

Over the Editor's Desk

CIVIL SERVICE UPS PAY RATE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 — The civil service commission Monday recommended hikes in the basic pay rates of federal employees to "compensate for increases in cost of living."

Basic rates for most salaried positions have not been increased since the start of the war, the commission said in its annual report. Although pay increases of about 15 per cent have been made, the commission said that overtime compensation is based on rates which have been in effect in most instances for more than ten years.

The report was brief, omitting a summary of the year's work with the explanation that "a nation in the midst of war does not have time to review its accomplishments." It also said that "government agencies strive to set an example when it comes to conservation of the nation's paper shortages."

—*The Oregonian*
Dec. 12, 1944

ILLINOIS PENSION PLAN

A pension plan which became effective Jan. 1, 1944, for Illinois state employees was passed by the general assembly and signed by Governor Green. All employees in the state service with the exception of members of the state legislature, elected officials, employees appointed under the civil administrative code, and members of other retirement plans, are eligible to become participants under the system. State employees entering service after Jan. 1, 1944, will participate after one year of service.

Prior service credit will be allowed employees for all service prior to establishment of the plan. Credit will be granted state employees for all time spent in the armed service.

The normal age of retirement provided by the plan is 65 years with 15 years of service. Compulsory retirement is set at 70. A board of five trustees including the director of finance, auditor of public accounts, two members of the system with at least 10 years' experience appointed by the governor, and one trustee from without state service appointed by the governor will administer the fund.

PORTLAND ADJUSTS SALARY RATES

There will be something in the Christmas stockings of city employees this year as the result of the action of the city council Monday in deciding to adjust pay schedules for some employees and to freeze other salaries which might otherwise have been cut.

The council, at a conference in the office of Mayor Earl Riley, decided on a three-point program to take care of those employees who do not now get the minimum pay which the salary schedule calls for their job. This will be on a regular basis.

Those employees whose salaries did not entitle them to the full \$17 a month cost of living allowance of 1941 and who got only part or even none of it, will now get that \$17, for the duration. The council since has granted an additional \$17, which is regarded not as a cost of living allowance but as an effort to place city salaries on some comparable basis with other time salaries.

All of the adjustments will be effective as of July 1, when the budget was in force, because the council could not get the program worked out in time to get it in the budget. The program will cost about \$20,000, it is estimated.