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## Legislator's salaries may increase 20%

HARRISBURG (AP) — State legislators were awarded a \$3,120 salary increase yesterday that would boost their salaries to \$18,720 a year. The increase will take effect in 30 days, unless the legislature returns early from its election recess to reject or amend it. The legislature rejected a plan earlier this week to return to Harrisburg to debate the commission's report. The Commonwealth Compensation Commission unanimously adopted the 20 per cent increase, but only after its three members recommended increases ranging from 14 to 24 per cent. Only legislators taking office after the November general election will receive the increases. The 25 senators who thus would be ineligible will receive the \$3,120 increase in their annual expense money until their terms expire, the commission voted.

Legislators currently receive \$7,500 in expenses. Commission member David Kurtzman argued for a 14 per cent increase. "Fifty-five per cent of the legislature still is not fully devoted to legislative activities," he said, quoting a questionnaire asking each legislator if he had a second job. Commission member Daniel Curran recommended a 24 per cent increase to create a "citizens legislature," instead of one consisting of the wealthy or those whose second job benefits from legislative service. "That's not excessive, it's not even catchup," Curran said. Earlier, commission chairman Harry Rossi noted that Consumer Price Index rose 37 per cent since the legislature received its last raise in 1972. Rossi said state employees received a total of 44.8 per cent in pay increases.

## Student rebate legislation folds like House of cards

By ERIC YODER  
Collegian Staff Writer  
The Congressional bill that would have given rebates on personal income tax for educational expenses is now all but officially dead. The bill was passed by the Senate two weeks ago, but members of the House and Senate must meet in committee before a full House vote is taken. Speaker of the House Carl Albert, D-Okla., was to make appointments to the committee after the Ways and Means Committee, which was in control of the bill, gave him the authority to do so.

The last chance for House committee members to be appointed was yesterday. Rep. Fortney H. Stark, D-Calif., objected to a motion by Al Ullman, D-Ariz., that would have authorized Albert to make the appointments. Stark is a member of the Ways and Means Committee, which Ullman chairs.

"We've been had," said Chris Moyer, an assistant to Rep. Larry Coughlin, D-Pa. "Ullman was just going through the motions." The motion to authorize appointment of committee members is a routine one, Moyer said, and no one ever expects any objection to it.

Even the committee meeting itself is a mere formality, since the full House could vote for the bill regardless of what happened in committee. Moyer said such a committee meeting would last "about ten minutes."

When the bill first came up in joint committee meetings on the recent tax reform bill, House committee members, led by Ullman, objected to it as part of the overall reform bill. They promised to go to conference if the Senate would drop it from the tax reform bill, and attach it to some other bill.

The Senate responded by attaching the bill as an amendment to the Smith College Relief Bill — a minor bill which the House had already unanimously passed. The Senate passed the bill by voice vote, appointed their committee members, and sent it to the House.

Since then, House Democratic leadership, specifically Ullman, has let the bill die a slow death. If the bill had gotten to the House floor, Moyer said,

approval was almost certain. The Senate would have to vote on it again, but its passage there would have been definite, he added.

Supporters of the bill feel they have been double-crossed, since Ullman first promised to go to conference and then delayed any motion to appoint committee members until it was practically too late to act. Even then, there is little doubt that Ullman prevailed upon Stark to object to the motion, which requires unanimous consent.

