

SCOMM

#49:16

T.A. Durr
Managing Editor

W.H. Durr
General Manager



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Port of Anchorage
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Letting emotions override facts

One of the Three Mile Island reactors was finally permitted to begin generating electricity last month — 90 days after the nation's worst nuclear power plant disaster.

That ill-fated 1979 accident continues to cost the nation hundreds of lives a year and is still having an impact on the costs of electrical power.

No one died or was injured at Three Mile Island, of course. The Pennsylvania Health Department announced last month it has found no evidence that cancer rates are elevated in the local area.

... ..



according to some estimates.

Even if all the electricity in the United States were produced by nuclear reactors, Cohen estimates, the risk to the average American would be equivalent to a regular cigarette another troubling cancer cigarette every 10 years.

vate closet of anxieties aren't always subject to rational control.

We ban cyclamates (which may have produced tumors in a few overdosed rats) but not cigarettes (which kill 350,000 Americans a year). We panic over EDB in muffin mix, but ignore the cholesterol in sticks. We push an anti-nausea pregnancy drug off the market with little or no evidence it did harm, but do almost nothing about asbestos, a known cause of serious birth defects.

Statistics that show how safe airplane travel is don't reassure millions of people who can't shake their fear of flying. Data that prove the safety of

Panel urges \$7,000 legislative pay cut



Mitch Abood

by Debbie Reinwand
Times Writer

State legislators would be paid about \$7,000 less than they currently receive each year, under a draft bill approved Tuesday by a special legislative committee.

The new salary level would provide the state's 60 lawmakers with a \$30,000 annual salary, plus \$9,919 in per-diem payments during the legislative session. The per-diem rate would be \$76.30 daily for the 120 days that lawmakers are in session, plus five days before convening and five days after adjournment.

The proposal would replace the current salary of \$46,800 that the legislature approved in the closing days of the 1983 session. That move doubled lawmakers' pay from \$21,000 to \$46,800, but officials justified the increase by eliminating the \$80 per-diem payments.

The new plan, which was

unanimously approved, would reinstate per-diem payments. Originally, the group had proposed using the federal per-diem rate, which is \$100 each day, but settled on \$76.30, or 70 percent of the government rate. State workers receive \$80 daily when they travel to Anchorage or Juneau, and \$90 for trips to Fairbanks.

The joint legislative-public committee also approved a proposed constitutional amendment that would establish a salary commission to set the salaries of the governor, lieutenant governor, legislators, justices and judges, commissioners and deputy commissioners, and full-time board or commission members.

Alaskan voters would have to approve the proposal since it is a constitutional amendment.

The committee also axed a plan to give committee chairpersons and other legislative leaders

See Legislators, page A-16

Legislators face salary cut

Continued from page A-1

additional bonuses for performing extra duties. The plan, modeled after a reimbursement schedule used in other states, was opposed by both lawmakers and the public when it was debated in the fall.

Other changes approved by the group include increasing legislators' yearly expense account from \$4,000 to \$6,000. That account is used for postage, mailings and other related expenses and has been set at \$4,000 per legislator since the late 1980s.

The recommendations approved by the committee will be subject to further public hearings and will be introduced when the legislature reconvenes Jan.

13, 1986, said committee chairman Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage.

"I think we've come up with a good package . . . one that the public will be pleased with. I think this was a milestone having public members on our committee. It shows we can all work together," said Abood.

The committee included three members from each house and three well-known Alaskans. Ketchikan newspaper publisher Lew Williams, former lawmaker Frank Chapados and former Anchorage mayor George Sullivan were the members of the public chosen to serve on the committee.

Legislative members were Abood; co-chairman Rep. Ron Larson, D-Palmer; Rep. John

Sund, D-Ketchikan; Rep. Randy Phillips, R-Eagle River; Sen. Bill Ray, D-Juneau; and Sen. Bettye Fahrenkamp, D-Fairbanks.

The group was appointed after lawmakers this spring voted down legislation repealing their salary hike passed in 1984. The legislature is faced with a public vote on the repeal in 1986 unless they roll back the pay hike themselves.

A group of Alaskans, spearheaded by members of the Libertarian Party, successfully gathered enough signatures to place the pay repeal issue on the November, 1986 general election ballot. Under the initiative process, lawmakers are afforded an opportunity to deal with the issue first.

State lawmakers gather in Seattle

Thousands of state legislators are in Seattle today through Friday for the 11th annual National Conference of State Legislatures. Topics: health care, education, technology. Salaries and allotments for living expenses during legislative sessions:

State	Salary	Living expenses
Alabama	\$10 a day	\$85 a day
Alaska	\$46,800 a year	none
Arizona	\$15,000 a year	\$60 a day ¹
Arkansas	\$7,500 a year	\$44-\$84 a day
California	\$33,732 a year	\$66 a day
Colorado	\$17,500 a year	\$75 a day
Connecticut	\$13,000 a year	\$75 a day
Delaware	\$12,198 a year	\$2,500 a year
Florida	\$12,000 a year	\$50 a day
Georgia	\$7,200 a year	\$59 a day
Hawaii	\$15,600 a year	\$45 a day
Idaho	\$30 a day	\$35-\$80 a day
Illinois	\$28,000 a year	\$69 a day
Indiana	\$11,600 a year	\$65 a day
Iowa	\$14,600 a year	\$25-\$45 a day
Kansas	\$49 a day	\$50 a day
Kentucky	\$100 a day	\$75 a day ²
Louisiana	\$16,800 a year	\$75 a day
Maine	\$7,500 a year	\$50 a day
Maryland	\$21,000 a year	\$72 a day
Massachusetts	\$30,000 a year	none
Michigan	\$34,860 a year	\$6,700 a year
Minnesota	\$21,140 a year	\$32-\$36 a day
Mississippi	\$8,100 a year	\$44 a day ³
Missouri	\$8,078 a year	\$35 a day ⁴
Montana	\$50 a day	\$45 a day
Nebraska	\$4,800 a year	\$25-\$55 a day
Nevada	\$6,240 a year	\$56 a day
New Hampshire	\$100 a year	none
New Jersey	\$25,000 a year	none
New Mexico	\$75 a day	none
New York	\$43,000 a year	\$55 a day
North Carolina	\$8,400 a year	\$60 a day
North Dakota	\$40-\$90 a day	\$50 a day ⁵
Ohio	\$22,500 a year	none
Oklahoma	\$20,000 a year	\$35 a day ⁶
Oregon	\$8,400 a year	\$44 a day
Pennsylvania	\$35,000 a year	\$75 a day
Rhode Island	\$5 a day	none
South Carolina	\$10,000 a year	\$68 a day
South Dakota	\$3,200 a year	\$75 a day ⁷
Tennessee	\$12,500 a year	\$71 a day
Texas	\$7,200 a year	\$30 a day
Utah	\$65 a day	\$25 a day
Vermont	\$11,000 a year	\$60 a day
Virginia	\$11,000 a year	\$65 a day
Washington	\$13,750 a year	\$44 a day
West Virginia	\$6,500 a year	\$20-\$70 a day
Wisconsin	\$27,222 a year	\$20-\$42 a day
Wyoming	\$75 a day	\$60 a day

¹ \$35 a day for Maricopa County legislators — both are new allotments effective Wednesday

² per actual day of attendance

³ for Jackson legislators, daily attendance only

⁴ for daily attendance only

⁵ for legislators outside Capitol

⁶ five-day week

Source: National Conference of State Legislators 1985 survey

State pay rollbacks reviewed

By DEAN PERSON
The Associated Press

FUNEAU — The Sheffield administration, told by the legislature to roll back a negotiated pay increase in fiscal 1987 or face another lawsuit, plans to open negotiations with state employee unions this week, an official said Monday.

Kleener Andrews, the communications administrator, said the talks are prompted by a legislative resolution passed last session which said lawmakers would not provide money for public employee pay raises the next fiscal year, the final year of a three-year contract.

"Nobody's knowingly going to walk away from the agreement," Andrews said. "It's not the kind of thing where you expect (state employee unions) to say they want to give it up. But there's a mutual awareness that something must be done."

Andrews, a former union negotiator, said she empathizes with labor.

"They're a party to the agreement," she said. "But circumstances have changed materially since then. So we're informally asking them to sit down and talk with us at the table. Maybe someone will come up with something innovative."

Legislators, facing the squeeze of falling oil revenues, gave the Sheffield administration and state public employee unions a year to suggest where \$22.3 million in cuts should be made — in salaries or layoffs affecting some 500 people.

The legislature "recognizes and supports the rights granted in the Public Employment Relations Act to state employees to share in the decision-making process affecting wages and working conditions," according to the resolution.

Because contracts were negotiated in good faith, "but circumstances have changed," the legislature is asking state employees to share in the decision-making process.

Pay rollback

Continuation Page C-1

The parties to the contracts should renegotiate the pay raises in the contracts for fiscal year 1987 and later, the resolution said. It asks the governor to report the results of the renegotiations to the legislature by Jan. 13, 1988.

Ray Gillespie, Gov. Bill Sheffield's chief of staff, said Monday the administration is caught in the middle — and in a bind during an upcoming election year.

"We have a legal obligation to pay those salaries," Gillespie said. "But it's clear the legislature meant what it said about not providing the money to pay the salaries. That gives us two conflicting sets of marching orders."

"The administration can't and won't formally reopen those negotiations," he said.

Cherrie Shelly, executive director of the 9,000-member Alaska Public Employees Association, said Monday she hasn't officially been approached about reopening salary negotiations.

"We have discussed the options," said Shelly, who declined to outline them.

11/22/85

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Legislators consider cutting own pay raise

by Debbie Reinwand
Times Writer

JUNEAU — It's not often that public officials voluntarily take a pay cut, but that's what the Alaska Legislature will consider doing when it convenes in January.

But because of a legal twist, the legislators could end up lowering their own pay, only to see the salaries lowered even further by Alaska voters. Lawmakers hope to head off a possible statewide vote on the pay reduction issue by cutting their salaries themselves.

Lawmakers will be faced with a bill drafted during the interim that rolls back their \$46,800

yearly salaries to \$30,000. A special legislative-citizen panel came up with the measure in response to a ballot initiative that would repeal a pay raise the legislature gave itself in 1983.

That pay increase boosted legislative salaries from \$21,000 per year to \$46,800, although an \$80 daily living expense was eliminated when lawmakers approved the increase.

A group of citizens, under the leadership of the Libertarian Party, gathered enough signatures to place an initiative on the November 1986 ballot that would repeal the salary increase and roll the pay back to its original level.

Should the legislature pass the measure drafted by a special interim committee, it would theoretically knock the initiative question off the ballot.

Under the state constitution, the legislature has the option to enact legislation similar to the initiative proposal before the election, thus avoiding a public vote on the issue.

But, since legislators are proposing a bill that drops their salaries to \$30,000 and the ballot initiative states it should return to the original \$21,000 level, initiative sponsors say the new legislation may not do the trick.

"We are pleased the com-
See Legislators, page A-6

Congress gears up for Pentagon reform move

by Patricia O'Brien
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Shaken by weapons procurement scandals and a military that hasn't always been ready when needed, Congress is gearing up for what could be the biggest Pentagon reform effort since the Defense Department was created after World War II.

Even those who have been the staunchest supporters of defense

spending are joining the reform movement. Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, put it starkly in a speech on the Senate floor last month: "There will be those who say, 'The system ain't broke, so don't fix it.' However, it is broke and we need to fix it."

"The Pentagon is a morass," said Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., a member of the House

Armed Services Committee. "Up until now, a lot of people have studied it and then thrown up their hands and walked away. Now it's absolutely essential that we do something about it."

In a first step this week, the House voted by an overwhelming 383-27 to strip the Joint Chiefs of Staff of their presidential advisory powers, leaving only the chairman of the group as the

See Pentagon, page A-8

Associated Press
vols, grounded air-
traffic. More than
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Washington D.C. af-
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area control cen-
phones won't begin

to ring at the centers, however,
for three to six months while the
underwater cable between Japan
and Russia is completed, said
Jim Vaughan, facility manager
of the Anchorage center and a
member of the U.S. negotiating
team.

The United States will share
the cost of the system, although
the final bill hasn't been decided
upon. The Japanese-Russian por-
See Safety, page A-8

Sunny today, high in the low 20s. Clear
tonight, low near 5.

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Legislators seek pay reduction

Continued from page A-1

mittee worked on the proposal, but we'd prefer the initiative stay on the ballot. It's quite a bit different than the plan they came up with," said repeal activist Duncan Scott. Scott is also managing Republican gubernatorial candidate Dick Randolph's campaign.

A 1980 attorney general's opinion says an initiative can be removed from the ballot if "substantially the same measure has been enacted by the legislature."

An Alaska Supreme Court decision further defined initiative guidelines to allow the legislature "some leeway when enacting a bill designed to eliminate the need for a ballot initiative," said assistant attorney general Jim Baldwin.

Baldwin testified before the interim committee that drafted the proposed legislation. He was reluctant to say whether the panel's bill meets the legal requirements for averting an initiative vote since the legislature could substantially change the bill before its passed.

"These things have to be taken on a case-by-case basis. The Supreme Court decision does provide legislators with

some latitude, though," Baldwin said.

Scott said his group would consider a legal challenge to the legislature's proposal if it does not drop the pay rate substantially.

"We think the idea of moving the salary back to \$21,000 with the per diem is not unreasonable," he said. "We further think the people should have the opportunity to vote on the issue."

The plan proposed by the committee, which was chaired by

Sen. Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage, actually amounts to a \$2,600 pay cut each year when per diem payments are added to the annual salary.

Lawmakers now receive a flat salary of \$48,800. That amount would be reduced to \$30,000 under the new bill. Coupled with a \$109 daily allowance for the 120 days the legislature meets, plus five days before the session and five days after, would bring each legislator's total state income to about \$44,000.

Missing

Continued from page A-1

"We are pleased that Vietnam has agreed with us on this point and has pledged to accelerate cooperation in resolving the POW-MIA matter without linkage to other issues," he said in a statement.

The group will leave Jan. 13 for an eight-day trip. After Hanoi, the group will also stop in Vientiane, Laos, for similar discussions about missing Americans in that country, and in Bangkok, Thailand.



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JOINT SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE SALARY

DRAFT

LETTER OF INTENT

We, the Joint Special Committee on Legislative Salaries, hereby submit our recommendations to the Alaska Legislature as set forth in SCR 19.

After considerable analysis, we are recommending the introduction of the attached two bills and one resolution.

We recommend a State Officers Compensation Commission be established by constitutional amendment to be put before the voters in the 1986 general election. This commission will set the compensation for the legislature, the governor, lieutenant governor, justices and judges of the court system and the head of each principal department. We believe a constitutional amendment would avoid abolition by legislative action as was the case with the 1976 Alaska Salary Commission. We have recommended there be some veto power over the commissions actions, requiring two-thirds vote of the legislature to reject the commission's recommendations.

We recommend enabling legislation to take effect if the constitutional amendment is approved by the voters. This bill sets forth the duties and guidelines we feel would answer the public's concern about state officials setting their own salaries.

Finally, we recommend after extensive comparisons with all state legislatures and many other facets of our economy, a new legislative salary to take effect until a commission is established or another solution reached. We are submitting this new salary bill in response to the public reaction to the payraise. We do however, believe that repeal of the current salary would not provide fair and adequate compensation to the legislators.

Marrou to start donating pay raise

By Larry Porcilly
Times Journal Bureau

Juneau — Putting his wallet where his campaign promise led him, Rep. Andre Marrou, L-Homer, this week will write the first check as he starts a year-long process of donating \$13,000 of his legislative salary to charity.

The legislature's lone Libertarian promised in September during the election campaign to donate part of his salary to charity to demonstrate his dissatisfaction with the pay raise approved by lawmakers in 1983.

Marrou, serving his first year in office, said he will continue donating part of his salary to charity every year until the pay raise is repealed.

Before the pay raise, lawmakers earned about \$21,000 a year, plus hotel and meal expenses while in Juneau. Marrou said legislative earnings totaled about \$33,000 a year, after the per diem money was included.

Legislators now earn an annual salary of \$46,800, with no per diem, and Marrou arrived at his campaign promise of about



Rep. Andre Marrou

\$13,000 by subtracting the old from the new pay scale.

The Homer representative said he is not aware of any other lawmaker joining his charitable effort.

In deciding how to distribute the money, Marrou said, "Most of it will go to private education . . . based on need, based on the number of students."

In addition to donating about 90 percent of the money to private schools in his Kenai Peninsula district, Marrou said he plans to give about 10 percent to non-profit community groups, including Crime Stoppers.

"We are planning to make the first distribution this week of a couple of thousand dollars," he said, with the final check to go out by the end of next year's legislative session in May.

Marrou expects to donate between \$1,000 and \$3,000 to each of six private schools. The only requirements for receipt of the money, he explained, are that the school be in his district and that it receive no federal or state aid of any kind.

He has yet to decide which schools will receive how much money, but the lawmaker said a school's religious affiliation will have no bearing on his disbursement of the money.

Marrou introduced legislation this year to repeal the pay raise, but the bill failed to win House approval. Similar efforts by Republican and Democratic law-

makers also have failed in the past two years.

The House and Senate did agree this year to appoint a joint special committee on legislative salaries. Chaired by Sen. Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage, the committee will hold its first meeting later this month, either in Anchorage or Juneau.

A proposition to repeal the pay raise will appear on the 1988 general election ballot, with political oddsmakers betting Alaskans will vote to send lawmakers back to their old salary.

One unexpected hitch in Marrou's donation plans is the special legislative session to consider impeachment of Gov. Bill Sheffield.

The Homer Libertarian said, "The only thing that might detract from it (the charitable donations), is that I have to live." If the impeachment issue moves from the Senate to the House and Marrou has to return to Juneau and pay additional living expenses out of his pocket, he said, he may not be able to afford the full \$13,000 in donations.

Salary suggestions strike wrong target

A special committee created last session to resolve the legislative pay controversy has proposed salary reductions that are, unfortunately, a non-solution. In response to charges that legislators are overpaid, the Joint Special Committee on Legislative Salaries — three senators, three representatives, and three citizens — suggests rolling back legislators' pay to \$24,000 in salary and about \$14,000 in per diem. That's roughly an \$8,000 cut from the \$46,000 salary legislators receive now.

While the proposal may silence critics of the 1983 pay raise, it's poor public policy. The \$46,000 legislators now receive is commensurate with their responsibilities. Lower wages don't attract better minds in any endeavor, and the quality of the legislature certainly won't improve if legislators' salaries are cut.

It makes no sense, moreover, to clutter the pay schedule with per diem. The elimination of legislative per diem was a major virtue of the 1983 pay bill. Legislators deserve a straightforward salary for their labor, not a salary and per diem stew.

The committee also suggests that legislators in leadership positions should be paid more than their colleagues. This makes no sense. Legislators by tradition show deference to members in leadership positions, but that shouldn't be institutionalized in the salaries of members. The speaker of the House and the president of the Senate don't deserve an extra \$7,000 a year. Nor do the majority leaders merit an additional \$5,000 and the committee chairmen \$3,000. In the 20-member Senate, after all, this scheme would be nothing more than a system to dispense bonus money to majority members, 15 of whom chair committees.

If the special committee wants to make a contribution to reform, members ought to overhaul lawmakers' pension benefits, which were raised by more than 100 percent for all legislators in the 1983 pay raise, and by as much as 133 percent for veteran legislators who entered office before 1976. That sends legislative retirement schedules — depending on the years served — from the previous \$8,000 up to approximately \$20,000 a year.

