

Progress Report of Wage and Hour Committee

In an effort to follow through on the action taken regarding wage and salary increases at the General Council meeting in December and again by the Board of Directors in March, a Wage and Hour Committee was appointed. The committee is charged with the responsibility of making a study of the salary and wage schedules for state employees and to make certain recommendations for increases.

Progress to date has been slow because of the vast amount of work necessary in making such a study and because much of this information is not instantly available.

The committee has been in contact with the office of the Budget Director several times and the information received, while not new, is of interest to many state employees.

Appropriations were made by the 1945 legislature to include certain salary and wage increases in practically all departments and institutions. Increases are also contemplated in the self-sustaining departments. None of the departments or institutions will make a blanket salary or wage increase. Rather, increases will be granted on the basis of efficiency, merit and record of the employee. They will be granted with the recommendation of the department head or institution head and with the approval of the office of the Budget Director. Increases in the salaries or wages of institutional employees must also have the approval of the Board of Control.

Much emphasis will also be placed on the equalization of salaries. This will be particularly true in the lower salary brackets.

Increases will not all be granted on July 1 as has been erroneously reported but will be staggered over a period of

time. The plan involves a large amount of work on the part of the department and institution heads, the Board of Control and the Budget Director. However, certain increases will be granted as fast as they can be processed.

A Park for the Capital City

By CHARLES A. SPRAGUE

I should like to call to the attention of state employees resident in Salem, the issue to be decided at the election June 22nd on the purchase of the upland of Bush's pasture for city park purposes. This is a question for local decision but I regard it as of real state-wide importance.

Salem is the capital city of Oregon. The state has invested millions of dollars in its capitol group here and additional investment is planned. It becomes the duty of Salem citizens as I see it to match the dignity and beauty of the capitol group with features to correspond. Among these features would come subsidiary buildings. First we have a new postoffice and have authorized a new courthouse, and second public parks.

The rare opportunity is offered Salem to acquire 43 acres of upland to join with the 57 acres of lowland already dedicated for park purposes, giving the city a solid block of 100 acres (including 10 acres for Willamette university athletic field) located in the heart of the city. Composed mostly of native woodland and pasture, bordered by Pringle creek, this park will become in time one of the great assets of Salem, serving residents old and young, and attracting visitors to the city.

The revised price brings the tract well within range as far as cost goes. It is the opportunity and the responsibility of our generation to provide this

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