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REPORTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY EMERITUS
AND RETIRED FACULTY ASSOCIATION

STATE COUNCIL TO MEET FEBRUARY 4 IN LOS ANGELES

ERFA President Jack Byrom announces that the State Council will meet in Los Angeles on February 4 from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM at the Pacifica Hotel, 6161 Centinela Avenue, ten minutes from the Los Angeles airport just off the San Diego Freeway. The Council will have for its chief agenda item ERFA's role in persuading Congress to modify the Catastrophic Health Care Act.

President Byrom says ERFA "needs representation from every campus." In addition, he wants all ERFA members to know that they are welcome, even encouraged to attend. He says, "ERFA needs every member's help if it is to persuade Congress to eliminate this unfair new tax on middle class senior retirees."

The hotel will serve a luncheon for ten dollars; ERFA will pay tax and gratuity. The menu: soup, fruit plate, apple pie with ice cream, and beverage. All who plan to attend are asked please to make reservations by calling (818)886-1196 or by writing ERFA, Suite 224, 9010 Reseda Blvd., Northridge, CA 91324.

The hotel will provide free transportation from and to LAX. Those who are driving should take the San Diego freeway and turn off at Sepulveda-Slauson exit. The hotel is easily seen from the freeway.

ERFA CSU ACADEMIC SENATE REPRESENTATION PROPOSED

Dr. Len Mathy, ERFA's liaison to the CSU Academic Senate, has succeeded in getting a resolution introduced that would give the ERFA liaison to the Senate regular membership. The resolution proposes that the Constitution have the following added to "Section 3. Membership": "(d) one emeritus faculty member elected by the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association from among all emeriti faculty."

Dr. Mathy says the second reading of the proposed resolution is scheduled for March and that he hopes, soon after, the CSU Senate will approve the amendment. It will then go to each campus for ratification, and Mathy urges all emeriti to ask their local campus senators to support the resolution if it comes before them. The Trustees must give final approval if the amendment is to be adopted.

ERFA HELPS ESTABLISH COALITION TO FIGHT MEDICARE ACT

ERFA has helped organize Fairness to Seniors, Inc., a new coalition that has for its chief goal to get the Congress to amend the funding provisions of the Medicare Catastrophic Health Coverage Act. This new coalition consists of the twenty organizations that make up the California Seniors' Coalition (ERFA, California Retired Teachers' Association, California Commission on Aging, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Retired Public Employees' Association, California Association of Homes for the Aging, and other similar groups), the California State Employees' Association, the Grey Panthers, several similar organizations, and some AARP chapters who do not agree with the national AARP's support for this Congressional act.

Dr. Wilma Krebs, Sacramento, ERFA representative to the Seniors' Coalition, was selected by ERFA President Jack Byrom to be the ERFA representative to the Fairness to Seniors Coalition. Dr. Krebs, acting for ERFA, was a major figure in the organization of the Fairness to Seniors Coalition.

The new coalition wants the funding provisions of the act modified so that (1) future retirees will also contribute as well as benefit and (2) all over sixty-five seniors will pay the same percentage on their taxable income to support the act.

Additionally, the Coalition wants the Federal government to conduct regional hearings so that all concerned citizens can offer suggestions for modifying various provisions of the Act. The Coalition will seek maximum media coverage, perhaps organize a march on Sacramento and Washington, and produce video tapes explaining the limitations of this bill for various organizations to show to their members.

Paul Gans, of California Proposition 13 fame, has pledged his support and some of his resources to help this Coalition achieve its goals.

Jack Byrom reports that this Coalition, together with groups in other states, can get this catastrophic Medicare act repealed or modified if many concerned retirees write or call their Congressional representatives and participate in the Coalition's campaigns. He says, "We're underway now. I just hope that ERFA members will do their part. I definitely need more signed petitions from ERFA members than we now have." [See p. 3. of this issue of the *ERFA Reporter* for copy of this petition.]

HELP ERFA TO HELP YOU: BECOME A SUSTAINING OR CONTRIBUTING MEMBER

STATE COUNCIL MEETS IN SAN FRANCISCO DECEMBER 3

The State Council held its last meeting in San Francisco on December 3. The location was the Marines' Memorial Club. Approximately thirty representatives, members, and guests attended.

Dr. Byrom reported that the membership has climbed from approximately fifty in November 1987 to 947 in November 1988. The Council pointed out that it was his excellent leadership that primarily accounted for the remarkable growth. Byrom stated that if ERFA was to fulfill the needs of the CSU emeriti that ERFA must grow even more, that the Association needs at least \$20,000 a year to accomplish those goals the membership has selected. He asked all emeriti to become either sustaining or contributing members so that ERFA can increase its income.

The luncheon speaker was Dr. Leonard Mathy of California State University Los Angeles and ERFA liaison to the CSU Aca-

FLASH PR FIRM HIRED TO FIGHT HR 2470

The *ERFA Reporter* just learned as it was going to press that on January 16, Monday, ERFA President Jack Byrom and Vice President Wilma Krebs, met with a select group of officers from various state organizations that had helped form the Fairness to Seniors' Coalition. (See lead story on page one of this issue of the *ERFA Reporter* for details about this new group organized to fight the Catastrophic Medicare Act HR2470.)

Among those present at this meeting were representatives from RPEA, California Retired Teachers' Association, CSEA, California Commission on Aging, California Police Officers' Association, and several others. These groups jointly represent over six hundred thousand California retirees.