Pensions can't be changed retroactively, but future legislators shouldn't enjoy such retirement benefits. The grossly self-serving 1983 pension plan was passed with virtually no discussion. It has no place in a citizen legislature.

Establishing fair compensation for legislators always is difficult but the changes offered by the committee so far promotes unfairness, confusion and legislative discord. They cut all legislators' salaries — and then immediately provide bonuses to those in leadership positions.

Better to establish a flat — and fair — salary, and a reasonable retirement system that realistically reflects the services of a citizen legislature.



Editorials

Per diem abuse

PROPOSALS to reduce legislative pay are causing a bit of a stir these days in legislative circles and talk accelerates as the time shortens before the convening of the 1986 session, now just a little more than nine weeks away.

A special committee, headed by Sen. Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage, has approved one plan that seems likely to receive serious consideration in the '86 session.

It proposes reducing the annual salary for each legislator by \$2,000. At the same time, it would add nearly \$14,000 in per diem payments to cover 120 days of the session and another five days at the beginning and end of each session.

NOT ALL MEMBERS of the legislature are happy about the committee's proposal, as you might guess. Three influential lawmakers were quoted the other day as being adamantly against any change in the current pay level, a base salary of \$46,800

plus some hefty fringes.

Juneau's Democratic trio, Sen. Bill Ray and Reps. Jim Duncan and Mike Miller, like things just the way they are. They said a per diem system invites legislators to invent ways to do legislative business just to collect expense money.

THAT'S SOMETHING we've been saying here for years. So it's nice now to hear some legislators, especially those with whom we don't often agree, admit that some of their colleagues did take advantage of the per diem before it was abolished in 1983.

There is widespread dissatisfaction among Alaskan voters with the high level of legislative pay, no matter how it's dished out. Some changes — and some relatively stiff cuts — simply must be made.

If the legislators don't do it in the next session, the people will take care of the job in a referendum vote in the 1986 election.

Legislative panel proposes pay cut for lawmakers

By JOHN LINDBACK
Daily News reporter

10/5
JUNEAU — Legislators' salaries and expense reimbursements would be rolled back from \$46,000 a year to about \$38,000 under a tentative plan approved Friday by a legislative committee.

The Joint Special Committee on Legislative Salaries was dealing with an issue created when legislators in 1983 voted themselves a significant pay raise and a citizens group later succeeded in placing a referendum on next year's ballot calling for repeal of the raise.

Meeting in Anchorage, the committee gave its tentative blessing to setting legislators' annual salaries at \$24,000 a

year. In addition, each lawmaker would be paid \$109 per day during legislative sessions as compensation for the expense of establishing a second residence in Juneau.

Legislators would receive the \$109 daily rate for the full 120-day regular session, five days prior to the session and five days after it. That would total \$14,170 for the 130 days.

"As it came out, we were totally in accord with one another," Committee Chairman Sen. Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage, said about Friday's meeting. The tentative plan will be drafted in the form of a bill for discussion at the committee's Nov. 5

See Page C-3, COMMITTEE

Committee OKs plan to roll back legislative pay increase

Continued from Page C-1

meeting, Abood said.

"At that time, there'll probably be some changes," he said.

The plan also includes extra compensation for legislators in leadership positions. The speaker of the House and Senate president would each receive an extra \$7,000 a year, majority leaders in both houses would be paid an extra \$5,000 and the chairmen of all standing committees would receive an additional \$3,000, Abood said.

In addition, the annual \$4,000 allowance legislators receive for office expenses would be raised to \$6,000, he said.

Legislators currently receive an annual salary of

about \$46,000 a year with no extra compensation during sessions in Juneau. The only extra money provided for legislative leaders is an additional \$500 a year for the House speaker and Senate president.

The legislature's approval of \$46,000-a-year salary at the end of the 1983 session unleashed strong protest from the public and led to a referendum drive to overturn it. Until that pay plan was approved, legislators received salaries of \$20,000 a year and expense payments of about \$80 per day during legislative sessions and when they worked on state business between sessions.

At the time, the average legislator was paid about \$35,000 in salary and expen-

ses.

Because of the protest to the \$46,000 annual salary vote, the legislature appointed the special joint committee — which includes three Senate members, three House members and three members of the public — to make a recommendation on the issue in January. Some legislators have called for repeal of the 1983 vote so that the politically sensitive referendum could be removed from the 1986 ballot.

Rep. Ron Larson, D-Palmer and another member of the joint committee, said the plan approved Friday is a compromise between a repeal of the 1983 vote and the \$46,000-a-year salary the legislators gave themselves.

"All the numbers are subject to change within the committee," he said.

In addition to the new salary plan, the committee called for drafting a proposed constitutional amendment that would establish a state salaries and emoluments commission. The commission would be composed of seven members of the public, Abood said.

Other members of the joint special committee are: Sen. Bettye Fahrenkamp, D-Fairbanks; Sen. Bill Ray, D-Juneau; Rep. Randy Phillips, R-Eagle River; Rep. John Sund, D-Ketchikan; Frank Chapados, businessman from Fairbanks; Lew Williams, publisher of the Ketchikan Daily News and George Sullivan, former mayor of Anchorage.

A-8 Wednesday, October 9, 1985, The Anchorage Times

Legislative pay cut plan draws mixed reviews

by Debbie Reinwand
Times Writer

A plan unveiled last week to roll back legislators' salaries and restructure their pay system has already sparked differing opinions from the elected officials the proposal affects.

A special legislative salary committee is drafting a bill that will cut lawmakers' yearly paychecks from the current level of \$46,800 to \$22,000. The new plan, however, reinstates a daily expense allowance of \$100 and sets up a bonus payment plan for legislators who head committees or hold leadership posts.

Combined with the per diem payments, the new salary for legislators would be about \$38,000 annually.

So far, the tentative plan has received mixed reviews from lawmakers. Some say providing additional payments for legislators in leadership positions will spawn a whole new array of committee posts, while others think the prospect of bringing back per diem payments is a way of hiding an increase to legislators' salaries.

"It seems like you're robbing

Peter to pay Paul. The whole thing essentially comes out to a wash because if this bill flies, legislators are going to want per diem whenever they're working and there are a lot who will find work during the interim," said Sen. Bob Ziegler, D-Ketchikan.

The salary committee is proposing lawmakers receive per diem during the 120-day session, as well as five days prior to convening and five days after adjourning.

Ziegler, the legislature's senior member, believes the pay rate should stay where it is. "With the straight salary, you don't have as much room for people to beef up their per diem checks or find other little expenses," he said. "And I think I'm worth every damn nickel of it."

While they favor rolling back the pay rate, both Reps. Virginia Collins, R-Anchorage, and Terry Martin, R-Anchorage, think the proposal to award committee chairmen an extra \$3,000 per year would result in a host of new committees being formed.

"The president of the Senate and House speaker have the abil-

ity to appoint committees whenever they please. I think what we'd see is most people in the majority would have a committee chairmanship and they'd be getting that extra amount," said Collins.

Lawmakers who head committees generally receive additional employees to handle the workload, and Collins thinks that is enough compensation.

Rep. Andre Marrou, a Libertarian from Homer, is skeptical of lawmaker's plans to roll back their salaries. It was due partially to the successful efforts of the Libertarian Party that an initiative to repeal the raise will be on the November 1986 ballot. Under state law, however, the initiative vote could be avoided if the legislature repeals the raise.

"I think what the legislature's doing is bypassing the public. I think it's important the public vote on the issue and I know they'd repeal the increase," Marrou said.

The Homer lawmaker this summer donated \$13,000 of his salary to charity.

A Lawmaker's Bills

Senator's High Salary Can Prove Very Low, Vermont's Leahy Finds

His \$57,500 a Year Is Drained
By Expense of 2 Homes,
Travel, Big Withholding

But Will Voters Understand?

By JAMES P. GANNON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — Patrick and Marcelle Leahy would like you to know how it is to just scrape by on \$57,500 a year.

It may sound absurd that a family with such a grand income could be budgeting carefully to make ends meet, but that's the way it is with the Leahys. In fact, they have been growing poorer in the two years since Mr. Leahy took his new job in Washington—as a U.S. Senator from Vermont. You'd think, then, that the 37-year-old Democrat would be overjoyed at the \$12,900-a-year salary increase he has just received, but the fact is he tried to kill his pay boost.

If all this sounds a bit unreal, it's just that some of Washington's realities are rather odd. Members of Congress and their families don't live like ordinary people. They try to lead two lives, as participants in the high-cost of life of the nation's capital, and as political figures and just-folks back in their home states. The result is an expensive, mobile life style, in which a salary considered excessive by many of their constituents just melts away.

The recent controversy over this year's fat congressional pay raise, and passage of an ethics code limiting outside earnings, have prompted many questions about our lawmakers' finances. Why do they need such big salaries? Why do so many members of Congress contend they need outside income, too? How do they spend their money? And where do all the funds appropriated for the "billion-dollar Congress" go?

To help provide some answers, Sen. Leahy agreed to let a reporter probe his personal finances as well as the allowances he gets for official use. The result isn't likely to trigger sympathetic tears from the average American family, which earns about \$13,900 a year, but it does shed some light on the economics of serving in Congress and the politics of living off the public payroll.



What emerges is a picture of a comfortable way of life, but one with its own special pressures as well as special benefits. It is a life of free parking, paid travel, generous staff help and free medical care—balanced against leftover campaign debts, two sets of household bills, high taxes and a parade of constituents expecting to be entertained.

"I'm not complaining," Sen. Leahy declares. The youthful Democrat is delighted at his leap from prosecuting attorney in Burlington, Vt., to the venerable George Aiken's seat in the U.S. Senate. He had yearned for the job since boyhood, he claims. "If they cut the salary to \$1 a year, I'd still want to be in the Senate," he remarks.

Typical to a Point

Mr. Leahy can't be called a "typical" member of Congress, because there isn't any such common denominator in a diverse body of 535 people who include millionaires, former blue-collar workers, priests, part-time farmers and lifelong politicians. But he is representative of the many lawmakers who primarily live off their congressional salaries rather than outside income or inherited wealth.

The Senate is sometimes called a rich man's club, and the House, too, has a sizable share of wealthy members, though in much smaller portion. Perhaps a third or more of the 100 Senators are millionaires, according to educated guesses on Capitol Hill. (Financial disclosure mandated by the just-passed ethics code won't take effect until next year.) To cite one example: Pennsylvania's Sen. John Heinz, the pickle-and-ketchup scion, draws a \$400,000-plus annual income from some \$13 million in family trust funds and lives in a \$437,000 Georgetown home. He's unique only in voluntarily disclosing financial facts that most rich lawmakers have kept secret.

Mr. Leahy, the son of a Vermont printer, isn't wealthy. In fact, his net worth has declined during his two years in the Senate to \$45,132 from nearly \$100,000. The decline, the Senator says, reflects the costs of renovating their Vermont home, "enormous" expenses of moving, unreimbursed Senate expenses and other heavy transition costs that hit a man moving from private life into politics.

Seeing Double

Mr. Leahy and his wife Marcelle, an nurse, have three children (aged 12, 11 and 7), two cars, two houses and two versions of every bill the average homeowner pays. "Everything for us is doubled," comments Mrs. Leahy, who handles the bill-paying. "Two mortgages, two electric bills, two telephone bills. I look at his salary and I think, 'My God, we've got it made' but then you sit down and start paying double everything and it's a juggling act," she says.

Their Washington-area home is a handsome, brick three-bedroom town house, with the Vermont state flag flying in front and a tiny yard in back, in a suburban development in McLean, Va. It cost them \$82,000, and brought them a \$70,000 mortgage. "For this amount in Burlington, I'd have a luxury home," the Senator laments.

Their Vermont home, which they use in summertime and on trips back home, is a 130-year-old farmhouse on more than 100 acres of land near Middlesex. After moving to Washington, the Leahys sold what had been their permanent home in Burlington (for about \$54,000) and spent about \$20,000 to modernize and winterize the farmhouse.

Please Turn to Page 57, Column 1

A Lawmaker's Bills: A Senator's High Pay Can Prove To Be Amazingly Low, Leahy of Vermont Discovers

Continued From First Page

which had served only as a vacation retreat. Though some lawmakers have just a small apartment or nominal residence back home, the Leahys think it's important to keep a family home in Vermont to retain their sense of roots. "We want the kids to remember that they belong to Vermont," Marcelle says. "We don't want them to become Washingtonians."

Maintaining two homes is the main drain on Mr. Leahy's salary. Mortgage payments run \$827 a month on their Virginia house and \$349 a month on the Vermont farm. Property taxes are about \$1,400 a year in Virginia and \$2,000 a year in Vermont. Fuel and electric bills total about \$150 a month in Virginia ("we wore our ski parkas in the house in January to save fuel," the Senator says) and about \$550 for the full year on the farm. Insurance, repairs and other household bills likewise come in double doses.

The Leahy kids go to public schools in part because the budget won't permit costly private schooling. The Senator drives himself to work in his 1977 Dodge Aspen (payments: \$205 a month), leaving the house a little after 6 a.m. to beat the rush-hour traffic to Washington, and normally returning between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. He finds his early-morning hours in the office a good time to call Vermont farmers, who rise early, too, and to read every piece of mail from his constituents, who send him more than 100 letters a day.

"He calls me about 7:30 each day to say good morning," Marcelle reports.

Hefty Deductions

That \$57,500-a-year annual salary doesn't look quite so princely when it's reduced to a once-a-month paycheck with hefty deductions. The gross monthly earnings of \$4,791.66 shrink to a net take-home check of \$2,673.01 after deductions of \$2,118.65. More than one-third of the Senator's pay goes for withholding taxes—\$1,248 for the federal income tax and \$351 for the state—and another \$383 a month is deducted for his government pension plan. Under the plan, he'd get an annual pension of \$4,625 at age 62 if he served only one six-year term, and at least \$46,000 a year if he spent the next 30 years in Congress.

The Senate salary is almost the entire family income for the Leahys. They own no stocks, bonds or income properties, and earn only a couple of hundred dollars a year in interest on their savings of about \$7,000. Marcelle doesn't have a paying job; she feels she's needed at home by her young children.

The Senator last year earned about \$1,900 in "honoraria"—fees for giving speeches—far less than the \$25,000 or so that the Senate's big-name speechmakers talk themselves into each year.

The new congressional ethics code, which includes an \$4,625 annual limit on outside earned income, won't really affect Mr. Leahy's finances. The Senate's big speechmakers are unhappy about the limit, and the Senate's rich men are glad that it won't apply to dividends, interest, business profits and other "unearned" income, but Sen. Leahy isn't in either group. The earnings limit won't take effect until 1979, anyway.

Fighting a Pay Raise see next page

with Vermont's fiscally conservative voters. "Partly, it's pressure from home," admits a Leahy staff aide. "There is a feeling at home that congressional staffs are bloated." Of the \$588,341 available for staff expense this year, Mr. Leahy is budgeting to return about \$148,000 unspent, the same amount he turned back last year.

His staff consists of 16 aides in Washington and seven in his home-state office in Burlington. Salaries range from \$37,241 for his top Washington aide down to \$6,102 for a clerk.

Like all Senators, Mr. Leahy gets lots of fringe benefits. He's entitled to two free parking spaces in the Senate's underground garage, and special auto license tags that keep police from ticketing his car if it's parked illegally.

Free Medical Care

If he needs a prescription drug, an X-ray, a physical checkup or treatment for a routine ailment, he can get free medical care at a clinic in the Capitol staffed by three full-time physicians. (The free care is for members of Congress only, not their families, and doesn't cover hospital bills.) If he wants potted plants for his office, the government's Botanic Garden will provide them without charge, and if he'd like some wall maps, the U.S. Geological Survey will send them over, for free. But the free haircut, an old congressional tradition, has just disappeared; starting April 1, the Senate barbershop began charging \$3.50 to trim Senators' hair.

In addition to his personal and official expenses, Sen. Leahy has a third set of finances to keep track of—his political fund. He ended his \$150,000 Senate campaign in 1974 with a \$40,000 campaign debt, and has slowly been raising money to pay it off. At the start of 1977, his campaign committee still owed \$5,819. Contributions from unions, environmental groups and many individuals are helping wipe out the debt. Sen. Leahy plans a fund-raising function this month in Burlington, Vt., starring his friend Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, and hopes to wind up 1977 out of the red.

Though Sen. Leahy and his wife talk freely of their financial situation, they wonder if the average person can see it as they do. Says Mrs. Leahy: "It's really difficult to understand what is going on here with us, and to relate it to life back home." The Senator adds: "I suspect some people back home will think I'm crying poor-mouth, but I'm not. I can't think of anything I'd rather be doing."

Fighting a Pay Raise

Though his former \$44,000-a-year Senate salary was nearly eaten up by living expenses, Mr. Leahy didn't feel comfortable with the \$12,900 pay increase proposed this year for members of Congress. His mail ran strongly against it, and he knew that he soon would be voting for legislation demanding sacrifices from the voters, such as energy-tax increases. So he took a stand against the salary boost.

In February, Sen. Leahy joined 41 other Senators in voting to bring to the floor a motion to kill the pay increase, but the anti pay raise move lost, 56 to 42. The House never voted on the pay boost, which automatically became effective in March.

Sen. Leahy doesn't believe the extra \$12,900 will make much difference to him. Almost \$4,000 of it will go to higher federal and state income tax withholding, he notes, and the rest will go to pay out-of-pocket expenses that everyone assumes are reimbursable, but aren't, he figures.

That comment reflects one of the oddities of the "billion-dollar Congress," so-called because this fiscal year's legislative-branch budget tops \$1 billion, up sharply from \$687 million five years ago. Although congressional staffs have grown, salaries have risen and expense allowances have increased, many lawmakers have found they must dig into their own pockets—or into privately donated funds—to supplement their official expense accounts.

Quirks in the Rules

Sen. Leahy figures that he had roughly \$10,000 worth of unreimbursed expenses last year, including travel, entertainment and other items. By the quirks of Senate travel allowance rules, for example, transportation costs to and within his state are covered but food and hotel bills are not. A Senator may put newspapers and magazine subscriptions on his tab, but not books, reports or directories.

Vermont constituents visiting Washington often have lunch in the Senate dining room with Mr. Leahy, figuring it's on the house; but there's no such thing as a free lunch in Congress, and Sen. Leahy says such get-togethers cost him \$1,500 to \$2,000 last year. When he flies to Vermont for a weekend, local folks often complain that he should have brought his wife and children, he says. "I tell them that it would cost me \$500," he adds, "and then they ask, 'Do you mean you don't come up in a government airplane?'"

Sen. Leahy is allowed 40 paid trips back to Vermont per year. He actually has made about 100 trips in two years, bringing his wife along (at his expense) about 15 times.

The Senator's total expense allowance, intended to cover travel, stationery, postage, telephone costs, subscriptions, expenses of a Vermont office and other items, amounts to \$34,034. But he spends much more than that and makes up the difference himself. Unlike many Senators, Sen. Leahy doesn't have an "unofficial" office account, supported by private contributors, to help cover expenses; such "slush funds" have been abolished, effective next year, under the new ethics code.

Skimping on Staff

While overspending his expense account, he's underspending his staff allowance. Senators' staff allowances, based on state population, run from \$448,063 for small states like Vermont, up to \$902,301 for the most populous state, California. In addition to the \$448,063, Mr. Leahy gets a separate committee staff allowance of \$139,275 to hire aides to help with his committee work on the Agriculture and Appropriations panels.

