

O'Leary, 58, a lawyer, oversees a \$17.5-billion agency and one of the largest federal bureaucracies, with 17,000 federal employees and another 140,000 who work for the government through contracts with private companies. Its responsibilities include cleaning up thousands of sites that were radio-actively contaminated through the nation's nuclear weapon program.

O'Leary was executive vice president for corporate affairs at Northern States Power Co., a gas and electric utility based in Minneapolis, before Clinton made her the first woman and first African American to head the Energy Department. A multimillionaire, her annual salary is now \$148,400.

She won early plaudits for revealing information about government-sponsored atomic experiments and has led high-profile overseas trade missions to India, Pakistan and China, where U.S. energy firms signed deals that the Energy Department said were worth at least \$19.2 billion.

While battling Republican-led efforts to eliminate her department in recent months, O'Leary has announced plans to close offices and reduce staff, as well as cut back on overall department travel.

An extensive review by The Times of the travel itineraries and vouchers of eight senior Clinton officials found that O'Leary's travel habits stood out. The median cost of her trips, which means that half her trips cost more and half less, was \$671. The median duration of the trips was three days.

Among those surveyed, only Veterans Affairs Secretary Jesse Brown recorded similar costs. His traveling style is not comparable to O'Leary's, but he tends to take longer trips.

The figures for O'Leary and her counterparts appear low, in part because they include inexpensive trips, some of which involved only ground transportation and no overnight stays. In other cases, political campaign committees picked up some of the tab if the trip entailed a political appearance.

Moreover, government officials can be reimbursed no more than a certain amount for meals and lodging, with those maximums determined on a city-by-city basis. In addition, hotels and airlines often offer discount rates to government workers.

Overall, O'Leary spent \$49,857 on her 61 domestic trips, a figure that does not include travel by her aides.

That amount was \$11,088 less than Cisneros' cumulative cost, although he took nearly twice as many trips. Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich took only three fewer trips than O'Leary but charged taxpayers slightly more than half as much.

The seven times that O'Leary upgraded to business class or first class at public expense were generally on overseas or cross-country trips. She cited on her travel vouchers that she needed to do so to perform work during the flight, to arrive at her destination fresh enough to conduct business and because of periodic back spasms. Federal travel regulations require such justifications for flying via any class other than coach.

On other trips, Semedo said O'Leary upgraded by using frequent-flier miles accumulated before she came to the Energy Department or by paying the difference herself.

The spokeswoman said O'Leary considers it cost-effective for aides to upgrade so they can work with her in flight. Unless otherwise necessary, just a single seat is upgraded, with staff members moving back and forth from coach class to consult with the secretary.

But the practice can multiply the cost. During an October, 1993, flight from Chicago to London, three staff members upgraded to business class with O'Leary. The additional

charge to the government for the secretary was \$3,198, and the added amount for the three aides was \$7,067.

The lodging choices of O'Leary and her Cabinet colleagues are also a study in contrasts.

When Browner traveled to Boston in late 1994 for the EPA, she stayed at the Charles Hotel on Harvard Square at a cost of \$83 a night. O'Leary stayed at the Four Seasons for \$335 a night when she flew to Boston in November, 1993.

When Reich went to New York for the Labor Department in April, 1993, he stayed at the Sheraton Manhattan for \$125. Three weeks later, O'Leary flew to Manhattan and checked into the Ritz-Carlton for \$195.

Federal travel regulations permit officials to seek approval to claim up to 150% of the maximum per diem cost if one of the several "special or unusual circumstances" applies. In Boston, O'Leary sought the higher rate in her travel authorization because she required lodging close to where she was scheduled to appear. She also did so in New York, citing high costs and her schedule.

The government maximum for New York accommodations is \$140, or \$210 at the higher reimbursement level. In Boston, however, even at the higher reimbursement rate, the secretary was able to put in for only \$171 for lodging. O'Leary paid the balance herself.

Overall, O'Leary billed the government for expenses that exceeded the maximum standard reimbursement rate on 61 of the 71 occasions when she stayed at a hotel in the United States, records show. Other agency heads took advantage of the higher cap far less often.

O'Leary is usually joined by seven or more aides on foreign trips and by several aids on domestic journeys, through that number has been as high as 10 on occasion. She almost always travels with her director of scheduling and logistics and a security officer, Semedo said. Other staff members "may be assigned if their expertise is needed" in such matters as nuclear weapons cleanup or international trade, she added.

By comparison, Cisneros traveled alone on a quarter of his domestic trips, with one aide on nearly half of his trips and with as many of four staff members only once. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor traveled alone or with one aide on two-thirds of his trips that included domestic destinations and with no more than five on any trip.

"I don't travel with a large number of aides because I usually spend my travel time catching up on important reading that I can't get to in the office, or sketching out ideas," Cisneros said. "Likewise, I find coach seating very satisfactory for my needs."