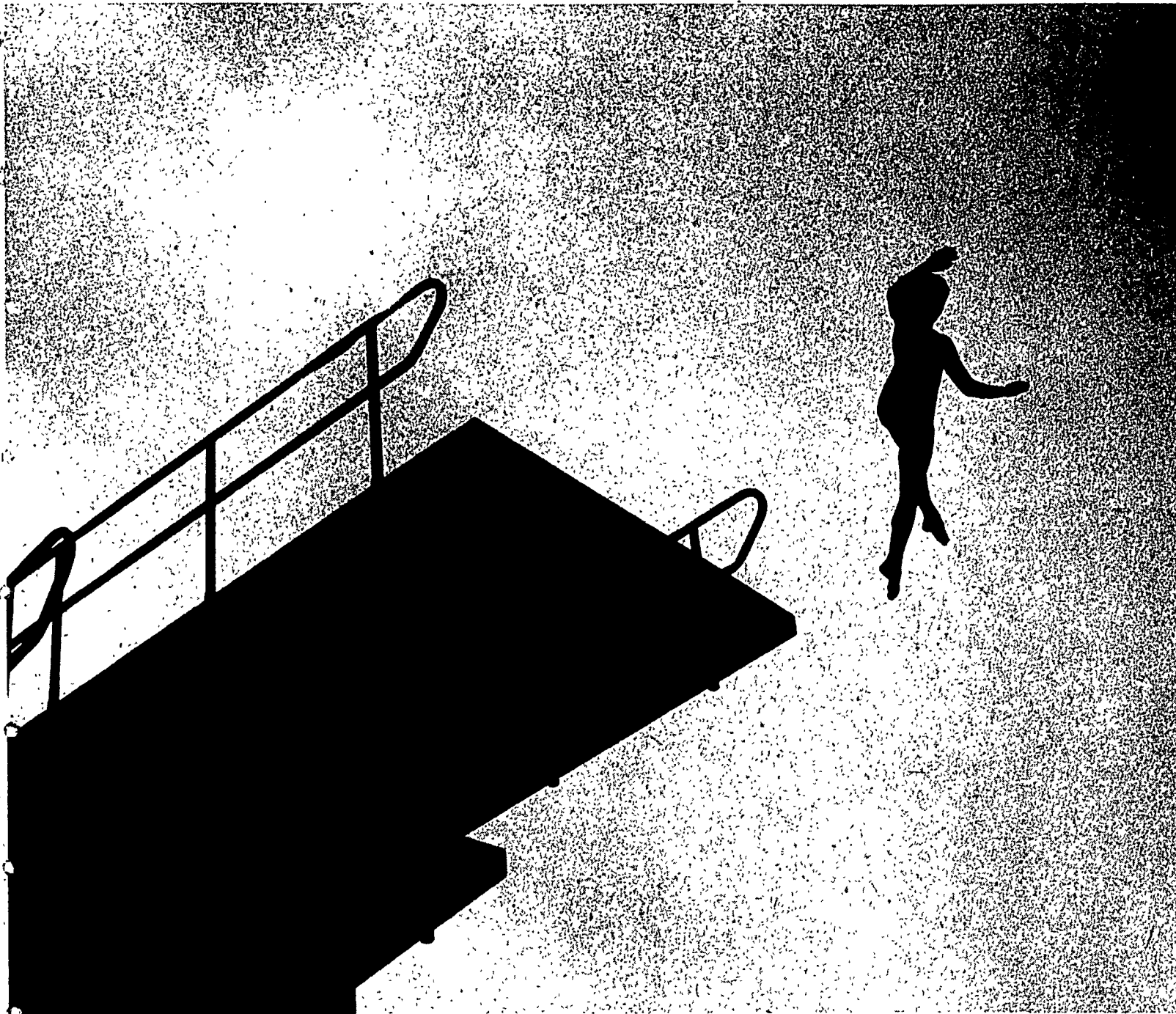
The last hope for the bill is a rule that allows the House Speaker to override a vote such as yesterday's and go ahead with the appointments. Considering the influence Ullman has over Albert in this issue, this is not likely, Moyer said.

Exactly why Ullman has been opposing the bill is not certain. One opinion is that he perceives the tax break as benefiting the middle class most. Middle class tax breaks traditionally have been a Republican idea. This plan would benefit any taxpayer in college or with a spouse or dependent in college, however, and there is even a stipulation that taxpayers earning more than \$22,500 annually would receive a smaller amount according to a percentage scale.

The projected revenue loss to the treasury would be another possible objection to the bill. However, this loss would be made up in the future with taxes paid by the additional college graduates, since they make more money and pay more taxes than non-graduates.

Moyer said the bill's death did, however, show that there is a good deal of support for the idea in both houses of Congress. Moyer believes the bill can pass in the next session "if the leadership is a little more responsive." He mentioned retirements and defeats in the November elections as vehicles of leadership change.

In the meantime, Moyer suggested that students write their congressmen or Ullman, expressing their views on the bill. Students and student organizations can also contact lobbying groups such as the National Student Association in Washington D. C.



Great leap forward

With the sun silhouetting her, Holly Landes (1st-Recreation and Parks) leaps from the 10-meter tower at the Natatorium, oblivious to the brisk temperatures.

Photo by Ken Kasper

## Britons aid Kissinger policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — With British help, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger is maintaining the momentum of his breakthrough toward peace in Rhodesia despite bitter black-white attacks on certain settlement terms. The secretary, ever since returning from his 12-day political safari through Africa, has been demanding lightning action by all parties to get Rhodesian blacks and whites around a conference table.

His aim: to have a caretaker government, with a majority of blacks in it, chosen by the end of November and certainly no later than Christmas.

Journalists who accompanied the secretary on his mission were told by a senior U.S. official that such speed has been necessitated by Russian attempts to wreck the projected set-

tlement. Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko assailed it at the United Nations on Tuesday as a piece of "political gimmickry."

The British government, under Kissinger's promptings, called yesterday for constitutional talks for Rhodesia to be held within two weeks, probably at Livingston on the Rhodesian-Zambian frontier. The British, who remain legally responsible for the breakaway Rhodesian colony which defiantly proclaimed independence 11 years ago, said all the parties had asked for the convening of the parley.

Ivor Richard, top British envoy at U.N. headquarters, has been named as presiding officer although he intends leaving as much of the negotiating as possible to the black and white Rhodesians themselves.

The storm that seemed to threaten Kissinger's

peace package for Rhodesia almost as soon as he returned here did not unduly disturb the secretary.

Even before he landed the senior American official reported that while Kissinger was somewhat elated by his achievement, he was in no way euphoric about the difficulties still to be overcome. The process of peace-making, he was said to believe, had only just begun with one central objective achieved.

That objective was the acceptance by Rhodesia's rebel premier, Ian Smith, of the principle of black majority rule plus independence for the country within two years.