But Sen. Leahy deliberately underspends on his staff so he can turn money back in each year—a move undoubtedly popular

Alaska legislator

by Debbie Rainwood
Times Writer

At \$46,800 a year, it may pay to be an Alaska legislator, but a recent survey shows California and New York lawmakers receive paychecks that top those in the 49th state.

While the base pay for a legislator in sunny California is \$33,732, per diem payments amount to about \$16,000 per year for the average elected representative. That means they receive more than \$49,700 a year, according to a report issued by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Ranked second in annual earnings are New York legislators, who have a base pay of \$43,000 with an average yearly per diem allowance of \$4,000, for a total of \$47,000. And while a New York lawmaker can expect to earn about \$47,000, repre-

sentative home and year.

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Salaries

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cial Council.

Chapados, a member of the Alaska Railroad board of directors, is active in the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce.

The inclusion of public voting members on the committee is a first, according to an opinion drafted for Abood by legislative legal counsel Billy Berrier. Because there is no precedent, the legislators spent part of Tuesday's meeting setting up ground rules for the upcoming session.

Under the rules, the nine-member group will need two senators, two representatives and one public representative in order to do business, and a majority of any five members must agree in order for the panel to take any action.

Among the proposals the committee will review include the establishment of a salary commission independent from the legislature. More than 20 states have similar commissions, while another 20 legislatures set their own salaries.

Abood said the panel hopes to draft a bill that will diminish public concern over legislative pay raises. When lawmakers increased their pay from \$22,000 a year to \$46,800 a year in 1983, some public groups pushed for repeal of the raise.

Legislators' salaries

Continued from page A-1

daily allowances provided. That body generally meets for two months.

Other legislative bodies that receive minimal pay include those in Nebraska where the annual salary is \$4,800 plus a \$25 per diem allowance; Nevada, where lawmakers earn \$6,240 a year, plus \$56 a day living expenses; Georgia, where lawmakers receive \$7,200 plus \$39 a day during legislative sessions, and Maine with an annual salary of \$7,500 plus \$50 per diem.

The Alaska Legislature in 1983 voted to double yearly salaries from \$22,000 to \$46,800. In doing so, legislators terminated their \$80 per diem payments which were the highest in the nation at that time.

Many lawmakers argued that dropping the per diem payments saved money because lawmakers could claim them during session, and during the interim when a legislator was on state business. However, the pay boost did substantially increase retirement benefits for the elected officials and was subject to public concern over the ability of a legislative body to give itself a hefty raise.

A special legislative salary committee was appointed this session to study the issue and report back to the Legislature in January of 1986. That panel had its first meeting Tuesday and will look at, among other things, an independent commission to regulate salaries.

In 21 states, a compensation commission provides that service, while in another 21 states lawmakers themselves decide when they need a raise. Eight states have constitutional provisions for increases in legislative pay.

In Alaska, many lawmakers say they don't particularly care who sets their pay, as long as it's "fair" and keeps up with inflation.

"The number one factor is whether or not it costs me money to do my job," said Sen. Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage. Abood chairs the joint salary committee.

"If I'm being paid \$25,000 and it costs \$50,000 to fly 800 miles to Juneau, set up a second home and operate out of there for 120 days, then that's not equitable," he said. "I'm interested in the salary commission idea, particularly if they use economic factors when determining what we should be paid."

Senate Minority Leader Bill Ray, D-Juneau, a member of the salary panel, agrees with Abood. "You have fishermen from Kodiak, businesswomen from Fairbanks and retired folks from all over serving in this legislature. You have to pay them enough so that they can support themselves and do a good job for the people," he said.

"The pay does not have to be excessive, it has to be reasonable. If a commission can do that, fine. If we can set up legal guidelines, that's acceptable, too," Ray said.

Alaska legislators among highest paid in nation

by Debbie Reinwand
Times Writer

At \$43,000 a year, it may pay to be an Alaska legislator, but a recent survey shows California and New York lawmakers receive paychecks that top those in the 48th state.

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sentatives in leadership positions take home an additional \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year.

Being selected presiding officer of either house in New York adds \$20,000 to a legislator's paycheck, while the majority and minority leaders each garner an additional \$25,000.

In contrast, the Alaska Senate president and speaker of the House of Representatives are given \$800 compensation for holding leadership positions.

Of the 50 state legislatures, 43 receive per diem payments when lawmakers are in session, ranging from \$15 a day in Utah to \$85 each day in North Dakota.

While salaries in California, New York and Alaska top the legislative pay charts, officials in New Hampshire are on the bottom rung, earning \$100 per year with no

See Legislators', page A-14

Legislative salary panel selected

by Debbie Reinwand
Times Writer

Former Anchorage Mayor George Sullivan and two other prominent Alaskans have been selected to help six elected officials examine the salaries of state legislators.

Sullivan, former Fairbanks lawmaker Frank Chapados and Ketchikan Daily News publisher Lew Williams were chosen from a field of eight candidates who had expressed interest in the committee or were nominated by legislators.

They will join three House and three Senate members on the committee, established by the legislature during the past regular session.

The committee will look over a con-

troversial pay raise the Legislature voted for itself in the waning days of the 1988 session.

"I believe we had some really qualified people apply and the three chosen will do a fine job representing the views of the public in this endeavor," said committee chairman Sen. Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage.

Meeting Tuesday in a teleconference hearing, the legislators decided to choose one public member from Southeast, another from Southcentral and a third from the Interior-Bush regions of the state.

Williams, a longtime Alaska resident, has served on several statewide panels and is the lay member of the Alaska Judi-

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Salaries

Continued from page A-1

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economy from Japanese trade imbalance

buy our
the trade
buying our
our deficit
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think Japan is will on its way to
taking over our country, and
because we are an uninformed
people, we're paying them while
they do it.

It's time for responsible
newspapers like The Times, and
others like it across the nation, to
start informing the American

people of the dangers we are
facing from Japan.

If our senators, who are the
upper branch to the U.S.
Congress, can't deal with this
problem, then we should replace
them with some who will.

This situation is not a time
bomb that could come back and

hurt us, it is seriously hurting the
American people and our
country now.

Let's all stop talking, and act
now, before God forbid, it's too
late.

As they remember Hiroshima,
let us not forget Pearl Harbor.

Rena E. Griffin-Anchorage

Russia was
like us over
shot, but I

Disappointed by choices

8/20/85 hma

Dear Editor:

Several weeks ago, your news-
paper carried a story — "Three
public members are being re-
cruited to serve on a special
committee on legislative sala-
ries, one from the Railbelt, one
Southeast, and one from Interior-
rural regions of the state." I re-
sponded to the article — willing
to serve instead of sitting back
and complaining about the legis-
lature.

Although I have lived in
Alaska 30 years and have con-
tinuously served my community,
your newspaper reported I was a
candidate who was an employee
of Sohio Alaska Petroleum Com-
pany. I did not apply for the posi-

tion on my work record with an
oil company but as a concerned
citizen. My efforts were in vain
— the "public" members are
three of the good old boys, well-
connected politically. (The selec-
tion from our area — the former
mayor of Anchorage — recently
withdrew from a campaign as
governor.)

The legislators can count on
their "public" members not to
rock the boat, while the written
record shows a wonderful inno-
vation — a legislative committee
with public members. Rubbish!

Jean Parsons
Anchorage

Misstatements of facts on AIDS

Dear Editor:

Norma Tillett's letter of Aug.
13 regarding AIDS has some mis-
statements of fact.

1. Research to date has shown
that casual contact has not
spread AIDS either among hospi-
tal employees or among house-
hold contacts. There is no evi-
dence that sneezing or touching
can transmit it.

2. While deadly once inside the
body, the virus is easily killed
outside the body and is difficult
to transmit person-to-person.

3. Anyone, male or female,
heterosexual or homosexual, can
acquire the disease if the neces-
sary intimate contact with a car-
rier takes place.

4. In other countries, espe-
cially in Africa, a high percent-
age of cases have occurred in al-
legedly heterosexual people.

5. The definition of 'homo-
sexual' is not simple. Two out of
five American men have had a

Are they 'homosexual'? Many
men who self-identify as 'gay'
are totally chaste, and many oth-
ers in long-term male-male rela-
tionships are completely monog-
amous. Are they to be punished
despite their chastity and fidel-
ity?

It appears that Ms. Tillett is
trying to stigmatize a serious
medical disease. In the past a
similar stigmatization was done
with the plague, smallpox, tuber-
culosis, syphilis, and cancer. In
each the stigma was com-
pounded out of fear, ignorance
and religious zeal. In each the
stigma made more difficult both
research into the disease and
treatment of its victims, and it
hurt a lot of innocent people
needlessly.

If Ms. Tillett really wants to
help in this major health crisis,
she might consider writing to our
three congressmen to urge their
support for increased funding for



talists working against economy

1,200 percent, steel and other ma-
terials, God only knows how
much. Because of them, we're
dependent on foreign countries,
in the "friendly Arabs" for our
oil and other products.

If they were actually in the
pay of the Russians, they
couldn't be doing a better job for
them. After the environmental-
ists break us financially and get
us more dependent on the foreign
countries, all the Russians will
have to do is walk in and own us.

Please people, wise up. Most
of believe in conserving and tak-

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They tell the
kill the seal to
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Panel seeks alternative to unpopular legislative pay system

8-19-85 (AP) By GREG GADSBERRY
Daily News reporter

If Alaska legislators are unable to replace their controversial pay system, Alaska voters will be happy to make the changes for them at the polls next year, members of a special legislative pay committee said Sunday.

To head off such a vote, the legislative committee agreed Sunday to suggest replacements for the pay system and find a less controversial method of setting pay in the first

place.

The Joint Special Committee on Legislative Salaries, formed earlier this year, met Sunday in Anchorage to organize its work for the next several months. The committee — made up of three representatives, three senators and three members of the general public — is to report its findings on the first day of the 1985 session.

At issue is what one committee member, Rep. Ron Larson, D-Palmer, called the

"most misunderstood" issue before Alaskans today — legislators' pay.

In 1983, state representatives earned a base salary of about \$21,000 a year, coupled with an \$80-a-day per diem during the legislative session and \$4,000 in expenses. But in the last days of that year's session, that pay plan was abandoned.

Under the new system, per diem payments disappeared in favor of a base salary more than twice as large as before.

The plan was born amid howls of outrage. Since then, there have been moves aplenty both in and out of the capital to repeal the plan.

A repeal measure will probably make it onto the 1986 ballot unless the legislature finds a way of substantially altering the system, committee members agreed Sunday.

"I would guess it would pass quite handily," said former Anchorage mayor George Sullivan, one of three

members of the public on the committee.

Legislators on the special committee said they didn't feel overpaid under the 1983 pay system. Sen. Bettye Fahrenkamp, D-Fairbanks, told committee members she probably earned less under the new plan than under the old one. Per diem payments to legislators weren't taxable, legislators said. The increase in base salary is.

See Page B-3, COMMITTEE

Committee looks for alternatives to legislative pay system

Continued from Page B-1

"I don't know a single member on our side of the fence who thinks they make too much money," Fahrenkamp said. She added that members of the public would probably think legislators overpaid "even if we made only \$10,000."

Each committee member

agreed to bring forward their own recommended pay plans, plans that are modifications of both the old and new legislative salary systems.

Fahrenkamp, for example, said she favored a system where those legislators who work on more committees get more dollars. Larson, however, said that plan — like the old per diem system — was

unfair to members of the minority in the legislature who may have fewer assignments and dollars to take home.

Committee members did agree that the proposed new system should, as Rep. John Sund, D-Ketchikan suggested, provide enough cash so that almost anyone could afford to serve.

The committee will meet again Sept. 13 in Anchorage to discuss pay proposals



Pay-rate setting for members of Congress

By Jody Powell

JAMES MADISON tried to get the Constitutional Convention to recognize that having the Congress determine its own compensation "was an indecent thing" and suggested amendments that would avoid the problem.

Of course Madison's concern was that Congress might pay itself too much, and the present problem is just the reverse. But his apprehension that the members of Congress might be "too much interested to ascertain their own compensation" has

turned out to be entirely valid. The basic problem is still, as Madison observed, "the seeming impropriety in leaving any set of men . . . to put their hands into the public coffers, to take out money to put in their pockets." The difference has turned out to be that the seeming "indecent" and "impropriety" of the system have resulted in a persistent refusal of the Congress to pay itself enough.

The latest Commission on Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Salaries recently heard former Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker say without equivocation that the Congress is "institutionally incapable" of setting its own salaries.

The problem facing the commission, which has wisely determined to focus on the mechanism for determining compensation rather than just the amount of the next raise, is that the average American is not inclined to feel sorry for someone making \$75,000 a year. But the real consideration is not what is happening to the Congress, but what is happening to our system of government.

BAKER'S CONCERN is that we are altering the nature and function of representative government, that we are turning the members of Congress into "elected bureaucrats" and "career professionals" whose relationship with the institutions and interests of official Washington are broader and tighter than those with the constituencies they are elected to represent.

Since 1970 the cost of living, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, has increased almost 200 percent while congressional salaries have risen by only 76 percent.

A large portion of those in Congress circumvent the legal requirement that they maintain a residence in the district or state they represent. That "home" address often turns out to be the residence of a parent, sister or aunt. The real "home" for most senators and representatives is Washington because inadequate compensation makes it impossible for them to afford to do otherwise.

Increasingly, as commission chairman and former New Jersey Sen. Nicholas Brady pointed out, both houses are filled by individuals who are independently wealthy or have no families or both — for the simple reason that they are the only ones who can afford the privilege of serving.

FOR THOSE middle-class families who do try, the situation can be painful and humiliating. Lobbyists, who decry an underpaid Congress even though it increases their leverage, tell of sheepish requests from members who need a speaking engagement "to make ends meet this month." Interest groups find themselves setting up breakfasts and luncheons for the sole purpose of channeling speaking fees to members of Congress.

Though exact figures are impossible to come by for obvious reasons, it is widely reported that as many as 20 congressmen "live out of their offices." Most are members who have families back home and can't afford another house or apartment in Washington.

Baker's solution is a constitutional commission that would set salaries for senators and congressmen. He would also look with favor upon a constitutional amendment to allow the Supreme Court to set congressional salaries.

Though amending the Constitution sounds extreme, it is, in fact, the only way to remove the decision from the hands of those "too much interested" to make a rational judgment.

MARCH 4, 1985
ANCHORAGE TIMES

RECEIVED MAR 7 1985

Dear Colleague:

This newspaper article by a nationally syndicated columnist about congressional pay levels is directly analogous to the Alaska legislative pay issue.

Former Senate Majority Leader, Howard Baker, is proposing that an independent commission be established to set congressional pay. Alternatively, he suggests that the Supreme Court could do it. The point is, a legislative body should not set its own pay.

Please review HB 129, attached. It would establish an independent commission to set the pay of Alaskan legislators. I welcome your co-sponsorship and solicit your support to enact this bill as soon as practical.

Best regards,

Marco (mk)

Marco A. Pignalberi
State Representative

MAP:mk

Introduced: 1/25/85
Referred: State Affairs,
Judiciary and Finance

BY PIGNALBERI, PHILLIPS AND
JENKINS

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 129

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to compensation of legislators;
7 establishing a commission on legislative compensa-
8 tion; and providing for an effective date."

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 * Section 1. AS 24.15.020 is repealed and reenacted to read:

11 Sec. 24.15.020. SALARY OF LEGISLATORS. The compensation of a
12 legislator shall be established in accordance with AS 24.15.080 -
13 24.15.110.

14 * Sec. 2. AS 24.15 is amended by adding new sections to read:

15 ARTICLE 3. COMMISSION ON LEGISLATIVE COMPENSATION.

16 Sec. 24.15.080. COMPENSATION COMMISSION ESTABLISHED. (a) The
17 Commission on Legislative Compensation is established. The commission
18 is composed of five members appointed jointly by the president of the
19 senate and the speaker of the house for terms of four years. Commis-
20 sion membership shall include at least one business executive, one
21 representative of a nonpartisan voters' organization, one person with
22 experience in public administration and one representative of a labor
23 organization. A vacancy shall be filled for the balance of the un-
24 expired term.

25 (b) The commission shall annually elect a member to chair its
26 meetings. A majority of the commission members constitutes a quorum
27 to transact business. A majority of the members must approve the
28 commission's recommendations on legislative compensation.

29 (c) The commission shall meet at the call of the chair. Notice

1 effective date of this Act shall remain in effect until the commission has
2 recommended a change and the legislature has adopted it in accordance with
3 AS 24.15.100.

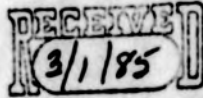
4 * Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
5 10.070(c).

Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

Official Business

Office of the Majority Caucus



MEMORANDUM

To: Rep. Mike Szymanski; Rep. Pat Pourchot
From: John Baker
Date: February 26, 1985

Re: Opinion in Anchorage on Legislative Pay Raise

I think you should be aware of a growing perception in Anchorage that nothing will be done this session about the legislative pay raise.

Not only are both Anchorage papers (refer to editorial in 2/25/85 Anchorage Daily News) now warning against legislative inaction, but "man in the street" opinion is moving toward the conclusion that legislators will "dump" the issue on the voters on the 1986 ballot. It seems likely that such an eventuality would represent a lost opportunity for legislators to demonstrate resolve, and responsiveness to public opinion.

Just thought you should be advised of the apparent mood up here. More as it develops.

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State Capitol
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- ☐ 1024 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 274-4031
- ☐ 524 4th Avenue
Suite B
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 452-3421

Anchorage Daily News



Winner, 1976 Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service

Gerald E. Grilly
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Howard Weaver
Managing Editor

Steve Lindbeck
Editorial Page Editor

Katherine Fanning, Editor and Publisher 1971 to 1983
Lawrence Fanning, Editor and Publisher 1987 to 1991

Alaska's Only Morning Newspaper • Founded in 1946 by Herman C. Brown

Feb. 26

Pension hike worst aspect of pay raise

It's disheartening to read about the apparent indifference of legislative leaders — House Speaker Ben Grussendorf and Senate Majority Leader Rick Halford, to name two — about Alaskans' widespread dissatisfaction with the 1983 legislative pay raise. This is a problem the legislature should deal with; indeed, it's a problem many legislators campaigned on a promise to deal with. But apparently they won't.

Rep. Grussendorf, perhaps unwittingly, revealed the problem pretty clearly the other day when he said the question would be on the ballot in 1986 and that, "Since it's going to be on the ballot, there's no rush to deal with it this session." Translated, that means something like: The voters can decide, so don't bother us now.

That's too bad, because the legislature can and should settle the flap on its own. All it really needs to do is remove the worst features of the pay raise bill.

The 1983 pay raise pushed legislative salaries from \$20,000 to \$46,800 while removing per diem payments. That was a pretty healthy raise, even in oil-rich Alaska. But the worst thing about the pay raise was that it considerably jacked up pension benefits for legislators of longstanding service — and that considerably changed a legislator's relationship toward the office by adding a major financial incentive for simple longevity.

Alaskans don't need legislators who remain in office because, on the margin, pension benefits are attractive. Alaskans need legislators with conviction, courage, brains and public spirit who will remain in office so long as they can contribute affirmatively — and no longer.

Alaskans should pay their legislators well — so that the job will attract high-quality candidates to an important, demanding job; so that legislators will have less need for outside sources of income; and so that Alaskans from all walks of life, and not just the independently wealthy, can afford to serve.

Legislators, for their part, shouldn't have to take such blatantly self-serving action as setting their own pay and benefits, a task that would be better suited to an independent salary commission charged with the task. Legislators should do their job strictly in service to public needs and public purposes — with no illusions or blandishments about what public service holds for them.

