

For additional information: Bill Winter, Director of Communications ♦ (202) 333-0008 Ext. 226

## **Congressmen now earn \$133,600 a year. What more could they want? Another raise!**

*'Sneaky' pay hike will occur without vote, Libertarians warn*

WASHINGTON, DC — Members of Congress make \$800 a day, the Libertarian Party calculates. Want to hear something *more* outrageous? **They want a raise of \$3,740 a year!**

"This latest congressional pay heist is an insult to taxpayers," said Steve Dasbach, chairman of the Libertarian Party. "If this raise goes through, politicians will be making nearly four times the median income of American families."

The Libertarian Party is rallying its members to "stop the salary grab" by flooding Congress with phone calls, and has joined a coalition that includes the Reform Party, U.S. Term Limits, and the Congressional Accountability Project. The group delivered a letter this week to House and Senate leaders demanding that the pay hike be rejected.

Several leading politicians, including the Republican chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations committees, are insisting on the raise, which would boost congressional salaries from \$133,600 to \$137,340 per year beginning in July.

Based on the number of legislative days the House worked last year — 167 — politicians will make a shocking \$822 a day if the raise goes through, Dasbach pointed out. If that happens, their pay would nearly quadruple the median family income of \$37,000.

**"But it gets worse," Dasbach said.** "These scheming politicians have devised a plan for pocketing the loot without even having to vote on it."

In 1989, Congress approved automatic cost-of-living allowances (COLAS) for itself every year unless they vote to prevent it, and politicians are planning to silently let the raise go through this year. "They think we're not paying attention — and they're getting ready to pay each other off," he said.

Dasbach pointed out that the vast majority of Americans — 95% — believe Congress should cut its pay instead of raise it, according to a November 1995 poll by Maricopa Research.

"We stand with the overwhelming majority of Americans who believe that members of Congress should not vote themselves a pay raise," the coalition's letter stated.

Dasbach added: "We're telling Americans to raise Cain if Congress raises its pay."

**Does your Congressman think he's worth \$822 per day?  
Find out how he'll vote by calling the Libertarian Party.**

# # #