

FEDERAL DIARY

Mike Causey

Worker Sees No Reason to Complain About Pay

the 1990 bipartisan federal pay law. That ended to narrow the pay gap by next to reduced raises, federal unions say, become a canyon.

House says nobody will know whether ers are underpaid, or maybe overpaid, l value of the federal compensation lary, pension, vacations, holidays, compared with private pay and private

, the pay gap issue divides the nation. ers, especially those here in a town high-paid lobbyists, lawyers and trade nsider the pay gap as gospel. Most e the Capital Beltway think it is bunk. eral workers cite talk of a pay gap as shington, D.C., stands for Disneyland ac.

vs is this: We have found a federal nks he is paid fairly, enjoys good oesn't (repeat, DOESN'T) believe in his is news!!!

come as a surprise, however, that the nderson, doesn't want to identify his . He may be brave, but he isn't foolish.

Here's what he says: "Your April 11 column stated that 155,000 federal employees are eligible for regular retirement and that 258,000 more are eligible for early retirement. That is more than 400,000 federal employees who could retire and receive an immediate annuity. Yet they don't quit. Or to be more accurate, to include myself, we don't quit."

"Why don't we quit?"

"Because we know that most of us could not find a job in the private sector that pays anywhere near what we get now in the federal government, and that few, if any, private-sector jobs have a benefits package anywhere near what the feds provide. This is proof positive that the 'pay gap' between the federal and private sectors is a myth. If it exists at all, it is the private sector that lags federal pay and not the other way around."

"If you could retire on a fully-indexed pension of half your pay and get a job that pays 20 to 30 percent more than your current job, wouldn't you retire? Would you turn down a 70 to 80 percent raise?"

Concludes Anderson: "Either federal employees love their jobs, or they are stupid or the pay gap is a fake."

See why he wants his agency to remain a mystery?

WISE Women

Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) will have a national training and development program from April 26 to 28 at the Holiday Inn Rosslyn Westpark Hotel. To register, log on to www.fedwise.org.

Promotion Protest

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has certified all African American males at the Social Security Administration's Baltimore headquarters as part of a class for purposes of a discrimination suit against SSA. The employees allege a pattern of discrimination in promotion and other personnel practices. The American Federation of Government Employees union has contributed \$10,000 to help the group, Black Males for Justice at the SSA.

The group plans a rally and news conference today—at 11:30 a.m.—in the EEOC headquarters in Washington. It is seeking promotions and retroactive back pay.

Monday, April 19, 1999

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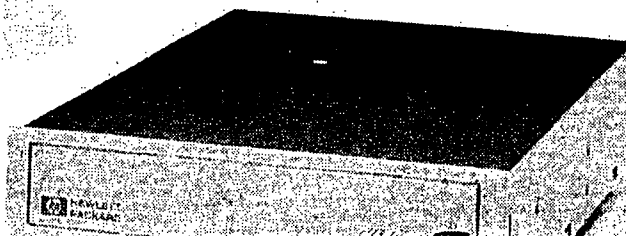
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