The pension system, particularly as it was inflated by the 1983 pay raise, is a corruption of all that. It tempts even the most public-spirited legislator to consider personal interests in legislative longevity quite apart from the craft of government and politics.

The ideal solution would preserve whatever part of the pay raise the public would stand for, banish pension benefits altogether, and create an independent salary commission to handle such matters in the future. Do those things and Alaskans surely would be willing to pay legislators adequately for doing a tough and vital job. Do nothing and Alaskans will surely revoke the 1983 pay and benefits hike altogether when that ballot question comes around in 1986. That would put everyone — except a few long-time legislators whose pensions had been hiked — back where the whole mess started.

Daily News
2/21/85

Legislative raise repeal unlikely soon

By AMN COMY
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — Key members of the state legislature acknowledged Wednesday that it appears lawmakers are not likely to repeal their 1983 pay raise this session.

Many successful candidates for the legislature campaigned last fall against the pay raise, and several bills have been introduced to scale back legislative pay to its previous level.

The House majority coalition's stated goals for this session include "addressing the legislative pay raise," but apparently that doesn't necessarily mean repealing it.

"In the election of '84, the question (of repealing the pay raise) is going to be on the ballot," noted House Speaker Ben Grussendorf, D-Sitka.

"Since it's going to be on the ballot, there's no rush to deal with it this session." Grussendorf said the legislature has more pressing business to tackle, such as deciding where to cut the governor's proposed budget and how to resolve problems with the Alaska Longevity Bonus program.

See Back Page, REPEAL

Repeal of legislators' 1983 pay raise not likely during this session, key lawmakers say

Continued from Page A-1

"There are a lot more important things coming up right now," agreed Sen. Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage. "Given the problems we have now and the 120-day session limit, it doesn't seem likely we'll get something substantial done on that (repeal) bill."

Abood is chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee, which has before it three bills aimed at repealing the pay raise and establishing a commission to deal with legislative salaries.

Before the pay hike, lawmakers drew an annual salary of \$20,000 and were paid an \$80-a-day expense allowance during the session. They also received \$4,000 a year for miscellaneous office expenses, but were not required to show receipts for those expenses.

In 1983, lawmakers more than doubled their salary, to \$46,800, and kept the additional \$4,000 office allowance. They abolished the \$80-a-day expense allowance and cited that as part of the justification for the pay increase.

But under the new system, lawmakers' pensions, which are based on the salary and office allowance, benefited.

For most lawmakers, pension payments are calculated on the highest average salary collected in any three consecutive years as a public employee.

If the pay raise were repealed this year, the old salary would bring down the high average of the last two years.

Abood and Grussendorf said it's likely the legislature will work on the pay raise, and the salary commission idea, in the interim between

this session and next.

Senate Majority Leader Rick Halford said he hasn't paid much attention to bills aimed at repealing the pay raise but acknowledged that he would know about it if passage were a high priority for the Senate majority coalition this session.

Senate President Don Bennett, R-Fairbanks, said he didn't have time Wednesday to discuss repeal of the pay raise.

Rep. Katie Hurley, D-Wasilla, is the prime sponsor of a House bill to roll back the pay hike. Her bill and similar ones are in the House State Affairs Committee, which she chairs.

Hurley, who campaigned against the pay raise, said she wants to see the raise repealed this session, in part to assure the question can be

removed from the 1986 ballot.

"If it's on the ballot in '86 it becomes a big campaign issue again when we ought to be talking about more substantive issues," she said.

Hurley estimated there's a 50-50 chance of the repeal passing the House this session but conceded that repeal is not likely to go anywhere without the support of the leadership in both houses of the legislature.

Grussendorf, as part of his duties as Speaker of the House, has referred the repeal and related bills to four committees, instead of the usual three, which will make it more difficult for those bills to reach the House floor for a vote this session.

State Affairs is the first of the four committees, and one of the next stops will be the House Judiciary Committee.

Judiciary Chairman Mike Miller, D-Juneau, proposed the pay raise in 1983.

Grussendorf and Abood defended the pay raise, although Grussendorf said he voted against it in 1983 and Abood said he'd vote to repeal it if that's what his constituents demand.

Although the framers of the state constitution envisioned a part-time citizen legislature, the reality of handling billions of dollars a year in oil revenues and the problems accompanying state population growth have turned the job into year-round work, they said.

"You can't say to your constituents five months before the session starts, 'Hey, don't bother me now,'" Grussendorf said.

"There's a part of the public that wants to see the pay

raise repealed," Abood said. "I don't believe they understand what the situation is."

They want us to be part-time legislators and deal with full-time problems. But it can't be done. The public has got to understand they can't have their cake and eat it too."

If repeal of the pay raise is put off until next year, Alaskans might see a virtual replay of events from the mid-1970s.

Lawmakers invoked public indignation in 1978, when they raised their salaries from \$9,000 to \$14,700.

In 1976, the legislature established a salary commission, and in the fall of that year voters took away the 1975 pay raise with a ballot initiative.

The salary commission was abolished in 1980.

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2/21/85

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By ANN CONY
Daily News reporter

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S-4-P5
Jensen
THE GENERAL view of this year's legislative session has been positive — at least from the standpoint that the deportment of the individual lawmakers has been good, in sharp contrast to many sessions of the past decade.

But deportment wasn't the issue Wednesday when the members of the House acted in a way that was both extremely disappointing and reflective of the reason so many Alaskans hold the legislature in low esteem.

On a 24-15 vote, the House decided to appoint an interim panel to study whether or not to roll back the huge pay raise members gave themselves at the end of the 1983 session. How ridiculous.

The legislators know good and well that a vast majority of Alaskans are upset with that pay raise — and almost certainly will vote next year, at their first opportunity to do so, to repeal the pay hike by a referendum vote.

The legislators also know fully well that Wednesday's vote was nothing more than a stalling mechanism to see to it that no bill to repeal the pay hike will be considered before this session ends a week from Monday.

It's a black mark on the '85 session that won't be easily rubbed away.

THERE ARE, it needs to be said, some members of the legislature who fought to bring about the roll-back. Some of them argued vigorously on the House floor against the proposal to pass the buck to an interim committee.

Their arguments were based on sound reasoning.

Why, they asked, must an interim panel research and review the pay raise?

Why should the state have to go to the effort to find out how much other states pay their legislators when the information is already at hand? (Indeed, copies of other-state pay rates for lawmakers were being cir-

culated in the House while the debate was going on.)

The answers are obvious.

Some lawmakers like being the highest paid legislators in the United States. Their hearts palpitate in anticipation of receiving generous pensions based on the high salary levels. At the same time, however, they don't want to be on record as being against the pay cut because they know how the voters view the pay raise. Thus they opted for a cop-out — the formation of an interim panel, as a means of disguising the fact they really want to keep the high pay in place.

WELL, A lot of Alaskans are smart enough to see through the ruse — a fact that might surprise some of the legislators when they get home after the session ends. Some voters may even remember by the time elections roll around again in 1986.

But for the moment, for your clip-and-save file, here's a list of those who voted in favor of the measure which effectively killed repeal of the legislative pay raise this session:

Yes: Reps. Red Boucher, D-Anchorage; Bette Cato, D-Valdez; Don Clocksin, D-Anchorage; Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River; Mike Davis, D-Fairbanks; Jim Duncan, D-Juneau; Steve Frark, R-Fairbanks; Walt Furnace, R-Anchorage; Max Gruenberg, D-Anchorage; Adelheid Herrmann, D-Naknek; Niilo Koponen, D-Fairbanks; Ron Larson, D-Palmer; Mike Miller, D-Juneau; Mike Miller, R-North Pole; Mike Navarre, D-Kenai; Marco Pignalberi, R-Anchorage; Steve Rieger, R-Anchorage; John Ringstad, R-Fairbanks; Dick Shultz, R-Tok; John Sund, D-Ketchikan; Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage; Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell; Dave Thompson, R-Kodiak; Rick Uehling, R-Anchorage.

Rep. Pat Pouchot

EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL, ANCHORAGE TIMES,
JANUARY 28, 1985

Delaying tactics

IT IS discouraging to learn that the chairman of the House State Affairs Committee plans additional hearings on a bill to repeal the pay increase Alaska legislators gave themselves in the closing days of the 1983 session.

The measure has been discussed to death. Thousands of Alaskans have signed petitions to bring the matter to a vote on next year's general election ballot, at which time the pay increase certainly will be repealed by referendum — unless the lawmakers show enough gumption before then to do the job themselves.

The committee held a hearing Saturday on proposed legislation to repeal the raise and got an earful of the public's feeling about the

matter.

No more talk is necessary.

THE RAISE eliminated the \$80 per diem payments legislators have been drawing for each day they are away from home on state business. It increased their annual salaries from \$20,000 to \$46,200. It made Alaska's lawmakers, who serve the smallest population in the nation, the highest paid in all the states. Because their salaries determine the amount of pensions legislators will receive, the raise ballooned the amounts that will appear on those retirement checks.

The raise was unnecessary, unearned and violently unpopular with a vast majority of Alaskans.

The legislators know good and well that it will be repealed overwhelmingly if they let this issue run its course and go to the 1986 ballot. Their reason to delay action now is to pocket the higher salaries — and credit toward their retirement benefits — that will accrue prior to the '86 repeal.

THE 1985 legislature, however, has the power to end all the monkey business by acting now to rescind the increase. Delaying action on any one of the five repeal bills that have been introduced only postpones the inevitable. A call for further hearings can only be construed as a way to delay a vote.

As one witness at Saturday's hearings pointed out, the state would save about \$1 million a year if the raise is repealed.

Alaskans are ready for that to happen — not at the end of this session nor even in the middle, but now.

Early breakup

THE LATEST development in this crazy winter of '85, the big melt that took place over the weekend, has its bright side.

Those who were out and about Sunday were forced to dodge huge puddles in the streets, to take extra care walking on the slippery sidewalks and keep at least one eye alert to passing motorists whose vehicles were splashing water every which way.

Difficult as it might be to see anything good in all the sloppy mess, it should be remembered that for every drop of melt that goes into the drainpipes now, one less will be around for the big breakup in the spring.

Anchorage residents might even enjoy this year's breakup season. There might not be anything left to break up.

Pay raise repeal needed

With the legislative session now well past the halfway mark (today is the 71st day in the 120-day session), we're disappointed legislators haven't been more aggressive in addressing their own pay rates.

There's still time, though, for the 14th Alaska Legislature to repeal the exorbitant raise adopted by the 13th, set up a mechanism to determine future salary levels, and thereby take a large step toward restoring voter confidence in this branch of government.

Voters will take up the job of repealing the pay raise through an initiative vote scheduled for 1986 if lawmakers haven't done the job themselves. We think the outcome of the ballot issue is not much of a mystery, and charge legislators with setting their budget concerns onto this issue and passing the repeal themselves this year. Such an action would make moot the 1986 ballot issue and it would be removed from the ballot.

The House State Affairs Committee, chaired by Anchorage Rep. Katie Hurley, a supporter of the pay raise repeal, passed out a bill (HB 48) earlier this month. The bill's next stop, though, was the Judiciary Committee, where it is unlikely to see action unless Alaskans put some pressure on Chairman Mike Miller of Juneau. Miller was the sponsor of the 1983 amendment that raised legislative salaries from \$20,000 plus \$80 per day per diem during the session to \$46,000 with no per diem.

It's too bad that legislators like Rep. Miller don't see the light of day on this issue.

Alaskans don't want a full-time Legislature earning full-time pay. We adopted a session limit in part to prevent that from happening. It should be obvious that the current pay schedule and retirement benefits are way out of step for the part-time citizen-legislator nature of the job.

What's really needed is an independent commission that could periodically examine legislative salaries and make recommendations that lawmakers could enact.

The first step, though, is to repeal the exorbitant raise of 1983. That action should come during this session.

EDITORIAL, FAIRBANKS
DAILY NEWS-MINER,
MARCH 25, 1985

FAIRBANKS **Daily News - Miner**

(USPS-183900)

200 North Cushman, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

An Independent Newspaper



Established in 1903

Published Daily and Sunday by Fairbanks Publishing Co.

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Prudence in Juneau

ONE BRIGHT STAR is shining through the clouds of the Alaska political world. It is the performance of the 1985 legislature now in session at Juneau.

The legislators are behaving more nearly like statesmen than they have in recent years. Instead of fussing and fuming over the issues before them, they are searching for ways to resolve their differences and come up with constructive legislation.

This is a remarkable contrast to last year's session which, at times, set up a noisy din like that of a truck loaded with empty milk cans colliding with a train loaded with live geese.

This new attitude was reflected in the Senate action approving an amended version of its longevity bonus plan.

stubbornly on their separate plans, the two houses made a deal. Each will pass its own plan and the two conflicting bills will then be referred to a conference committee where a compromise will be attempted.

This kind of legislative effort shines like a bright star although it should be a routine incident. The storms and turbulence of past sessions have given way to what appears to be a sincere effort to find solutions to problems rather than drawing battle lines and standing pat.

SOME LEGISLATORS attribute this new attitude to the voters. They say the returns in the last election showed they were not inclined to vote for those who engaged in fussing and fuming.

ALASKA FEVER



The Anchorage Times

Editorial

MARCH 22, 1985
ANCHORAGE TIMES

Pensions at stake

THE WRITER of a Letter to the Editor published in this newspaper Tuesday called state lawmakers on the carpet for not fulfilling their campaign promises to repeal the pay raise legislators gave themselves in 1983.

The author, David M. Oathout, is one of many Alaskans who are coming to the realization that repeal is unlikely this session because it would deny some veteran lawmakers generous pensions in their retirement.

Legislators — some of them, anyway — are avoiding the issue by telling the voters that repeal of the pay raise will be on the ballot in 1986, so the session should concentrate on more pressing matters.

Legislators' pensions are based on their three highest years' earnings. By 1986 some of them will have drawn the higher salary for three years. So even if the voters repeal the pay raise next year, the higher base for pensions will apply for the rest of their lives.

THE PAY RAISE, which doubled legislators' salaries to \$46,800 and made them the highest paid state lawmakers in the United States, was among the most unpopular actions of any legislature in Alaska's history. All across the state, Alaskans reacted with anger and disbelief. The raise made it clear to the voters that the politicians who were representing them in Juneau were self-serving individuals out to line their own pockets with some of

the state's oil bonanza.

Not widely realized at the time was the effect the raise would have on legislators' pensions. They, too, would be doubled in some cases. Thus, their pockets would be lined for a long, long time.

REPEALING the raise effective July 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year, would save the state \$1.1 million in legislative salaries next year and another \$300,000 in pension payments down the line. Few would deny that such a move is appropriate at a time when state revenues are declining.

There are several bills in the hopper that deal with repeal, which indicates that some legislators are anxious to get rid of the raise. But the bills aren't moving. One of them, a House bill that received broad support during a hearing in Anchorage early in the session, has been stuck for weeks in the House Judiciary Committee.

Those with power in the legislature — generally those who've been there a long time and stand to benefit the most from a delay — are once again succeeding in thwarting the public interest in order to serve their own purposes.

If the legislature doesn't repeal the raise this year, the voters will certainly do it next year. That will be too late to stop today's legislators from retiring for life at the higher pension, but it certainly will block future legislators from enjoying the same plush retirement.

still under review. One fact that had impressed the Pentagon generals is that building costs at Fort Wainwright are ten times higher than those for construction at Fort Richardson.

The criteria for selecting the location for headquarters are such that Fort Richardson is favored over Fort Wainwright. They include proximity to the Alaskan Air Command headquarters and

be concerned for their own welfare, regardless of the fact that their friends at Fairbanks interpret their concern as against Fairbanks' desires to enjoy substantial growth in the Fort Wainwright military establishment. There has never been local opposition to growth there. The opposition is only against removal of the military already here.

How to save a million

LEGISLATORS and the governor are perspiring heavily over some tough budget problems. It's beginning to appear the state spending program may be pared down considerably, just as many lawmakers had been forecasting at the beginning of the session.

Because oil income has dropped off significantly, there is talk about state employee layoffs, reductions in loan programs, retrenchment in departmental operating budgets and denial of pay increases already negotiated for state employees.

There also are discussions of a next-to-nothing capital budget for next year, in sharp contrast to the massive ones in recent years.

EACH OF THESE options is serious business.

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Severe reductions in the capital budget deny communities and regions of needed facilities. They are a sharp blow to the construction industry and, therefore, to the economy of the state.

ONE OPTION not being seriously discussed by the legislators would be popular with many Alaskans. It also would save the state more than \$1 million next year alone.

By simply by rolling back the exorbitant pay increase they gave themselves two years ago, the legislators not only would save a million bucks but also would set a nice tone for the remaining five weeks of the session. It would show Alaskans that their elected representatives are putting service above self as they come to grips with the most serious financial problem the legislature has had to face since it started going wild a few years ago when the oil money began to flow.

What others say

From The Fairbanks News-Miner

FOR THE THIRD time, Anchorage has been named an All-America city, an honor not many communities earn even once. Coping

with growth of the scale Anchorage has seen has been a major challenge. Our congratulations to our neighbors for a well-deserved honor.

Mario Cuomo

By William A. Rua

New York — In his 1982 race New York, Mario Cuomo was dissonance commercials surrounded by handsome Italian family, bragging devotion to the "family values."

Then came Cuomo's inaugural; dropped the other shoe. The "family talking about, it turned out, was New York" — all 18 million of us — new governor's expansive plans for various sorts not a single one of our or sisters was to be overlooked or slipped.

I WASN'T ESPECIALLY sure Cuomo set the Democratic convention cisco on its ear last summer with a bit Ronald Reagan and his administration old Politics of Envy, rancid and angry with a passionate conviction that hatched on those themes since the depth Depression.

But now 1983 looms ahead, and moved to the right. In an article in public, reporter Fred Barnes tells us now aspires to be known simply as a pragmatist.

In the words of one close Cuomo aide heart is on the left, but his wallet's or Aides point to various speeches and p over the years in which Cuomo did indicate conservative positions on certain tably crime.

AND WHAT ABOUT that speech Francisco? Aw, shucks, that was just a campaign oratory.

Certainly Cuomo makes no bones wide gap between his raucous campaign what he regards as his commendably record as governor. "You campaign in p govern in prose," is his winning way of p

According to Barnes, Cuomo's political think that in foreign policy they have a their man can play whichever way looks in 1983. As one points out, if Cuomo's lip paint proves inconveniently hard to remove could come out and say, "Sure, I'm liberal mestic issues, but look how conservative foreign policy."

Just how much of all this tergiversation can voters will buy is another question. Pe I am satisfied that at San Francisco last we saw the real Mario Cuomo, but will th remember that savage performance? Will only a shrewd, swivel-hipped opportunist, ging downfield toward the White House?

Benchley

THIS IS NEAT, SNEAKING AWAY FROM THE OFFICE A LITTLE EARLY TO HOIST A FEW WITH A PAL.

YES, SIR.

Opinion

JUNEAU EMPIRE

WILLIAM S. MORRIS III
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Stockman

Los Angeles Times Syndicate
David Stockman rang for one of his assistants. "I'm going up on the Hill to testify today. What segment of the population haven't we offended yet?"
"Let's see. You have the farmers mad at you, the students up in arms, and the military want your scalp. What about the American Indians?"

"I'm saving them for later. Are the veterans ticked off?"

"They certainly are, particularly after you charged that the military is more interested in protecting their pensions than their country."

"Can't anybody take a joke?"

