

4 More Representatives Plan to Retire Before Next Election

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 15—The list of members of Congress planning to retire continued to mount today with announcements by four members of the House—including Chet Holifield of California and Edith Green of Oregon, both Democrats—that they would not seek re-election.

The two others who disclosed plans to retire were Henry P. Smith, Republican of upstate New York, and Wendell Wyatt, Republican of Oregon.

Mr. Holifield and Mrs. Green are among the most powerful members of the House. He will have served for 32 years, she, for 20.

Both Mr. Smith and Mr. Wyatt are completing their 10th year in Congress.

Today's announcements raised to 27 the number of Representatives, many of them veterans of long service, who have disclosed plans to retire this year. Seventeen are Republicans, 10 are Democrats.

Six Senators, three from each party, also have announced they will not seek re-election.

The planned exodus from Congress is the largest this early in the year in at least a quarter of a century, and there are indications that others will announce retirement plans before spring.

Some observers have attributed the large number of planned retirements either directly or indirectly to disillusionment over the Watergate scandals. Some Republicans, in particular, have expressed fear of voter reaction to the Watergate affair.

Mr. Holifield, 70 years old, the dean of the California Congressional delegation, was first elected to Congress in 1942. He is chairman of the House Committee on Government Operations, which oversees executive departments, and is a member

of the Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, which he once served as chairman.

He is regarded as the foremost authority in the House on atomic energy legislation and Government organization.

In announcing his retirement, he said that he and his wife wanted time to enjoy their home, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Green, until a year ago, was the House's leading authority on higher education legislation, handling all such bills in committee and on the floor. Then, in a surprise move, she shifted from the Education and Labor Committee, on which she was the ranking Democrat, to the bottom of the Appropriations Committee.

In her announcement today in Portland, Ore., she said she had not "slammed the door on seeking any other office," but she, said it was unlikely she would run for anything else.

Mr. Smith, the third ranking Republican on the Judiciary Committee, said "there are some further areas of service that I would like to try." He made no mention of the Watergate affair but noted that the Judiciary Committee was engaged in "an historic investigation into the question of whether or not the President should be impeached."