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The Crystal Report on Executive Compensation



I'll Take It, Senator McCaskill!

by Graef Crystal

January 30, 2009

Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) has introduced legislation that would cap the pay of executives receiving government bailout money at \$400,000 a year, the pay she claims is received by the president of the U.S.

To be sure, the president of the U.S. does receive a salary of \$400,000 a year. But think about the the president's total pay, which includes:

- Free room and board in a glorious home located in downtown Washington, D.C.
- A vacation retreat at Camp David, Maryland.
- Scores of free servants in both residences.
- Use of Air Force One.
- Use of a helicopter.
- Use of limousines.
- A pension, after just one term of office, that has a present value of about \$5 million.
- And don't forget the Marine Band to entertain your guests at dinner party.

And while you're at it, Sen. McCaskill, think about the fact that none of this total pay is at all dependent on the president's performance. Of course, your being a Senator with all, you probably think that everyone is paid that way.

The people on Wall Street almost destroyed our economy.

Whatever is left to be destroyed is now in the hands of the people in Washington, D.C.

If Sen. McCaskill is any guide, they have what it takes to do the job.

2009 marks GRAEF Crystal's 50th anniversary in the executive compensation field. He has been a director of compensation for General Dynamics and Pfizer, worked as a consultant for Booz, Allen & Hamilton, served as worldwide practice director at Towers Perrin, was a professor at the University of California at Berkeley's Haas School of Business for 10 years and a syndicated columnist for Bloomberg News for almost nine years. He has written six books and more than 1,600 articles on executive pay. He is now teaching a course in executive compensation at the University of California at Berkeley's Boalt School of Law.