

The League of Oregon Cities Sponsors Retirement Plan for Public Employees of Oregon

At the Conference of the League of Oregon Cities held in Portland, Oregon, May 26, 1944, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS it is desirable from the standpoint of public agencies and of the individual public employee that after he has served the public for many years and has reached old age he be enabled to retire from public service with adequate social security, and

WHEREAS for private employees who have served for many years and have reached old age, private enterprise is increasingly providing systems of old-age retirement, thus providing an incentive for employment in private enterprise which is lacking in public service of the governmental and educational agencies of this state and its local governmental units,

NOW, THEREFORE, "BE IT RESOLVED that the state legislature be urged to provide an adequate system of old-age retirement benefits for the employees of the governmental and educational agencies of the state of Oregon and its local governmental units."

THE NEED OF A PENSION PLAN

The lack of a state wide pension plan for employees of the governmental and educational agencies of the state of Oregon and its local governmental units is recognized as a serious handicap to the public service and a definite threat to the public welfare in the future.

The state and local governmental service is in competition with the Armed Services, with war production and private industry and is losing the contest to the more attractive wages, social security and retirement benefits

offered by private industry. There is a serious shortage of competent help and if the state and local governmental agencies are to secure and retain their fair share of the trained and skilled personnel of the nation, they must make their service more attractive by providing social security and retirement benefits equal to those offered by private industry. The welfare of the state and its future for decades depends upon the type of personnel attracted to the public service after the war. Action in this matter should be taken at the earliest opportunity.

PRELIMINARY MEETING CALLED

In an invitation to interested groups to attend a preliminary hearing, Fred C. Inkster, President of the League of Oregon Cities, wrote as follows:

"Since it does not appear to be practical for each individual city in the state to establish its own pension system, the League has decided to work for the establishment of a state-wide system which would be available to all state and local employees in Oregon similar to systems now in operation in such states as New York, Ohio, Wisconsin and California.

"The first question to determine is whether a program could be formulated that would be satisfactory to all the organized groups that are now interested in state pension legislation and whether these groups would unite in support of a single measure. It is recognized, of course, that any pension system set up on this basis will have to be flexible to the extent that it would recognize the different types of employment that make up the public service. For example, it would appear ne-