

**'CUT IN BENEFITS'**

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# Parking Fees Irk Most

WASHINGTON — President Carter's decision to charge for parking in government lots hit many military and federal workers like a faceful of exhaust fumes. When the smoke cleared they indicated they were sick about it.

Twenty-five employees at the Naval Air Rework Facility in Norfolk, Va., for example, filed forms to stop their savings bond allotments and their contributions to the local Combined Federal Campaign.

The American Federation of Government Employees and several smaller federal worker unions issued statements denouncing the parking plan.

"We must strenuously object to the President's decision to once again hoist federal workers up a flagpole as 'symbols' of his commitment," said AFGE president Kenneth Y. Blaylock.

"We believe federal workers will suffer multiple problems of added commuter costs, higher

prices for fuel, the continued ravages of inflation while their justified pay raises are muffled at 5.5 percent," Blaylock said.

At the Pentagon, where the monthly parking rate is expected to go up to \$19 a month in the next two years, loss of free parking seemed to dominate conversation.

"Oh, yeah, everybody's talking about it," said Air Force SMSgt. George Craig. "It's viewed as another cut in benefits."

Craig and another member of his car pool, SMSgt. Wayne Gilson, said it won't change their driving habits.

"I can't stop driving," Gilson said, "I have two jobs. I think anyone here who moonlights would have the same problem."

"The thing that bothers me," said Col. David Glanzer, "is that most people are not here (at the Pentagon) by their own choice. We take free parking for granted. It's not thought of as part of our pay."

"I don't see any purpose to it,"

said an Army private who asked not to be identified. "To many low-ranking families, \$19 a month is a lot to pay," she said. "Everyone I've talked to thinks (the fee) is stupid."

Air Force Capt. John Vloet said the fee looks like more chipping away at military benefits. "It's another way of keeping the pay raise down," he said. But, he conceded the \$19 fee sounds reasonable. "I don't believe it would keep anyone from wanting a job at the Pentagon."

An Army sergeant said he will continue to drive to work despite the parking fee. "Taking a bus," he said, "I'd need a half hour more getting to work and another getting home. It's not worth it."

An Army officer said it was not fair to ask his opinion of the parking fee since he was on temporary duty from an assignment in San Antonio.

"But," he said, walking away, "I think it's a good idea."

**TOM PHILPOTT**