

# Federal Laws and Association Activities

used by the employe, constitutes the violation."

## HATCH ACT INTERPRETATION

In a discussion of the Hatch Act published in the April 1944 issue of the Journal of State and Local Government Employees, Colonel A. E. Carey, expert counsel on labor legislation, expresses the following opinion:

"Activity concerning constitutional amendments, referenda, municipal ordinances and similar questions are not considered political. Presumably activity in behalf of State or local candidates running on a non-partisan ticket, that is, without political labeling, would not be considered to be subject to the act. The effect of the restrictions is limited to activity on behalf of candidates and nominees of political parties which were recognized as such in the last preceding presidential election."

## ASSOCIATION OBJECTIVES

Consider now the objects and programs of the Oregon State Employees Association in the light of the above interpretation of the Federal laws.

The objects of the Oregon State Association as expressed in its constitution are as follows:

1. To foster and preserve in the hearts of its members a constant dedication to the principles of constitutional democracy, as reflected by the American form of government.
2. To encourage among State employees a sense of civic responsibility.
3. To maintain high standards of employee conduct on governmental affairs.
4. To disseminate a knowledge of departmental activities among State employees to the end that cooperation, efficiency, and harmony may prevail.
5. To unite the employees of the State of Oregon for the purpose of exerting an effective influence with respect to matters concerning employees which are compatible with the best interests of State government.
6. To advocate and support a merit system of civil service in state government.
7. To urge and support the effective administration of the laws of the State of Oregon.
8. To cooperate with other organizations in the civic development and the economic growth of the State of Oregon, and to pro-

mote the substantial progress and development of the State and its resources.

9. In so far as action by this Association is compatible with the best interest of the people of the State of Oregon, to sponsor and support legislation beneficial to State employees, and to oppose legislation detrimental to their interests, and to promote and protect the welfare of the membership of the Association.

The constitution provides further limitations in Article IX, Sections One and Two as follows:

Section 1. The State Association shall be strictly non-political. The General Council, board of directors, chapters, committees, agencies, officers, or members shall take no action which is incompatible with the objects of the State Association.

Section 2. A vote shall not be taken or sanctioned by the General Council, board of directors, chapters, committees, or agencies thereof which relates to the political advancement of any individual or group of individuals.

The Oregon State Employees Association is now by official action of the General Council pledged to support a state-wide merit system of civil service and a state-wide retirement plan. Activities in behalf of this legislative program in the light of the above interpretations of the Hatch Act are non-political and non-partisan and therefore not within the scope of the act.

## SMITH CONNALLY BILL

*Smith Connally Bill*—The War Labor Disputes Act (Smith Connally Bill, Senate Bill 796), which was vetoed by the President and passed over his veto, provides in Section 9 for the amendment of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925, Section 313, so that the section now reads:

"It is unlawful for any—labor organization to make a contribution in connection with any election at which Presidential and Vice Presidential electors or senators or representatives—are to be voted for, or for any candidate, political committee, or other

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