"It's hard to get people to laugh, Dave, when their ox is being gored."

"My job is to gore oxen. What sacrifice are you making?"

"Would you want to take on lawyers? They cost the country billions of dollars every year."

"No one gives you credit for attacking lawyers," Stockman replied.

Saving money everyone's job

Just as an army depends on its foot soldiers, Alaska legislators depend on their staffers to take care of business. This year, the main order of business has been closely scrutinizing every nook and cranny of the state's budget. Each department and agency has been undergoing extensive review — and many cuts — as the state's leaders look for ways to save some \$400 million.

During some previous sessions, such a task would have sent coalition leaders scrambling. This session, legislators have gone about this difficult job in a professional and level-headed manner, a point they can take pride in.

One issue, however, comes to mind. Just as each state department is undergoing close scrutiny and cuts, perhaps legislators should take a systematic look at their \$46,000 annual salaries and the way their staffs' salaries, which range up to \$5,000 a month, were determined. It isn't being critical to do this, and it's not a reflection on their performance. It's just asking that everyone realize the state's leaders can no longer pay what they want, only what they can afford.

Of equal concern is the administration's hiring freeze, which hasn't quite set. Early this year, the governor established a \$70,000-a-year science adviser. Now the Department of Administration has hired a \$50,000-a-year information officer. It would be difficult to argue that either job is necessary for state government to operate.

Again, this is not a tirade against legislative staffers or hiring people who are absolutely essential to the well-being of the state. It's just our belief that as long as belt-tightening is the order of the day, everyone should do it.

Letters

Subsistence and wolf control

Dear Editor:

With respect to aerial wolf hunting and Interior moose populations, we are concerned with the subsistence needs of rural Interior residents. I find it unusual that they do not support efforts other than wolf control to protect their own food supply. For example, they do not want to temporarily prohibit non-local sport hunters from hunting moose in their local areas when moose populations are supposedly so low as to require wolf control. Neither do they support efforts to restrict the use of aircraft and ATVs used for hunting at least until the moose and caribou populations have a chance to recover. They don't even seem interested in having good population data or in reducing rampant illegal hunting. And, especially in view of urban and rural Alaska's exploding population and increasing access, they don't support steps to limit increased hunting activity while moose or caribou

April 13, 1985 ANCHORAGE TIMES

ials

Robert B. Atwood
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Elaine Atwood
Assistant Publisher

Vice Pr

William J. Hofer
General Manager

T.A. Durr
Managing Editor

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Edi

ALASKA FEVER



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POLITICS TODAY



A valuable catch for the Republicans

By Jack W. Germond and Jules Witcover

Washington — The Republicans can be forgiven their display of enthusiasm at the decision of Jeane Kirkpatrick to switch parties and become a Republican in name as well as in behavior.

These are heady days for the Republicans in the aftermath of President Reagan's extraordinary triumph last Nov. 8. And from the White House on down, they are giving a high priority to persuading Democrats to abandon their party and join the winners of the moment.

Moreover, the Republicans are enjoying considerable success, at several levels. Opinion surveys show the number of voters who identify themselves as Republican rather than Democratic has increased rapidly in the last few months — to the point where the two parties are essentially even.

KIRKPATRICK, THE ambassador to the United Nations during Reagan's first term, is obviously a valuable catch. Her conversion can be used as further evidence that all the best people are changing parties these days. That special credential was reflected in the fact that Vice President George Bush joined the conversion ceremony, and that President Reagan sent a letter testifying that he had found his own decision to change parties eminently satisfying.

TV: contrasts and causes

As a practical matter, however, the

OPINION

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APRIL 12, 1985
JUNEAU EMPIRE

What others say

Legislative pay should be cut

The following is reprinted from the April 5, 1985 edition of the Anchorage Times.

Legislators and the governor are perspiring heavily over some tough budget problems. It's beginning to appear the state spending program may be pared down considerably, just as many lawmakers had been forecasting at the beginning of the session.

Because oil income has dropped off significantly, there is talk about state employee layoffs, reductions in loan programs, retrenchment in departmental operating budgets and denial of pay increases already negotiated for state employees.

There also are discussions of a next-to-nothing capital budget for next year, in sharp contrast to the massive ones in recent years.

Each of these options is serious business.

Layoffs are a very painful way to save money. So are cuts in loan programs. Eliminating promised pay increases weakens employees' trust in the state.

Severe reductions in the capital budget deny communities and regions of needed facilities. They are a sharp blow to the construction industry and, therefore, to the economy of the state.

One option not being seriously discussed by the legislators would be popular with many Alaskans. It also would save the state more than \$1 million next year alone.

By simply by rolling back the exorbitant pay increase they gave themselves two years ago not only would save a million bucks but also would set a nice tone for the remaining five weeks of the session. It would show Alaskans that their elected representatives are putting service above self as they come to grips with the most serious financial problem the legislature has had to face since it started going wild a few years ago when the oil money began to flow.



Editorials

Robert B. Atwood
President and Publisher

William J. Hofer
General Manager

Politicians' paychecks

THE GOVERNOR has entered a bill in the legislature that provides for a 5 percent pay raise to the state's non-union employees.

And the same to legislators.

And to the lieutenant governor.

And to himself.

The bill doesn't mention legislators and the lieutenant governor and governor specifically. It merely refers to non-union workers.

Alaska's lawmakers aren't due for a raise for a long time. In fact, there is an overwhelming sentiment in the state that they're instead due for a reduction on the last raise they gave themselves.

The current situation which would give them another increase stems from the fact that some years ago legislators tied their own pay to that of non-union employees. They did this because previously they had found it awkward and embarrassing to have to increase their own wages separately.

They're therefore mired in a problem of their own making.

THE WORD from Juneau is that the legislators' raise won't be approved. That's fortunate.

But the fact that the state-worker pay-increase bill made no attempt to separate out elected politicians indicates that the governor's office cares little for how the people it serves view the high salaries of elected politicians.

It was almost by accident that some of the new legislators found out they were being set up for raises. They weren't aware of the history of how legislative pay has been set. When the bill got to

the Senate State Affairs Committee for review, one of the alert members just happened to ask just who the non-union employees are. That's when it came out into the open that the members of the legislature were among them.

"Well," said one of the conservative senators, a rookie, "let's remove ourselves from this bill. We don't want to give ourselves another increase."

It would be too complicated, a staff member testified. The state's classification system is separated into steps and grades and leaving legislators out of the proposed pay raise would put them at a half step.

Goodness. How inconvenient.

THE FACT IS that lawmakers — already overpaid by at least double — aren't there to pass laws for the convenience of clerks who have to figure pay rates.

A simple amendment to the bill could remove them and the governor and his No. 2 man from consideration.

The last raise the legislators gave themselves — the one that lowered Alaskans' esteem for politicians to rock-bottom — went through under the same scenario. It was tied to a state employees' increase.

The pay system for elected official should be divorced from that of state employees. Forever.

Lawmakers and the governor and the lieutenant governor should be made to stand on their own feet — and performance records — when they think they deserve a raise. They shouldn't be allowed to hide behind the petticoats and coattails of state employees.

ALASKA FE

THE FEDS ARE DEMANDING THAT THE STATE INVESTIGATE THE MISUSE OF FUNDS IN THE RENOVATION OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION!



POLITICS TO

Reaga through

By Jack W



Washington — The controversy over President Reagan's plans for his visit to Germany next month underscores an intriguing contradiction in the president as politician.

In one sense, he is the undisputed heavyweight champion of American politics today. That cannot be disputed in light of his performance last fall in capturing 49 states and 59 percent of the popular vote. And his approval rating in opinion polls has

Lessons from the Vietnam conflict

By Don Graff

TEN YEARS after the last helicopter lifted off the roof of the embassy in Saigon, we're still fighting the war in Vietnam.

Was the American involvement in the conflict a "noble cause," as Ronald Reagan sees it, or a tragic mistake as so many other Americans, now as then, maintain?

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— Curtis Wenrich

Self-serving legislators violate trust

Your headline in the Anchorage Daily News hit the mark: Legislators ask all but selves to bite the bullet.

Our 60 legislators have the power not only to pass legislation doubling their own salaries and quadrupling their retirement benefits but to stall any legislation designed to roll back these unconscionable pay raises. And they are doing just that!

Anchorage legislators such as Tim Kelly would have you believe that only Anchorage voters are appalled by these outrageous pay increases. Kelly's statement is: "Only Anchorage cares."

Nothing could be further from the truth! Fairbanks cares and all Alaska cares!

We have spoken to dozens of Fairbanksans who share our views that the time has come to widely publicize the names of the legislators who voted to enact these exorbitant pay hikes.

Legislators voted themselves these pay increases at the end of last session hoping that the public would forget their dark deed during the summer and fall months. The electorate has not forgotten and we can and will throw out those legislators who have no scruples or principles and are in Juneau not to serve this great state of Alaska and all its citizens, but to advance their own selfish and greedy interests.

Legislators with self-serving mentalities are violating the trust which the electorate has placed in them. The sooner we point these people out and replace them, the better Alaska will be for it!

— Jerry and Ruth Bohms

Legislature in for surprise

The headline of April 10 was perfect! "Legislators ask all but selves to bite bullet." That one liner summed up the state of our state. Our legislators remind me of a group of snotty nosed kids who have spent all their allowance and lunch money on video games. They have become obsessed with the speed of the game; addicts for the pace; consumed by the quarter sucking monster. They have dug into their seemingly never ending supply of quarters only to find that not only is the supply getting low but my goodness, these quarters are no longer silver!

So, it's time once again to look to that never ending supply of the silver lined fix of revenue affectionately known as mother (in Alaska we call it oil). Mom please give me more, more, more. I'll just die if I can't play. What do you mean I need to be more responsible? What do you mean I'm getting older and need to learn to conserve and spend wisely? What do you mean you're not always going to be here? Mom, I don't care about all that junk, just give me one more quarter so I can play and I promise I won't ask again.

The moral of this story? You don't know what you've got till it's gone.

— Debbie Bennion

again.

But what party would he represent? While governor he failed to support the Republican candidate — his own party, and since then he seems too comfortable with the Democrat administration in Juneau to try to replace the incumbent Gov. Sheffield.

Personally, I suspect that "the old trapper" got off the trail and lost his compass about the time he failed to follow through on the voter's mandate to move the capital.

— Don Cameron

Separate accounting plan favored

The oil industry has a choice. They can take their profits elsewhere. The state of Alaska has no choice. Alaska must take profits from her resources.

I am not in favor of raising the rate of tax but I am in favor of reverting to the separate accounting system for figuring taxes. This system will allow Alaska to collect fair taxes on her resources by avoiding use of the present average accounting system which, in effect, subsidizes the oil industry for smaller profits extracted from marginal fields outside Alaska.

Since the oil industry argues that lower taxes will create more jobs I have to say one thing. The more jobs argument will gain credence with me when the oil industry stops the practice of importing labor to take jobs from Alaskans.

Many people feel that oil industry accounting systems are designed to avoid paying full taxes due under the present system. For those who would take a mile it seems illogical to give an inch.

— Don Kelly

Is melting plant a snow job?

It now seems that the city is deliberating the problem of where to dispose of snow removed from the streets of Anchorage.

Have no fear though. We can build a snow melting plant for an estimated \$1.5 million (plus land costs) and above all, hire a consultant for 50 grand, so that the rationale of this project can somehow be justified. I wonder how many city employees will it take to run this marvel of modern technology?

the small society

HOO-BOY! THINGS MUST
BE WORSE THAN I THOUGHT—



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4-22 BRick

apply for that ci

Child pageant

The fact that Pageant even exists is a shallow and our Alaskan society has unfortunately invited this generation we losing our country indiscriminately daughters on a path.

These children are put into that mom or dad vicariously through.

Few, if any of "naturally" choose show display. It directing them to t

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APRIL 26, 1985

4—Daily News-Miner, Fairbanks, Alaska

Editorial Opinion and Comment of

FAIRBANKS

Daily News - Miner

"Independent in All Things . . . Neutral in None"

Other opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the Daily News-Miner.

Repeal pay raise

The 14th Alaska Legislature is moving toward its final day with a disappointing lack of progress on proposals to repeal the pay raise adopted in 1983.

Too many legislators apparently are opting to keep raking in the money as long as they can, knowing that voters are likely to repeal the pay raise when they get a chance on the 1986 ballot.

It would be far more fiscally responsible, though, for legislators to do the job themselves this year. They should repeal the 1983 bill that upped their salaries from \$21,000 to \$46,800 (and dropped their \$80/day per diem payments).

If the revenue situation is as bad as we've been told, passage of the pay raise repeal would accomplish two goals. It would save the state some money (by one estimate, \$1.5 million between now and the 1986 election) and it would demonstrate to the voters that lawmakers are using sound judgement in dealing with financial matters.

Since the pay raise also upped the stake legislators have in the retirement pay they'll someday get, it's not hard to figure out why some of them are reluctant to act on the repeal.

At \$46,800, though, legislative pay simply does not reflect the nature of the citizen-legislature that was mandated by the drafters of our state Constitution and endorsed again by voters when we set the 120-day limit. Alaskans want our legislators to be members of the business, professional, labor or other work-a-day world first; members of the Legislature second.

What we need to do is repeal the 1983 pay raise and then establish an independent commission that can make recommendations on legislative pay. Without such a commission, we're only going to run into the same problem time and time again since the Legislature holds the power of the purse.

Action during the 1985 session would put the 14th Legislature on record as a body that responded responsibly to both fiscal concerns and voters wishes. The pay raise repeal should be passed this year.

Legislators introduce bills to cut state pay

By BRUCE SCANDLING
The Associated Press

JUNEAU — Fifteen University of Alaska administrators earn fatter paychecks than Gov. Bill Sheffield and would face salary cuts under two bills introduced by state lawmakers.

University President Donald O'Dowd tops the list, bringing home \$90,938 a year in base pay. Sheffield earns \$81,648 annually.

Proposals to limit state salaries to no more than the governor is paid have been introduced in both the state House and Senate. But trying to figure how many more state workers would be affected by the limit is posing a challenge to legislative staffers working on the measures.

A payroll supervisor said at least 21 state workers — not including university, Alaska Housing Authority and Alaska Railroad employees — earn more than the governor when various pay differentials are counted.

"And I'd say a majority of them are the judges," said Edna Caldwell.

Part of the problem in determining who would be affected revolves around differences in the two bills.

Rep. Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage, drafted legislation that simply says no worker should earn a base salary greater than the governor.

Many state workers, however, especially those in rural areas, have geographic differentials and other pay-boosting factors added to their base salaries.

Szymanski's bill would not count those differentials as base pay, meaning fewer employees would out-earn the governor.

When the salary adjustments are not counted, a review of all classified and exempt state employees — not counting the university — showed no worker earning more than Sheffield, said Mark Higgins, a Szymanski aide.

But a Senate version of the measure would create a large list. The bill drafted by Sen.

See Page C-3, SALARY

Salary cuts for state employees proposed

Continued from Page C-1

Paul Fischer, R-Soldotna, and co-sponsored by six other senators, counts differentials when determining base salary.

Fischer said the practice of paying state workers more according to where they live is a major factor in skyrocketing state salaries.

"It's been somewhat abused over the years," Fischer said. "We have to get away from this thing where the community says it cost two, three or four times more to live in a certain place."

Caldwell said geographic differentials can increase an Alaska worker's salary by up to 33 percent. That's the extra amount an employee is paid for living in such areas as Barrow, Kobuk or the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

A Fairbanks employee gets

an automatic 10 percent geographic boost in salary.

The bill is co-sponsored by Senate President Don Bennett, R-Fairbanks, and Sens. Jack Coghill, R-Nenana; Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage; Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue; Pat Rodey, D-Anchorage; and Edna DeVries, R-Palmer.

Salary figures provided by the university don't include geographic differentials, longevity or other cost factors.

Budget Director Brian Rogers said more than 15 employees would top the governor's salary if those factors were counted. Figuring just base pay, these are the top wage earners in the university system:

- O'Dowd, \$90,938;
- Patrick O'Rourke, Fairbanks campus chancellor, \$88,060;
- Syun Akasofu, Fairbanks professor, \$88,020;

- Carolyn Floyd, Kodiak Community College president, \$87,648;

- Sherman Carter, executive vice president, \$87,185;

- Al Okeson, CREE chancellor, \$86,448;

- David Outcalt, Anchorage campus chancellor, \$85,487;

- Michael Paradise, Juneau campus chancellor, \$85,487;

- Herb Lyon, Anchorage Community College chancellor, \$83,202;

- Juan Roderer, Geophysical Institute director, \$82,953;

- William Phillips, Fairbanks vice chancellor, \$82,745;

- Keith Mather, Fairbanks vice chancellor, \$82,613;

- Bonita Neiland, Fairbanks professor, \$82,568;

- John Bligh, director, Institute of Arctic Biology, \$82,154;

- James Drew, dean, School of Agriculture and Land Resources, \$81,743;

Pay hike repeal rejected

By JOHN LINDBACK
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — A proposal to repeal the pay increase that legislators gave themselves in 1983 was rejected on a 21-19 vote Saturday in the House.

"This year we've been asking everyone but ourselves to bite the bullet," said Rep. Katie Hurley, D-Wasilla.

Hurley and five other House members pushed throughout the session for a floor vote on repealing the controversial pay increase for lawmakers. They got their chance Saturday when Hurley and others offered the repeal in a proposed amendment to a bill that adopted pay increases for non-union state employees.

Supporters of repealing the pay raise have argued that the legislature this session should address the issue before voters do it by passing a 1986 ballot referendum.

They proposed that legislators cut their \$46,000 per year salary back to \$20,000, the pay that lawmakers received before the 1983 vote. The proposal rejected Saturday would have also restored the \$80-per-day expense payments legislators received during legislative sessions prior to the 1983 pay increase.

No advocates of the pay raise spoke out during floor debate.

After Hurley's proposal was rejected, House minority members tried but failed to push through smaller pay cuts for legislators. One proposal would have reduced the annual salary to \$32,000 per year and restored the daily session expense allowances.

The House and Senate this session have passed slightly different bills to create a new legislative committee that would study the legislative pay raise issue this summer.

If the differences in the two bills are not resolved in this weekend's rush for adjournment, that legislation will also die.

Here is a breakdown on a vote to repeal the controversial legislative pay raise:

No: Al Adams, D-Kotzebue; John Binkley, R-Bethel; Bette Cato, D-Valdez; Don Clocksin, D-Anchorage; Jim Duncan, D-Juneau; Jack Fuller, D-Nome; Peter Goll, D-Haines; Ben Grussendorf, D-Sitka; Adelheid Herrmann, D-Dillingham; Niilo Koponen, D-Fairbanks; Ron Larson, D-Palmer; Mike Miller, D-Juneau; Mike Miller, R-North Pole; Mike Navarre, D-Kenai; Steve Rieger, R-Anchorage; John Ringstad, R-Fairbanks; Dick Shultz, R-Delta Junction; John Sund, D-Ketchikan; Robin Taylor, R-Ketchikan; David Thompson, R-Kodiak; Kay Wallis, D-Fort Yukon.

Yes: Red Boucher, D-Anchorage; Virginia Collins, R-Anchorage; Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River; Mike David, D-Fairbanks; Steve Frank, R-Fairbanks; Walt Furnace, R-Anchorage; Max Gruenberg, D-Anchorage; Alyce Hanley, R-Anchorage; Katie Hurley, D-Wasilla; Roger Jenkins, R-Anchorage; Andre Marrou, L-Kenai; Terry Martin, R-Anchorage; Drue Pearce, R-Anchorage; Fritz Pettyjohn, R-Anchorage; Randy Phillips, R-Eagle River; Marco Pignalleri, R-Anchorage; Pat Pourchot, D-Anchorage; Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage; Rick Uehling, R-Anchorage.

