

U.S. House may vote on congressional pay raise

By **STEPHANIE VON ISENBURG**
Staff Writer

Thirty-five members of the House of Representatives have requested a vote on the proposed congressional pay raise, citing a conflict of interest for congressmen to decide their own raises and a lack of sufficient government funds to cover the increase.

Another proposal facing the speaker is the proposed ban of honoraria, which would forbid congressmen from earning income from public speaking.

The proposition to raise congressional salaries by 50 percent was suggested by former President Reagan in his budget message and will automatically go into effect on February 8 unless it is defeated in a vote in the House and the Senate.

The Republican and Democratic representatives signed a letter authored by Rep. Bob Smith, R-N.H., requesting Speaker of the House Jim Wright, D-Texas, to allow a vote on the proposed raise.

The key questions posed by the pay

raise are those of honesty and affordability at a time of a \$200 billion deficit, said James Krey, legislative assistant to Smith.

Smith does not expect a vote on the proposition, but he is considering taking legislative action if the raise goes into effect, Krey said.

"The fundamental issue is whether the Congress should be deciding on its own pay raise," said Rachel Perry, press secretary for Rep. David Price, D-N.C. "There is a fundamental conflict of interest."

Price voted against the pay raise last session of Congress, and he will vote against the raise this session if there is a vote, Perry said.

"(The raise) is not needed," said Bill Connelly, special assistant to Rep. Steve Neal, D-N.C. "Fifty percent is an outrageous increase."

The raise should not be made when there is a budget deficit, and the government has to either cut programs or raise taxes, he said.

Neal has requested a change in the

voting process on any House and Senate pay raise proposition from a divisional vote, which allows congressmen to vote anonymously, to a recorded vote, said Connelly.

Neal has also suggested that pay raises approved in one session of Congress take effect the next session. Both propositions would eliminate conflict of interest in this situation,

Connelly said.

The 5th District representative thinks public officials should be paid well enough to attract qualified people to public office and to allow more people to be able to run and keep public office, Connelly said.

Sen. Terry Sanford, D-N.C., expects the Senate to vote on the raise but does not support the raise, said

Rafe Greenlee, press secretary for the senator. "(He believes) that until the government gets the deficit down, there is no reason for Congress to receive a pay raise."

Sanford would support giving a raise to some executive department officials, scientists and federal judges. In these areas, the government has to bid for the best people, Greenlee

said.

If the raise goes into effect, congressional pay would increase from \$89,500 to \$135,000, the speaker would earn \$175,000 instead of \$115,000, and the salaries of the Senate president pro tempore and the House and Senate majority and minority leaders would rise from \$99,500 to \$155,000.

Labor group seeks to alter drug testing

By **KARI BARLOW**
Staff Writer

Drug testing in the workplace may face changes if the N.C. General Assembly approves requests by the state AFL-CIO to alter the existing situation.

Three requests involving the administration of drug tests were outlined by a legislative study commission, appointed at the end of the legislature's last session, of AFL-CIO delegates and state leaders.

"On this commission were legislators and people who represented employers and people who represented employees," said Michael Okun, attorney for the labor organization. The proposal

has been introduced to the General Assembly for legislation, he said.

The first change calls for greater accuracy in testing. Many unreliable tests are being used now, said Christopher Scott, president of the state AFL-CIO.

"For private sector employees, employers can test whenever they want and however they want," Okun said. "It's different for two groups of employees. Public employees are protected by the Constitution, and union employees are protected. They have contracts."

The second request is that employees be given the option of rehabilitation before they are dismissed. This would prevent the

employee from taking another job without receiving help.

"This bill says if someone fails a test the first time, the employer has to give them a chance to go through rehab," Okun said.

"If an employer's going to use a drug test, we think it's a good idea to use an employee assistance program," Scott said.

The third change would require the employer to have "reasonable suspicion" before an employee must take a drug test, Scott said. "Just simply administering drug tests to everyone is something that violates people's fundamental freedoms."

Scott said he expects some kind of legislation to result from these

proposals.

"It's not a union bill at all. It would require employers who do test to use the best test. It would limit when they (employers) can test," Okun said.

"AFL-CIO proposed drug policy seems like a reasonable proposal for us to debate in the General Assembly on what we believe to be a crucial and sensitive issue facing society," said Tim Kent, executive assistant to House Speaker Joe Mavretic, D-Edgecombe.

"We've got a terrible problem with drugs in this country," Scott said. "It's dumb to propose simple solutions to complex problems."

Carolina Union to pick new student president

By **SIMONE PAM**
Staff Writer

Applications for Carolina Union president for 1989-90 are available at the Union Information Desk for all full-time students interested in filling the position.

The president's duties include serving as chairman of the weekly Activities Board meetings, said Archie Copeland, director of the Carolina Union.

The president must also serve as the chairman of the Union Board of Directors, interview and select people to fill various positions within the Union, advise Union members, and approve programs sponsored by the Union, including forums, Cabaret programming and films.

Copeland also meets directly with the president to discuss business, financing changes and long-range plans.

The Union president is selected every year by the Union Board of Directors. Students must return complete applications to the Union information desk by Feb. 10, and a screening committee will interview applicants. The Union Board of Directors, made up of four faculty advisers and 16 student members from campus organizations such as student government, will select the president on Feb. 12.

After the selection has been made, the president-elect will spend the

remainder of the semester selecting committee chairmen and making preparations for the 1989-90 academic year, Copeland said. The president will assume official duties at the end of the spring semester.

Numbers of applicants have varied from three to 10 in the past, Copeland said.

Some of the questions on the application include grade-point average, course load, leadership experience, future extra-curricular commitments and the applicants' views on the job of Union president.

The Union Board of Directors looks for leadership, creativity and commitment in applicants, Copeland said.

"The Union president is a very big responsibility," current president Tracy Taft said. "It is an excellent opportunity for anyone to get involved in."

The position is important at UNC, she said, but it fails to get as much attention as some other organizations' officers.

The Union president needs to be very organized, she said. The job also requires the ability to lead and to work well with people.

The job is time consuming, Copeland said, but a stipend of up to \$1,200 encourages students who feel the need to work during their free time to apply.

Proposal

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ment's training table, Student Stores' snack bars and the vending service by Durham Coca-Cola Bottling, Antle said.

Also, Marriott, the Carolina Inn and several other companies cater on campus, he said. "Campus food service is badly fragmented."

Thomas Shetley, director of auxiliary services and an ex officio member of the food services advisory committee, said he had not seen the proposal, but agreed the food services should be consolidated. "On cam-

pus that have successful food services, you have a total food service," he said.

But the mandatory meal plan should be raised rather than removed, he said. "This is not something I'm willing to lose friends over; it's just a belief I have."

William Dux, director of Carolina Dining Services, said he has not seen the proposal or been in contact with student government, but the dining service would be willing to work with anyone on improvements.

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