

The President's Message

By BJARNE ERICKSEN

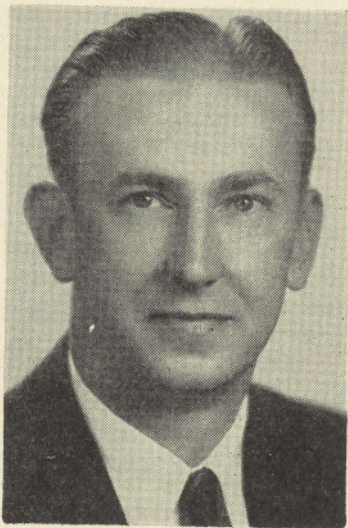
Now that the 44th session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly has adjourned all state employees are anxious to learn about the action taken by that body on the legislation which the Association sponsored and endorsed. Mr. V. G. O'Neil, Public Relations Director, and his committee delayed the publication of this issue of your magazine in order to include that information for you.

Full credit for the good results which were accomplished must be given to our legal counsel, Mr. Leo Smith, our Executive Secretary, Mr. Forrest V. Stewart and Mr. I. A. DeFrance and his Legislative Committee. These men did outstanding work in their successful presentation of our program before the various committees and the individual members of the legislature.

Those of us who were in close touch with the progress of our legislative program are convinced that the Association is the most effective type of representation for Oregon State Employees. This conclusion is based on the favorable action that was taken on most of the legislation which we sponsored or endorsed, as well as the consideration we received when our position was explained on bills that we believed to be detrimental to the best interests of the employees.

The fact that the Civil Service Pay Plan became effective March 1, 1947 is due principally to the able manner in which our legal counsel presented the case of the state employees to the members of the legislative committee. Studying salaries in the State Service and adoption of the Pay Plan results in a material increase in beginning salaries for most classes of work. The maximum salaries are also considerably higher than ever before, and employees have a definite objective to be reached by conscientious effort and meritorious service.

We recognize that the new salary



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ranges, for most positions, are lower than those received by California and Washington state employees, which states have a sales tax. If Oregon state employees are to attain pay parity with those adjoining states, and secure adequate retirement benefits it is necessary for each of us to support a tax program that will provide the necessary revenues. This action was advocated by resolution at our last General Council meeting.

The legislature, after making an exhaustive survey of sources of revenue and the general tax program, concluded that the sales tax should be incorporated as an integral part of the States tax structure. It appears to be the only logical source of new revenue necessary to pay the increased costs of education, welfare and general government. We sincerely believe that it is your responsibility as a state employee to actively support the legislature in its recommendation for the adoption of the sales tax.

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