

YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT —

How is it run? Who does the work? Why have it?
An Amplifier Special Feature -I-

In about two weeks, February 23, West Linn's leaders for next year will be chosen. On them will depend the success of school activities in 1942 and 1943. To try to help students in choosing the proper officers, The Amplifier presents an analysis of student government procedure at West Linn. The first part is given here.

THE CABINET

By far the most important part of student government at West Linn is the cabinet. Members consist of the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and a representative from each of the four classes. This body must "okay" the expenditure of any student body money, ratify the choice of policemen on the force, gave the final authority in student body programs and most other matters. It is the all powerful unit of this government and can read almost unlimited powers into the constitution. Delegates to the cabinet must be especially alive to student wishes and extremely frugal with student body funds.

THE LEGISLATURE

A more democratic branch of the government, but one with much less power, is the student legislature. Members are chosen from each home room. Their duties are to ratify the budget and the appointment of officers and to pass the bills of conduct. These duties are not nearly so important as they seem, however. So far this year there has been no regular budget for

them to approve. If the officers have been ratified no record has been made of it. The bills of conduct was passed but its wording has always been so broad that it has no real significance for students.

The election for members of the legislature was to have been held last Tuesday but no action has been taken as yet.

THE COURT & POLICE

Students are probably more familiar with these departments than with any other in the school. Their task is an ancient and difficult one, keeping the peace. The police, under the command of the sergeant-at-arms, must "Take charge of gate admissions to all student body sponsored activities—preserve conduct in hallways and assembly room, and on the campus." The sergeant-at-arms, (or police chief) must have an ability to handle and pick his men and must be tactful to an extreme degree.

The student court is one of the most criticized parts of the system. Theirs is the painful duty of administering justice and they are often accused of being unjust in their judgement. If they are unjust, then there is none to blame but the law of averages since jurors are now chosen by a lottery method.

Further analysis of school problems will appear in later issues of the Amplifier. Any contributions should be left on adviser E. H. Goetzl's desk in room 18.