



REPORTER

A publication of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

BYROM HONORED

At the December 1995 state council meeting, the highlight was the luncheon ceremony honoring retiring Executive Director Jack Byrom (Nor). The event came as a complete surprise to Byrom; his spouse, Bess, aided CSU-ERFA President Emmett Long (Ful), Past President Milton Dobkin (Hum), founding president Sidney Albert (LA), and Linda Zimmerman (CSU-ERFA office manager) in planning the surprise honor. Forty past and present emeriti contributed to the award for Byrom.

The program began with Long presenting a resolution of appreciation that the state council adopted by acclamation. The resolution described Byrom's service over many years as president and then executive secretary, serving without remuneration. During those years he earned the admiration and affection of his CSU colleagues. The resolution, in recognition of this service, concludes by naming him executive director emeritus.

The minutes of the meeting state:

Many . . . present made appreciative and laudatory comments concerning this gentle man and dedicated scholar. Members (and others), in gratitude for his diligent work on our behalf, . . . presented him a gift which we hope will enable him to escape, at least at times, from the humdrum of the ordinary.

Dobkin presented the gift, a travel voucher "of substance." Many of those at the meeting (and others who could not attend) contributed to the gift. Dobkin remarked about Byrom's indefatigable energy in building CSU-ERFA and in leading it to prominence and influence among a variety of publics. Dobkin did not overlook mentioning the famous Byrom "prod": (usually over the telephone) "What are you going to do about . . . ?"

After the gift was presented, several visiting dignitaries offered warm, affectionate statements in praise of Byrom. Bill Crist (Stan), president of the PERS Board of Administration, spoke eloquently of Byrom's representation of the CSU retirees to PERS. Pat Nicholson (Nor), former president of CFA, spoke warmly of the nostalgia he experienced in recalling his many interactions with Byrom as a colleague, organizer, professor, and advocate "for good causes." In particular,

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FROM PRESIDENT LONG

On December 9 the CSU-ERFA State Council met in Los Angeles. The meeting was noteworthy for a number of reasons. The new executive director, Robert Kully (LA), was welcomed and the council conducted a special ceremony honoring Jack Byrom (Nor) as executive director emeritus.

Fog throughout the state prevented our legislative liaison, Wilma Krebs (Sac), and several other members from the Sacramento and San Francisco areas from attending. Despite the weather and because some members from these areas had arrived the day before, the attendance was excellent. Forty-one members from seventeen affiliate campus were present for the full agenda.

Along with reports from officers and committees, the staff reviewed the considerable changes and activity in our Northridge office. Office manager Linda Zimmerman introduced the new administrative assistant, Alice Ong, and called attention to new communications developments in the office: a second phone line, laser printer, and plans to hook up to the internet. Robert Kully reported on progress on the consulting project, membership issues, and the confusion about the relationship between CSU-ERFA and campus retiree organizations.

He observed that CSU-ERFA is an individual membership organization of retirees from the California State University, all campuses. Campus retiree organizations, where they exist, are autonomous institutions, not chapters of CSU-ERFA. These organizations may choose to affiliate with CSU-ERFA; and when they do, CSU-ERFA rebates to the local organization a part of the dues paid by individual CSU-ERFA members.

Among items of business, there was dialogue about health care issues, even though Krebs could not make it. The president reported on correspondence and other lobbying with Washington about proposed cuts in Medicare/Medicaid. He noted the overwhelming success of the PERS long term care insurance program.

Following a discussion of the relationships of the executive committee, the state council, and the steering committee, the president appointed a by-laws committee. It was charged (1) to review the CSU-ERFA constitution and by-laws, with particular reference to the organizational structure, and (2) to present any recommendations to the state council meeting in May. The appointments to the

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SOURCE TAX RELIEF FOR SOME RETIREES.

President Clinton has signed into law HR 394 (Barbara Vucanovich, R. NV), a bill that prohibits a state like California from taxing qualified pension income of its retirees who live in other states. In the past some states have "double taxed" pension income and caused hardship for affected retirees. Because California may raise a constitutional challenge to this new federal law, SCORE (State Coalition of Retired Employees—CSU-ERFA is a member) will support AB 850 (Morrissey, R. Santa Ana), which was approved by the policy committee in the California legislature and which has similar objectives.

