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Alumnus donates Pay Board records

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ALUMNUS DONATES
PAY BOARD RECORDS

MISSOULA--

U.S. District Judge George H. Boldt, a 1926 alumnus of the University of Montana Law School and chairman of the Pay Board since its inception in 1971, has donated his personal copies of the Pay Board records to the UM Library Archives.

The material, amounting to nearly seven linear feet, was received by UM Archivist Dale L. Johnson last week. Judge Boldt resumed his judicial duties in western Washington March 1 when the Pay Board was disbanded as part of President Nixon's Phase III economic program.

In making the donation, Judge Boldt said the material is "my complete collection of various items recording the history and every development from beginning to end of the Pay Board.

"I believe that in addition to academic value the collection would be of great practical value to those responsible for an economic stabilization program in the future," Judge Boldt explained.

Johnson said the material includes correspondence from various labor organizations, congressmen and administrative officials; minutes and agendas of the Pay Board; case files on major decisions involving the longshoremen strike, aerospace workers and New York City employes strike; economic policy papers and historical data.

"The papers are a valuable key to understanding the economic situation of the nation during the period from 1971 to 1973 and the events leading up to Nixon's wage-price controls," Johnson said.

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"In addition, it will give researchers an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the Pay Board and various facets of the economic stabilization program."

Johnson quoted a New York Times editorial about the accomplishments of the Pay Board and Price Commission saying, "they (the two agencies) have shattered the myth that controls could not work in a democracy in peacetime."

Judge Boldt, a 1921 graduate of Stevensville High School, received his Bachelor of Arts degree from UM in 1925 and a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1926. He was president of the UM student body in 1924-25. A member of the UM Foundation trustees, Boldt was appointed District Judge by former President Eisenhower in 1953.

Johnson said the material is located in the lower level of the UM Library and is available to all interested researchers.

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