ADN 5/12/85

Lawmakers form a panel to study pay raise panel

By BRUCE SCANDLING
The Associated Press

JUNEAU — House and Senate leaders are arguing over whether the public should get a vote on an interim committee to study legislative pay, so they've set up a committee to study the committee.

Despite all the hoopla, one lawmaker said the interim committee might not meet, anyway.

"I'm prepared to let the committee die if we can't come to an agreement with the Senate" and seat three public members, said Rep. Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage.

He wants the interim committee to include three members of the House, three senators — and the three public seats.

That's apparently three more members than the Senate wants on the panel.

But Szymanski said a committee on legislative pay is meaningless if it doesn't give the public a vote.

"I don't want to see a phoney committee put together that's just six legislators sitting there talking about how much they should be paid," said Szymanski.

"It has no credibility without the public," he said. "It's the public that's taking issue to our compensation."

The Senate, meanwhile, voted down the House's pro-

posal to allow public participation on the panel.

But Anchorage Republican Mitch Abood said there may be room to compromise.

Does that mean, then, that it's the intent of the Senate to seat three members of the public on the legislative pay committee?

"I'm not saying that's the Senate position," Abood said. "I'm saying I really think we can work it out."

He said he wants to talk with Szymanski about the legislative pay panel. The two lawmakers are chairing the respective halves of a joint House-Senate committee that will try to resolve whether to seat public members on the interim committee.

As of Thursday afternoon, Szymanski and Abood had not set a meeting date for their joint committee.

The uproar over legislative pay started in the waning hours of the 1983 session, when lawmakers raised their salaries from \$1,757 to \$3,900 and eliminated an \$80 daily expense allowance.

Many legislators campaigned in 1984 to repeal the pay raise, but efforts to push pay-repeal bills through the legislature failed this year.

As a compromise, Senate and House leaders agreed to set up a committee to study the issue during the legislative off-season.

Houses lock horns over pay raise panel

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Despite all the hoopla, one lawmaker said the interim committee might not meet, anyway.

"I'm prepared to let the committee die if we can't come to an agreement with the Senate" and seat three public members, said Rep. Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage.

He wants the interim committee to include three members of the House, three senators — and the three public seats.

That's apparently three more members than the Senate wants on the panel.

But Szymanski said a committee on legislative pay is meaningless if it doesn't give the public a vote.

"I don't want to see a phony committee put together that's just six legislators sitting there talking about how much they should be paid," Szymanski said.

"It has no credibility without the public. It's the public that's taking issue to our compensation."

The Senate, meanwhile, voted down the House's proposal to allow public participation on the panel.

But Anchorage Republican Mitch Abood said there may be room to compromise.

Does that mean, then, that it's the intent of the Senate to seat three members of the public on the legislative pay committee?

"I'm not saying that's the Senate position," Abood said. "I'm saying I really think we can work it out."

Abood called Szymanski's contention that there's no use appointing an interim committee if the public doesn't get a vote an "antagonist kind of approach."

"I don't like that kind of sabre-rattling," Abood said.

He said he wants to talk with

Szymanski about the legislative pay panel. The two lawmakers are chairing the respective halves of a joint House-Senate committee that will try to resolve whether to seat public members on the interim committee.

As of Thursday afternoon, Szymanski and Abood had not set

a meeting date for their joint committee.

The uproar over legislative pay started in the waning hours of the 1983 session, when lawmakers raised their monthly salaries from \$1,757 to \$3,900 and eliminated an \$80 daily expense allowance.



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Six lawmakers to work on employee pay issue

The Associated Press

JUNEAU — Six lawmakers have been named to a conference committee charged with reconciling differences between the House and Senate over an effort to delete state employee pay raises next year.

Three members from the House and three from the Senate will begin their meetings sometime next week in efforts to find a compromise on public pay increases and dozens of other spending issues.

The House and Senate have

passed separate operating budgets for fiscal 1986, which begins July 1. While the totals are about the same — \$1.94 billion — scores of priorities differ. Those differences must be ironed out before the bill is approved.

Named to the committee from the Senate are Sens. John Sackett, R-Ruby, Jan Faiks, R-Anchorage, and Don Bennett, R-Fairbanks.

Named to the panel from the House are Reps. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue, Jim Duncan, D-Juneau, and Rick Uehling, R-Anchorage.

Anchorage Times 5/3/85

State worker pay raises target of summer study

by Bruce Scandling
Associated Press

Juneau — A special panel to study legislative pay over the summer got the go-ahead from House lawmakers Wednesday, signaling the apparent end of efforts this session to repeal a controversial raise lawmakers gave themselves in 1983.

The special committee — which will be comprised of six legislators and three members of the public — was approved when the House endorsed a plan originally introduced in the Senate.

Opponents of the panel said it is just an obvious ploy by some lawmakers to bury the issue for another year.

It is possible, however, that the pay raise issue could come up for one more floor vote when lawmakers address a bill to give cost-of-living pay hikes to non-union state workers.

"This issue isn't going away," said Rep. Pat Pourchot, D-Anchorage. "I'm a little bit chagrined and disappointed that we may not have the opportunity to vote on repealing the pay raise."

He is the author of one of a handful of bills introduced this year to roll back the raise to \$46,800 a year that lawmakers voted themselves in the waning hours of the 1983 session.

Legislators boosted their monthly salaries from \$1,757 to about \$3,900, but eliminated \$80-a-day expense allowances they had been paying themselves.

A subsequent petition-drive collected signatures from some 25,000 Alaskans who said they want the pay raise repealed. The issue will go before voters in November 1986.

Many legislators were elected or re-elected last November after campaigning to repeal the pay raise this year.

Records indicate the higher pay scale will cost the state more than \$1 million this year, and some lawmakers could qualify for heftier retirement benefits by earning higher wages for another year.

Many veteran lawmakers have said they deserve the higher pay because the legislature is not just a half-year job. They say they are expected to handle constituent concerns in the interim — and work long hours when the legislature is in session.

Supporters of establishing the interim committee said such action will give officials time to collect data from other states, information that would help them determine a fair pay scale.

Pourchot, however, protested such arguments.

"It's a poor excuse for what needs to be done," he said.

During speech on the House floor, Pourchot passed around a packet of information listing salaries and other compensation for lawmakers in all 50 states.

"I would submit to you that the information (the committee would gather) is already compiled," Pourchot said. "We have it right here."

Rep. H.A. "Red" Boucher, an Anchorage Democrat who campaigned vigorously against the pay raise, said the proposal to establish an interim committee is really a move to delay action on the issue.

"The entire approach was, 'Hey, let's see if we can end-run the public on this one,'" he said.

"I feel this legislation is a bunch of sop ... it's tokenism," Boucher said. "The entire structure of the committee smacks of the fox and the chicken coop theory."

Originally, the committee was to be comprised of three senators and three members of the House.

But Boucher and Rep. Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage, successfully pushed through an amendment allowing three private citizens to sit on the panel.

House lawmakers passed the interim-committee measure by a 24-to-15 margin. Here's how they voted:

Yes: Reps. Red Boucher, D-Anchorage; Bette Cato, D-Valdez; Don Clocksin, D-Anchorage; Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River; Mike Davis, D-Fairbanks; Jim Duncan, D-Juneau; Steve Frank, R-Fairbanks; Walt Furnace, R-Anchorage; Max Gruenberg, D-Anchorage; Adelheid Herrmann, D-Naknek; Niilo Koponen, D-Fairbanks; Ron Larson, D-Palmer; Mike Miller, D-Juneau; Mike Miller, R-North Pole; Mike Navarre, D-Kenai; Marco Pignalberi, R-Anchorage; Steve Rieger, R-Anchorage; John Ringstad, R-Fairbanks; Dick Shultz, R-Tok; John Sund, D-Ketchikan; Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage; Robin Taylor, R-Wrangell; Dave Thompson, R-Kodiak; Rick Uehling, R-Anchorage.

No: Reps. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue; Virginia Collins, R-Anchorage; Jack Fuller, D-Nome; Peter Goll, D-Haines; Ben Grussendorf, D-Sitka; Alyce Hanley, R-Anchorage; Katie Hurley, D-Wasilla; Roger Jenkins, R-Anchorage; Andre Marrou, L-Homer; Terry Martin, R-Anchorage; Drue Pearce, R-Anchorage; Fritz Pettyjohn, R-Anchorage; Randy Phillips, R-Eagle River; Pat Pourchot, D-Anchorage; Kay Wallis, D-Fort Yukon.

Lawmakers ready for pay raise fight

by Dean Foodick
Associated Press

Juneau — The Senate scheduled floor action today on its version of a \$1.94 billion operating budget for next year, and minority Democrats plan about a dozen amendments — including one to fund state employee pay raises.

The measure emerged Wednesday from the Senate Finance Committee without the \$32 million in general fund money that had been set aside for public employee salary increases next year.

That puts the spending plan at roughly the same level as the operating budget passed Friday by the House, but with different priorities for people and programs. And it sets up a late-session, family feud between the two bodies over state employee pay policy.

If the salary money isn't slipped back into the budget, then it could mean public employee unions would have to renegotiate the last two years of a three-year contract, lawmakers said.

House leaders and Gov. Bill Sheffield are opposed to that idea. And Sen. Joe Josephson said Wednesday that policy decision by the 16-member Republican-dominated majority caucus also is giving him some heartburn.

"I'm very discontented about the state pay issue," Josephson said. "I plan to support the employees and the governor on that. It will be one of the amendments.

"In 1984, the legislature passed Chapter 10, which suggests if the legislature dis-

proves a contract, it does so by registering its disapproval within 60 days," the Anchorage Democrat said. "That was not done."

Josephson wouldn't discuss any of the other amendments he plans to introduce, other than to say they would impact education, health, human services, the arts and the legislative information office.

"Some of those you saw in the House," Josephson said.

Sen. John Sackett, R-Ruby and co-chair of the Senate Finance Committee, said the biggest issue between the houses is in where they reach for their revenue.

"We want to recover \$32 million in general fund money by decreasing salaries on our side; they want \$34 million from AHFC (the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation)," Sackett said. "It's a question of revenue sources.

"The loan programs are nearly identical," he said. "There's very little difference between the House and Senate in gross dollars. It's just in different places."

Under the Senate scenario, the overall operating budget for next year would amount to \$2.6 billion. That includes \$1.94 billion from the state's general fund, \$225,000 in federal money and \$430,000 from other sources.

The comparable figure for the current year was \$2.7 billion, or 4 percent more than the total outlined for fiscal 1986, Sackett said.

Gov. Bill Sheffield had proposed in January that \$2.4 billion be appropriated from the general fund to run government through the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

Times

5/2/85

Daily News 5/2/85

John

The rest of the story

It is not often that we note significant problems with your paper's interpretation of legislative events. There was, though, a major oversight in your story headlined "House majority thwarts attempt to cut pay raise" in the Saturday, April 27, edition of the Daily News.

That story outlined the attempts of the House minority to amend the state operating budget bill (HB 60) so that legislators' pay would be decreased. We are very concerned that the article did not tell "the rest of the story."

While we applaud the intent of the amendments, we did not support the amendments because they could not have accomplished their stated objective. One of the amendments was misdirected, the other was illegal.

The first amendment would have reduced the amount of money appropriated to the legislature, by \$1.1 million — the approximate total of the pay raise for all legislators. That amendment would not result in cutting a legislator's pay. Because legislative pay is determined by statute, the amendment would have only resulted in cutting the legislative

budget in other discretionary areas. It would not cut pay — it would cut postage.

The second amendment proposed changing the legislative pay statutes to limit pay to \$31,000 annually. However, an appropriation bill like HB 60 cannot be used to change statutes. In fact, it is unconstitutional. Article 2, Section 13 of the Alaska Constitution clearly states that "bills for appropriation shall be confined to appropriations." This constitutional prohibition is designed to prevent budget bills from turning into a "Christmas tree" that each legislator can adorn with his or her favorite cause.

The legal and appropriate way to cut salaries is by enactment of our bill, HB 48. This bill repeals the statutory authority for the 1983 pay raise and mandates a return to the legislative pay that prevailed prior to the ill-advised pay raise.

A more appropriate story on the pay raise issue would detail the roadblocks thrown in front of HB 48. Alaskans are truly justified in asking why it is taking more than four months to get a vote on pay repeal in 1985 when it took only a month to get a vote on the pay raise in 1983.

We are adamant in our opposition to the pay raise of 1983 and continue to press hard for the best way to achieve this goal — passage of HB 48.

— Reps. Katie Hurley, Pat Pourchot, Red Boucher, Mike Szymanski, Sam Cotter, Max Gruenberg

Anch Daily News
4-27-85

House majority thwarts attempt to cut pay raise

By JOHN LINDBACK
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — Proposals to roll back legislators' salaries and eliminate the \$2 million discretionary funds controlled by a few powerful lawmakers were both stifled Friday by the 28-member House majority.

House minority members made the proposals in the form of amendments to the \$1.94 billion state operating budget bill that was approved by the House.

They argued that legislative pay should be cut from the current \$46,000 a year to no more than \$31,000 a year. That proposal would trim legislative pay to what it was before the legislature gave itself a raise at the end of the 1983 session.

House minority members also argued that control of the

discretionary funds — labeled last year by legislative candidates as slush funds ripe for abuse — should be shifted from the House speaker and Senate president to the 14-member Legislative Council. The council is a committee of House and Senate members that handles administrative business of the legislature.

House majority members, bound by a pre-legislative session agreement to vote against amendments proposed on the House floor to the budget approved by their Finance Committee, defeated the amendments without even bothering to debate them.

Rep. Virginia Collins, R-Anchorage, said she sponsored the amendment to roll back legislative pay because she campaigned against the

See Page C-3, PAY

Pay issue

Continued from Page C-1

pay raise legislators gave themselves in 1983.

Here is a tally of the House vote on a budget amendment that would have had the effect of cutting legislative pay from \$46,000 a year to no more than \$31,000.

Yes: Virginia Collins, R-Anchorage; Walt Furnace, R-Anchorage; Alyce Hanley, R-Anchorage; Roger Jenkins, R-Anchorage; Andre Marrou, L-Kenai; Terry Martin, R-Anchorage; Drue Pearce, R-Anchorage; Fritz Pettyjohn, R-Anchorage; Randy Phillips, R-Eagle River; Marco Pignatelli, R-Anchorage; Rick Uehling, R-Anchorage.

No: Al Adams, D-Katzebue; John Binkley, R-Bethel; Red Boucher, D-Anchorage; Bette Cato, D-Valdez; Don Clocksin, D-Anchorage; Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River; Mike Davis, D-Fairbanks; Jim Duncan, D-Juneau; Steve Frank, R-Fairbanks; Jack Fuller, D-Nome; Peter Goll, D-Haines; Max Gruenberg, D-Anchorage; Ben Grussendorf, D-Sitka; Adelheid Hermann, D-Dillingham; Katie Hurley, D-Wasilla; Nilo Koponen, D-Fairbanks; Ron Larson, D-Palmer; Mike M. Miller, D-Juneau; Mike W. Miller, R-North Pole; Mike Navarre, D-Kenai; Pat Pourchot, D-Anchorage; Steve Rieger, R-Anchorage; John Ringstad, R-Fairbanks; Dick Shultz, R-Delta Junction; John Sund, D-Ketchikan; Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage; Robin Taylor, R-Ketchikan; Kay Wells, D-Fort Yukon.



Panel to study legislative pay

By DEAN FOSDICK
The Associated Press

JUNEAU — A measure that would set up a legislative committee to look at pay and benefits for lawmakers was sent to the House on Tuesday, putting to rest — at least in the Senate — any efforts to roll back salaries this session.

The resolution (3CR19) was approved 13-4 despite contentions from Sen. Joe Josephson, D-Anchorage, that the public might view it as "a stall, a delay."

"There have been proposals to take this out of our hands ... give it to a commission," Josephson said. "We have taken a lot of heat on this this year."

"I think it's time to get this issue out of our hair forever," he said. "It's a no-win situation. Now we're going to have no solution in 1985."

The resolution calls for three members from the Sen-

ate and three from the House to examine during the interim legislative salaries, per diem and allowances.

The committee would be "directed to take the approach taken by the state regarding salaries with the approach taken by other states and to develop recommendations for reducing operating expenses."

Lawmakers earned \$20,000-a-year plus \$80-a-day in expenses until the waning days of the 1983 session, when they more than doubled their paychecks to \$46,000 annually. Legislators eliminated their per diem pay but kept an extra \$4,000-a-year "stamp and stationery allowance."

Libertarians, meanwhile, completed an initiative drive begun by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. That will give voters in next year's general election the option of rolling back legislative pay scales to 1983 levels.

Anch Daily News
4-24-85

Author Raps Alaska Education Salaries

By Sentinel Staff

Those working in the field of public higher education in Alaska are being paid some of the highest education salaries in the world.

The product of the system, however, does not seem worth the price, says Fred Bigjim, of Sheldon Jackson College.

Bigjim, a social sciences instructor, recently completed a book, "We Talk, You Yawn — A Discourse on Education in Alaska."

"The salary schedule is out of whack in comparison with the accomplishments," said Bigjim this week. "Is a person worth \$70,000 as an instructor in a rural college? Is a DOE (State Department of Education) administrator worth \$68,000 because of longevity?" Do you get an end product worth anything?

"There is no accountability to end results like there is in industry," he said.

Bigjim, an Inupiat Eskimo from Sinrock and Nome, spoke about his book, which has just been published by Press-22 in Portland, Ore. He was graduated from Sheldon Jackson College in the 1960s, and earned two graduate degrees at Harvard University.

"One of the things I was always told was, 'Get an education, Fred, then all the doors will be opened,'" he said. "That turned out to be very false."

"Two of the largest employers of credentialed people are the University and State of Alaska. They have continually stated that once Natives earn the required credentials, opportunities would be available for them.... This is just rhetoric," writes Bigjim in his introduction.

Bigjim said he and other Natives are frustrated, but are not seeking to take over a large proportion of the government positions. They merely want to see a number of qualified Native employees in the state system proportional to the number of Natives in the Alaska population, about 20 percent. And the Natives do not expect non-Natives to be fired to make room for them, Bigjim said.

Bigjim contends the state wastes money and practices outright discrimination in hiring — noting very few Alaska Natives hold administrative positions with either the university or the State Department of Education.



Fred Bigjim

"The system feeds on itself," said Bigjim. "They still aren't listening to what the real areas of concern are in the Native community.... There is just a lot of lip service."

Bigjim claims that the mistakes that have occurred in Native education have been extremely costly, since education costs account for over 40 percent of the state budget.

"By increasing the proportion of Native and local teachers and administrators, the community increases its stake in the future education of its children," writes Bigjim in his book.

He blames education leaders, teachers and their unions, as well as Native communities.

He does not, however, blame particular individuals. "It is not the people's fault. The system shelters them and they do not have to do anything." He also admits that there are some individuals in the higher education system who are worth what they are paid and who do hold personal commitment and dedication.

"But some are just in it for the money," he said.

Bigjim believes that the salary schedule of both the state government and the university system need to be reworked and that unions need to be

"If you have dedicated people, they should not be at the whim of the administration," said Bigjim, noting a need for unions. But the unions should also be striving to maintain the quality of their membership, he said.

