

Judges file suit on Uncle Sam for more money

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Forty-four of the nation's federal judges, complaining that they're being cheated by Uncle Sam, are taking Uncle Sam to court to get fatter paychecks.

Those in the unusual reversal of roles from judge to plaintiff include J. Carter, currently presiding over the trial of Patricia Hearst in San Francisco.

The suit was readied for filing in the U.S. Court of Claims. A document by the judges mentions that no judge of that court "is included as a plaintiff in the lawsuit" though any decision in favor of the plaintiffs presumably would favor all federal judges.

The judges base their suit, naming the United States as defendant, on a constitutional provision that pay for lifetime-appointed judges "shall be diminished."

They say that compensation "in its institutional context does not mean salary but purchasing power." For their lawyer, the judges chose former Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg.

Even before the suit was filed, the judges in different parts of the country distributed a "my dear Uncle Sam" letter along with the petition as a separate statement. The letter said "we have been unfairly singled out and discriminated against."

The suit asks that the government reimburse the judges for a 34.5 percent decrease in the value of their dollar in the period from March 1969, to Oct. 1, 1975. During that period, federal district judges received \$40,000 a year and appeals court judges \$42,500.

They claim that inflation reduced their spending power to about \$20,000 a year for district judges and \$27,500 for the appeals.

"Unlike most citizens of the United States who are gainfully employed, including most federal employees, federal judges received no increase in salary to adjust for this decrease," the petition says.

Plaintiffs are 38 district judges and 6 from appeals courts. Eleven are chief judges of their district and two are chief judges of their appeals courts. One plaintiff, Thomas Lamson of Cleveland, said "judges could not work as lawyers making two or three times their judicial salaries."

He said that "unlike others in government such as senators and representatives who can supplement their income through outside activities, we are totally and completely withdrawn from other activities."

Another plaintiff, Judge Thomas McBride of Sacramento, Calif., said judges are seeking a "catch-up." He said his "chief law clerk, who is out of law school just over a year, takes almost one half of my salary, notwithstanding that I've been out

Drill team not limited to men

By LINDA GILLIAM
For the first time in its 30-year history, the Fish Drill Team must now share its role as A&M's drill team representative with a newly-formed Texas A&M Women's Drill Team.

As a result, the Women's Drill Team is not yet too popular in the male hierarchy of the Corps of Cadets.

Mark Banneyer, a junior adviser to the drill team, said about 90 percent of the Corps is against the new girls' drill team, especially because they carry weapons.

"They think it isn't ladylike," said Banneyer. "But we don't want them to carry pom-poms or anything like that," he said.

This new unit, composed of 13 girls from outfit W-1, is commanded by Ruth Ann Schumacher, a junior from Gettysburg, Pa.

Schumacher said she was selected as commanding officer of the team

because she was the commanding officer of her high school drill team and had some experience.

The idea for the girls' unit was first suggested last year by Trigon officials. Since women Corps members cannot participate in the Ross Volunteers, Aggie Band, Parson's Mounted Cavalry or Fish Drill Team, it was thought a special women's performing unit should be added.

The suggestion finally took shape at the end of last semester and the Texas A&M Women's Drill Team is already practicing for their only competition this semester. They will compete in the senior division of the Texas State Championship Meet here April 3.

The Women's Drill Team is also tentatively scheduled to perform at the Elephant Bowl and possibly at the Military Weekend Review.

The Women's Drill Team outfit is similar to the girls' Corps uniform.

They wear the same blouse, but wear a khaki culotte instead of the skirt.

Weapons are an integral part of the team's drill work. They carry replicas of a Springfield 03A3 weighing about four pounds each.

The Texas A&M Women's Drill Team is a volunteer organization open to any girl in the Corps that can maintain a 2.0 GPR. There are freshmen, sophomores and juniors now on the team. Of the 29 girls in W-1, 14 are on the drill team.

This is an organization semester, said Banneyer. Even though the unit is recognized and funded by the University, the team can only afford the culottes and weapons for now.

If the team performs well in the meet here, perhaps more money will be forthcoming for meets next year, said Banneyer.

The Women's Drill Team practices daily from 5-6:30 p.m. on the intramural field between the tennis courts and Kyle Field.

System warns of flu

Associated Press
AUSTIN — A new early warning system against influenza that includes monitoring by school systems, hospitals and industries has been put into operation by the State Department of Health Resources.

"Influenza is being monitored through 19 school systems, 12 industries and 13 large hospitals," the department said in its February health bulletin.

"These monitoring units are distributed in such a way as to detect illness in any part of the state at any time."

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