

upon separation at compulsory retirement age or thereafter, as computed by the retirement board in accordance with the unmodified or nonoptional plan is less than \$5.00 per month shall be so notified in writing by the retirement board and within 30 days after the date of such notification may, by written notification to the retirement board, elect to receive as a cash refund in lieu of any and all retirement allowance the sum of his own net normal contributions to the retirement fund plus an equal amount contributed by his employer or employers to such fund, plus the sum of his own excess contributions. A member who, on July 1, 1951, is drawing a service retirement allowance of less than \$5.00 per month in accordance with the unmodified plan, may prior to January 1, 1952 arrange with the retirement board to receive as a cash refund in lieu of any and all further retirement allowance the unused portion of his own net normal contributions to the retirement fund plus an equal amount contributed by his employer or employers to such fund, plus any unused excess contributions remaining to his credit."

This measure also provides for the withdrawal of excess contributions as follows: "Any member other than one who is receiving a retirement allowance, who has made contributions to the retirement fund in excess of the amount required to be matched by his employer or employers, may, upon application therefor to the retirement board, receive a cash refund of such net excess contributions; provided, however, that after July 1, 1952 no member will be permitted to withdraw such excess contributions if he is within five years of earliest service retirement age."

Senate Bill 230 allows returning war veterans to reestablish coverage under the system by depositing in a lump sum the amount they would have contributed had they remained in the state service. The state will match that deposit.

The remaining bills (some 14 of them) are still in committee.

It is in connection with this part of the OSEA legislative program that the

writer wishes to publicly commend the members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Industries for the outstanding job they did on this group of proposed amendments to the retirement law. It was not a pleasant task to study and weigh the merits of those proposed amendments, each in some degree important to a group of public employees and come out with a program acceptable to all. The OSEA is mindful of the insight and the vision shown by this committee.

The OSEA too, is grateful to Senator Hitchcock, chairman; Senator Brady, vice-chairman and Senators Marsh, Wilson, Smith, Lindberg and Lamport, the individual members of the Labor and Industries Committee for their interest in the retirement program and the courtesy shown the OSEA Representative. The OSEA wishes also, at this time to pay its respect to the late Senator Engdahl who served on this committee until the time of his death. He was a friend of OSEA, faithful and just.

Some members will be disappointed because the legislature could not see its way clear to increase the maximum salary limit on which the employer would match. An attempt was made by the Oregon Education Association, The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, A. F. of L., the City of Portland and OSEA to increase this maximum to an amount above \$3000. The Senate Labor and Industries Committee set the maximum at \$3600 but the Ways and Means Committee would not concur, therefore the maximum matching remains at \$3000. Another factor entered into this particular part of the measure. Many employees whose salaries were in the \$3000 to \$3600 bracket opposed the increase, the reason being they could not stand any further decrease in their take-home pay. The OSEA members whose salaries are in the higher brackets and who wanted to increase this maximum were very much in the minority. Actually a great number of state employees who would receive the most benefit from such an amendment are not members of OSEA. The majority of the Law and Legislation Committee

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