

removal of the 20 year limitation on prior service credit was unselfishly made in behalf of only 4 out of every 100 employees, many of whom, on account of their extreme age would not be here two years later, at which time the legislature agreed to reconsider the request.

Wages

The action granting a deficit appropriation to make the pay plan effective March 1, 1947, was a most commendable recognition of a situation which was effectively presented by our legal counsel, F. Leo Smith. State employees are justified in retaining complete confidence in the consideration they will receive from Oregon legislators when they have a real case to present and when they present it in a respectful and dignified manner. Every O.S.E.A. member may feel proud of the courteous and effective manner in which this presentation was made and every state employee who is not an Association member is indebted to the Association in this matter.

The action of the legislature in raising salaries of the Governor and other elected officials and the unclassified service in general was in accordance with the recommendations of the O.S.E.A. General Council. Equity, fairness and economic need, as well as a desire to continue to attract higher type public officials justified this action. The action has removed that artificial ceiling which in so many instances interfered with the proper graduation of the classified service pay plan.

Sales Tax

State employees should recognize their interest in the proposed sales tax measure. The O.S.E.A. General Council, in November, pointed out that the welfare of state service and its future growth and prosperity of the state as a whole depended upon the adoption of a fair and equitable plan for

the distribution of the tax burden. State employees are, I know, patriotic and unselfish enough to desire to carry their rightful share of this cost of government as a duty of citizenship. The Legislature presents the sales tax plan as the most equitable plan to distribute the tax burden and provide adequate financial support for governmental activities. State employees should all recognize the necessity of supporting the plan proposed and recommended by the legislature in every way possible.

Conclusions

In conclusion I would say that State Employees received very considerate treatment by the 44th Oregon Legislative Assembly. The Civil Service Act and the Public Employees Retirement Act were amended but in practically every case to improve and make them more effective. The principle of merit in the Public Service was reendorsed. The reputation of the O.S.E.A. with the legislators remains one of high regard for the state welfare as well as for employee welfare. The views and requests of the Association were presented in a courteous and dignified manner and our representatives at the legislature deserve commendation for their hard work and their courteous and dignified presentation in our behalf.

RAISE MILEAGE ALLOWANCE

Newspaper editorial workers, generally regarded as the lowest paid professional people in the nation along with public workers, received higher car mileage allowances in Houston recently. *Texas Week* reported that workers on the *Houston Press* signed a new contract recently that called for seven cents a mile, instead of six cents.

—*The Texas Public Employee*

Material for magazine received by May 21 will appear in May-June issue. Send contributions to OSEA, 141 Pacific Bldg., Salem.