

Headquarters Digest

By FORREST STEWART, *Executive Secretary*

With the 44th Legislative Assembly and a New Year already upon us the entire membership of the O. S. E. A. should review the work and accomplishments of the Association. Members should take stock of what the Association has done for state employees as a group and what it hopes to do this year.

Legislative Program

The legislative program has been in the hands of chapter officers for some time. It is the duty of those officers to acquaint their chapter members with this program. Whether the association is successful in getting a favorable reaction from the legislature depends a great deal upon the individual member. Your representatives and senators are interested in you as a citizen of their county or district. If you as a state employee feel that the program is of benefit to you and to the state then tell it to your legislator. Either talk to him or write him a letter, an individual letter, not a "canned" letter.

Your O. S. E. A. representatives and officers will do everything they possibly can while the session is in progress but a word from the folks at home is equally important. As you know the services of Mr. Leo Smith have been retained for this session of the legislature.

The Governor has signed the Pay Plan proposed by the Civil Service Commission, including the Highway Department supplement. It is now up to the legislature to provide the funds to put the plan into effect. It is up to the Association to encourage the legislature to provide those funds and to do so as soon as possible. Copies of the plan will be sent to all chapters as soon as it is made available to us by the Civil Service Commission.

Membership Emphasized

Now is the time to "put the finger" on that group of state employees who

have not joined the O. S. E. A. They will be equally benefited by any success the O. S. E. A. may have. They most certainly should share in the effort and expense. There is only one way to get their membership and that is to go after them, individually and collectively. All major state departments except the State Police have a chapter or are affiliated with one. The field for new members is wide open! We have a new supply of information leaflets. This leaflet is designed for prospective members. Let us know how many you need.

The group of people generally called "white-collar" workers, and public employees in particular, have been caught in the economic "squeeze", caught between a fixed salary and a rising cost of living. This situation is being recognized nationally and there is considerable publicity being given to the matter.

State employees have an excellent opportunity, right now, of getting favorable consideration by the legislature regarding salaries. This is a good talking point when approaching new members.

During 1946 there were 1150 state employees who joined the Association. This number does not include the membership of two new chapters mentioned below. Can we get 2000 more in 1947? Our paid up membership is well over the 3000 mark now. To hit 5000 by 1948 is a real challenge to the chapters and to the members.

We are happy to report the formation of two new chapters in Portland. Bob Glenn, Vice-President of the Association and a member of the Corvallis chapter, and your executive secretary spent a few days at the University of Oregon in an effort to organize a chapter. We are glad to report that we were favorably received and that a chapter there is now in the making. Your executive secretary attended a

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