

Temporary Pay Boost Granted But Prices Continue to Soar

It is with pleasure that the Oregon State Employees Association acknowledges the recent meritorious action of the State Emergency Board in making possible a \$20 per month raise in salary to State employees.

Salary Adjustment Is Temporary

As all members well know and as all state employees should realize, this cost of living adjustment has been made from emergency funds to cover budget controlled departments and is to come from the non-appropriated funds of self-sustaining departments. The salary adjustment, effective June 1, 1948, for all classified service employees is to run only for the balance of the year. By January 1949 the State legislature will be in session. The legislature will be advised of the problem of inadequate state salaries and will, no doubt, give the matter its thorough and sympathetic study.

Problem Still Existing

The OSEA originally requested a \$42 per month cost of living adjustment to be effective January 1, 1948. The request represented at that time the average amount by which state salaries were below average requirements for a reasonable living standard. Much effort has been expended and many heart-breaking episodes have been our lot in pushing this justifiable request to some conclusive action. Since our first request, living costs have increased and the state worker's average purchasing power has been correspondingly decreased. Our objective of "parity pay" is still far from realization and the State government still lags far behind others as a fair-paying employer. The granted increase helps, but does not cure, the disease of low pay which is in-

creasingly costing the state in loss of trained personnel, inability to employ capable technical skill and inevitably lowered morale and initiative among the many financially hard pressed present employees.

Officials Give Serious Consideration

The OSEA believes that the seriousness of the problem is now recognized and appreciated by our highest State Officials, by the Board of Control, the Budget Director, the State Emergency Board and the Civil Service Commission. We are of the opinion that these administrators are sincerely concerned with being fair and just and are minded to discharge their responsibilities in the true interests of the State's and employees' welfare.

State Financial Problems Still Unsolved

It is regrettable that the great State of Oregon has found itself so poor—yet with a large fund of untouchable money in its treasury. This condition is the more condemnatory when one realizes that state financial limitations have caused real suffering to many state employees and have decreased the efficiency of the functions of the State as the people expect them to be maintained. That such a condition exists is in no way the fault of the present government officials. It involves the need for establishment of business-like procedure by the legislature. Corrective measures are required to bring Oregon into a position worthy of the growth and development which is the State's right. We feel confident that the necessary measures will be taken.

Officials Deserve Commendation

Although much is yet to be desired, the OSEA commends those responsible for the recently granted temporary sal-