

Can Returning Vets Get Pay Hike?

This column of questions and answers on the wage and price freeze is provided by the local office of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and is published as a public service.

Q. I'll be getting out of the Army in two weeks and returning to my old job. Can I receive the pay increase I would have gotten if I had not been in the Service?

A. Yes. Veterans returning to their pre-military employment during the freeze are entitled to all the increases they would have received had they not served in the military. Employees are hired at the pay scale in existence during the 30-day base period of July 16 to Aug. 14.

Q. Is the Internal Revenue Service the only place where you can get information on the wage-price freeze?

A. No. Information on the freeze and assistance with complaints is provided at the 10 regional service centers of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, at the more than 2,800 offices of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, as well as 369 Internal Revenue Service Local Service and Compliance Centers throughout the country.

Q. Are welfare payments covered by the freeze?

A. No. Welfare payments are not covered by the freeze. They are not payments for services rendered and, therefore, are not wages.

Q. I'm a teacher. During the summer I received my master's degree and, as a result, I was to receive a pay increment this fall. Can I still get it?

A. Yes. Pay increments for teachers who receive their master's and other scheduled pay raises dependent upon employees completing certain educational requirements may be paid during the freeze, because these actions are bona fide promotions. The employer, however, must be able to certify that such an agreement was in existence.

Q. If the effective date of the teacher's contract is after Aug. 15, the increment must be no more than the amount that was granted last year.

Q. Can merchants pass on to consumers the cost of an increase in state or local taxes?

A. No. This is not permitted during the freeze.

Q. What are some of the food products not subject to the freeze?

A. Raw agricultural products, such as fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh fish and seafood, honey, and other products that retain the same physical form they possessed when they left the farm gate, are not covered by the freeze.

Q. The lease on my apartment is about to expire. I know my landlord has raised rents for new tenants in similar apartments. Can he now raise my rent?

A. No. If a tenant's lease expires, his rent may not be raised to the level being paid by new tenants in similar units.



THE MIDDLE ROUGE River got a cleaning thanks to 3,500 volunteers last Saturday, including these Redford Township residents who cleared a logjam using their own machinery. It

was part of the "Rescue the Rouge" campaign in the western suburbs. (Observer photo by John Kham)

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RALPH YODER, 31661
Lamar Dr., Farmington,
has been appointed secretary and general manager of Tri-County Trucking Co. and Tri-County Enterprises, Inc. The appointment was made by Boyce T. Grubb, president of the two firms located in Southfield. Yoder is a member of the Farmington City Council.

Underwriter Has New Office

Associated Group Underwriters, Inc., a Pontiac-based insurance firm has announced the opening of a branch office in Wonderland Shopping Center, Livonia.

The office, which opened Sept. 21, is located adjacent to the Secretary of State license plate fee branch.

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