

News Release



Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network

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*** Program Alert ***

CONSUMER ACTIVIST RALPH NADER ON C-SPAN'S LIVE VIEWER CALL-IN

Washington, D.C., September 19 -- Consumer activist Ralph Nader will discuss federal and congressional pay raise legislation and the impact it will have on this fall's mid-term elections during C-SPAN's live Viewer Call-in program on Friday, September 21, from 7:15 - 8:00 PM (ET).

Mr. Nader will also talk about his consumer advocacy agenda for the 1990s.

Viewers in the Eastern and Central time zones who wish to talk to Mr. Nader may call 202-628-2525. Viewers in the Mountain and Pacific time zones may call 202-782-2727.

C-SPAN is available in 50.7 million households nationwide and around the world via satellite. The network is privately funded and is a public service of the cable television industry.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY PROJECT

P.O. BOX 19446

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

Dear Active Citizen:

We're ready for the final countdown in the drive to repeal the notorious \$35,000 Annual Salary Increase for the top officials in the Executive Branch, members of Congress and federal judges.

The time could not be riper. In the next few weeks, huge budget deficits, the S&L bailout monstrosity and a growing public outrage will force Congress and the White House to cut the budget by a reported \$50 billion. But these cuts are unlikely to come only from the biggest boondoggles of the powerful. Programs affecting the middle class and the poor will be cut across the board -- including health and safety, medical, education, housing, environmental, infant nutrition -- at the same time members of Congress will be smacking their lips in anticipation of the rest of their pay hike (about \$29,000) going into effect on January 1, 1991.

Not counting a huge increase in their pension plans plus many perks and other benefits, the total raise of \$35,000 a year itself amounts to almost double the average wage in this country and \$8,000 more than the average entire family income in this country. This raise in their own pay by the politicians comes on top of a 48% salary increase they gave themselves between 1981 and 1989 while they froze the federal minimum wage during this period at \$3.35 an hour for millions of working Americans.

Politicians who rule by hypocrisy are not good for democracy. Their leadership by self-enriching sleights of hand -- they passed the raise without any public hearings and in the House without allowing any amendments -- has severely impaired what moral authority they have left in the minds of 4 of 5 Americans who, national polls say, want the Pay Grab repealed.

Now that the countdown days are here, the Repeal the Pay Grab drive is heating up -- on the radio talk shows, among citizens filling out repeal petitions and in the political races around the country. More millions of Americans will be saying outloud -- "You want us to sacrifice, because of your waste, scandals and corruption, while you reward yourself with the biggest Government pay grab in American history for your disgraceful performance during the past decade. NO WAY!"

Repealing the Pay Grab will send a message to Washington with many other beneficial waves. Repeal will sober up politicians who think that the people will not organize and say "Enough is Enough." The politicians will be more careful on other areas of budget and policy when the people cut their pay back to \$89,500 or the level of November 1989 that STILL would leave them in the highest one percent of income earners in the United States.

Last November, 174 members of the House and 42 members of the Senate voted against raising their pay. So we already start with a large number of votes on our side. All that is needed is for House Speaker Tom Foley to schedule a vote and we are confident that the raise will be repealed. The repealer bill has already been introduced in the House by Rep. Andrew Jacobs (D-IN) and Rep. Hank Brown (R-CO). The bill is H.R. 5416.

Working together and spreading the word we can pass this repealer legislation by early October before adjournment.

Here is what you can do to be part of the Repeal Drive:

1. Write your Representative in the House of Representatives and ask for a copy of H.R. 5416. (See the enclosed model as a guide.) At the same time ask him or her whether they support H.R. 5416 and how much effort they plan to expend getting it through the House.

2. Send a copy of the above letter to Speaker Tom Foley (address: The Speaker, United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515). He needs to feel your outrage on this issue because he is the man who can decide to have a vote on the House floor.

3. Call the local office of your Representative and Senators and ask them to send you a letter saying where they stand on Repeal. This will help assure you will receive a reply to your letter described in (1) above.

4. Write a letter to the editor of your newspaper. Enclosed is a sample letter which you can rewrite in your own words with your own experience. Note the address at the end.

5. Get your friends, neighbors and co-workers to sign the attached petition. One woman from central Pennsylvania has sent us over 1000 signatures, saying it was easy as pie to obtain these signatures.

6. Send us the names of ten other people whom you know can help.

Congress needs to hear from you today. Together, we can make the difference for the repeal of the Pay Grab.

Give the pro-Pay Grab politicians a jolt right in their pocketbook for what they have done to your pocketbook. Make Congress accountable by supporting the Congressional Accountability Project.

Please send a contribution of \$15, \$25 or whatever you can afford to keep this momentum building with many other Americans who want to recover their government from the grasp of all too many spendthrifts and misfits.

Sincerely,

Ralph Nader
Ralph Nader

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Don Freeman - San Diego Union

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release

DATE: 9.19.90

NUMBER OF PAGES:
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NOTE:

619.293.2333

- 7:15pm - 8pm
- Congressional Pay Raise
reduce salaries
- other consumer concerns
- energy
- safety

Vanity Fair

PS/Ed →

John Foren
Political Writer
Jennifer Walkling
TV Editor
313.767.9480

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