

## State Employees' Banquet

On the evening of February 23, the second day of the General Council Meeting, a banquet was held for delegates, their wives and other members of the Association.

The banquet tables were beautifully decorated with candles and flowers by Betty Dotson of the Library Chapter and the members of her committee.

Arrangements for the banquet were made by Stanley Morris of the Willamette Chapter and members of his committee and credit is due them for the fine job they did in securing the Chamber of Commerce rooms and the services of Joe Randall of the Golden Pheasant to provide the food.

President I. A. DeFrance introduced the guests of the Association and presented Mr. Dan McLellan of the Marion Chapter who was toastmaster for the evening. The Association is deeply appreciative of the fine manner in which Mr. McLellan conducted the program and the excellent speakers he provided.

Major Douglas McKay, who in civilian life owns and operates the McKay Chevrolet Company of Salem and Lt. Colonel Allen Carson who in civilian life is a member of the law firm of Carson, Carson and Carson of Salem, were the speakers of the evening.

Both speakers received the nomination for Senator, representing Marion County, in the primary election of 1942, both joined the armed forces before the general election, both were elected in the general election and now both are on terminal leave. Incidentally, both have filed again for the nomination as Senator to fill the two Marion County seats and have no opposition.

Major McKay, one of Oregon's civic, political and business leaders, spoke of the Willamette Valley Project. He was Chairman of the original Willamette Valley Advisory Board which fathered

the \$65,000,000 project now under construction.

In his talk, Major McKay stated that the floods of 1861 and 1890 were the greatest Willamette River floods known to the white man. During the height of the 1890 flood, people reached the Marion County Courthouse in row boats and much of the business district in Salem was flooded. Without control a repetition of the flood of 1861 or of 1890 would result in a loss estimated at no less than \$10,000,000. Over 7,000 farm units would be covered with water, 18 cities and towns would be flooded or partly flooded and Cottage Grove, Junction City, Harrisburg and West Salem would be covered from 8 to 13 feet with the waters of the Willamette River.

Major McKay then pointed out that the seven multi-purpose dams included in the project would not only alleviate floods but also would furnish water for navigation, stream purification, irrigation and power.

Water for all year navigation would provide sufficient competition to railroad and truck operators to keep rates down and would furnish an inexpensive water way for running logs.

The greater stream flow in the summer would add to the beauty of the Willamette River and would permit swimming during the bathing season. So polluted is the river now that its use for recreational purposes, including boating and swimming during the summer is forbidden. The speaker referred to the necessity of the cities and industries along the river constructing plants for the disposal of sewage and industrial waste as their contribution to purifying its waters.

Sufficient water would be stored in the winter to provide for the irrigation of some 250,000 acres whenever the farmers in the Willamette Valley or-