

Over the Secretary's Desk

Wisconsin Counties Pension Plan

The Wisconsin State Council of County and Municipal Employees at its meeting at Oshkosh August 20, endorsed a pension plan to introduce in the 1945 session of the state legislature which would provide a retirement system for county employees modeled after the Wisconsin state retirement law for state employees which was established by the 1943 legislature.

The proposed plan provides for an act whereby counties may participate by vote of the county board. All counties would be eligible to participate except Milwaukee county, where a retirement law is already in operation.

Principal features embodied in the legislative proposal are:

Retirement at age 65 with the right of extension from year to year until the age of 70; a pension of not less than \$60 per month for 20 years of service, but not more than \$100 a month at the compulsory retirement age.

Employees with less than 20 years of service would be eligible for a pension of \$3 per month for each year of service; employee contributions of five percent of gross salary; county contributions necessary to meet obligations under the act; disability and death benefits, and administration by a board of trustees appointed by the governor.

The council is also asking for an amendment next year to the municipal employees' retirement law providing for a minimum pension of at least \$60 for 20 years or more of service.

A new civil service commission covering fire and police employees has been established recently by the city of Laurel, Mississippi.

Fixed Income Groups Suffering

Millions of Public Employees and Pensioners Included

More than 20,000,000 persons, whose incomes depend on fixed low wages, pensions or allotments are seeing their incomes shrink with every rise in the cost of living, the Office of War Information reports.

For these persons, there has been no Little Steel adjustment to help them meet inflated living costs, OWI said. Higher prices mean that each check they receive purchases fewer and fewer of the necessities of life.

Nine million are dependents of men now serving in the armed forces of the United States.

Six million are public employees — teachers, firemen, policemen; nurses in state and city hospitals; municipal, county township, state, and federal workers.

Nearly 2,200,000 are aged persons on state public assistance rolls.

Another million are disabled veterans drawing pensions or disability compensation, or the widows and dependent children of veterans.

Retired and disabled firemen, policemen, state and municipal employees totalling 158,000 are receiving pensions or retirement pay.

Dependent children receiving aid through federal and state welfare funds number 739,000.

Fifty-three thousands are blind.

About 700,000 retired workers, widows and young children receive social insurance payments under the old age and survivors insurance program of the Social Security Board.

More than 400,000 persons are draw-