

Monday, February 13, 1989

Survey: Lawmakers' salaries too low

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas legislators who claim they are underpaid at \$7,200 a year might be right — at least if compared to salaries paid by many other states.

An Associated Press survey found that Texas, with the nation's third largest population, ranks well behind the two biggest states in legislative pay.

Many smaller states pay better, too.

In Texas, serving in the biennial, part-time Legislature pays \$600 a month, plus \$30 per day in expenses during sessions.

In contrast, California's full-time legislators get \$40,816 in salary plus \$87 a day when they are meeting.

New York state legislators receive

\$57,500 a year, which may be the nation's highest compensation following a raise from \$43,000 starting in January 1988.

New York's Legislature meets annually and is technically a part-time body.

But it's not just the bigger states that pay more.

In Massachusetts, the 160 House members and 40 senators all draw a base annual salary of \$30,000, with party floor leaders and committee chairmen receiving bonus pay ranging from \$7,500 to \$35,000 for the speaker and Senate president.

Base pay of Ohio legislators is \$36,650 annually. Leaders, committee chairmen, vice chairmen and

ranking minority party members earn more.

Oregon lawmakers receive salaries of \$937 a month, or \$11,244 a year. They also receive expense payments of \$66 a day seven days a week during legislative sessions, and \$400 a month between sessions.

Illinois legislators are paid \$35,661 annually and receive \$72 a day for living expenses during sessions.

Colorado legislators are paid \$17,500 a year. Those living less than 50 miles from Denver receive \$35 a day expenses when Legislature in session. Those living 50 miles or more receive \$70.

Hawaii's 25 senators and 51 House members get \$27,000 a year,

just raised from \$15,600. That's scheduled to go to \$32,000 in 1993, with the Senate president and House speaker getting an additional \$5,000 a year.

In Georgia, legislators make \$10,251 per year, plus a maximum of \$4,800 per year as reimbursement for expenses.

Minnesota pays its 201 lawmakers \$25,138, with top leaders making more. Expenses are \$48 a day during sessions and authorized interim work. House and Senate members also receive a monthly housing allowance the annual sessions.

The Texas salary of \$600 a month is written into the state constitution, so voters would get to decide on any proposed pay hike.

House Speaker Gib Lewis has said he thinks lawmakers are underpaid and supports a raise. One leading proposal, by Rep. David Hudson of Tyler, would pay legislators 25 percent of the governor's annual salary.

If that amendment were approved at current salary levels, legislators would see their pay more than tripled to \$23,358 a year.

Gov. Bill Clements, who is paid \$93,432 a year and gets free rent at the Governor's Mansion, opposes a raise. "I don't think they need a raise. I sure don't," he said.

Clements says recent voter outcry over the proposed congressional pay hike ought to tell state legislators something.

Zeta Beta Tau ends pledging nationwide

By Holly Beeson

REPORTER

More than 45 men have died because of fraternity hazing activities in the past 25 years and Zeta Beta Tau fraternity's national body has decided to confront the issue by abolishing pledging in ZBT chapters nationwide.

In a statement, James Greer Jr., executive vice president of ZBT Fraternity Inc., said every imaginable method has been tried to eliminate hazing, including workshops, seminars, screening of written pledge programs and disciplinary action against offending chapters, but nothing has worked.

Greer said the only thing left is to abolish pledging. The new policy will go into effect this fall and all ZBT chapters are required to follow it.

As a result of the non-pledging policy, ZBT's national organization is creating a new program, "Introduction to Membership," to recruit new members. The national body is sending information to chapters on how the program will be run.

"A set program has not been established yet," Spencer McDonald, ZBT president of the A&M chapter, said. "The national body is taking input from fraternities around the country. They're trying to develop a program that will help everyone."

This fall, ZBT will have rush like all the other social fraternities on campus.

"The difference in pledge programs will be that ours will be much shorter, and we will emphasize education," McDonald said.

He said choosing members still will be a selective process.

"Just because we're changing our pledging policy doesn't mean we're lowering our standards," McDonald said.

New members will be chosen See ZBT/Page 8

A&M provides advice about economic growth to Texas communities

By Alan Sembera

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M soon will be offering its technical and managerial expertise to local governments and community development groups across the state.

In an effort to spur economic development, the federal Economic Development Administration has awarded \$100,000 to the Texas Engineering Experiment Station to establish a state-wide network of economic development outreach centers.

"The major objective of the program is to assist Texas communities in improving economic conditions and the standard of living through the creation and maintenance of jobs for Texas residents," said Dr. Helen Baca Dorsey, director of the new TEES Municipal Assistance Program.

This program was initiated,

Dorsey said, because there was a need for local governments and economic development groups to have better ties into a research agency in order to get technical assistance.

Dorsey said her division will be providing technological and business information to local communities through the 254 county agents of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

The expertise mostly will come from within the Texas A&M University System, she said.

Some of the services the new program will offer are:

A toll-free telephone number that local governments and development organizations can call for information about economic development-related programs.

Helping local areas to identify economic development needs

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SCONA panel: U.S. can learn from Japan's global economy

By Holly Beeson

REPORTER

World economy has been transforming into a global marketplace and Americans can learn much from the Japanese about how to operate in a global economy, a participant in a SCONA panel discussion said Friday.

Dr. S. Kerry Cooper, director of Texas A&M's Center for International Business Studies, said American and Japanese differences are conducive to learning.

At the 34th MSC Student Conference on National Affairs, Cooper said Americans have a good deal to learn from Japanese business culture.

Guest speakers for the panel discussion, titled "U.S. and Japanese Bilateral Business," were an American, Steve Levy, senior adviser to a United States company operating in Japan, and a Japanese, Dr. Kiichi Mochizuki, president of a Japanese company operating in the United States.

Japanese and U.S. economies are different in many aspects, Cooper said.

"The United States and Japanese economies are married to each other in the sense that opposites attract," he said. "The Japanese save a lot, and we don't. They emphasize quality in production first, foremost and always. We tend to emphasize quantity."

The United States has problems trading with Japan because of trade barriers, Levy said.

"We need to remove some of the barriers that exist in Japan," he said, "perhaps by use of political backing."

Levy said the Japanese know how to operate in a global economy as evidenced by their success. He said major differences exist between Japanese and Americans.

"In Japan, the Japanese customer demands extremely exact delivery of merchandise," Levy said. "They expect delivery on a specific day, and sometimes at a certain time. If their expectations are not met, it is likely they will find a different merchant to do business with."

The internal market in Japan is highly competitive, he said. The Japanese compete vigorously among themselves.

Because of the Japanese, the United States uses statistical sampling methods on quality control, placing limits on the number of defects found in a certain number of products.

"If there are more than 50 defective products in a total of one million, that is not acceptable in Japan," Levy said. "Their high standards have been responsible for causing us to improve our quality control levels nationwide."

When the Japanese purchase a product, he said, they buy the service behind it almost as much as they buy the product itself. Therefore, excellent after-market serv-

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