

to bring the matter of full prior service credit to the attention of the 1949 legislature. The A.F.S.C. & M.E. state that they will get it passed in 1949.

#### Members Lacking

On the compensation plan for state employees, the speaker had much to say for the future, but little to say about what happened in 1947 and before. He stressed that his organization was handicapped in its efficiency before the legislature by "lack of numerical strength." He did, however, indicate that state officials are desirous of A. F. of L. support. It was also pointed out that his organization did get some classification pay ranges raised \$5.00 to \$10.00. *No mention was made of the O. S. E. A. sponsored measure which put the pay plan in effect four months ahead of schedule. A good many employees will be thankful to the O.S.E.A. for the "lift" which those extra dollars are now giving them during this era of high prices! Many favorable changes in classifications, also, have come about through O. S. E. A. activities.*

Those at the meeting were advised of several instances where apparent individual injustices were straightened out. This kind of service is commendable wherever found. *Our O. S. E. A. Executive Secretary has acted on many such matters.*

This question was asked: "Will the A. F. of L. back up an employee who is discharged and have him reinstated if conditions warrant?" Mr. Walker's answer was that he would abide by present rules and that the Civil Service Commission would decide. At this juncture Mr. McCormack quickly interrupted with a statement to the effect that they *bad* in other states exerted all influence possible and that if they were strong *here* they would give relief. He further stated they had gone and would go to the courts when necessary, but only when political pressure failed.

#### Strikes Unnecessary

It was represented that the A.F.S.C.

& M.E. does not believe in strikes as necessary to accomplish their aims. It was stated that elected officials want their support and that this desire provided sufficient leverage for the furtherance of their aims. They advocate the molding of public opinion by education, the reaching of objectives by legal and legislative action; all of which requires strength of membership. It was further stated that a previous Wisconsin State Employees Association having 7000 members was powerless until it formed a new organization and joined up with A. F. of L. affiliates. *The O. S. E. A. was created in 1943 from membership of five A. F. of L. locals which failed in efforts to support civil service and other legislative programs to improve state employment conditions.*

The initiation fee to join the A.F.S.C. & M.E. is \$3.00 and the monthly dues are \$1.50. Applicants must sign an initiation obligation "to at all times bear true and faithful allegiance to the A.F.S.C. & M.E. and to the labor movement in general."

After the meeting, one who was present remarked to me, "It is too bad that we have to have unions and use these tactics, in order to get what is due on merit." Also, "we have to pay for police protection against our neighbors, and that's not right." With these remarks I heartily agreed and upon them I have since reflected often.

I, personally, have no quarrel with good aims and proper objectives no matter by whom advanced. The question of methods is something else again, and I do not subscribe to that conscience-salver that "the end justifies the means." Tolerance seems preferable to prejudice. Rightness, integrity and honesty stand the test of time.

—V. G. O'Neil.

The wise man saves his money so that eventually he will be able to support via taxes those who don't save theirs.

—Highways of Happiness.