

The OSEA

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"Welfare
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Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Association.
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AT YOUR SERVICE MR. LAWMAKER

The Oregon State Employees Association is pleased to salute the laboring lawmakers of the 48th Legislative Session. We are grateful the democratic process has manufactured another close range see-and-be-seen setting. What we see now inspires confidence. The 48th Legislature is richly represented with character and capacity.

Reassuring is the emergence of that living pattern wherein the family comes along with you, Mr. Lawmaker. We like to see your transplanted youngsters carry on with school, church, Bluebirds and birthday parties as though they'd never left home. We acknowledge yours is an 18-hour a day work effort which requires the ultimate in family division of labor.

Especially is this true when night committee meetings are necessary. Our appreciation of the present situation is heightened by dim recollections of past peccadilloes featuring marksmanship with a water filled paper sack by Hydro Annie Oakleys.

Professional Pride

Your scrutiny of O.S.E.A. will find a calm, genteel group concerned with dignifying state employment on every level. We are a voluntary membership group joined together in the mutual interests of the State and its employees. We invite ourselves to view our affiliation in this Association in the same terms as we would a professional society.

For the same reason that a medic affiliates with the A.M.A.—that an attorney joins the Bar Association, the recipient of the state pay check unites with other recipients to promote good state government through unified action.

No Artificial Hierarchy

There is no fundamental difference between worker and supervisory worker in the state service. Our membership is freely drawn from worker and department head alike. The pay structure of the state coupled with the personality structure of the worker simply does not promote the development of the caste system in Oregon. We send a few recruits to "Teacup Row" but they are equally at ease in a back yard where a Model "A" is being junked.

State Wide Concern

Problems basic to all state workers obviously require solution on a state wide rather than departmental level. Basic problems yield to solution with more alacrity when they are pinpointed with the view of rendering benefit to all rather than to a single department. In the matter of basic employee problems we believe a Legislature is entitled to hear from a unified agency as opposed to the bombardment by bewilderment from scores of Boards, Commissions, Administrators, etc. Any administrator who feels qualified to pressure about matters basic to all state workers is simply viewing his capabilities through the magnifying glass of an egotistical imagination.

Cooperation Pledged

We pledge our cooperation. It will please us no end should we prove helpful even in a small way. We do understand that lawmaking bodies throughout the world have enacted 3,700,000 laws without improving upon the Ten Commandments. You have our respect and confidence even if after adjournment the aforementioned number becomes 3,700,001.

STATUS OF OSEA LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Much of the OSEA program is either contained in bills already introduced or in preparation.

The retirement phase is disclosed elsewhere in the Sentinel. Salary and classification recommendations are not as yet available from the firm making the survey.

Unemployment Compensation

Employees of the state are not privileged to participate in the benefits provided by the unemployment compensation laws of this state. Denial of these benefits has, at times, resulted in temporary privation and want among state workers who have been laid off or otherwise separated from the service through no fault of their own.

Senate Bill 4, if enacted, would allow the state to participate in U.C.C. A citizens committee appointed by the governor to study the Workmen's Compensation problem has recommended that public employees participate. Other bills will soon be introduced also amending the law to include state employees.

Work Week

A forty-hour week has long been standard practice in private enterprise. Workable and satisfactory procedures have been devised for premium payments to workers in private enterprise who are required to work more than 8 hours a day or 40 hours per week. Such premium payments range from time and one-half on week days to double time on Sundays and holidays. Approximately 2000 classified state workers are still working 44 and 48 hours a week.

A standard work week of 40 hours is another objective of OSEA. House Bill 22, passed by the legislature on February 2, provides the funds to put highway shop and maintenance employees on a 40-hour work week.

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Anyone who likes to sing is cordially invited to sing with the Choraleers on Tuesday nights at the Elks temple from 7:30 p. m. to 9:30 p. m. Come and join the fun!