

Letter to Governor Snell

August 26, 1946

To the Governor, Board of Control
and Department Heads

Dear Sir:

The Oregon State Employees Association, through its Board of Directors, in February, submitted to you a resolution requesting an increase in the pay of State employees. On June first, a general increase of \$10.00 per month was granted to the majority of employees in the State service.

The Oregon State Employees Association and its members realize that the increase was made at a time when many departmental budgets were exhausted making it difficult to find the funds necessary to provide for such an increase. However, the policy of the Association is a policy of parity, meaning equal pay for equal work as compared with wages paid in industry, the neighboring coast states and in the Federal Service.

It is the desire of the Association to assist wherever possible in the improvement of the state service. We feel that in order to attract and hold desirable personnel the State must be in a position to compete successfully with the Federal Service, our neighboring coast states and private industry. Two important steps in this direction have already been taken. A sound retirement plan and an excellent Civil Service law have been provided by a progressive legislature and administration. The next step is to provide a salary schedule that will insure State employees of an adequate standard of living.

Living costs in Portland and vicinity are higher than in Los Angeles, San Francisco or Seattle. (From Bureau of Labor Consumers Price Bulletins 1945-46). The Bureau of Labor statistics for 1946 indicate that food costs in this vicinity are the 4th highest in the nation. San Francisco ranks 8th, Los Angeles 9th and Seattle 13th. This information from the Monthly Labor Review, June 1946.

Oregon's economy is definitely expanding and there is no indication that Oregon will go back, economically, to where it was during the 1935-1939 period. Oregon industry is recognizing the trend and gearing itself accordingly. The state cannot afford to be out of line with industry.

A recent survey conducted by the Oregon State Employees Association among its members in various Oregon cities shows that a great many state employees are not able to maintain a desirable standard of living on the salary paid by the State and must supplement their state salary by doing outside work or else the wife has found it necessary to supplement the husband's earnings by working outside the home and in many cases at the sacrifice of her family. A tabulation of this survey is appended.

Now that the time is at hand when departmental budgets are being prepared for presentation to the forthcoming legislature, the Oregon State Employees Association wishes to express its concern in regard to the amounts provided in those budgets for salaries and wages.

The Oregon State Employees Association feels that; (1) more money should be made available for substantial increases in the wage structure for this coming biennium; (2) an adequate amount should be provided in the budget for an expanding economy; (3)

Cover Title

TEMPEST BLOWN PATRIARCH

This storm tossed spruce, survivor of thousands of storms, still battles the elements at Cannon Beach, Oregon. Haystack Rock in the distance.