

Roll Call Report

Showing an uncharacteristically high tolerance for political pain, lawmakers in 1989 openly debated, not once but twice, the issue they most dread to mention in public: congressional pay raises.

The first time the issue reached the House and Senate floors, in February, they abandoned their bid for 50 percent higher pay when angry constituents denounced it as an outrageous treasury raid by inside-the-Beltway elitists.

The second time, in November,

lawmakers took a pre-emptive strike against hostile public opinion, coupling the pay hike with ethics reform that included a House ban on members accepting speaking fees from special interests and a Senate curtailment of the shady practice.

And they acted so quickly that a pay-and-ethics bill setting House salaries at about \$124,400 within 14 months and Senate pay at \$98,400 within three months was approved before critics could mobilize against it. By the time protests hit Capitol

Hill in force, members had left town for the year. Lawmakers are now back home and public opinion both for and against the higher pay presumably is catching up with them.

As upsetting as it is to many voters, the congressional raise, costing \$16 million annually, is pocket change alongside another spigot of taxpayers' money that lawmakers opened wide this year to enhance their personal and political comfort — the nearly \$2 billion legislative branch appropriations bill.

While much of the congressional budget is spent on important legislative matters, critics say that hundreds of millions of it is diverted to a taxpayer-to-congress income redistribution scheme having little to do with official business, a lot with incumbent protection.

For example, the bill funds large, fawning staffs that carry out personal and political chores as well as public business; global travel; lavish expense accounts for meals and merchandise defined as official; an array of medical services; a pension plan with automatic cost-of-living increases that is now making dozens of longtime retirees into "pension millionaires"; printing and free-mailing of politicized as well as official material; advanced telecommunications and computer services; and studios closed to press and pub-

lic where "news" is prepared for satellite feeds to stations back home.

"The public is usually kept in the dark when it comes to what Congress receives as perks," said Ralph Nader in criticizing the February pay raise attempt. "While Congress is trying to justify a 50 percent backdoor salary grab, taxpayers are already paying an average of \$3.5 million per member to support the legislative branch budget."

Congress this year showed sensitivity to abuses of the free-mailing privilege by re-election-minded lawmakers. Debating the fiscal 1990 legislative branch budget, both chambers conducted preliminary votes to end unsolicited mass mailings, then agreed in the final bill to limit lawmakers to three newsletter mailings each year.

Those votes and others this year relating to the personal and political comfort of members, along with descriptions of the 1989 Comfort Index issues are listed below:

1. TO KILL PAY RAISES — The House voted 368 for and 48 against to kill a pay raise for lawmakers, U.S. judges and top bureaucrats. Members' pay would have risen about 50 percent to \$135,000. The vote on HJ Res 129 occurred Feb. 7. A yes vote opposed the raise.

Michigan members Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth, Dennis Hertel, D-Harper Woods, Sander Levin, D-Southfield and William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, voted yes. William Ford, D-Taylor voted no.

2. TO END MASS MAILINGS — By a vote of 245 for and 137 against, the House endorsed a Senate bid to end the unsolicited mass mailings that account for nearly 90 percent of the mail sent by lawmakers. The bid later failed. The vote took place Sept. 25 during debate on the legislative branch budget (HJR 3014). A yes vote was to end mass mailings.

Pursell and Broomfield voted yes. Hertel, Ford and Levin voted no.

3. TO PRESERVE MASS MAILINGS — The House voted 137 for and 280 against to reject another bid to end lawmakers' mass mailings. The vote occurred Sept. 28 during debate on HJR 3014, with scores of members reversing their position of three days earlier. A yes vote was to end postal patron mailings.

Pursell and Broomfield voted yes. Hertel, Ford and Levin voted no.

Blind can learn living skills

A week-long program in mobility training and independent living skills will be offered by the Easter Seal Society of Oakland County and the Michigan Commission for the Blind during the week of Jan. 2.

The program is open to anyone certified as blind or visually impaired and will focus on skills needed to adjust to living with a visual handicap.

The program will be held in the Easter Seal Society offices at 1105 N. Telegraph in Pontiac. Transportation, meals and lodging will be provided for persons not able to commute daily.

Additional information is available at the Flint office of the Michigan Commission for the Blind, 768-2030, or the Easter Seal Society of Oakland County, 338-9626.

Here's a lifesaving resolution

The National Kidney Foundation recommends signing a donor card as the ideal resolution that takes no willpower, yet could save a life.

The Michigan chapter of the foundation notes that more than 650 persons within the state are currently awaiting kidney transplants, while 465 others are waiting for transplants of other vital organs or tissues.

Nationwide, almost 9,000 Americans received kidney transplants last year, while 12,000 remained on the waiting list because of the lack of available organs.

