

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Oklahoma senator a solid conservative.

"That would be an honor that would rival Carl Albert serving as Speaker of the House," Keating said.

—**SHAWN ASHLEY**
05/15/96

INHOFE INTRODUCES BILL TO REFORM CONGRESSIONAL PENSIONS

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Senator James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) announces the introduction of SB 1776, legislation to limit pension benefits for members of Congress.

"This bill addresses the two most frequent appeals people make to Congress," Inhofe said. "First, that we have term limits, and second, that we have meaningful reform of the pension system. This bill does both and resolves these appeals forever. By limiting pensions, it will take away the financial incentive members have to stay insulated in Washington without going out and making a living in the real world."

The Inhofe bill would limit a new House or Senate member's ability to accrue pension benefits to a maximum of 12 years in each body. Current members would be limited to a maximum of 12 years of pension accrual in addition to what they already have. If passed, the bill would take effect in 1997 at the beginning of the new 105th Congress.

Inhofe pointed out that the current average Congressional pension is \$46,789, while some pensions for very long-serving members are in the \$100,000 range and more. Under this new bill, the pension benefit for a new member would be \$27,254.

—**US SEN. JIM INHOFE, R-OKLA.**
05/15/96

REID-NICKLES BILL DENIES PENSIONS TO FELONS

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Senators Harry Reid, D-NV, and Don Nickles, R-OK, are sponsoring legislation to cut off federal pensions to members of Congress convicted of felonies committed while in office.

"Those who created the institution of the Congress of the United State would have been shocked to learn that former members convicted of felonies continue to draw their taxpayer-financed pensions," Nickles said.

The Reid-Nickles Pension Forfeiture Act would halt the disbursement of pensions to members of Congress convicted of felonies related to their official duties. Crimes that would result in a loss of retirement benefits

under this Act include bribery, perjury, and fraud. All crimes listed under the act are punishable by prison terms of more than one year.

Since 1980, there have been 18 congressional convicts.

Reid is chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee and Nickles chairs the Republican Policy Committee. Nickles and Reid intend to use their Senate leadership positions to gain bipartisan support and move their bill through the Senate. Companion legislation to the Pension Forfeiture Act is pending in the House.

Under current law, pensions can be taken away upon conviction of certain felonies involving national security, such as treason or espionage while in office. The Reid-Nickles bill expands the list of felonies to include crimes relating to the abuse of public office.

—**US SEN. DON NICKLES, R-OKLA.**
05/15/96

NICKLES ANNOUNCES FOR LEADERSHIP POSITION

■(WASHINGTON) Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles announced Thursday he is seeking the Assistant Majority Leader position in the Senate Republican Leadership.

"This is a decision that I have been considering for quite some time," Nickles said. "Being a member of the Senate leadership

is a real challenge and it provides the opportunity to be involved with all the issues that the Senate considers. I have enjoyed the role I have played with the Republican Policy Committee and hope to continue to help shape the Republican agenda in the Senate."

Nickles, 47, has served in the Senate leadership since 1988, first as Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee and then in 1990 as Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee, the post he now holds. Nickles was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1980.

—**US SEN. DON NICKLES, R-OKLA.**
05/16/96

PUBLIC NOTICE

FCC Seeks Comment on Issues Relating to Broadcaster Proposals to Provide Time to Presidential Candidates

■(WASHINGTON) On April 25, 1996, the Fox Broadcasting Company filed with the Commission a Request for Declaratory Ruling regarding a proposal to present statements by Presidential candidates over the network prior to the November 5, 1996 general election. Fox has proposed to offer news event coverage of back-to-back statements by the major presidential candidates, as determined by the Commission on Presidential Debates, in a one-hour block of time on

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