ALL ERFA MEMBERS ARE ASKED PLEASE TO DUPLICATE FORM ON PAGE THREE AND TO OBTAIN SIGNATURES AND RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO ERFA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

demie Senate. Dr. Mathy summarized the history of ERFA and pointed out that the CSU emeriti have yet to obtain official recognition from CSU. He said that for reasons he could not understand Chancellor Ann Reynolds simply does not appreciate the contributions that the CSU emeriti can make and want to make to the CSU. He has hopes, though, that eventually she will awaken to the important role that the emeriti can play.

He also made clear how important ERFA is to the CSU retiree. "What most emeriti fail to appreciate," he said, "is that the California Faculty Association, although helpful to the causes of the emeriti, can not legally represent them. ERFA is the only organization," he said, "that exists to fight to protect the rights of emeriti."

This select group reaffirmed the goals the Fairness to Seniors' Coalition had adopted at an earlier meeting. They also agreed to engage the services of Woodward and McDowell, a public relations firm, at an initial cost of \$12,000. Those present recognized that the professional charges would ultimately exceed this initial amount because of the time the campaign would probably take.

They also agreed they would ask their memberships and those of other participating organizations to make donations to pay for the campaign. (Readers will find in this issue of the *ERFA Reporter* a form they can use for making their donations.)

ERFA President Byrom asks "all ERFA members to make donations and to urge other seniors to contribute." He says, "We can win this battle, but it is going to take time and money."

BITTER PUBLIC DEBATE BEGINS OVER HR 2470

According to the *Los Angeles Times* "Backlash Grows Over New Medicare Tax"—so much so, it reports, that "Democratic leaders in Congress rushed to answer rising protests." In response to the protest, Dan Rostenkowski (D. Ill.) called "the new expansion of Medicare 'a hell of a bargain' and said any attempt to reduce the taxes must be accompanied by cuts in benefits as well."

In a recent article, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that a survey released by the American Association of Retired Persons indicated that 65% of those over 65 who participated in the survey support the new Medicare program. At the same time, they said the cost is too high for the benefits received.

And Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D. TX., according to (con't p. 4)

FORM FOR DONATIONS TO "FAIRNESS TO SENIORS" CAMPAIGN

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

AMOUNT: (circle) \$5 \$10 \$15 \$20 \$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$500
MAIL TO DR. WILMA KREBS, ERFA VICE PRESIDENT, 2731 MORLEY WAY, SACRAMENTO, CA 95864, MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "FAIRNESS TO SENIORS' COALITION"

(con't from page 2.)

the AP, told reporters, "There's a vocal minority sounding off." He added, "the outcry will subside once details of the program . . . are better known."

The *Wall Street Journal*, in an article on December 13, pointed out that many elderly view the new bill "as a disaster." They quoted Rep. Matsui as saying, "This is the most intense I've seen senior citizens in my 10 years in Congress, . . . and it's still heating up."

On the same day, the *Los Angeles Times*, in a feature editorial entitled "No Time to Tinker" called the attacks on HR 2470 "regrettable as it is shortsighted," because it is a "bargain." It also said much of the attack is coming from the National Committee to Preserve Social Security, an organization it asserted "has been conspicuous in the past for conducting . . . a deceptive fund-raising campaign in stirring false fears about the integrity of the Social

Security system."

In rebuttal, James Roosevelt, Chairman, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, pointed out his organization had opposed HR2470 because "user fees as contained in this law don't make sense. You might as well say that only parents should pay school taxes. Second, long-term care was the real issue that Congress ducked in pushing through this costly and largely unneeded legislation. Third, the absence of built-in cost controls ignore Medicare's history and almost guarantees disastrous premium increases in the future. Finally, it was our belief that this inevitable senior rebellion would make even partial senior financing of long-term care legislation that much more difficult, if not impossible." (From letter in *Los Angeles Times* December 22.)

Nicholas Hardeman, George Korber, and James Ryan, all retirees from CSU Long Beach, in a letter sent to the *Los Angeles Times*, said it had "omitted critical issues, contained misstatements, misjudged the impact of the Act on middle (and lower middle) income retirees, and demeaned the thousands of elderly retired who oppose the Act for honorable reasons."

Finally, Rep. Anthony C. Beilenson (D. CA), also in a letter to the *Los Angeles Times*, advised he strongly disagreed with its endorsing the new law. He wrote: "The name of this law is a misnomer because it implies protection from the financial devastation that a major, long-term illness can cause. The only true catastrophic benefit provided . . . is for long-term hospitalization." Further, he said: "The biggest problem with the new law is that it will make it much more difficult for Congress to address the need for help with the costs of long-term nursing home and home health care."

ERFA MEMBERSHIP

CAMPUS	CURRENT MEMBERS
Bakersfield	1
Chico	52
Dominguez Hills	4
Fresno	47
Fullerton	55
Hayward	42
Humboldt	42
Long Beach	132
Los Angeles	81
Northridge	115
Pomona	47
Sacramento	59
San Bernardino	8
San Diego	124
San Francisco	54
San Jose	63
San Luis Obispo	24
Sonoma	26
Stanislaus	13
TOTAL	989

INEXPENSIVE LOS ANGELES HOTELS

Quality Inn, 5249 W. Century (213)645-2200 or (800) 228-5151; Days Inn, 5101 Century, (213)419-1234 or (800)-325-2525; and Travelodge, 9750 Airport, (213)645-4600 or (800)255-3050.

THE *CSU ERFA Reporter* is a publication of the California State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association. President: Jack Byrom (818)886-7050. Office Manager: Ann Oliver (818)886-1196. Editor: Fred McMahon (213)540-1111, 1400 South Catalina 309, Redondo Beach, CA 90277. All rights reserved.

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