Kissinger knew, according to the senior official, that the moment Smith spoke those words, "the game was up" for the 270,000 white settlers.

## Bill doubles unemployment compensation tax

## Senate extends benefits for govt. workers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate approved a bill yesterday doubling the unemployment compensation tax on employers and extending jobless benefits to all state and local government workers.

The measure, passed on a 70 to 6 vote, also would close a big loophole in current law by making it impossible for a person to draw both a retirement check and full unemployment benefits.

It now goes to a conference with the House, which passed a different bill. Both House and Senate pressed to finish their work and adjourn for the year tomorrow.

Congress failed to override President Ford's veto of a bill authorizing \$100 million for research to develop automobiles that would pollute less and burn less fuel.

The House overrode the veto on a 293 to 102 vote, but the Senate fell 10 votes short of the necessary two-thirds majority when it voted 41 to 35 to override.

Ford has vetoed 59 bills since he became president. Eleven vetoes have been overridden.

In other congressional action: — The House approved a three-year \$4.8 billion extension of programs to help economies of regions with high unemployment. Under the measure, which now goes to the White House, areas eligible for federal aid are those with unemployment substantially above the average national average for the previous 24 months.

— The Senate broke a week-long stalemate and passed a bill to permit courts to award attorneys' fees to

private citizens who bring successful suits to enforce their civil rights. The measure, passed by a 57-15 vote, now goes to the House.

— Senate-House conferees reached agreement on legislation that would assure prompt payment to persons holding claims against the Penn Central and other financially ailing railroads in the Northeast. Both House and Senate must approve it.

— A special Senate committee recommended that next year the Senate reorganize its committee structure, reducing the number of Senate committees from 31 to 15.

The jobless benefit bill passed by the Senate does not extend the benefits to farm workers and many domestics. The House version does.

Under present law, an employer pays

an effective federal unemployment tax of .5 per cent of the first \$4,200 earned annually by his workers. This results in a federal tax of \$21 per year per employee.

The bill would raise the tax to .7 per cent, effective next Jan. 1, and apply that to the first \$6,000 of wages after Jan. 1, 1978. That would result in a \$42 tax per employee.

## Weather

Sunny this morning, becoming partly cloudy this afternoon and tonight. The high today will be 65 and the low tonight 45. Mostly sunny on Friday with a high of 63.



Feed the squirrels

So what if it isn't a nut, this squirrel seemed to say as he ate a piece of licorice donated by a student.

Photo by Barry Wyshinski

## Officials to divide East voting district

East One voter precinct, which included most of the east campus, is expected to be divided into two precincts for the November elections.

Centre County commissioners voted yesterday to make the division in anticipation of a huge voter turnout. The plan now must get county court approval. Within its current boundaries, East One has about 2,000 registered voters.

Previously, the East 1 precinct included all of East Halls, all of Pollock-Nittany Halls, and McElwain and Mifflin Halls in the Center Halls area.

Under the new division, East Halls will have its own precinct — designated East 1, and a new precinct, East 4, will be created to include Pollock-Nittany Halls, McElwain

and Mifflin Halls.

"On election day, if we were to keep the precinct the way it is, it could prove to be unwieldy," said Thomas Gentzel, Centre County chief clerk. "It may not be a permanent, ongoing split, though, because for three out of every four years we don't need it."

Should the proposed split be approved, the county Democratic and Republican chairmen will each appoint two persons from the precinct to fill committee positions.

Gentzel also said that not all the East Halls dorms would be affected by the change. Stewart, Hastings, Snyder and Stone Halls are not part of East One, but rather, are located in College Township. All other East Hall dorms are in State College, he said.

## Palestinians overrun by Syrian advance

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Syrian tanks and gunners, firing artillery and surface-to-surface missiles at a rate of one every 15 seconds, overran two Palestinian mountain positions yesterday but the Palestinian defenders held their main fronts.

The main battles raged about 17 miles east of Beirut near the towns of Hammanah and Qurnayel, the targets of a two-pronged Syrian assault to cut the Palestinians' major supply line leading to their main positions of Aintoura and Mtein further north.

According to commanders at the Palestinian field headquarters in Aley, seven miles from the front, the Syrians overran two of their positions at Hazarta and Tarshish to advance to Ain El Sahha, four miles east of Qurnayel.

The Syrians were attacking in a spearhead along two main axes — east from Tarshish toward Qurnayel and north from Sofar toward Hammanah. If

they can capture the two towns and join forces, they will have cut the main supply route to Aintoura and Mtein with the way clear to advance on them.

But it was apparent from a tour of the front yesterday that the Palestinians, backed by units of the Lebanese Arab Army and other leftist forces, would be able to put up a fierce and prolonged fight.

There was no truth to Christian claims that their forces, pressing down on the Palestinians on a third front from the northwest, had captured Aintoura, Mtein or Bhamdoun.

But in spite of the heavy shelling, the fighting generally appeared to be far less intense than claimed by Lebanon's rival military spokesmen.

And despite all the reports of "ferocious battles," neither side has yet come close enough to the other to aim a gun.