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Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Association.
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SHOULD STATE EMPLOYEES JOIN A LABOR UNION?

For several years state employees have been solicited by an A. F. of L. affiliate, called the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSC & ME), to join their organization. In recent months this organization has been called "State Employees Council," "Public Employees Council" and "State Employees Association."

Many thousands of dollars are being spent in Oregon by this A. F. of L. organization to gain members from the ranks of state employees. Several of their paid agents are now working in Salem and have also been traveling over the state in this interest.

Some Reported Statements

State employees who have attended the meetings have reported to OSEA statements being made by these organizers along the following lines:

1. The OSEA is a fraud. It is not interested in employee problems but is a tool of the administrators.

2. Practically all gains made for the employees are the result of A. F. of L. efforts.

3. A. F. of L. members get better representation than OSEA members in state employment.

4. The strength of the A. F. of L. organization is great and its power to exert pressure is tremendous.

These paid A. F. of L. organizers are also reported to be quite abusive of the OSEA and of its executive secretary; and have been heard to intimidate by threats of violence against state employees who object to joining them.

OSEA Policy Not One of Reprisal

The objectives of the OSEA are to improve the welfare of the state and its employees. The methods used by us are based on the principles of honesty, integrity and fairness. Our representatives are instructed to conduct themselves properly, to present facts, to discuss and plead our causes at proper levels in a courteous manner, to win friends (not to make enemies), and to remain steadfast on each issue of merit. These policies of approach and operation may not always obtain desirable results in the shortest

time, but our gains are lasting. We do not rely on force, pressure or threat for their continuation.

Our records show that our members are people from ALL levels of state employment and that administrative and supervisory employees are outnumbered 10 to 1; also that every one of these "management" people show interest in and act favorably towards employee problems or they would not have voluntarily joined OSEA.

No one can be "duped" by the OSEA for we have no check-off system, no out-of-state officers, no intimidation or threats of violence to "hold the membership in line."

The AFSC & ME is represented in the legislature and before high state officials ONLY by general union representatives interested mainly in union objectives for the BIG unions!

The kind of representation given by these union officials is "pressure" type, table-pounding and noisy. It thrives on dissatisfaction.

The purported power of the AFSC & ME is NOT because of ITS members, for they are less than 300 from state employ. It is proven that the thousands they DO have nationwide do not necessarily back up the interests of Oregon's state employees. This purported power appears to rely on CIO help as seen in the present lumber strike. Also some of the power probably lies in forcing strikes on their members.

The Lure of Money

I suspect the union organizers have spent thousands and are now hectically spending more to organize state employees because the reported union \$5 initiation fee and minimum \$2 per month dues would pay for a lot of high-salaried organization jobs and furnish a nice, juicy chunk of easy money to handle.

Look at the record of OSEA and then at AFSC & ME and look at the relative dues; then take your choice! When you join and stay with the OSEA you will be sure of the free choice of your job and freedom from being told "you can work IF you pay tribute," and "you MUST quit and suffer when we tell you to."

VIRGIL G. O'NEIL, President, OSEA.

OASI PAYMENTS IN OREGON

The most recent report (December 31, 1953) on social security payments in Oregon shows the average payment to a retired person is about \$50.31. The average payment to the spouse of a retired person, if that person has a spouse who can qualify for benefits, is around \$26.30.

Those figures are averages and do not necessarily indicate the large number of people whose benefits are actually more or much less.

In Oregon, 45,668 persons receive retirement benefits under OASI. In addition to this 11,680 spouses receive OASI retirement benefits. These figures do not include benefits to mothers, widows or children.

Maximums are not always indicative of conditions actually existing. Maximum benefits under OASI and the state system may appear quite attractive but very few ever qualify for those benefits.

A genius is a guy that solves a problem you never knew you had and in a way you can never understand!!