearsal flights by 1965.

The Mercury program already is gearing up for its part in such a situation. Two more bell-shaped capsules of the Cooper variety are being readied at Cape Canaveral, and a pair of Atlas booster rockets are stored in San Diego, Calif., just in case,

Grievances Over Administration of Laws Are Aired

Grievances regarding the administration of trespass regulations on federal timber sales were aired at the May meeting of the timber committee of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association this week.

John O'Connor, Double Dee Lumber company, chairman of the committee, noted that, due to the number of complaints recently by logging operators who have run afoul of the regulations, the committee called the meeting to clarify the situation.

Donald Scofield, manager, Medford district office, bureau of land management, explained the purpose of the trespass laws and outlined the policy of the local office in administering them.

From Misunderstanding
He said he believed that many of the complaints arose out of a misunderstanding of the trespass provision in the timber sales contracts or a lack of communication between the operator and the BLM. Scofield noted that there had been no major change recently in policy but that there has been a change in the sales contract which might tend to alleviate future trespass difficulties.

Operators countered with a request for a speedup in the processing of requests for the addition of certain trees to the sales contracts when the trees have to be cut for practical reasons in properly logging the sale.

One spokesman explained that in some instances, delays of several days or even weeks have occurred from the time a request is made and the receipt of the formal written notice of approval. These delays can be costly to the timber purchaser, the spokesman added, and should be eliminated if possible.

Committee members and BLM representatives agreed that some progress was made at the meeting in understanding their mutual responsibilities in operating under the present timber trespass laws.

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