

OSEA News Center

LEGISLATURE REVEALS HOLD-LINE ATTITUDE

Recent news stories in the Salem Capital Journal pointed out the tough road ahead in the Legislature for state agencies and employees.

An article by political reporter Doug Seymour predicted that the Ways and Means Committee of the Legislature will be tougher on departmental budgets than in any recent sessions. The financial plight of the state is well known, and strenuous efforts are being made to close the gap between expenditures and income.

Seymour stated that even departments operating on dedicated funds will be closely judged, where in past sessions their requests have been given the rubber stamp.

Sub committees of the Ways and Means Committee are already at work under a memorandum of guidelines which predicate that deficit spending will not be tolerated. Governor Hatfield's budget proposed a \$7 million gap to be made up during the biennium through savings in departmental operations. Obviously, the Committee will not allow this to happen. The Committee memorandum also eliminates contingency funds in department budgets.

According to Seymour, there is a hold-the-line attitude, allowing nothing for expansion of departmental programs.

Legislators are being urged by their constituents to keep spending down. Seymour said in his article that only deep economy in spending will keep the state in the black by June 10. Just two years ago there was a \$35 million surplus.

SENATOR CHARGES TENURE

In an article by United Press International's Salem bureau chief, Zan Stark, Senator Anthony Yturri of Ontario was reported to say that civil service employees have what is tantamount to job tenure, that is, they have assurance of continuing employment.

Yturri has asked the Legislature's Joint Ways and Means Committee to find out how much it is worth in dollars to the State employees to have this security.

The Senator told the Committee in his written request that studies have indicated that employees of private industry have been known to leave jobs for similar positions in State employ, not because of higher salaries, but because of fringe benefits and job security.

Yturri said that he has no objection to State employees being adequately and fully paid for services they render. He feels that because of the precarious condition of state finances, all aspects of the employee pay picture must be analyzed and evaluated.

He acknowledged the efforts of OSEA (although not by name) to bring into law the equal pay for equal work concept, and for higher wages and more benefits generally.

OSEA OFFERS TO ASSIST IN YTURRI SURVEY

The OSEA offered, through a statement issued to the press by President Chalmers Jones, to assist the Ways and Means Committee in the survey requested by Senator Anthony Yturri of Ontario.

The Committee was invited to inspect the salary survey of the OSEA Salary and Wages sub Committee made public last fall by the Civil Service Committee, Ruth Branch Director.

Jones defended the state employees' position and salary requests on the release. (See Editorial.)

UNSUNG HEROES TAKE BOW

Officers and District Directors, who act as spokesmen for the Association, generally get the write-ups because they operate in the public eye. However, a vitally important cog in OSEA officialdom is the Assistant District Director. He's the bird who is responsible for the public relations activities of his district, and who is the liaison with headquarters in all matters of communication to his district.

There are some familiar names on this year's list, and suffice it to say that they will become more so as they get into the increased demands of this office.

DISTRICT # 1: Donald Benson, Mercury Chapter # 39

DISTRICT # 2: Edward Chidsey, Salem Chapter # 1

DISTRICT # 3: George C. Baker, Coquille Chapter # 10

DISTRICT # 4: Charles Raimier, Bend Chapter # 3

DISTRICT # 5: W. B. Culham, Blue Mountain Chapter # 94

DISTRICT # 6: Lynn Gallagher, Corvallis Chapter # 29

DISTRICT # 7: David Glenn, The Dalles Chapter # 9

DISTRICT # 8: Raymond Falleur, Astoria Chapter # 8

DISTRICT # 9: John R. Steele, Premier Chapter # 87

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APRIL DATE TENTATIVELY SET FOR FIRST '63 INSTITUTE

Education Subcommittee (Public Relations) Chairman Lincoln Pfeiffer announced that the first Institute on Government for 1963 will concern itself with In-Service Training, and tentatively scheduled it for mid-April in Salem. A second Institute is also being planned for the Portland area in the fall.

The purpose of the Institute on In-Service Training is to further the OSEA concept of equal pay for equal work through greater efficiency on the part of the State employee, and to promote career service by employment from within. Participation will be invited from among Legislators, state employees and industry and will take the form of three discussion groups built around the various areas of state service. Each group will cover at least two specific types of service.

Topics being considered are (1) What is being done now? (2) What is desirable? (3) What are the budgets and facilities? (4) Who should be doing the training? (5) What are the levels of training? These questions are to be submitted to each group as a guide for discussion.

Progress should be rapid from now on, with Chairman Pfeiffer and his committee devoting much time and effort for the benefit of the membership. Committee members are Jerry Liebertz, Mark Howard, Ben Niedermeier (representing industry) and John Sullivan. Public Relations Director Bob Simon is an ex-officio member.