

TO: MARILEE J-LAYMAN
FROM: CHRIS LEE, WASHINGTON POST
1 PAGE TOTAL

added another title: chairman.
Novoselic has replaced former congressman John B.

Sen. Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.) contacted his supporters the other day to complain about shady practices by firms that issue credit cards.

The Poker Players Alliance is about to make bet on the upcoming elections. The two-year-

Presidential Perks

The White House is asking for more than \$2.5 million in fiscal 2009 to take care of surviving presidents' needs. That doesn't include the cost of Secret Service protection, a figure the federal government no longer releases. The last available total, from fiscal 2000, was \$23.7 million.

Fiscal year 2009 budget requests

Largest request in category	Jimmy Carter	George W.W. Bush	Bill Clinton
Former presidents' benefits	\$194,000	\$194,000	\$204,000
Personnel compensation	96,000	96,000	96,000
Personnel benefits	2,000	64,000	55,000
Travel	2,000	56,000	50,000
Office rental payments	102,000	175,000	54,000
Telephone	10,000	17,000	75,000
Postage	15,000	13,000	18,000
Printing	5,000	11,000	14,000
Other services	80,000	117,000	84,000
Supplies and materials	5,000	15,000	25,000
Equipment	7,000	68,000	35,000
Total	\$518,000	\$824,000	\$1,212,000

SOURCE: General Services Administration

COMPILED BY MADONNA LEBRINI/GRAPHIC BY TERRY — THE WASHINGTON POST

Post-White House, a Pretty Good Deal

By CHRISTOPHER LEE
Washington Post Staff Writer

Long after they leave office, American presidents are still with us.

Many stay in the public eye, of course, calling attention to the Middle East peace process, AIDS or disaster relief. They give speeches for substantial sums and sometimes even stump for their spouse on the campaign trail.

All the while, in the limelight or out, they are still on the public dime.

There is the lifetime pension, in effect since Congress approved it in 1958. The award is taxable and pegged to the annual salary for Cabinet secretaries, which these days is \$191,300, according to the Congressional Research Service.

But that is just the best-known ex-presidential perk. There are travel costs, postage, office rental and supplies. Former U.S. chief executives enjoy lifetime subsidies from the people they once served.

The White House's 2009 budget request seeks a total of more than \$2.5 million to take care of surviving presidents' needs. That doesn't include the cost of providing Secret Service protection for them, a figure the federal government no longer releases for public consumption. The last available figure, from fiscal 2000, was \$23.7 million.

Bruce Buchanan, a professor of government and presidential scholar at the University of Texas at Austin, said most Americans understand that former presidents continue to draw federal dollars, even if they don't know every detail of where the money goes.

"My guess is it's kind of a tacit collusion between the parties," Buchanan said. "They both occasionally have presidents, and they want their former presidents treated well. They are regarded as national resources. Most of them do good works and make good use of the money, and do gradually reduce the bite that they take



Secret Service officers accompanied Bill Clinton as he left a book signing in London last October.

out of the Treasury as time goes on. And they are seldom charity cases in any event."

Recently released tax returns show that former president Bill Clinton and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) have earned more than \$100 million since leaving the White House. President Bush and wife Laura reported income of nearly \$924,000 last year, and have a ranch in central Texas and other substantial assets.

So, given the considerable resources and earning power of former presidents, is there an argument for ending some of their lifetime entitlements and awarding them only as needed?

"There could be, especially when you have presidents who accumulate what most would regard as fabulous wealth," said Buchanan, who added that such a change is highly unlikely. "The question is who has got the political capital to pursue it and who wants to use it on that issue."

SEAN WANTED
BECAUSE HE HAD
WAS AN AMERICAN

CTIA