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Standard Insurance To Provide New Coverage

The Standard Insurance Company of Portland will assume the group life and income protection coverage for OSEA on July 1, 1963, according to Insurance Director Jack Schoonover. After that date no OSEA group coverage will be written by the former carrier, California — Western States Insurance.

In explaining the change, Schoonover said that the Insurance Committee had looked long and diligently for the best available coverage at the best available rates for OSEA members, and that Standard Insurance (an Oregon company) came up with the best solution.

"There are several changes in coverage immediately available to the membership with Standard Insurance," Schoonover said. "Briefly, these do not reduce the coverage for members age 66 and over, and increase the coverage for those in the $900 plus monthly pay range to $10,000."

TIME SHORT

The Attorney General's office has ruled that payroll authorization forms must be filled out and sent into OSEA Services by June 30, according to Insurance Manager Don Olds. It was hoped at the outset that more time would be allowed, but legal considerations must be met. The forms have been sent to all Insurance Representatives, and should be available at this writing.

In-Service Training Subject of Institute on Government

OSEA's second Institute on Government, held in Salem on Saturday, May 18, found well over 100 state employees withstanding the blandishments of the first sunny weekend in months to hear what experts had to say about various aspects of in-service training in state government. They also participated in workshops that permitted a free exchange of ideas within job classification categories.

The Institute was divided into morning and afternoon sessions, the first of which featured a panel of experts in the field of personnel and training in government, private industry and education. Serving on this panel were Larry Wolfard, District Manager of Pacific Northwest Bell

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LEGISLATURE GOES HOME — STATE EMPLOYEES GAIN, LOSE WITH MINUS FACTOR THE WINNER IN SOME JUDGMENTS

The 1963 Legislature is in uneasy adjournment after a stormy finish which found Senators and Representatives involved in almost bitter disagreements on several issues right up to sine die at 11:59 P.M. on June 3. Prominent among these was HB 2084, the classified and academic state employees pay adjustment measure for the 1963-64 biennium. It is mentioned briefly below as are all bills of interest to state employees.

SUPPORTED BY OSEA

HB-2084 — Classified and academic employees salary adjustment bill for 63-65 biennium. The Ways and Means Committee recommended cuts, Rereferred to House Education Committee and reported out "do pass". The House passed the full amount recommended by the Governor.

The Senate, objecting to this, referred the measure to its Public Buildings and Institutions Committee, upon which sat Senate Ways and Means opponents of state employee salary adjustments. Later on, a wrangle developed, with several House-Senate conference committees failing to agree before a final compromise was reached in which 2084 implemented to $422,000 for the 1964 adjustment. The Governor's request for classified salary adjustments was $800,000. His request for $500,000 for academic categories was cut to $250,000.

HB 1771 — Perhaps the most far-reaching gains for state employees were those contained in this bill passed by the Legislature. Several OSEA General Council retirement resolutions were satisfied. Here are the changes in the PERS effected by this legislation:

a. It eliminates the option of contribution, save for those now electing to contribute 5%. This will prevent the uninformed employee from electing the lower contribution in the future. There will be a comprehensive education campaign carried out by OSEA on this matter.
b. The minimum disability retirement benefit is raised from $50 to $100 a month on a non-refund plan after ten years service.
c. Death benefits are now to be computed on a years-of-service/contributions formula — whichever is less. The five year qualifying period is eliminated.
d. The three year retirement for current service pensions based on contributions is eliminated.
e. An annual accounting will be made to all members of the PERS. Information to members will be stressed.
f. Members will have the option of withdrawing benefits in a lump sum if the monthly benefit is less than $10.

HJR 34 — Providing for a study of the PERS after 1966. Passed.

HJR 35 — To revise PER Act — Died in Senate Judiciary Committee.

HB 1226 — Mileage allowance increase for private vehicle used on state business — Died in Ways and Means.

HB 1287 — 40-hour work week — Died in Ways and Means.

HB 1309 — Salary standards bill — Died in Ways and Means.

HB 1411 — Contribution by state to employees medical-health insurance — Died in Ways and Means.

SB 364 — Concerned with prior service in retirement act — Died in Senate State & Federal Affairs Committee.

SB 369 — Unemployment compensation for state employees in labor market, but retired — Died in Ways and Means.

OPPOSED BY OSEA

HB 1288 — Permitting collective bargaining by state employees. This measure had been passed in the 1961 session, but was vetoed by the Governor. This time, during hearings, the Governor was quoted as favoring it. Passed.

SB 8 — Prohibiting state employees from working at State Fair — Tabled in Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee.

SB 359 — Effecting changes in holiday schedules of state employees — Failed to pass Senate after do pass recommendations by Senate State and Federal Affairs and State Judiciary Committees.

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