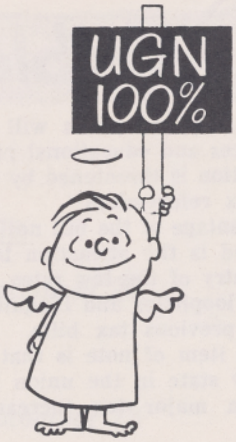

DELEGATES SUPPORT TAX MEASURE

(Continued from Page 1)

ure go down to defeat, the $60 million would be saved in the area of state services.

It should be recognized that the special election itself will be costly ($300-000) and that a special session of the Legislature could cost the state $500,-000. The cost of special elections to county budgets could not be determined for this publication.

In support of the referendum, the Board of Directors stated that personal dictates might call for a "no" vote on the legislature's tax program. It also submitted that a reconvened legislature could pass another tax measure, which could be as objectionable to some as the current one, therefore opening the possibility of another referral.

The tax measure in question was termed "not good, but the best we could come up with," by many of the legislators at the end of the session. Such sentiments expressed publicly did little to gain the confidence of the electorate. When the referral was proposed, the voters showed this lack of confidence by an overwhelming response to the petitions.

At the present time, the Governor's Office is seeking any remnants of fat to be pared off agency and department budgets already called "bone lean" by their economists.

If the $60 million cannot be found here, it will be up to the aforementioned special session of the Legislature.

In any event, it seems probable that state employees will feel the pinch, but more likely in the area of decreased services to the public.

The OSEA's Board of Directors, in sending the ballots to the Delegates, offered the following alternatives. The membership could go along with the referendum and oppose the tax measure when it comes to a vote, or it could support the tax bill by opposing the referendum or voting in favor of the measure in the special election.

Government Services Are Your Best Bargain

The services rendered by an efficiently administered government are the greatest bargains available to the citizens of that government. This statement is made in the teeth of the often heard, almost always trite, ill-based, comparisons of the ineffectiveness of government with "private business."

The premise stated above is true in the context of any service philosophy adopted by the political subdivision in question. Over the past several years it has been my lot to examine the cost of government on a comparison basis, using the various states as a base for the study. In every instance where the number of employees per thousand citizens is above the average you will find that the philosophy of the state concerned is pointed to serving its citizens over a wider base than that adopted by the political subdivisions having fewer employees per thousand citizens. The greater scope of services rendered the greater the cost of government.

If costs of government are to be cut by any apppreciable amount the end result is a cut in services. What services performed by the state of Oregon would you dispose of? Studies of the fund raising costs of any of the charitable causes, even the best-managed of them show that the percentage of money available after the campaign cost has been deducted is low. The net yield is very low in comparison to that provided by tax gathering of the political subdivision. Even the most expensive of taxes from the collection cost viewpoint give a net yield far in excess of that provided by "charity drive."

If you consider the services rendered by your government in supplying schools, police protection, security of our property through our judicial system, care of the mentally ill and handicapped, health and sanitation, roads and transportation, to name but a few, and consider what it would cost us to provide these things for ourselves as individuals or by group contract, the worth of government comes home to us.

We see on the one hand the "fuss and feathers" revolving around the concept of discount houses and cooperatives as merchandising and servicing entities. On the other hand we hear government service downgraded.

In reality, this approach to providing group benefits, steeped in antiquity, is far more efficient and far more economical than the commercial approaches to group purchasing, discount buying or what have you.

I submit to you that a well-administered government is the best vehicle for providing services for its citizens, and further submit that these services are had at rates that constitute the best bargain available to the citizen today. It is then up to us to "merchandise" these services to the extent that the public may know that it is getting an unparalleled bargain in the services rendered to it.

J. B. D.

OSEA
General Council
Eugene Hotel
District 6
November 7,8 and 9

SEBCO TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

The State Employees Building Corporation (SEBCO), owner of the property containing OSEA's Headquarters Office and rental units, announces its annual Meeting for members of the corporation to be held in Headquarters on Friday, September 27, at 8 p. m.

The annual meeting will discuss the use and upkeep of the properties under SEBCO's charge, as well as review the corporation's financial situation.

OSEA Sets Tax Vote Policy

The OSEA on September 10 made public that its support of the 1963 Legislative tax program. It has joined with other responsible organizations in forming "The Citizens Committee For a Yes Vote on Ballot Measure Number One."

President Chalmers Jones, in a prepared policy statement, said "The Oregon State Employees Association, being composed of employees of the State of Oregon, parents in the State of Oregon and taxpaying citizens of the State of Oregon, takes the position of supporting Ballot Measure Number One for the following reasons:

1. It is needed to sustain the job security of 23,000 state employees.

2. It is needed to maintain the present standards of education for the children of Oregon.

3. It is needed to maintain the necessary services now available to the citizens of Oregon."