

would be that the heads of these departments and the Board of Control could control the salaries and positions of all employees under these elective offices and in the various state institutions. Due to opposition of the Civil Service Commission, The League of Women Voters, your Association and others, the proposal died in committee.

RETIREMENT

S. B. 22, which failed to pass, would have allowed any employee to elect to come under the retirement act, and would force his employer to contribute, even though the governing body or political subdivision had rejected the act.

S. B. 65, was proposed and sponsored by the Retirement Board. It provided (1) that no employee should become a member of the System until he had been employed for a period of six months; (2) that contributions should be made on the first \$2400 of salary earned each year, instead of on the first \$200 of salary earned each month; (3) that the governing authority of political subdivisions should determine what prior service credit they desired to give their employees. This latter provision was urged by the Port of Portland and the City of Portland employees; (4) that employees who have reduced their contribution rate to 5 per cent may increase their contribution rate to their fixed rate during their first two years of membership and, (5) that all school districts of the State constitute one employer for purposes of actuarially computing these contribution rates so that all school districts contribute at a uniform rate. This bill passed with little opposition.

S. B. 177 would have given unlimited prior service credit for state employees and school teachers. The bill received an unanimous "do pass" report from the Senate State Affairs Committee but was referred to the Ways and Means Committee, who reported back that it "do not pass." The Senate rejected the Ways and Means Committee report. However, when the

bill came up for final passage, certain senators changed their positions and there were insufficient votes for its passage. I shall state the reasons why I feel the bill did not pass, not as an excuse for its failure to pass, but as a guide for future presentation of a similar bill. First, the legislators and others who had sponsored the retirement act were very reluctant to make any amendments to the act, except administrative amendments, at this session. They said, "We should have some experience under the operation of the act before any changes are made." However, in spite of this attitude, I think we had convinced enough Senators and I am positive we could have convinced enough Representatives, that this amendment should be made at this time, except that certain persons and interests worked against the passage of the bill and also submitted inaccurate and exorbitant cost figures which we were not able to correct until it was too late to erase the false impression from the minds of certain legislators and lobbyists. I believe that this bill will be passed if properly presented to the next Legislative Assembly.

S. B. 349. The present act provides that continuous service is service not interrupted by more than five years. This bill was designed to re-define continuous service as that which was not interrupted by more than 10 years, but failed to pass the Senate.

S. B. 359, was proposed by the Public Library Association of Portland. I believe that we were all in sympathy with the bill, but the Public Library of Portland is not a publicly owned library, being owned by a private association. Also as Multnomah County, which pays the salaries of the librarians, had rejected the act, it seemed impossible to draw a bill to meet the situation.

S. B. 456 provided that for employees who were over 75 years of age on July 1, 1946, all their service should be considered continuous service, and should be computed without regard to inter-