One O'Leary destination had nothing to do with official Energy Department business.

In February, 1994, the secretary and two staff members traveled from Los Angeles to Boca Raton, Fla., where she participated in a weekend conference of the Democratic National Committee's Business Leadership Forum, a group of corporate executives who each gave at least \$10,000 to the Democratic Party.

During her stay at the Boca Raton Resort & Club, O'Leary's schedule consisted primarily of attending a Democratic leadership forum lunch and dinner, as well as recreational and personal appointments. O'Leary did not seek reimbursement from the government for any of her expenses in Boca Raton. The Democratic National Committee repaid the Energy Department for the added cost of her flight from Los Angeles, where she had gone on government business.

But the two staff members who accompanied her did bill taxpayers for their flights to and from Florida and for some of their expenses during their midwinter stay at the oceanfront resort.

Chief of Staff Richard H. Rosenzweig was reimbursed for three nights at \$125 a night and the daily per diem of \$34. Johannah M. Dottori, O'Leary's director of scheduling and logistics, put in for the full resort rate of \$257 for two nights and per diem for two days. Both sought the higher ceiling on their lodging because of "extraordinary expenses associated with accompanying the secretary," according to their travel records.

Even so, Dottori exceeded the 150% limit by approximately \$100. Semedo said Friday that this was "an oversight" by department auditors and that Dottori will probably have to reimburse the government for the excessive charge.

During the cross-country flight, Semedo said O'Leary worked on official business and consulted with her staff. Wherever O'Leary is, Semedo said, she spends "a major portion of her time" on departmental matters.

Asked to explain why Rosenzweig and Dottori were reimbursed for their expenses, the department cited a 1990 White House memorandum which said, in part, that travel can be charged to the government for individuals "whose official duties require them to be with a Cabinet member, whether or not the Cabinet member himself is on official business."

The two aides accompanied O'Leary "to perform official functions, including preparation for upcoming work, policy discussions and providing a communications link to the department headquarters," Semedo said. "They did not take part" in partisan activities.

FLAG AMENDMENT IS THE PEOPLE'S WILL

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the comments of one of our colleagues in the House, the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. JEFFERSON. His column entitled, "Flag Amendment Is the People's Will" was published in the recent edition of the American Legion Magazine in support of the constitutional amendment protecting our flag. As you know, Mr. Speaker, this constitutional amendment will be coming before us on the floor this Wednesday, June 28. I would ask all my fellow Members to heed Mr. JEFFERSON's sound advice and keep faith with the American people by supporting this constitutional amendment and sending it to the States and the people for ratification.

[From the American Legion]

FLAG AMENDMENT IS THE PEOPLE'S WILL

(By Representative William Jefferson)

In April, a proposed constitutional amendment that would permit the individual states to enact legislation banning physical desecration of the flag was introduced in the Congress.

After much careful deliberation, I became an original cosponsor of the amendment. My decision came not without considerable anguish, particularly over the principle of amending the Constitution.

In the final analysis, however, it came down to this: If we are not willing to stand up for our flag, what will we stand up for?

To those who say this is a First Amendment issue—an issue of free speech—let me remind them that there are several restrictions and limits on speech already. One cannot libel or slander another without fear of

legal retribution. One cannot advocate the assassination of the President without the Secret Service becoming extremely interested in his or her speech. As Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter pointed out so eloquently many years ago, our right to free speech does not extend to yelling "Fire!" in a crowded theater. No, this is not a free speech issue. Rather, it is a matter of personal responsibility.

Surely, desecrating a U.S. Flag—burning a flag—is abhorred by society, and our society has the right to demand that such activity be punished. Reflecting that sentiment, my home state of Louisiana in 1991 was the 21st of 49 states so far to pass a resolution urging Congress to approve a flag-protection amendment.

Amending the Constitution is no simple undertaking. The Founding Fathers intended it to be that way. Two-thirds of the House (290 Members) and Senate (67) must agree to pass the legislation, then three-fourths of the states—36—must ratify the amendment within seven years.

Throughout our history, constitutional amendments have proved the only path for redress of serious societal ills in our country. Women's suffrage, for example, was accomplished through a constitutional amendment, as was the abolition of slavery after the Civil War. The Fourteenth Amendment recognized former slaves as citizens and the Fifteenth gave them the right to vote. No one could deny that these amendments—controversial as they were at the time—made our society better.

This proposed amendment and the need of its passage grew from a 1989 Supreme Court decision, *Texas v. Johnson*. The court narrowly ruled, 5-4, that burning an American Flag was "protected" as free speech. The case arose following a demonstration at the Republican National Convention in Dallas in 1984. Gregory Johnson and a group of fellow protesters burned a flag outside the convention hall as part of their protest. Texas authorities convicted Johnson of flag desecration under existing Texas law. The Supreme Court decision overturned not only the Texas law, but also flag-protection statutes in 47 other states and the District of Columbia.