FEDERAL INCOME TAX PROPOSALS. Although Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes' flat-tax proposal is attracting the most attention, Republicans Richard Arme, Jack Kemp, and Phil Gramm and Democrat Dick Gephardt are also offering flat tax plans. These proposals "would replace the current income tax system with one which levies a single tax rate, e.g., 17 per cent or 20 per cent on wage, salary, and pension income, with no personal income tax on interest, dividends, or capital gains." In Forbes' plan personal deductions would be repealed, e.g., home mortgage interest, charitable donations, and state and local taxes paid. Of particular concern to public employees and retirees is the proposal to tax health benefits as personal income and to make employer contributions to pension plans taxable. Generally, all fringe benefits would be taxable, and every exemption or deferral of tax is threatened. Most plans propose a single exemption of some level of subsistence income. Overall, most of the plans would mean a substantial tax cut for the wealthy and a substantial tax increase for the middle class.

RENEWED EFFORT AT STATE LEVEL TO GUARANTEE 75% PURCHASING POWER. SB 234 (Hughes, D. Inglewood) would maintain purchasing power of PERS pensions at seventy-five per cent of their original level under PPPA (Purchasing Power Protection Account). This bill is entering its second year.

NEWS FROM PERS. PERS-Care is the most popular health care plan for retirees, with more than 55,000 members (including dependents). However, during the most recent open enrollment it experienced a loss of 2,072 retirees. The plan with the largest enrollment increase was PERS-Choice. At the January meeting the PERS board appointed the health benefits consulting firm of Watson Wyatt to evaluate cost and service levels in both of the self-funded plans, PERS-Care and PERS-Choice. About 45,650 state retirees are in HMOs, with Kaiser North having the largest membership.

The PERS board also approved the expansion of the OMNI Health Plan into Del Norte County. A special enrollment will be held in the month of March 1996, with an enrollment effective date of May 1, 1996. OMNI already operates in Humboldt County.

PERS LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PROGRAM. PERS has received about 40,000 applications for long-term care policies and 29,000 are now in force. The *Sacramento Bee* newspaper has declared the program a "wild success." PERS will accept applications until June 30, 1996. Discussions are underway about future "open application" periods.

LEGISLATION. The legislature has passed five HMO reform bills and one to eliminate any lien on property for Medi-Cal services during the lifetime of a surviving spouse (SB 412).

MEDICARE, MEDICAID, AND THE FEDERAL BUDGET. Both Congress and the President have presented budgets that balance over seven years, using Congressional Budget Office figures. As of January 11, they were not very far apart on savings from projected spending on Medicare, Medicaid, and welfare. However, there were fundamental policy differences blocking a budget deal and raising the threat of stalemate. These differences include the future of the Medicare program, federal standards for Medicaid programs, the size and structure and timing of a tax cut, and environmental and educational policies. Both sides have indicated that these issues may be best resolved in the 1996 election.

ACTIVITIES OF CSU-ERFA'S LEGISLATIVE CHAIR. Wilma Krebs (Sac), CSU-ERFA Legislative Chair, was very very very busy working in behalf of the CSU retirees during the months of October and November. She testified October 6 on the impact of proposed cuts in Medicare and Medicaid at a hearing held by Congressman Vic Fazio, Sacramento, and again she testified in Hayward on November 15 at a hearing held by State Senator Henry Mello, Hayward. She participated in discussions about long-term care in the post-White House conference in Sacramento, October 11; in a KNBR radio interview in San Francisco, November 14; in a workshop in Sacramento to implement legislation in five pilot counties to improve and coordinate delivery of long-term care, and in the PERS long-term care committee where she raised issues concerning long-term care underwriting standards and suggested

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IN MEMORIAM

Chico: Ivan Svitak. Fresno: Edgar List. Fullerton: Morton Fierman, Pat N. Lackey, Miles J. McCarthy. Humboldt: Frances Givins. Los Angeles: Richard Arvidson, Earl Kennedy Cobb, Midori Nishi, James F. Richmond, George M. Rolling, Howard E. Wilkening. Northridge: Arthur Marion, Phyllis Shaffer. Pomona: Richard H. Smith. Sacramento: Charles Ames. San Bernardino: P. Richard Switzer. San Diego: W. Carlisle Anderson. Catherine S. Seidman. San Francisco: Richard E. Bratset, Rene Cardenas, Robert J. Graham, Bing Chung Ling, Philip Makler, Thomas J. Tyrrell, Laura Weber. San Jose: Marshall B. Miller, Joe West, William D. Winter. Sonoma: Helen Dickerson

THE IRS AND CSU-ERFA

Ed Bartenstein (Nor), CSU-ERFA treasurer, advises that CSU-ERFA is organized as a non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. IRS Publication 557, chapter 3, p. 14, says: "Contributions [to such non-profit corporations] . . . are deductible as charitable contributions on the donor's federal income tax return."

