

Views on Salary Increase for Governor

By V. G. O'NEIL

The Oregon State Employees Association has recently gone on record as favoring increases in the salaries of the Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, other elective officers, appointed officials and others who may not come within the coverage of the Civil Service Act. This action was taken by unanimous vote of the Association's delegates at their General Council meeting held in Salem on November 9th to 11th of this year.

The Association, representing State employees from all parts of the State, feels that a general lifting of salaries paid to Oregon's leaders in governmental functions will be of benefit to the general welfare of the State.

The Association, in expressing its views on this matter, further states:

"It is true that there are those who may at first object to this attitude, including some members of the Association. Let it be pointed out that the Association is trying to uphold its precepts of conduct which are expressed in part as follows 'to promote the welfare of state employees in all ways which are compatible with the best interests of the State.' It is not always appreciated, however, that from our highest office, the Governorship, to the more numerous positions of clerk, laborer, etc., ALL are in State service and ALL are employees of the State.

The President's Message

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objectives of the Association. Each one of us should, therefore, make a special effort to acquaint non-members with our objectives and solicit their affiliation and support. I feel certain that we can have very close to a 100% membership; if this is to be done each one must do his part.

"It would indeed be a selfish organization which would restrict its objectives to its own membership without regard to others. The Oregon State Employees Association IS NOT in such a category, and CANNOT, under its constitution, ever become a self-centered group.

"Thinking persons will admit that the Governor and other elective or appointive officials do not receive adequate salaries. Our county and city citizens are raising the salaries of their officials in the interest of better government (Better public service). A check of the records will disclose that most of our State officials are receiving salaries which have been raised little, if at all, in many, many years. In fact many State officials are at salary levels below those established for City officials!

"It is conceivable that Oregon will see its neighboring states of Washington, California, Idaho and Nevada publicizing themselves as lands of promise and Utopias of the "nth" degree! Industrialization of the West and rapid economic growth on the Pacific coast are certainties in the near future and have, in fact, already begun! If Oregon is to remain a great State and is to take its rightful place among its neighbors, it must grow in stature, and should shake the shackles which have permitted it to be outstripped in many respects by neighbors to the north and south.

"The placing of our eminent State officials on a plane of dignity befitting their office is one step in the right direction. The willingness of the people to be other than niggardly in bestowing proper awards to the offices which represent their State is one step towards increasing the prestige which the governmental functions of this great State deserve."