

## Committee Studies Oregon Public Employees' Retirement Plan

The need for a retirement system for the public employees in Oregon is now widely recognized. Since the 1929 session of the legislature more than 20 separate retirement bills have been introduced for various special groups of public employees. The teachers of the state have become interested in and are preparing a retirement plan for themselves. At various sessions of the legislature the fire-fighters of the state have sponsored retirement legislation for fire-fighters. The League of Oregon Cities has long recognized the need for a retirement system for municipal employees. The 1943 session of the legislature enacted legislation providing a retirement system for judges. In 1940 and 1941 a committee appointed by Governor Sprague studied the problem of retiring public employees and by an overwhelming majority recommended that all state and local governmental employees in Oregon be covered by a single retirement system. It appears, therefore, that there is a need for a statewide retirement plan covering all city, county, and state employees.

At the invitation of the League of Oregon Cities, representatives of various public employee groups met and considered the problem and, with the assistance of the Bureau of Municipal Research and Service of the University of Oregon, evolved in outline a retirement plan for the state and local governmental employees of Oregon.

The outline of the plan was presented to the executive committees of various public employee groups and at a meeting held in Portland, October 9th, representatives of these various groups indicated approval of the plan. The groups represented were: League of Oregon Cities, American Associa-

tion of University Professors of the University of Oregon and of the Oregon State College, Portland Police Association, Portland Firefighter Association, Oregon State Firefighters Association, Oregon Association of City Police Officers, Oregon Finance Officer Association, Oregon Association of County Engineers, and the Oregon State Employees Association.

Fred C. Inkster, President of the League of Oregon Cities, presided at the meeting at which endorsement of the proposed plan was expressed by those present. A committee was appointed to rewrite the outline to conform to suggestions made by the various groups, to proceed with the writing of the proposed law and the analysis of its provisions and costs by recognized actuaries so that some estimate of the cost may accompany the proposed plan when it is presented to the legislature for consideration.

As soon as possible, copies of the revised outline of the proposed plan will be distributed to members of the various groups for further consideration and study and as an invitation for further suggestions.

### *Portland, Oregon*

All Portland, Oregon, police employees received a \$2 raise, effective July 1. This brings to \$34 the total granted to compensate for higher cost of living. Police matrons were given a \$10 raise, of which \$8 was added to their base pay and \$2 to the cost-of-living adjustment. A long-standing grievance was remedied when the city council pension committee approved recommendations to include the police matrons and harbor engineers in the police pension plan.