

## The President's Message

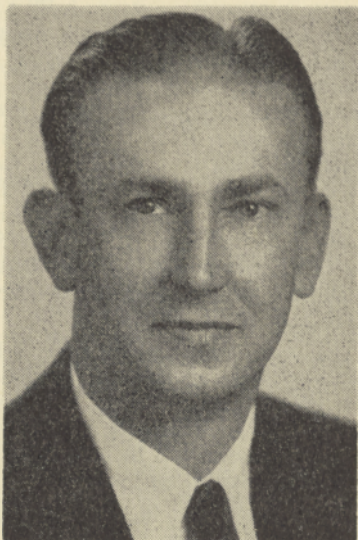
I feel greatly honored to have the privilege of serving the members of the Oregon State Employees Association as their fifth President, and to assure them that I will do everything in my power to foster and attain the objectives of our organization.

Your new officers are truly representative of all of the branches of our State Government. This has been one of the main objectives of the founders of our association.

When first organized in 1943 the membership consisted almost entirely of employees of the Highway Department. Because of the efforts of the founders your Association now represents employees from almost every branch of the State Service.

This growth and the universal acceptance of the objectives of the Association is due to the unselfish efforts of the previous officers and the policies which your delegates have adopted at the council meetings.

Unless one has had the privilege of attending a council meeting he cannot fully appreciate the unselfish motives of the delegates and the good common sense used to determine policies which will be beneficial to all state employees and to the public. These policies have resulted in active participation in all matters relating to the welfare of the employees as well as the Civil Service Act and the Public Employees Retirement Act. Your officers have been instructed to sponsor a number of changes in both of these acts at the coming session of the Legislature. We have also been instructed to institute, immediately, several changes to the Rules of the Civil Service Commission. As a matter of record your delegates were unanimous in their expressed opinion that the Civil Service Commission rule on working hours was discriminatory, unworkable, contrary to the ob-



*Bjarne Ericksen*

jectives of the Rules, unwarranted and arbitrary.

To some this may appear that the Association is not getting along too well with the Civil Service Commission—and this is not the case. We believe that the Civil Service Commission and its Director are doing splendid work at a very difficult job. However, the Association intends to aggressively use every possible means to secure the correction of any rule or action of the Commission which is in our opinion contrary to the best interest of the state and the state employees.

At the present time we have more than 3000 members. This represents a remarkable growth when one considers that the Association has been in existence for less than four years. However, there are still several thousand state employees who do not belong. Most of these employees have never been contacted and are not informed about the

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