

## REFLECTIONS and REFLEXES

The remark is often heard from business men, contractors and housewives that "State employees are among the lower paid groups." It is hoped that this recognized condition will be corrected soon.

With labor unions successfully pressing home their demands for third round wage increases and other benefits, the State employees' position as a patient, long-suffering public servant becomes increasingly apparent.

The average taxpayer enjoys a higher income than the tax-paying State employee.

Any move to raise the retirement age could injure State-service when labor surplus arrives. A higher pay level NOW will help fill the ranks with ambitious, young people.

Early retirement is desirable when the retirement benefit is sufficient. Many aged 65 or over would gladly enjoy a life vacation beginning NOW if they had a pension of \$150 a month. An opinion is ventured that voluntary retirement at 60 will be popular a few years hence.

Building contractors for the new office building pay more for their common labor than the State pays its skilled equipment operators. Which employer can rightfully expect the best service? The money cost is borne by the same people; why such discrimination in its expenditure?

People interested in strengthening the State Retirement Act might consider larger benefits for prior service as a desirable way to help the retiring employees who leave because of disability or because of age. It would help those most who now need help and at a surprisingly low present cost and at a constantly decreasing cost.

It is not generally known that the 40-hour week does not apply to nearly half of the employees. Field forces, in-

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