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THE FEDERAL DIARY

January's 4.1 Percent Increase Will Ricochet Off the Haves and the Have-Nots

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Top federal executives stand to get back-to-back raises next year: a guaranteed 4.1 percent raise in January followed by a potentially much larger February raise under a pay plan announced yesterday by the president.

One in every nine persons in the Washington area, civilian and military, will get the 4.1 percent raise. It will push the area's monthly federal military payout to about \$2 billion. It will affect rent, food prices, alimony payments and parking fees for everyone in town. And it will trigger a round of raises in firms and national organizations that follow Uncle Sam's lead.

January's raise covers workers from Grade 1 through the Senior Executive Service. That takes in janitors at the National Institutes of Health, National Security Agency cryptographers, park rangers, CIA analysts, VA medical personnel, Foreign Service officers and astronauts, plus hundreds of other federal occupations. Only officials making \$82,500 or more a year are excluded from the raise.

The 7,000-plus SES members will get the January raise plus any February increase for government officials. The 4.1 percent raise will bring the lowest paid SES member, now \$65,994, to \$68,700 in January. Top SES pay would rise from the current \$77,500 to \$80,700.

President Reagan said he regretted the congressional pay limit on itself and cabinet-level

officers, which is part of a Treasury-Postal Service money bill. But he promised to recommend high-level raises in January, based on a study committee that reports to him just before Christmas. Raises he proposes would go into effect automatically in February unless vetoed by Congress. The timing will spare his successor the political blame of the executive raises and should make it easier for the next president to recruit top talent.

Here are the new January pay rates reflecting the 4.1 percent increase that was first authorized by Congress and made official yesterday by the president:

SES: Executive Schedule (ES) One, \$68,700; ES Two, \$71,800; ES Three, \$74,900; ES 4, \$76,400; ES 5, \$78,600 and ES 6, \$80,700.
Foreign Service: Class One, \$57,158 to \$74,303;

Class Two, \$46,315 to \$68,015; Class Three, \$37,529 to \$55,113; Class Four, \$30,410 to \$44,658; Class Five, \$24,641 to \$44,658; Class Six, \$22,028 to \$32,349; Class Seven, \$19,693 to \$28,920; Class Eight, \$17,605 to \$25,854 and Class Nine, \$15,738 to \$23,112.

VA Physician/Dentist/Nurse Schedule: Director, \$67,038 to \$75,500; Executive, \$61,900 to \$75,500; Chief, \$57,158 to \$74,303; Senior, \$48,592 to \$63,172; Intermediate, \$41,121 to \$53,460; Full, \$34,580 to \$44,957 and Associate, \$28,852 to 37,510.

Nurses Schedule: Chief Grade, \$41,121 to \$53,460; Senior, \$34,580 to \$44,957; Intermediate, \$28,852 to \$37,510; Full, \$23,846 to \$31,001; Associate, \$20,521 to \$26,677 and Junior Grade, \$17,542 to \$22,807.

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