MANY LAWS AFFECT STATE WORKERS

The sixth week of the Legislature ended with almost 1,000 bills introduced. As yet, very little controversial legislation has actually been discussed on the floor or in committees, but, brother, the fireworks must soon begin.

Space here permits a review of only a few of the bills **which could cost or pay** employes additional benefits. **OSEA is spending thousands of dollars** and **hundreds of hours** sincerely working for the protection of all state employes and for programs which will mean efficient, sound, good state government.

We proceed with caution. We pound no desks, but, through the years, we have steadily gained the confidence, the respect and cooperation of the legislators. **This, a democratic group of thousands of employes,** owned and governed by state employes, voluntarily banded together for improvements in working conditions and benefits but always working for better state service, must be guided and must follow the resolutions from its members, its General Council, Officers and Directors.

We are cussed and discussed, and, sometimes in the heat of battle we must, by necessity, make quick decisions and take certain stands which we feel will result in greater benefits to the majority.

Until changed by Council Resolution, it will be the policy of OSEA to fight against the removal from Civil Service of any employe or group of employes. Until someone comes up with a better plan, which must protect the rights of over 17,000 employees in a political government, OSEA will fight for the preservation of Civil Service. **So far, there is no substitute for Civil Service.** OSEA can well think about education as to the benefits of Civil Service for its members and non-members and for those few groups who are not so protected. CS needs adequate funds to do its job.

HB (House Bill) 22: This bill, now law, makes it possible for one of the final large groups of employes to enjoy the 40 hour work week. OSEA for years, has vigorously and continuously fought for these benefits. OSEA thanks all state agencies for their help.

HB 28 and 225: Removes from Civil Service certain professional and technical personnel from the Forest Products Laboratory and Oregon Technical Institute. HB 28 signed by the Governor. HB 225 remains in the Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 136: Would place State Police under Civil Service. Bill remains in Committee on State and Federal Affairs.

HB 165: Would force a state agency to rehire an employe whose appeal is upheld by Civil Service. Bill remains in the Committee on State and Federal Affairs.

HB 268: Would force the Governor to place a **union** member on Civil Service Commission. The bill remains in Committee on State and Federal Affairs.

SB (Senate) 4: Bill provides procedure whereby state employes might be able to secure benefits under the Unemployment Compensation Commission Law. Bill remains in the Committee on Labor and Industries.

SB 26: Provides for revision and adoption of new State Constitution. Procedure would take several years but would provide the opportunity to include Civil Service in the Constitution. Bill remains in the Committee on State and Federal Affairs.

SB 36: Would permit payroll deductions for the United Fund. At the moment, bill is tabled in the Committee on State and Federal Affairs, presumably based on some opposition that many other worthy groups would request and be entitled to same deduction privilege.

SB 47: Creates new provisions in Public Retirement System. OSEA, by direction of its officers, urged the Committee to increase the benefits to be paid to the lower salaried groups. OSEA has every reason to believe that the Committee will amend the bill **to allow this group and option of continuing their present contributions and receiving present payments on retirement or to elect to pay less and receive less** as indicated in the bill.

SB 85: Creates a new Department of Motor Vehicles. The bill is in the Committee on Roads and Highways. **OSEA opposes that part** of the bill which **would remove the department supervisors from Civil Service.**

SB 91: Bill **only permits** a state agency to purchase liability or indemnity policy for the protection of its officers or employes against claims incurred in the performance of their official duties. OSEA **proposes** an amendment or new bill, allowing Director of Finance and Administration **to purchase one master policy,** thereby **insuring all** state employes. Present bill does not go far enough and presumably the purchase of policies by over 100 different agencies would be far more costly to the State.

SB 263: Would enable present life insurance benefits for one group of penitentiary employes to be extended to the remainder of the employes of the penitentiary. Bill is in the Ways and Means Committee. An OSEA bill.

SB 270: OSEA sponsored bill, permitting state agencies to make advancements to employes for travel expense. The bill remains in the Committee on Ways and Means.

SB 271: OSEA sponsored bill, reimburses employes for damages to personal property while in the course of their employment. Ways and Means Committee.

SB 289: Permits Attorney General to defend state employes. In the Committee on Judiciary.

SB 341: Relating to deduction of group life insurance by agencies. An OSEA bill.

SB 342: Relating to deduction of OSEA dues by agencies, at request of employe.

SB 345: Establishing a system whereby employes would be encouraged to suggest methods and procedures that would reduce operating and administrative costs in their respective agencies, with cash awards or public recognition.

Ninety-three per cent of all State workers are members of the North Carolina State Employees Association.