The American public was outraged then and continues to be outraged today. Public-opinion polls show that more than 80 percent of all Americans favor protection of the flag. Following the 1989 Supreme Court decision and a similar 5-4 decision in 1990 in another flag desecration case, three out of four Americans believed the only way to protect the flag was through a constitutional amendment.

Nearly 40 years ago in the hot summer of 1957, Dr. Martin Luther King was beginning his dream of equality for all Americans. At a citizenship education program that summer, King said there was glory in citizenship, and that we don't want haters. Our country, he said, may not be all we want it to be, but that would change.

Respect your country; honor its flag.

We have come a long way as a nation since 1957. Dr. King's dream still lives—the American dream persists. In the words of Charles Evan Hughes, the 11th Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, "This flag means more than association and reward. It is the symbol of our national unity."

It is now our time to do our patriotic duty, to keep faith with the American people who sent us to Washington. Passing this flag-protection amendment adds one more strand to the fabric woven by preceding generations—the fabric of freedom, symbolized by our flag.

SAN YSIDRO NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY DAY

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the community of San Ysidro in recognition of San Ysidro Neighborhood History Day. Its official name, "San Ysidro," was given in 1909 by a group of people who came to live in the valley and founded a small agricultural colony named after Saint Isidro—the patron saint of field laborers and agriculture.

In 1957, San Ysidro was incorporated to the city of San Diego. Today, in 1995, because it is California and San Diego's gateway to Mexico and Latin America, San Ysidro plays a major role in the development of San Diego.

The success of this unique community is an example of what happens when people take pride in their neighborhood—a community made up of friends and families that work hard every day for the betterment of the residents and especially the children.

San Ysidro Neighborhood History Day was celebrated with exhibits about the history of San Ysidro, the unveiling of murals by the children of San Ysidro, and a theatrical performance. I have been working with the community of San Ysidro since my days on the San Diego City Council to help the community foster pride in its diversity and culture. I was proud to participate with the community in recognizing San Ysidro Neighborhood History Day.

LETTER IN RESPONSE TO THE POMBO-SOLOMON AMENDMENT

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention a letter I received in response to the Pombo-Solomon amendment which passed overwhelmingly in the House last week. The letter, in support of the amendment, is from Rear Adm. Joseph F. Callo, a Yale University alumnus.

JUNE 14, 1995.

Hon. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SOLOMON: I support your efforts to block all federal financial aid to schools that deny ROTC on campus.

The intellectual dishonesty of the campus groups that argue for the ban of ROTC, and other military activities on campus, is appalling. I am also deeply saddened by a faculty and administration that supports those efforts. My distress is heightened by the following:

As an undergraduate at Yale, I learned the importance of objectivity, intellectual consistency and rationality. Each of these qualities has been trampled by those pursuing, or supporting, the anti-ROTC efforts.

As a former NROTC student at Yale, I know first hand of the high academic quality of that program.

As a taxpayer, I protest using my tax money to support the students, administration and faculty involved in these efforts.

As an alumnus of Yale, I am aware of the significant contributions to national defense made through the years by members of the Yale community—including in some instances, the sacrifice of their lives. The efforts of those advocating, or supporting, the ban of ROTC units on the campus are an obscenity in the face of those contributions.

Please continue your efforts.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH F. CALLO,
Rear Admiral, USNR (Ret).

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. DONALD E. JARNAGIN

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to recognize that a good friend and fellow native Arizonan, Dr. Donald E. Jarnagin, of Glendale, Arizona, is being inducted as the 74th President of the American Optometric Association today by his colleagues at their 98th Annual Congress in Nashville, Tennessee.

Don's accomplishment are most impressive and extend past his field of optometry. He is a graduate of Southern California College of Optometry in Fullerton, California, and has held numerous elective and appointed positions in his professional career. Prior to first being elected to the American Optometric Association Board of Trustees in 1987, Don served as the Central Arizona Optometric Society's President and then went on to become President of the Arizona Optometric Association.

Active in his community, Don is a former president of the Glendale Rotary Club and has been appointed a member of the City of Glendale Charter Review Committee. He chaired the City of Glendale Housing Authority and has also been active in the Glendale Chamber of Commerce.

I am pleased to join Don's family, many friends and colleagues in congratulating him on his induction today. From his many years of friendship and counsel, I know that he will be an outstanding AOA President, and will do a great job in leading the Association in its efforts to improve our Nation's vision care.

IMPORTANT NEWS ON THE DRUG ISSUES

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you some important news on the drug issue. In April of this year, the U.S. Sentencing Commission recommended that Congress end the sentencing disparity between powder cocaine and crack cocaine. Congress ought to ignore this politically correct suggestion and reaffirm its well-considered position that offenses involving crack cocaine deserve more severe punishment than those involving powder cocaine.

Under current Federal law, there is a 100:1 powder/crack ratio. That is, possession or distribution of 100 grams of powder is treated as