"The university could also cut ex-salaries of university personnel," he says in his book. "An example of the waste which has often characterized the university's rural outreach would be the relocation expenses of many university administrators and instructors."

"The numerous workshops, conferences and meetings that are held in Anchorage or at other sites around the State, sometimes for an afternoon session only, could be held via the audioconference network at much less expense."

The higher education system is not monitored closely by the entire community because "not everybody wants to go to college," Bigjim notes.

"You ask the man on the street, 'What do you think of ICC (Islands Community College)?' and he will say, 'I don't know,'" Bigjim said. The system and the narrow group of interest in the community allows the community colleges to choose who will be on the advisory boards rather than require them to hold community-wide elections, he said.

He said he expects two types of reactions to his book: some will say it's about time, and others will label him an angry Alaska Native.

"I don't know if there will be any in between," he said.

True cultural aspects are not being presented in education programs, Bigjim adds. In his book, Bigjim noted some Native educators wonder why traditional dances are taught to Natives in the schools while non-Natives do not learn the foxtrot or waltz, why beading and basketry are taught, and not crocheting and quilting.

Officials rely on training developed in other parts of the country rather than develop training that would serve the uniqueness of Alaska, Bigjim says. He contends the state university should train teachers specifically for the rural areas, where there are only a few children at all different levels.

He also recommends more training for educators who head to rural Alaska as well as overall higher academic standards.

Bigjim said his book began as a position paper for a conference he expected to attend two years ago. He didn't attend the conference, however, but carried the manuscript along on a camping trip last summer, and decided to turn it into a book whose publication would coincide with this year's 100th anniversary of public education in Alaska.

AT 3-1-85

Legislature '85

Pay raise foes claim flak in House

by Bruce Scandling
Associated Press

Juneau — Legislation which would revoke a plump pay raise lawmakers gave themselves in 1983 sparked charges Thursday that House leaders are trying to quash the issue this year.

The accusations came as members of the House State Affairs Committee advanced a proposal to repeal the pay raise, which boosted lawmakers' monthly salaries from \$1,757 to about \$3,900.

It also eliminated \$80-a-day per diem payments lawmakers were receiving.

An initiative to repeal the raise is already scheduled for the 1986 general election ballot. Many legislators, however, campaigned last year on promises to repeal the raise this session.

But at least one lawmaker wondered if the issue has the solid backing of House leaders this year.

"I'll be surprised to see this even reach the House floor this year," said Rep. Marco Pignalberi, R-Anchorage.

He is a leading proponent of the pay-raise repeal, and is one of several lawmakers who have introduced bills to revoke the

raise.

Pignalberi, however, is also one of 11 Anchorage-area Republicans who comprise this year's House minority. That group has little control over cranking up the political clout necessary to push bills through the legislature.

Members of the House majority — who are mostly Democrats — have also drafted legislation to repeal the pay raise.

A measure sponsored by Reps. Katie Hurley, D-Wasilla; Pat Pourchot, D-Anchorage; H.A. "Red" Boucher, D-Anchorage; and Fritz Pettyjohn, R-Anchorage, passed out of the House State Affairs Committee Thursday.

At the hearing, Pignalberi said the matter is perceived as a largely Anchorage issue that is apparently not a priority of House leaders.

"Legislators from other parts of the state express wonder at why Anchorage is so vehement about repealing the pay raise," Pignalberi said. "They've told me that if Anchorage legislators would just shut up about it, the issue would go away."

That drew a quick reaction from Hurley, who chairs the House State Affairs Committee

— and campaigned heavily on the raise-repeal issue.

"I have never been approached by the leadership and told to sit on any bill," Hurley said.

Boucher, another committee member, said House leaders have not tried to keep Anchorage Democrats from pushing through a measure to repeal the pay raise.

"There has been no shielding in our majority caucus," Boucher said.

In an interview after the meeting, House Speaker Ben Grussendorf, D-Sitka, said the issue is a top priority this year.

But repealing the pay raise has taken a back seat to drafting fiscal 1986 budget plans and reworking the state's Longevity Bonus Program, Grussendorf said.

"We are concerned about the pay raise, but we knew it was going to be on the 1986 ballot," he said.

A petition drive to repeal the raise — kicked off by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce and completed by Alaska's Libertarian Party — collected about 26,500 signatures. That's enough to put the question before voters

in 1986.

The only Libertarian lawmaker in this year's legislature said he wouldn't be surprised if House Democrats delay action on the proposal until next year.

"I've been told what they will do is wait until next year and pass a Democratic bill late in the session," said Rep. Andre Marrou, L-Homer. "Then the Democratic Party can keep it off the ballot and take credit for it."

Besides upping pay, the raise lawmakers approved in 1983 also provides legislators a much more lucrative retirement package — since state pension benefits are based on the three highest-paying years of government work.

If the pay raise is not repealed until 1986, many legislators would apparently qualify for a better retirement package.

"One can only speculate about the reason why (House leaders) would pass the bill in 1986 instead of 1985, when the issue will be on the ballot in 1986 anyway," Pignalberi said.

He said he is going to study what the extra year would mean for retirement packages, and plans to bring the issue before lawmakers again.

Anchorage Daily News



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Pension hike worst aspect of pay raise

It's disheartening to read about the apparent indifference of legislative leaders — House Speaker Ben Grussendorf and Senate Majority Leader Rick Halford, to name two — about Alaskans' widespread dissatisfaction with the 1983 legislative pay raise. This is a problem the legislature should deal with; indeed, it's a problem many legislators campaigned on a promise to deal with. But apparently they won't.

Rep. Grussendorf, perhaps unwittingly, revealed the problem pretty clearly the other day when he said the question would be on the ballot in 1986 and that, "Since it's going to be on the ballot, there's no rush to deal with it this session." Translated, that means something like: The voters can decide, so don't bother us now.

That's too bad, because the legislature can and should settle the flap on its own. All it really needs to do is remove the worst features of the pay raise bill.

The 1983 pay raise pushed legislative salaries from \$20,000 to \$46,800 while removing per diem payments. That was a pretty healthy raise, even in oil-rich Alaska. But the worst thing about the pay raise was that it considerably jacked up pension benefits for legislators of longstanding service — and that considerably changed a legislator's relationship toward the office by adding a major financial incentive for simple longevity.

Alaskans don't need legisl: ors who remain in office because, on the margin, pension benefits are attractive. Alaskans need legislators with conviction, courage, brains and public spirit who will remain in office so long as they can contribute affirmatively — and no longer.

Alaskans should pay their legislators well — so that the job will attract high-quality candidates to an important, demanding job; so that legislators will have less need for outside sources of income; and so that Alaskans from all walks of life, and not just the independently wealthy, can afford to serve.

Legislators, for their part, shouldn't have to take such blatantly self-serving action as setting their own pay and benefits, a task that would be better suited to an independent salary commission charged with the task. Legislators should do their job strictly in service to public needs and public purposes — with no illusions or blandishments about what public service holds for them.

The pension system, particularly as it was inflated by the 1983 pay raise, is a corruption of all that. It tempts even the most public-spirited legislator to consider personal interests in legislative longevity quite apart from the craft of government and politics.

The ideal solution would preserve whatever part of the pay raise the public would stand for, banish pension benefits altogether, and create an independent salary commission to handle such matters in the future. Do those things and Alaskans surely would be willing to pay legislators adequately for doing a tough and vital job. Do nothing and Alaskans will surely revoke the 1983 pay and benefits hike altogether when that ballot question comes around in 1986. That would put everyone — except a few long-time legislators whose pensions had been hiked — back where the whole mess started.

CWN
2-25-85

AT 2-21-85 Proposal curbs state pay scale

by Bruce Scandling
Associated Press

Juneau — A proposal saying no state worker should earn more than the governor stalled in a legislative committee Tuesday. Lawmakers said they will consider amendments to toughen the measure.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage, would limit the state's basic wage scale to that of Alaska's chief executive.

Currently, Gov. Bill Sheffield earns \$81,648 annually.

At a hearing before the House State Affairs Committee, Szymanski said he wants to slow the steady escalation of state salaries.

"What has occurred over the past years . . . is an effort to slowly, but surely, push up salaries," Szymanski said. "There's really no restraint."

He said two Alaska Railroad workers and 15 University of Alaska administrators and top professors earn basic wages higher than the governor.

His bill, however, would not cut pay for those employees. Instead, any salaries above those of the governor would be frozen until employees retired or left those positions.

Szymanski said his measure defines "basic monthly salary" as base pay before cost-of-living, overtime compensation, geographic differentials and other salary boosters are added.

"This is probably more liberal than most people would want to have it," Szymanski said, "and I would consider any amend-

ments."

Rep. Virginia Collins, R-Anchorage, said she wants to take a closer look at salary boosters, including the geographic differential paid to state workers.

Under that formula, for example, state workers in Fairbanks have their paychecks upped ten percent because of the higher cost of living.

Workers in more remote areas of Alaska earn even higher geographic differentials.

"Are those increments way out of whack?" Collins said.

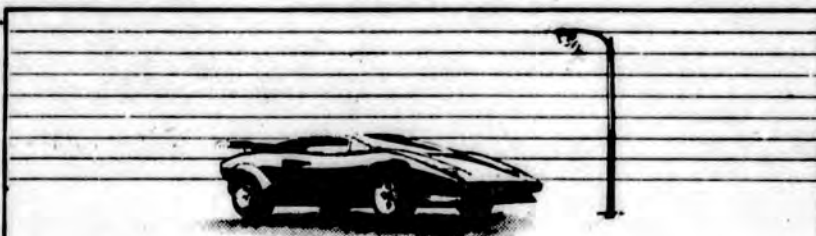
A similar bill introduced in the Senate is tougher than the Szymanski measure, one state administrator said, because it counts salary boosters as part of

base pay.

That means several more employees would be classified as earning more than the governor when overtime compensation, geographic differentials or other salary adjustments are added.

Mike McMullen, deputy director in the state's personnel division, said 40 workers in the executive and judicial branches of state government earned more than the governor last year when a variety of pay boosters were added to basic salaries.

That number doesn't include employees in the University of Alaska system or state corporations like the Alaska Railroad or Alaska Housing Finance Corp., McMullen said.



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ADN 2-21-85

Salary limit bill may be toughened

By BRUCE SCANDLING
The Associated Press

JUNEAU — A proposal saying no state worker should earn more than the governor stalled in a legislative committee Tuesday as lawmakers said they will consider amendments to toughen the measure.

The bill, introduced by Rep. Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage, would limit the state's basic wage scale to that of Alaska's chief executive.

Currently, Gov. Bill Sheffield earns \$81,648 annually.

At a hearing before the House State Affairs Committee, Szymanski said he wants to slow the steady escalation of state salaries.

"What has occurred over the past years ... is an effort to slowly, but surely, push up salaries," Szymanski said. "There's really no restraint."

He said two Alaska Railroad workers and 15 University of Alaska administrators and top professors earn basic wages higher than the governor.

His bill, however, would not cut pay for those employees. Instead, any salaries above those of the governor would be frozen until employees retired or left those positions.

Szymanski said his measure defines "basic monthly salary" as base pay before cost-of-living, overtime compensation, geographic differentials and other salary boosters are added.

"This is probably more liberal than most people would want to have it," Szymanski said, "and I would consider any amendments."

Rep. Virginia Collins, R-Anchorage, said she wants to take a closer look at salary boosters, including the geographic differential paid to state workers.

Under that formula, for example, state workers in Fairbanks have their paychecks boosted 10 percent because of the higher cost of living.

A similar bill introduced in the Senate is tougher than the Szymanski measure, one state administrator said, because it counts salary boosters as part of base pay.

That means several more employees would be classified as earning more than the governor when overtime compensation, geographic differentials or other salary adjustments are added.

"It's
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Turpin's salary prompts cap proposal

Continued from page A-1

bell said Turpin was a real bargain, whose pay was "quite modest" compared with senior rail executives in other parts of the nation. Though extensively quoted in the media as \$337,000 plus benefits for two years, Campbell insists Turpin's salary is \$125,000 per year.

The difference is the 35 percent bonus which Campbell first announced was an incentive to keep Turpin on the railroad for the duration of his two-year contract, and would be paid at the end of the two years in a lump sum of \$87,500.

Campbell recently explained the bonus as compensation in lieu of benefits Turpin is not receiving from the railroad. He said

that Turpin will receive medical, dental, life insurance, and other retirement benefits from Exxon, his former employer, but that he must personally pay for the costs while employed by the railroad. Turpin said the railroad's cost for retirement benefits are comparable to the 35 percent bonus.

But Szymanski disputes that assumption.

"I can't imagine the benefits being more than 10 or 15 percent. That's a lot of dollars — \$15,000 to \$20,000 — to pay for some insurance."

Turpin's predecessor in the general manager position, Frank Jones, was paid more than \$85,000 in salary, rail officials said Thursday. With benefits factored in, Jones' salary came to a little less than \$130,000.

But Szymanski said such com-

parisons did not impress him since Jones' employer was the federal government. He believed no state employee should make more than the governor.

"Even their accountant (actually, the controller) is making more than the governor. I was shocked at his \$93,000 salary," said Szymanski.

Szymanski said his proposed legislation capping the executive salaries of state-owned corporations may not affect Turpin's salary if his contract with the railroad corporation is that of an independent contractor, rather than a railroad employee.

Szymanski said he was concerned that such large salaries would set a precedent for other state-owned corporations whose chief executives now earn salaries in the \$60,000 range.

"If they come to us and ask for commensurate salaries (to the \$125,000 plus of Turpin), how can we say no?"

Board chairman Campbell was also concerned with precedent.

"The intention of the Transfer Act was to make the board fairly autonomous. I am going to fight like hell to keep it that way.

A spokesperson from the governor's office said the Sheffield administration had pushed for greater control over the Alaska Railroad during the drafting of the Transfer Act, but the lawmakers decided to make the railroad board more independent.

Szymanski expressed a similar theme: "If they can assure me that the Alaska Railroad will not come to state coffers, they can do anything they want."

Contacted about the proposed legislation, Turpin said salaries are really the responsibility of the board of directors, and if

inspired by what he terms the "arbitrary" salary of the newly installed general manager of the Alaska Railroad, Rep. Billy Szymanski, D-Anchorage, is now drafting legislation that would limit the pay for employees of all state-owned corporations to no greater than the governor's salary.

The governor's salary is \$77,700, while railroad general manager Frank Turpin's salary is at least \$125,000 a year and as much as \$168,750 a year, depending on interpretations.

Asked what he would do if the legislature cut back the salary, he said, "I wouldn't leave because of that. I would have been caused by the legislature trying to take over the role of the board of directors. If they do that, then I want no part of this. The salary to me is not as important as the principle of letting this thing operate as a business corporation. That's most important."

"If I had wanted to just earn a good salary, I would have stayed with Alyeska. I had a much better salary there, much better benefits."

Board chairman Jim Campbell, See Turpin, page A-12

Lawmaker suggests state salary caps

By Phil Groves

ANCHORAGE

7/11/87

Such legislation passed, he would question the board's ability to act as an independent corporation.

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Board chairman Jim Campbell, See Turpin, page A-12

1/26/85

Lawmakers seek ceiling on salaries

by Bruce Scandling
Associated Press

Juneau — Several lawmakers think state salaries are skyrocketing out of control, and they have introduced measures saying no state worker should be paid more than the governor.

Rep. Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage, said the payroll limit could affect up to 100 state employees earning more than Gov. Bill Sheffield.

Sheffield is paid \$81,648 annually.

Szymanski introduced his bill in the House Friday, while a similar measure was authored in the Senate. It is co-sponsored by Sens. Paul Fischer, R-Soldotna; Jack Coghill, R-Nenana; Mitch Abood,

What state workers make
— page B-1, B-4

R-Anchorage; Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue; and Senate President Don Bennett, R-Fairbanks.

The Senate proposal goes a step farther. It would limit state grants to agencies not complying with the salary lid. But only those agencies receiving more than half of their annual budgets from the state would be affected.

Szymanski, who sits on the House Finance Committee, said lawmakers need to take the lead in capping the state payroll.

"We're seeing many exam-
See Ceiling, page A-12

Ceiling

Continued from page A-1

ples of very large salaries," Szymanski said. "And, from my perspective, they're excessive salaries."

He said his bill was prompted in part by a recent flap over pay for Frank Turpin, named executive director of the Alaska Railroad when the state took over the operation last month.

Turpin will earn \$125,000 annually.

But Szymanski said Turpin's contract includes a bonus clause which could boost his total pay over the next two years to \$337,000.

"I think they went grossly out of bounds on that one," he said.

Szymanski also attacked salaries for top administrators in the University of Alaska system, and said several top \$100,000 annually.

He said "even Ivy League schools" pay their key officials \$35,000 to \$45,000 a year.

"This is setting a bad precedent," Szymanski said.

ALASKA FEVER

Times 4/17



AN-Saturday January 26 1985

Measures seek limit on state workers' pay

By BRUCE SCANDLING
The Associated Press

JUNEAU — Several lawmakers think state salaries are skyrocketing out of control, and they have introduced measures saying no state worker should be paid more than the governor.

Rep. Mike Szymanski said the payroll limit could affect up to 100 state employees earning more than Gov. Bill Sheffield.

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See Page, PAY

Pay limit

Continued from Page A-1

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"We're seeing many examples of very large salaries," Szymanski said. "And, from my perspective, they're excessive salaries."

He said his bill was prompted in part by a recent flap over pay for Frank Turpin, named executive director of the Alaska Railroad when the state took over the operation last month.

Turpin will earn \$25,000 annually.

Szymanski also attacked salaries for top administrators in the University of Alaska system, and said several earn more than \$100,000 annually.

He said "even Ivy League schools" pay their key officials \$35,000 to \$45,000 a year.

"This is setting a bad precedent," Szymanski said. "I don't want a game to start where other agencies come in and say, 'How come we don't get it?'"

File 8/19/86

Legislators attack state pay issue

From The Associated Press

Two of the Kenai Peninsula's legislators, Rep. Mike Szymanski and Sen. Paul Fischer, attacked state employment practices late last week.

Szymanski, D-Ocean View, fearing that state salaries are getting out of sight, introduced a bill to limit all state employees to a maximum salary equal to the governor's — currently \$81,648 a year.

Fischer, R-Soldotna, co-sponsored a Senate version of Szymanski's bill, which adds a provision to limit grants to any agencies that fail to comply with the salary limitation.

Fischer, meanwhile, also urged Sheffield to face the likelihood of impending state budget problems and freeze state hiring.

He said the state faces "serious fiscal crises of an emergency nature," because of declining oil revenue that threatens "necessary state programs."

John Greely, gubernatorial press secretary, dismissed Fischer's call for an executive order on hiring, and said the financial outlook does not amount to a crisis.

In discussing his salary ceiling bill, Szymanski cited the new Alaska Railroad manager's \$125,000 salary and \$100,000-plus salaries of some University of Alaska administrators as examples of excessive pay.

Lawmaker claims House committee stalling on pay cap bill

By BRUCE SCANDLING

The Associated Press

JUNEAU — An Anchorage lawmaker says a House committee has stalled his proposal to cap state salaries.

Rep. Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage, said the House State Affairs Committee could have passed his bill a step closer to a vote on the House floor Wednesday, but instead decided to sit on the proposal.

"Quite frankly, I'm mad as hell that State Affairs doesn't have the guts to stand up for the (salary cap) issue," Szymanski said.

But committee chairwoman Katie Hurley, D-Wasilla, said the bill was held over simply because committee members had more questions about the proposal.