According to Bartenstein, "In my opinion, this quotation applies to dues and other contributions to CSU-ERFA. However, since there could be technicalities of which I am not aware, CSU-ERFA members should consult an authority on taxation of non-profit corporations if they want to be absolutely positively sure." (Ed note: CSU-ERFA can obtain a formal written opinion from the IRS, but the IRS would charge an "enormous fee" to provide that document.)

CSULA HONORS E. KING

Judy Papenhausen, Acting Chair CSULA Department of Nursing, announces that Eloise M. King, professor emerita of nursing at CSULA, has made a generous donation to the Department of Nursing. In appreciation, the department has named its conference room in her honor.

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committee are John Houk (LA), Gordon Stanton (SB), and Jim Ryan (LB). President Long and Executive Director Kully will serve ex officio. The first meeting was held January 16.—Emmett Long

(continued from p. 1, col. 1, Byrom)

Nichelson pointed to Byrom as his "big brother" in faculty representation work and described the trust the women academics have placed in Byrom's integrity. Nichelson noted that many present at the luncheon were involved in CSU-ERFA because of Byrom.

Albert regaled the group with anecdotes about early CSU-ERFA years and his surprise at the alacrity with which Byrom had agreed to take on the job of building CSU-ERFA.

The minutes of the meeting state: "We fervently hope that [Byrom] will return to us whenever the spirit so moves him and that he will grace our meetings with his kindly presence."

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that members' children be included in these plans.

She attended a meeting of the California Senior Coalition and was briefed by legislative staff on the impact of Medicare, Medicaid legislation on California seniors. She went to the PERS Health Benefit seminars and spoke for more monitoring of health-plan quality and urged support of related legislation. She represented CSU-ERFA at all major PERS board and committee meetings and successfully urged the board to lobby harder in Washington about Medicare and Medicaid legislation. Last of mention, but not the last of her work, she responded to a PERS request to have a group of our members test a new video and brochures for those contemplating retirement.

CSULA DONATES TO CSU-ERFA

The California State University Los Angeles Committee of Concerned FERP Scholars has donated to the CSU-ERFA educational endowment fund the largest single contribution the fund has received to date. The \$1,600 gift, honoring CSU-ERFA's efforts in support of the CSULA emeriti, represents the committee's balance from funds originally collected for the legal defense efforts on behalf of the CSULA FERPs who were laid off in 1992 in violation of their contractual rights.

The California Faculty Association, with the advice and encouragement of CSU-ERFA, successfully processed a grievance for the CSULA FERPs. The CSULA emeriti actively supported these efforts with counseling and campus demonstrations. CSU-ERFA then President Milton Dobkin (Hum) helped guide the grievance to a successful conclusion. The CSULA Committee, led by professors Ivan Colburn and Clifford Craft, was supported by more than fifty campus scholars.

Because of the success of the grievance, the CSULA Committee decided to contribute the balance of its no longer needed defense fund to the CSU-ERFA fund for scholarship and research related to the concerns of faculty and staff retirees.

CSU-ERFA sends its deepest appreciation to the committee for this contribution.

CSU-ERFA REMEMBERS E. BOYER

The CSU-ERFA State Council at its meeting on December 9, 1995, devoted a moment of silence in commemoration of the passing of Dr. Ernest L. Boyer, President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This moment followed the announcement of his death in Princeton, NJ, the previous Friday.

Many regarded Boyer as America's foremost figure in American education. Several CSU-ERFA members considered him as a personal friend. Formerly chancellor of the State University of New York and later US Commissioner of Education, he also served on education commissions appointed by presidents Nixon, Ford, and Carter.

