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Manassas, VA 22111
February 10, 1990

Dear Mr. Lamb;

"It is intolerable and indecent for a society to produce by overworking and underpaying human beings."-James P. Mitchell

I would like to appear as a guest on your call-in show to talk about how the federal government is committing an act of tyranny by shortchanging the government workers in the pay department. I feel that all federal workers should get an immediate pay raise of 33% in order to meet the terms of the Pay Comparability Act. This would also help the federal workers meet the high cost of living and working in the Washington DC area.

I can be reached by telephone at [REDACTED]. If I am not at home, my telephone recorder will take the message. If possible, I would like 24 hours advance notice so I can come to your studio on my own time and at my own expense. This will allow me to arrange for leave time, so my appearance on C-SPAN will not cause a conflict with my work duties.

A few weeks ago, Congress passed HR 3660, a bill that gives the 33% pay raise to the federal judges, cabinet officers, members of Congress and other government executives. Simple justice demands that this law be amended to give the 33% raise to all federal workers. It is grossly unfair to give some workers the 33% raise and give other workers a measly 3.7% raise.

The 3.7% raise has been offset by cost increases for most health plans, so most federal workers will wind up with a net pay cut or less money in thier paycheck. This is for the second year in a row.

The Pay Comparability Act was designed to give federal workers the same rate of pay as workers in the private sector. It would require a pay raise of 33% or more to bring federal wages up to the salary levels paid for the same jobs in the private sector. It is time to close the pay gap and give the federal workers economic justice!

Both the President and the members of Congress should take IMMEDIATE action to pass the legislation needed to give federal workers the full 33% pay raise. If possible, this should be made retroactive to the start of the current fiscal year. The policy of starting a pay raise in January is simply an accounting trick that is designed to steal money from the federal workers.

The Pay Comparability Act should also be amended to require an automatic pay adjustment each year, based on the latest BLS data. This automatic feature would remove the temptation for the President and the members of Congress to use my paycheck as a political football

When a soldier or diplomat is stationed in a high-cost area, they are given a housing allowance or pay bonus to meet the extra expenses. Washington DC and most of the surrounding jurisdictions now meet the criteria used by the State Department for defining a high-cost area. Therefore, the federal workers who live and work in the Washington DC region should get the 33% housing allowance or pay bonus.

According to a survey released by the American Chamber of Commerce, the basic cost of living in the Washington DC region is about 28.4% above the national average. This survey includes cost factors for food, utility payments, health care, housing and transportation.

For example, a house that sells for about \$100,000 elsewhere in the country will cost about \$179,000 in the Washington DC area. A basket of food that would cost about \$100 in other cities would sell for about \$107.70 in the Washington DC supermarkets. I could cite other examples if required.

Most of the homeless people you see on the street are present and former federal workers who were evicted when they got behind on rent payments. The 33% pay raise would allow many families to put down a security deposit on an apartment or a down-payment on a home. It would also allow myself and many others living on the edge of poverty to stay in our homes and not wind up sleeping on the street.

Since virtually everybody in the Washington DC area is either a federal worker or is related to a government employee, the 33% pay raise would go a long way to reducing the homeless population in the national capital.

I feel that President Reagan left behind a time-bomb that will explode all over the newspapers and TV screens about the time President Bush makes the decision to run for his second term as President. Unless President Bush takes action RIGHT NOW to defuse this crisis, he will go down in history as another Herbert Hoover. President Hoover was a good man, but he did very little to head off the Great Depression or to minimize the damage that was caused to the nation.

Most of the federal workers who came on board when President Kennedy was in office will be eligible to retire in the next four years. This will force many federal offices to shut down or cut back sharply on services to the public. It will require an expensive crash program to hire and train the next generation of federal workers.

Do you remember the big stink that was caused when the Washington Monument and other national monuments were closed to tourists so Reagan could send the federal workers home on furlough? This was a preview of things to come in 1995.

Most young workers do not consider a career in the federal service as a realistic option. If they take a government job, this is only to gain work experience. They leave after a short time, so the money spent on thier training is wasted. Also, the lure of easy money from selling illegal drugs cannot compete with the prospect of working 20 or 30 years on government pay.

Many experienced workers are leaving the federal service because they can no longer afford to suppor thier family on government pay. When I started my career in the federal service, it was possible for a worker to afford a spuse, a home, a car and raise several children on a SINGLE paycheck. Today, in order to maintain a comparable life-style, BOTH parents must work at full time jobs.

This "brain drain" will continue until President Bush and the members of Congress take action to close the pay gap and make other reforms needed to allow the federal government to compete fairly in the labor market. In this way, the next generation of federal workers will be trained and ready to take over when my generation goes into retirement.

If Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry or George Mason could come back to life, they would denounce the federal government as an evil empire that is far different than the plan envisioned by the Founding Fathers. The crimes that are committed as "routine business" are far worse than any of the actions of King George II.

I found it ironic that when Lech Walesa came to town, he was given the full VIP treatment, including meetings with President Bush and a speech before Congress. In my opinion, the SOLIDARITY union gives its members more rights and more freedoms than the US government gives to the federal workers.

Sincerely,

