

Oregon's Austerity Program Has Hit Many Veteran Employees

Editors note: The State's fiscal officers have been in a tizzy this year trying to keep up with rapid changes. First the legislature added 1,800 new jobs, then 1,271 jobs were eliminated after the Oct. 15 tax referendum. Third of five.

Pay raises went into effect July 1, however, and the Civil Service Commission ruled pay scales could not be cut back to their previous lower levels. This meant departments had to lay off a few extra people to make up for the additional cost of the pay increases.

Biggest employee cutback came in higher education, where 203 were laid off, and 276 vacancies were left unfilled. The 276 vacancies that were eliminated included 240 in instruction, research and general services.

The giant Oregon State Hospital at Salem lost 91 positions, including 63 layoffs.

The State Tax Commission laid off 48, and eliminated 48 other vacancies for a total of 96.

The Department of Education didn't lay anyone off, but did eliminate 50 vacant jobs.

The secretary of state laid off 18, and eliminated two vacant positions.

The State Board of Health eliminated 27 vacancies, but did not have to fire anyone.

The Welfare Commission wiped out 63 vacancies, and thus escaped having to lay anyone off.

The more than 500 layoffs were costly, however. It was estimated that it would cost more than \$1,000 for each employee fired—to pay unemployment benefits and accrued vacation pay.

In most cases the layoffs won't affect key services provided by state agencies. But many supplemental services were virtually wiped out.

(Friday: Cuts in welfare and institution care)

Thur., Dec. 12, 1963— The News-Review, Page 5

By ZAN STARK
United Press International
SALEM (UPI) Early this year Senate Minority Leader Anthony Yturri asked the Ways and Means committee to determine the dollar value of job stability enjoyed by state employees.

It was during discussions of wage hike requests for state workers, and Yturri believed the financial advantage of job stability enjoyed by state employees deserved consideration.

Tillie Alberts must have wondered about that when she was laid off a few weeks short of her 32nd anniversary with the State Tax Commission. She had planned to retire early next year but wanted first to get in her full 32 years with the state.

She was one of 522 state employees laid off as a result of the Oct. 15 tax referendum and the austerity program which resulted.

A Capitol janitor scoffed at warnings of layoffs that could result if the tax measure was defeated, and said he was going to vote no. He was incredulous when he received his dismissal notice.

In addition to 522 who were fired, another 749 vacant positions were left unfilled.

The legislature added 1,800 jobs earlier this year—1,200 of them in general fund agencies. Most were new jobs in higher education.

After the tax measure was defeated, 1,271 jobs were wiped out. The 600 new dedicated fund agency jobs were immune to the cutbacks. Thus, this spring the legislature added 1,200 general fund jobs, and after the vote 1,271 general fund jobs were eliminated.

Some workers were shifted to jobs in other agencies. But because of pay increases that were approved earlier, the number of actual layoffs may exceed 522.

Wiped out in the austerity cutbacks was \$4.7 million for pay increases.

Glendale Board Okays Schedule

The Glendale School Board at its last regular meeting included the consideration of a revised schedule of junior high school basketball games. The newly-submitted schedule had deleted, where possible, games on a school night and substituted for them games which would be played after school or during the weekend. The board approved the revised schedule.

Supt. Ben Huntington reported on the extent of damage done to the high school building during a recent break-in and the board authorized repair of the damage.

Huntington also reviewed the district's insurance program and reported on conferences with the broker who handles the program. There was some feeling that the present coverage should be re-evaluated, and consideration was given to some changes. There will be further discussion and action at a future meeting, according to Mrs. Gerald Fox, correspondent.

A brief discussion was held concerning the new budget law and plans were made to ask an official from the county school office to meet with the board for further explanations of the law.

Under new business, the board turned down a request to make a change in bus stops on one school bus route.

A request by the Gideons to present New Testaments to fifth grade students in the school was granted.

PLENTY OF WORK

IFORD, England (UPI)—Raving Court Archer, a 19-year-old rock 'n roll singer who can't read music, revealed he has had plenty of work since he started giving trading stamps to the pubs who book his act.

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