In his books *College the Undergraduate Experience in Education* and *Scholarship Reconsidered* he described the major ills of higher education. In these, he maintained that we should recognize as the equal of research teaching, service, and the integration of knowledge across disciplines.

He was senior fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. Princeton held a public memorial service for him in their Chapel on January 21.—information provided by Emmett Long.

CSU-ERFA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

CSU-ERFA President Emmett Long (Ful) announces that the CSU-ERFA Executive Committee will meet Saturday, February 17, Los Angeles from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 pm, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5985 W. Century Blvd. All CSU-ERFA members may attend this meeting. Among the agenda items are appointment of a nominating committee, health care issues, and reports of various committees and liaison officers.

CSU ACADEMIC SENATE MEETINGS

The CSU Academic Senate met September 6, 7, and 8. Chair Jim Highsmith (FRES) reported that the senate will undertake a two year study of the CSU baccalaureate degree. He announced that C. Hoff, senior vice chancellor, has developed an academic plan that involves cooperation with K-12 and includes the formation of a committee called Teacher Education and K-12 Relations. The standing committees of the CSU senate and special work groups will examine such topics as these: (1) the nature and future of undergraduate and graduate education; (2) the CSU role in the improvement of elementary and secondary education; (3) the role of technology in the teaching and learning process; (4) the redefinition of faculty roles and rewards; and (5) planning for the CSU student of the future.

Highsmith announced the CSU received \$65.4 million additional funds, thereby eliminating the need for fee increases.

Richard West, vice chancellor for budget and finance, provided information about fees at CSU and comparison institutions. In 1994-95 fees at comparison institutions were about \$2900 and at the CSU \$1879. The cost from the general fund to educate an FTE at the CSU in 1994 was \$6213; with the addition of a student fee, the total cost was \$8092 per FTE.

The senate passed a statement of principles on faculty professional development in the use of technology for teaching and learning. The report "cautions that productivity gains from technology generally lag a decade or longer in industry" and that the same may be true in academia.

The CSU Academic Senate met November 1, 2, and 3. At this meeting Chair Highsmith announced an increase in projected enrollment, to headcount of 328,000 and to FTEs of 253,000. The Maritime Academy and CSUMB account for

EDITOR MCMAHON RESIGNS

Fred McMahon (Nor), originator of and editor for *The CSU-ERFA Reporter*, has resigned as editor. McMahon comments, "Although a policy difference has caused me to resign as editor, I think that it is time for an emerita/us with new ideas to take over. I have edited the *Reporter* for ten years and that is enough, both for CSU-ERFA and for me."

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1,000 FTEs.

The senate, once again, defeated the proposal to add one "emeitus/ta faculty member to be selected by a method determined by the academic senate." The vote was 28 to 16 against.—Information provided by Don Moore (LA).

MATHY TO REPRESENT CSU-ERFA

CSU-ERFA President Emmett Long (Ful) has announced the appointment of Leonard G. Mathy (LA), Professor Emeritus of Economics, as the CSU-ERFA liaison to the CSU academic senate.

Mathy is a highly respected and successful participant in academic governance. In 1961 he was selected to chair an *ad hoc* group of faculty representatives who had gathered to prepare for faculty governance at the system-wide level. After a group developed a proposed document that would establish an academic senate, Mathy was elected to chair a committee that met with trustee representatives to prepare the constitution for the senate.

Because of Mathy's strong leadership and mediation skills, when the CSU academic senate was finally established, it elected him as its first chair. He served on the senate for sixteen years. During that time he was on many senate committees and was chair of the faculty affairs committee. He also served on numerous commissions, *ad hoc* groups, and boards.

After retirement, Mathy was the liaison representative to the senate for CSU-ERFA for four years. CSU-ERFA is pleased that someone with Mathy's experience and knowledge about academic governance has accepted this appointment.

The CSU-ERFA Reporter is a publication of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association. President: Emmett Long. Executive Director: Robert Kully. Office Staff: Linda Zimmerman and Alice Ong. Office: The Retiree Center, California State University Northridge, Building 14, Suite 204, Northridge, CA 91330-8339. Telephone: (818)718-7996. Fax (818)718-7680. Editor: Fred McMahon, 716 S. Catalina No. 1, Redondo Beach, CA 90277. Telephone: (310)540-1111. All Rights reserved. Office Hours: M-F10-4.

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