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Why Doesn't He Just Freeze Federal Workers' Salaries?

Posted by **B. Daniel Blatt** at [12:23 am - September 1, 2009](#).

Filed under: [Big Government Follies](#)

I have lost count of the number of friends and acquaintances who work in the private sector who have told me their employer has either cut their pay or frozen their salaries to avoid laying off (them and/or) their co-workers.

And now, the President, is asking “[federal workers to sacrifice](#)” by cutting their pay increase by [0.4 percent](#):

Citing the current economic recession — and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks eight years ago — President Obama says he will use emergency powers to cut the programmed across-the-board January increase in federal employees' pay from 2.4 percent to 2.0 percent, according to a letter he sent to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on Monday.

It seems that Glenn Reynolds' friends recount similar experiences to those of mine as he, [who tipped me off to this story](#), opines:

Given that lots of people in the private sector — and even in state and municipal governments — are facing no raise at all, or [actual pay cuts](#), I don't think this will impress many folks out there.

I agree.

The president would really show he wants to get a handle on the growth of the size of the federal government if he froze the salaries of federal workers. Public employee unions might grouse, but the American people would cheer.

FROM THE COMMENTS: SoCalRobert links an [indispensable post on the rapid increase in federal workers' salaries on the blog of the Cato Institute](#). Read it and try not to lose your cool. Seems we could almost erase the federal deficit just by bringing salaries of federal workers in line with those of their counterparts in the private sector.



12 Comments »

1. Dan - you must be joking. These folks are lucky to have a pot to pee in.

This should get your blood pressure up:

<http://www.cato-at-liberty.org/2009/08/24/federal-pay-continues-rapid-ascent/>