"I have not deep-sixed any bill," she said. "That might be (Szymanski's) version of the story, but the committee is not going to pass out any bills that are not ready..."

The flap is over legislation proposed by Szymanski that says no state worker should earn more than the state's chief executive. Gov. Bill Sheffield earns \$81,648 annually.

Szymanski said the measure

would immediately affect 15 University of Alaska employees and two state judicial branch workers, but he's more concerned about the long-range policy aspects of the bill.

It's time for the legislature to send a signal to state agencies that it will no longer support unlimited salaries, Szymanski said.

"We need to pass some sort of legislation," he said. "It's absurd to assume it will happen just automatically."

Hurley said the measure could come up in committee again, but acknowledged that timetables set by

House leaders to steer bills through the legislature don't bode well for the proposal.

Hurley and Szymanski are both members of the Democrat-led coalition that rules the House this year.

House Speaker Ben Grussendorf, D-Sitka, has said priority bills should appear on the House floor by the 75th legislative day — which is March 29 — in order to be sent to the Senate for consideration this session.

That means Szymanski's bill would have to pass out of the State Affairs Committee sometime next week.

The measure is not on next week's preliminary calendar, Hurley said, but individual committee members could bring it up at any time.

"I think that depends on what Rep. Szymanski wants to do about talking to other committee members," she said.

"Even if that doesn't happen, it isn't dead," Hurley said. "There's always next session."

Szymanski, however, said he thinks the issue deserves attention this year and the full House should have a say on his proposal.

Ferguson will study state pay differential for Bush

by Larry Porsity

Juneau — To either confirm or discredit the cost of living differential paid to state workers in the Bush, Sen. Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue, will have his staff conduct a survey of Kotzebue prices this week.

Ferguson said he believes the wage differential paid to state employees in the Bush may be too high, and he wants his staff to conduct a "market basket survey" of Kotzebue food prices for comparison to costs in Anchor-

age.

The University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service already conducts a quarterly food price survey statewide, with utility bills and other items also included in the survey. Ferguson said he wants to conduct his own survey, "to make sure the (university) market basket is something we can depend on."

Prompted by recent publicity over state wages, specifically the number of workers who earn more than \$50,000 a year, Ferguson said, "Those salaries have in-

creased so much (due to the wage differential) that any time a job comes up in Kotzebue or Nome" state employees from Anchorage often apply for the position to take advantage of the higher wages.

"They know they can stash away a few dollars" by working in the Bush, he said, and competition from Anchorage state workers seeking jobs in the bush often crowds out local job applicants.

The senator cited as an example a recent job opening in Kotze-

bue for a local government specialist with the Department of Community and Regional Affairs. Ferguson said more than 40 persons applied for the job, with most from the state labor force in Anchorage. The community did get a local resident placed in the position, he said, adding, "We were lucky to do so."

However, Jeff Smith, deputy commissioner of community and regional affairs, said of the 42 applicants for the Kotzebue job, only nine were permanent state employees and every one of the

nine declined to be interviewed for the job.

Ferguson said if his review of the cost of living in Kotzebue determines that the state salary differential is too high, he and House Finance Committee Chairman Al Adams, D-Kotzebue, will introduce legislation to remedy the situation.

According to figures from the Department of Administration, state workers in Nome earn about 25-30 percent more for the same position than do workers in Anchorage, with employees in

Kotzebue earning a differential of about 30-35 percent.

Karen VanDusseldorp, a research analyst with the department's division of labor relations, said the state "is in the process of doing another geographic differential," with the wage revision proposal due in April.

She said the most recent survey available (March of 1983) with figures from Nome and Kotzebue shows Nome food prices at 78 percent above those in Anchorage, with Kotzebue coming in at 91 percent higher.

Bill to cut 15 UA officials' wages

By BRUCE SCANDLING
Associated Press Writer

JUNEAU — Fifteen University of Alaska administrators earn fatter paychecks than Gov. Bill Sheffield and would face salary cuts under two bills introduced by state lawmakers.

University President Donald O'Dowd tops the list, bringing home \$90,938 a year in base pay. Sheffield earns \$81,648 annually.

Proposals to limit state salaries to no more than what the governor is paid have been introduced in both the state House and Senate. But trying to figure how many more state workers would be affected by the limit is posing a challenge to legislative staffers working on the measures.

A payroll supervisor said at least 21 state workers — not including university, Alaska Housing Authority and

Alaska Railroad employees — earn more than the governor when various pay differentials are counted.

"And I'd say a majority of them are the judges," said Edna Caldwell.

Part of the problem in determining who would be affected revolves around differences in the two bills.

Rep. Mike Skymanski, D-Anchorage, drafted legislation that simply says no worker should earn a base salary greater than the governor.

Many state workers, however, especially those in rural areas, have geographic differentials and other pay-boosting factors added to their base salaries.

Szymanski's bill would not count those differentials as base pay, meaning fewer employees would out-earn the governor.

When the salary ad-

justments are not counted, a review of all classified and exempt state employees — not counting the university — showed no worker earning more than Sheffield, said Mark Higgins, a Skymanski aide.

But a Senate version of the measure would create a large list. The bill drafted by Sen. Paul Fischer, R-Soldotna, and co-sponsored by six other senators, counts differentials when determining base salary.

Fischer said the practice of paying state workers more according to where they live is a major factor in skyrocketing state salaries.

"It's been somewhat abused over the years," Fischer said. "We have to get away from this thing where the community says it cost two, three or four times more to live in a certain place."

Mrs. Caldwell said

geographic differentials can increase an Alaska worker's salary by up to 25 percent. That's the extra amount an employee is paid for living in such areas as Barrow, Kotzebue or the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

A Fairbanks employee gets an automatic 20 percent geographic boost in salary.

Fischer said his bill counts a worker's total salary except overtime and hazardous duty pay.

"That means if the guy's making \$97,000, he knows he's going to be trimmed back to \$81,000," Fischer said.

The bill is co-sponsored by Senate President Don Bennett, R-Fairbanks, and Sen. Jack Coghill, R-Nenana; Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage; Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue; Pat Rodey, D-Anchorage; and Edna DeVries, R-Palmer.

See 16, Page 16

...15 UA workers top governor's wage

Continued from Page 3

Salary figures provided by the university don't include geographic differentials, longevity or other cost factors.

Budget Director Brian Rogers said more than 15 employees would top the governor's salary if those factors were counted. Figuring just base pay, these are the top wage earners in the university system:

- O'Dowd, \$90,938;
- Patrick O'Rourke, Fairbanks campus chancellor, \$88,060;
- Syn Akasofu, Fairbanks professor, \$88,020;
- Carolyn Floyd, Kodiak Community College president, \$87,648;
- Sherman Carter, executive vice president, \$87,185;
- Al Okeson, CREE chancellor, \$86,448;

—David Outcalt, Anchorage campus chancellor, \$85,487;

—Michael Paradise, Juneau campus chancellor, \$85,487;

—Herb Lyon, Anchorage Community College chancellor, \$83,202;

—Juan Roderer, Geophysical Institute director, \$82,953;

—William Phillips, Fairbanks vice chancellor, \$82,745;

—Keith Mather, Fairbanks vice chancellor, \$82,613;

—Bonita Neiland, Fairbanks professor, \$82,560;

—John Bligh, director, Institute of Arctic Biology, \$82,154;

—James Drew, dean, School of Agriculture and Land Resources, \$81,743.

Anchorage Times

SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 26, 1985

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Ceiling

Continued from page A-1

Szymanski also attacked salaries for top administrators in the University of Alaska system, and said several top \$100,000 annually.

He said "even Ivy League schools" pay their key officials \$35,000 to \$45,000 a year.

"This is setting a bad precedent," Szymanski said. "I don't want a game to start where other agencies come in and say, 'How come we don't get it.'"

A recent report released by the state's Finance Division included salaries for other highly paid employees.

Dillingham District Attorney Charles Merriner earns \$98,000 a year, according to the report. Nome District Attorney James Gould cashes in an annual paycheck totaling \$98,000.

The report, however, does not cover the University of Alaska system or state workers earning an hourly wage.

Bill would set limits on salaries

by Bruce Scandling
Associated Press

Juneau — Several lawmakers think state salaries are skyrocketing out of control, and they have introduced measures saying no state worker should be paid more than the governor.

Rep. Mike Szymanski, D-Anchorage, said the payroll limit could affect up to 100 state employees earning more than Gov. Bill Sheffield.

Sheffield is paid \$81,648 annually.

Szymanski introduced his bill in the House Friday, while a similar measure was authored in the Senate. It is co-sponsored by Sens. Paul Fischer, R-Soldotna; Jack Coghill, R-Nenana; Mitch Abood, R-Anchorage; Frank Ferguson, D-Kotzebue; and Senate President Don Bennett, R-Fairbanks.

The Senate proposal goes a step farther. It would limit state grants to agencies not complying with the salary lid. But only those agencies receiving more than half of their annual budgets from the state would be affected.

Szymanski, who sits on the House Finance Committee, said lawmakers need to take the lead in capping the state payroll.

"We're seeing many examples of very large salaries," Szymanski said. "And, from my perspective, they're excessive salaries."

He said his bill was prompted in part by a recent flap over pay for Frank Turpin, named executive director of the Alaska Railroad when the state took over the operation last month.

Turpin will earn \$125,000 annually.

But Szymanski said Turpin's contract includes a bonus clause which could boost his total pay over the next two years to \$387,000.

"I think they went grossly out of bounds on that one," he said.

See Ceiling, page A-12

W *Alaska Daily News* 1/8/85 *edition*

Railroad salaries way out of line

Here's a couple of budget-busting wage settlements: The Alaska Railroad will pay its new general manager about \$337,000 plus benefits for two years, and a new assistant general manager \$83,000 per year. Those salaries are not only way out of line for comparable public officials, but also a poor precedent for running the railroad.

Some reports say the pay-and-benefits package for new general manager Frank Turpin will be more than double that of the governor himself. The contract includes a \$150,000 annual salary and a 35 percent incentive bonus to complete the two years. The total — \$337,000 plus benefits over two years — would put Mr. Turpin in the same league, financially, with most professional athletes and corporate chief executives. New assistant general manager Marvin Yetter, at \$83,000 per year, would earn more than the governor.

No doubt, both the genial Mr. Turpin and his new assistant bring years of high-quality management experience to the "new" Alaska Railroad. But whether Alaskans want, need or should pay so much for competent railroad management is another matter. James Campbell, chairman of the board of the new Alaska Railroad Corp., said last week that Mr. Turpin was paid "a hell of a lot" more as head of Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. until he retired recently. The implication, of course, is that in the private sector an executive of Mr. Turpin's experience and demonstrated ability would command even more.

That may be true, but it's irrelevant. The \$337,000 is quite a bit more than what Alaskans pay the governor, the chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, the Commissioner of Transportation, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, or anyone else in state government.

Do those jobs go unfilled because they don't pay enough? Hardly. Will top railroad managers have bigger duties and challenges than top executives elsewhere in government? Not particularly. Should the couple dozen other public officials who ordinarily would be thought to outrank the railroad chief in state government be offered similar or better two-year packages? Not at all.

Private- and public-sector management are not the same, and should not be. Private executive management is essentially entrepreneurial activity; public service is public service, with considerable public power involved. The railroad salaries are too high, not because the new executives wouldn't be worth them in the private sector — undoubtedly they are — but because they are unnecessary and inappropriate in the public sector.

Railroad general manager to get \$337,000 plus benefits

The Associated Press

FAIRBANKS — The general manager of the new Alaska Railroad Corp. will receive \$337,000 plus benefits for the duration of his two-year contract, the chairman of the corporation's board said.

Frank Turpin, who will become head of the railroad when he retires in February

as president of Alyeska Pipeline Service Co., will get a yearly salary of \$125,000, said chairman James Campbell. If Turpin completes the contract, he'll get an incentive bonus of 35 percent, for a total of \$337,000.

Campbell said Turpin also will receive the "typical kinds" of benefits, such as

use of an automobile, travel expenses and costs of membership in professional organizations.

Campbell said the 35 percent bonus makes up for the benefits Turpin is not being provided and serves as an incentive for Turpin to complete his contract. Turpin did not need medical, dental or life insurance, so the Alaska

Railroad Corp. did not provide it, Campbell said.

The railroad is scheduled to be transferred Saturday from federal to state hands. Although owned by the state, the railroad will be run as a profit-making corporation, under the direction of a board of directors appointed by the governor.



4/15/85

Pay raise repeal dead this year

by Larry Peralta
Times Journal Bureau

Juneau — Formation of a special committee to study legislative salaries is not what opponents to the 1983 pay boost had wanted this session, but a promise to report on the issue next year is better than nothing.

"Anchorage does not have a majority of legislators in the House or Senate and without the cooperation of members outside the area we're not going to take action" on the pay repeal issue this year, said Sen. Tim Kelly, R-Anchorage, a strong opponent of the pay increase.

Resolutions were introduced in the House and Senate this week to organize a joint special committee on legislative salaries. The committee report would be due on the first day of the 1986 session.

"It's not as strong as I'd like to see," Kelly said, "but it's preferable to doing nothing."

The senator added, "I'm still hopeful we can take action this year" to repeal the pay boost voted themselves by lawmakers in 1983, but if the effort fails he intends to come back next year — special committee report in hand — and push for the pay raise repeal.

"There is a split in both the House and the Senate caucus as to whether or not the legislature should repeal its salary (increase)," the senator said.

Anchorage residents are the only constituents putting pressure on their representatives to repeal the pay raise, Kelly noted. "Other legislators feel no need to act."

He added, "It's a divisive issue. . . both the House speaker and the Senate president have indicated they prefer to hold off to next year." A number of bills have been introduced in both chambers to repeal the pay increase.

House Speaker Rep. Ben Grussendorf, D-Sitka, was quoted earlier this week as predicting failure for the pay raise repeal this year. Senate President Don Bennett, R-Fairbanks, said he doesn't want to be rushed into the legislation, with the committee giving lawmakers and the public a chance to learn more about the issue.

Lawmakers in 1983 more than doubled their salaries to \$46,000 a year. They did eliminate their \$80 per diem payments for living expenses while in Juneau.

A petition drive by the Libertarian Party gathered enough signatures to have the pay raise repeal placed on the November, 1986 general election ballot.

If approved by the legislature, the special committee would be comprised of three House and three Senate members. The committee would "examine legislative salaries, per diem and allowances, as well as functions and staffing levels of legislative personal staff."

Members would be instructed to compare Alaska's legislative salaries with those of other states.

In a January report from the National Conference on State Legislatures, seven states are listed as paying legislative salaries of \$30,000 or more a year: California, \$33,732; Illinois, \$32,500; Maine, \$30,000; Michigan, \$34,890; New York, \$43,000; Ohio, \$30,152; Pennsylvania, \$35,000.

All but Ohio and Maine also pay a per diem to legislators while they are in session, in addition to their salaries. The per diems range from \$55 to \$75 a day.

The lowest paid legislators, according to the conference report, are in Rhode Island (\$5 a day and no per diem) and New Hampshire (\$100 a year and no per diem).

Legislators vote down raise repeal

by Bruce Scandling
Associated Press

5/11/85

Juneau — "The miracle could happen," Anchorage Republican Rep. Red Boucher said Saturday as the House considered a proposal to repeal a controversial pay raise lawmakers gave themselves in 1983.

In the end, Boucher's miracle didn't happen.

House lawmakers narrowly voted down a measure to

See Pay, page A-10

Pay raise repeal

Continued from page A-1

scrap the 1983 raise, which more than doubled legislative salaries.

The 1983 action boosted lawmakers' pay from \$1,757 a month to \$3,900 — and eliminated the \$80-a-day allowance lawmakers had been earning.

Saturday's vote came as the House appropriated \$13 million to fund 5 percent pay raises for state workers not covered by union bargaining agreements.

That bill includes pay scales for legislators, prompting amendments from a group of Anchorage-area lawmakers who have lobbied all session to repeal the pay raise.

The main amendment — sponsored by Reps. Katie Hurley, D-Wasilla; Pat Pourchot, D-Anchorage; and Boucher — would have returned lawmakers to the \$1,757 monthly pay scale and given them \$80 a day for expenses.

"This year, we've been asking everybody but ourselves to bite the bullet," said Hurley.

State officials have said repeal of the pay raise would save \$1.1 million in fiscal 1986, which starts July 1.

In the wake of declining oil revenues, legislative leaders have preached fiscal restraint as they chopped at least \$463 million from the spending package first proposed by Gov. Bill Sheffield in December.

Hurley's amendment was voted down, 21-19.

Three other amendments were also defeated.

Rep. Marco Pignalberi, an Anchorage Republican who has urged lawmakers to repeal the pay raise, tried to set up a salary commission to study legislative compensation.

His plan called for a committee to be comprised of private citizens called together to determine fair wages and benefits.

Pignalberi said no legislators would sit on the committee.

"This is nothing we should be afraid of," he said. "I for one think we would stack up very highly in terms of the hours we carry into our jobs."

The House turned down his amendment, 23-17.

Saturday's action focuses attention on a proposal backed by the House and the Senate establishing an interim committee to study the pay issue.

The two chambers are at odds, however, over whether three members of the public should be allowed to sit on the panel.

The House version of the committee calls for nine voting members — three from the House, three from the Senate and three public members.

The Senate, meanwhile, wants no public seats on the committee.

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Anchorage Daily News

Saturday, May 11, 1985

a-14

Some House members want vote on pay raise

By JOHN LINDBACK
Daily News reporter

JUNEAU — Some House majority members from Anchorage and Mat-Su districts intend to force the House to vote before adjournment on repeal of a controversial pay raise the legislature gave itself in 1983.

Reps. H.A. "Red" Boucher, Mike Szymanski and Pat Pourchot, all Anchorage Democrats, predicted Friday after a closed-door caucus of the 28-member House majority that

the floor vote in the 40-member House would be very close.

Rep. Katie Hurley, D-Wasilla, plans to introduce the repeal on the floor by proposing an amendment to a salary schedule for non-union state employees, they said. The vote could occur as early as today, they said.

"In my perspective, it's a foregone conclusion that the public's going to repeal the legislative pay raise in '86. I think it would be in our best

interest and the public's interest if we dealt with the issue this year," Szymanski said.

If the House approves the repeal it would force the anti-repeal Senate to publicly vote on the matter this session when it considers the House's salary schedule. The salary schedule bill is an integral component of a negotiated package of legislation lawmakers have agreed to approve before adjournment.

The House members conceded that their plans could

irritate the Senate, which "has been pretty adamant about not wanting to deal with the pay raise," Szymanski said. Both the House and Senate have voted, instead, to create a committee to study legislative pay this summer.

Pourchot said it was likely that the repeal, if approved by the House, would be rejected by the Senate.

Legislators at the end of the 1983 session increased their salaries from \$20,000 to \$46,000 per year and eliminat-

ed the \$80-per-day expense allowance they had been receiving during sessions. Public protest resulted in a petition drive and a referendum on the 1986 election ballot.

The pay raise developed into a major issue in many Anchorage-area legislative campaigns last fall. House bills that would repeal it have been buried this session by House Judiciary Chairman Mike Miller, D-Juneau, an advocate of the pay raise who has refused to let the bills out

of his committee.

Hurley, Boucher, Szymanski, Pourchot and Sam Cotten, D-Eagle River, are all majority members who were forced earlier this session to vote against floor amendments to the state operating budget that attempted to repeal the pay raise. The majority organization in a pre-session agreement bound its members to vote against all amendments to the budget that the House Finance Committee sends to the floor.