"During this holiday season, we are joining the National Kidney

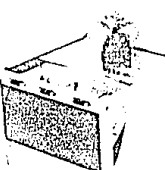
Foundation volunteers across the country, urging everyone to think about signing an Organ Donor Card and discussing their feelings about organ donations with the family," said Dan Carney, the foundation's executive director.

The foundation recommends that people interested in donating organs sign the donor card and attach it to the back of their drivers license.


To obtain a card, write the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan at 3278 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, 48104, or call the toll-free number, 1-800-482-1455.

Special Holiday Savings

Teak Magazine Table
Reg. \$95.
Sale \$69



Teak Bookcase
Reg. \$138.
"O" X 30" X 11 1/2"
Sale \$87
\$ for \$249.



CLEARANCE Center
Cash and Carry Prices.

WATERFORD CRYSTAL

Complete Selection

Be's Stemware
Fancy
Lamps
Plates
Cutlery

We Ship to U.S.A.

Mary's CHINA Shop
DOWNTOWN STORE OPEN SUNDAY 12-5

WINDSOR (downtown) - 122 CHATHAM W.
DETROIT: CALL 962-5241
Daily 9-30-6 PM Sat. 9-5-30

WINDSOR - 3310 DOUGALL RD.
We Ship to U.S.A. Free Delivery

JUST ARRIVED... BRAND NEW STYLES!

NICOLETTI & NATUZZI

IMPORTED

LEATHER

50% OFF

SATURDAY & SUNDAY • DEC. 30 & 31

A COMPLETE SHOWROOM OF THE BEST LEATHER FURNITURE

SHERWOOD STUDIOS CLEARANCE CENTER
24734 CRESTVIEW CT.
FARMINGTON HILLS
DAYS OF SALE 415-3760 PRIOR 354-9060
HOURS:
SATURDAY 10-6 SUNDAY 12-5

YEAR END Clearance

It's that time again...the end of another year, and the beginning of a super Year End Clearance Sale! Save on fabulous Bedroom Sets that are sure to bring 1990 in with a Bang!!!

- **Thomville Mystique** Complete Queen Bedwall 2 to sell. List \$5170. NOW \$2585.
- **Stanley Carved Brookmont** French Provincial Master Bedroom Collection 1 to sell. List \$1900. NOW \$2480.
- **Thomville Commentaries** Triple Dresser, Mirror, Queen Headboard and Large Chest. List \$2150. NOW \$1155.
- **Brushhill Knotty Pine Triple** Dresser, Mirror, Chest and Queen Bed. 1 Only. List \$2079. NOW \$1598.
- **Solid Pennsylvania Cherry** Includes Triple Dresser, Pediment Mirror, Queen Pediment Headboard and Chest on Chest. List \$1720. NOW \$988.
- **Thomville Villager Master** 4 Piece Bedroom Set. Done in Pecan. List \$2230. NOW \$1318.
- **Thomville Mahogany** Collection Large Door Ingle Dresser, Ingle Mirror, Carved Tobacco Leaf Bed, Chest on Chest. 1 Only. List \$6800. NOW \$3999.
- **Solid Oak Pennsylvania Bed** 1 Only. List \$1549. NOW \$488.
- **Grey Furniture Chest** 1 Only. List \$699. NOW \$298.
- **Pier Cabinet Beige Furniture** Damaged. 2 to sell. List \$499. NOW \$50.
- **Dive Solid Oak Bunk Bed** 8 to sell. List \$799. NOW \$398.
- **Stanley Oak Kids** Contemporary. Entire Group 1/2 Off.
- **Genuine Oak Triple Dresser**, Tarned Mirror, Chest and Queen Headboard. Steel Ball Bearing Guides. 1 Only. List \$1200. NOW \$1298.
- **Thomville Altitude Dresser**, Mirror, Chest and Queen Headboard. List \$1380. NOW \$897.
- **Ornate Master Bedroom** Collection by Drive. List \$1960. NOW \$1498.
- **Genuine Oak Queen Bedwall** 1 Only. List \$1670. NOW \$988.
- **Thomville Camille Night Stand** 1 Only. List \$500. NOW \$59.

\$200,000 of Fine Pictures, Art Objects, Lamps, Vases and Silk Flower Arrangements

ALL ACCESSORIES - 1/2 OFF

OPEN SUNDAY CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

house of bedrooms

Michigan's largest showcase of finer bedrooms

1716 S. Telegraph Road
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan Phone: 358-2622 or 334-4593
Daily 9-9, Saturday 'til 8, Sunday 11-5

SALE!

SAVE UP TO 70%*

DRESS BARN

NOBODY SELLS FASHION FOR LESS!

NEW! Dress Barn WOMAN for Sizes 14W-24W
LOCATED IN OUR FARMINGTON HILLS STORE

*ALWAYS 20-50% OFF DEPT. STORE PRICES • NO SALE IS EVER FINAL • OPEN 7 DAYS, 6 NIGHTS • MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED