

Nixon denounces effort to give retroactive pay hikes

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon denounced Thursday an effort by the House Banking Committee to give a green light to the payment of retroactive pay raises negotiated for union labor before the current wage-price freeze.

In a statement, Nixon said an amendment adopted earlier in the day by the committee "would provide for special treatment to one segment of the American economy" and would "seriously jeopardize the administration's program for countering inflation through the post-freeze machinery of a Pay Board and Price Commission."

The committee-adopted provision would require payment of all but "grossly disproportionate" pay raises negotiated before Aug. 15.

Nixon said, "It is not my intention to prejudice how these particular issues should be decided." However, he argued decisions should be made by the Pay Board and Price Commission and that this and other committee-adopted amendments "would provide for a piece approach" to stabilizing wages and prices.

Donald Rumsfeld, executive director of the Cost of Living Council, said the retroactive pay amendment would "directly undermine the concept of a participatory approach in which representatives of labor, management and the public would collaborate in fashioning major decisions."

Rumsfeld was asked about widespread speculation that all or some of the five labor members of the Pay Board would withdraw from membership—and scuttle the board's operations—unless there was agreement to provide retroactive payment of increases granted under union-management contracts executed before the freeze began Aug. 15.

"There have been reports about everything — most of which haven't come true," he said.

At another point he said, "I'm not a spokesman for the Pay Board," then added: "They are doing their work in an orderly fashion . . . progress is being made."

An AFL-CIO spokesman said of Rumsfeld's statement, "It is obvious that Congress has more regard for the validity of contracts than does the White House."

The committee amendment on contracts executed before Aug. 15, 1971, the beginning date of the freeze, would require payment of increases, including retroactive payments for the freeze period, unless the President found that these were grossly disproportionate to the general increase in wage levels.

The committee, apparently reacting against tough continuing control provisions reportedly proposed by management and public

members of the new Wage Board, also approved, often by one-vote margins:

- Authorization for individual consumers to sue for up to \$1,000 damages if they are willfully overcharged.
- Mandatory controls on interest rates while wage and price limits are in effect.
- Exemption from wage controls for the working poor, those employed but earning less than federally established subsistence levels.

—Striking from the legislation a provision giving congressional ratification to actions already taken by the control agencies.

—A study of excess profits. The committee's votes Thursday signaled a dramatic turnaround from the course it steered only a day earlier, when nearly all amendments to the Nixon proposals were defeated.

Persons who attended the closed door meeting said members repeatedly brought into the debate the newly-disclosed proposals by

public and management members of the Wage Board.

According to sources close to the board, these included a ban on retroactive payments of frozen wage increases, extension of the present freeze until Jan. 15, a formula for renegotiating some contract pay increases, and a 5 per cent guideline for future pay increases.

Labor members of the board and union leaders outside it objected strongly to the proposals, sources said.

The meetings begin with a general session featuring speakers from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and an official of the Environmental Protection Agency.

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Campus briefs

Kennedy featured at coffeehouse

Folk singer Paul Kennedy of Houston will be featured Friday and Saturday by the Basement Coffeehouse of A&M's Memorial Student Center.

Kennedy will perform as a Basement special attraction for the Aggie-SMU football weekend sessions in the MSC basement. The Basement will be open from 8 p.m. to midnight both days. Admission will be 50 cents per person, Chairman Bob Lackey said.

Hutchinson to work with EPA

Dr. John E. Hutchinson, director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, has been named a consultant and will serve with a four-member team selected nationwide to work with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The assignment is during November, according to Dr. David L. Becker, head of the Technical Assistance Branch of the EPA. The agency has the responsibility for preparing a comprehensive report to Congress on methods to control

release of pesticides into the environment.

Such a report is required, Dr. Becker emphasized, by Public Law 91-224 known as the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1970.

Tickets available for Presnal dinner

Tickets for the Nov. 11 appreciation dinner for State Rep. Bill Presnal are now available at all Bryan-College Station financial institutions, announced Lynn Stuart, general chairman for the program.

The dinner honoring the second-term representative from Bryan will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Ramada Inn.

Stuart noted the \$5 tickets also are available at several other locations throughout the three-county 18th Legislative District. In addition to Brazos County, Presnal represents Grimes and Madison Counties.

The dinner will include remarks by State Sen. William T. (Bill) Moore of Bryan, A&M President Jack K. Williams and Bill Terrell, a Navasota rancher.

English exam planned for science majors

The English Proficiency Examination for junior and senior majors in Botany, Microbiology and Zoology will be given Tuesday, Nov. 9, at 4 p.m. in Room 107 of the New Biological Sciences Building.

Examinees should bring pen, pencil and dictionary.

Pakistan movement will be explained

Two members of the Bangla Desh delegation to the United Nations will explain the Pakistan separatist movement at A&M Tuesday.

The speakers are Dr. A. R. Mallick, former chairman of the Council of University Presidents in Pakistan, and Dr. Ashahul Hague, chairman of the Bangla Desh Red Cross Society.

Phi Alpha Theta, international history honor society, is sponsoring the 7:30 p.m. program in Chemistry Room 100.

Nurses begin health occupations courses

Forty professional nurses from throughout Texas will begin health occupations teaching certification courses Monday at A&M.

Texas Engineering Extension Service's Vocational-Industrial Teacher Education Division is conducting the course in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency.

Smith to give seminar Monday

Dr. William B. Smith of A&M's Institute of Statistics will give a seminar Monday, Nov. 8, on "Optimum Incomplete Multinomial Samples."

The associate professor's lecture is scheduled for 4 p.m. in Plant Sciences Room 103.

Conference planned for Dec. 14-15

The fourth annual Insect, Plant Disease, Weed and Brush Control Conference is scheduled for Dec.

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Regalia for the December 1971 Commencement Exercises. All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Education are required to order hoods as well as the Doctor's caps and gowns. The hoods are to be left at the University Exchange Store for delivery by a representative of FACTORS AFFECTING THE IDENTIFICATION, RECRUITING, AND TRAINING OF VOLUNTEER 4-H ADULT LEADERS IN TEXAS. Since all such candidates will be hooded on the stage as part of the ceremony. Candidates for the Master's Degree will wear the cap and gown; all civilian students who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree will wear the cap and gown; ROTC students who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree will wear the appropriate uniform. All military personnel who are candidates for the Bachelor's or Master's degree will wear the uniform; Ph.D. or D.Ed. candidates will wear the cap and gown. Ph.D. candidates will arrange for rental of cap, gown, and hood at the Exchange Store between 8:00 a. m. Monday, November 8, and 12:00 noon Saturday, November 20. Only Doctor's caps, gowns and hoods will be available on a rental basis. The Master's and Bachelor's caps and gowns may be purchased at the Exchange Store. Rental fees and sale prices are as follows:
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