

OSEA Legislative Goals Outlined

"Package Program" Proposed on Priority Bills

LAWYER and LAWMAKER . . .



James B. Daniels, OSEA Executive Secretary, and Senator Eddie Ahrens, (right) discuss a bill.

To keep you informed on our OSEA legislative program action, the NEWS will gist it for you in column form. Following is a news release sent to newspapers throughout the state. It digests our "package program."

Legislation that will benefit both the state and state employees should be handled by a single legislative committee is a proposal made by James B. Daniels, executive secretary of Oregon State Employees Association. In a briefing session with legislative fiscal officers and personnel representatives from the Governor's office, Daniels presented the association's comprehensive approach to the 1961 legislature.

In the conference held January 5 in Salem, Daniels introduced what he termed a "package program" listing the Association's chief goals. The plan comprises priority bills drafted by the state employee group through its law and legislation committee. Included are bills designed to benefit employees and state with the definite aim of upgrading state service. Daniels stated that the "package" contains a digest of measures that are of paramount priority importance. Outlined below are bills the association considers vital to the raising of State service standards:

1. **Salary Standards bill . . .** This defined the policy of the legislature relative to state salaries as being that of "equal pay for equal work" and directs the Civil Service Commission to set pay rates at competitive standards. This bill provides a clear, concise statement of legislative policy concerning salaries thereby eliminating many existing areas of confusion and uncertainty.

2. **Medical/Hospital Insurance . . .** Provides for the state to make direct payment of \$5.00 on behalf of each officer and employee for medical/hospital insurance. The state's assumption of health insurance will give each of its 20,000 employees a \$1.00 a month tax saving.

3. **Liberalization Retirement Investments . . .** A bill providing that the retirement investment formula be liberalized to permit the investment up to 50% of funds in the system in the top three grades of corporate bonds and to allow investments up to 10% of the fund in real estate mortgages fully secured by a federal or state agency. Object of this bill is to give employees a greater return on their money.

4. **Forty-hour Work Week . . .** This bill provides for a basic standard forty-hour work week for state service; the payment of exchange time at the rate of time and

COFFEE TIME FOR TWO SOLONS



Senator Monroe Sweetland and Senate President Harry D. Boivin, (right), talk shop over coffee and a malt. (Capital Journal photo).

FOR STATE and INDUSTRY . . .



OSEA's Program Developer, Whitney A. Halteman, and Associated Oregon Industry's Ivan Congleton (right), exchange ideas.

one-half with mandatory payment in cash one year after overtime was worked in the event that the department has not been able to allow exchange time during that period.

5. **Death Benefit Coverage . . .** Bill provides that an employee must have an aggregate of sixty months' contributions in the system instead of the present five consecutive years immediately preceding death and further provides that in the case of death resulting from an on-the-job cause the survivor be paid one-half of the deceased's annual salary or an equal to the employee's contributions in the system, whichever is greater.

6. **Disability Minimum Increase . . .** This bill provides that the disability retirement allowance minimum be increased from \$50.00 a month to \$100.00 a month, a change long needed, according to OSEA.

7. This bill will provide for an employee to be able to withdraw the funds which he has contributed to the retirement system in a lump sum in the event the annuity provided is less than \$10.00 per month. This changes the law by revising the present \$5.00 figure upward to \$10.00 and would effect a considerable saving to the state, it is pointed out.