

Salary Increases Recommended For County Employes

Salary hikes for one-half of the county's approximately 800 employes were recommended this morning to the board of supervisors for the 1964-65 year. The board took the pay increase proposal under submission for two weeks.

Allen Bennett, chairman of the county civil service commission, said the wage boosts would reflect an over-all increase of \$172,000. Of this, about \$25,000 would be derived from state and federal subventions.

The proposal, compiled after four public commission hearings, resulted from comparisons with eight comparable counties and local industry, according to Bennett.

The commission also recommended that \$60,000 be placed into a contingency fund to be used for additional salary increases—possibly to be needed during the coming fiscal year.

It also recommended that the right to private practice be removed from the position of assistant district attorney.

"It would be in the interest of the county to adopt the salary schedule as recommended," Bennett said. **"I feel the recommendations are valid and can be fully supported."**

He said the commission did not suggest increases for certain jobs that "are on the border." However, the commission will "take another look" at these jobs in six months. That's why the commis-

sion wants \$60,000 in contingencies, he said.

Another commissioner, Robert Darrow, said almost every job classification is 2 to 3 per cent below what is being paid to employes in the other organizations used as comparisons.

He urged the board to give "special consideration to problems" in the county counsel's office and district attorney's office." He said the attorneys are leaving for other jobs, and the county is "not getting is money out of these people by being a training ground."

Darrow also pointed out the social welfare department, auditor's office and public works department are departments where employes come, stay shortly to gain experience and then leave for higher paying employment elsewhere.

Darrow said that "almost everytime" the technical personnel in these departments are hired, they are employed at the "second and third steps" on their respective salary ranges. Hiring personnel higher than the first step proves that county wages are "not competitive" with other areas, he added.

Employes in clerical positions aren't being recommended for increases at present, he said, because apparently an adequate number of employes are available locally. However, the borderline cases should be reviewed in six months, he said.

Elmer Stricklett, Inventor