



CONTRACT SIGNED Vern L. Hill, director of Motor Vehicles, signed a collective bargaining contract between the DMV and the Oregon State Employees Association last month. Looking on are, from left, John M. Schoonover, OSEA field representative; D. W. Christianson, DMV personnel officer; Alvin Bruns, chairman of Employees Council; Edward L. Wilson, OSEA assistant executive secretary; and Ron Froebe, president of Chapter 86.

OSEA, Motor Vehicles Sign Second Bargaining Contract

The second agency-wide collective bargaining contract in state government was signed January 26 between the Oregon State Employees Association and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The first contract, signed on January 23, was between the association and the State Treasury Department.

Each contract covers all of the employees working in the respective agencies.

Vern L. Hill, director of the Department of Motor Vehicles, signed the document for the agency. Executive Secretary Thomas C. Enright signed for the association.

Some 575 employees work for DMV.

The DMV collective bargaining representative election was held on April 14, 1966. OSEA won the election by a vote of 278-16.

Two more collective bargaining contracts are expected to be signed after this issue of the NEWS goes to press. They are between OSEA and the State Library, and OSEA and the State Tax Commission.

In addition, OSEA staff members are negotiating contracts with eight other agencies.

They are the Department of Employment, Oregon State Hospital, Dammasch State Hospital, Oregon State School for the Deaf, University of Oregon Medical School, Workmen's Compensation Department, Workmen's Compensation Board, and the State Penitentiary.

Defeat Seen for 'Gripe' Bill

A bill which would create an "ombudsman" in state government apparently doesn't stand much of a chance of passing this session.

Governor Tom McCall recommended the creation of an "ombudsman" in his inaugural address. Such a person would investigate "citizen complaints of public servants' unjustifiable inaction, inefficiency, arrogance or abuse of authority," he said.

Senator Ted Hallock (D-Portland) introduced the "ombudsman" bill.

Senate President E. D. Potts (D-Grants Pass) said he doubts if the bill could get through the

Senate.

"Every member of the legislature is an ombudsman who takes care of the public complaints. That gives us 90 ombudsmen, so why should we provide money to have another one?" Potts asked.

Senator Glenn Huston (D-Lebanon), chairman of the Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee, also predicted the bill will have a rough time in the Senate.

Governors in recent years have complained that the average citizen does not know where to take many of his problems and that the governor has no special staff member for this post.

Shift Differential Bill Gains Solon's Support

A bill granting one-step pay increases to state employees working swing and graveyard shifts has been given a "do-

pass" recommendation by the House Labor and Management Committee.

However, it was referred to the Ways and Means Committee where a similar OSEA bill died last session.

In his testimony on the bill, OSEA Executive Secretary Thomas C. Enright gave the committee a study of differential pay made by Wage and Salary Analyst Everett B. Stiles.

Enright said that although the Civil Service Commission could provide for differential pay without the necessity of passing any legislation, the association strongly favored the bill.

He said a limited number of employees such as nurses and tabulating operators presently get shift differential pay.

The bill was amended to authorize the Civil Service Commission to set the amount of compensation as a part of the pay plan.

Representatives Richard Kennedy (D-Eugene) and Keith Skelton (D-Eugene) attempted to amend the bill further by setting 1969 as the effective date.

This amendment, had it passed, would have avoided the necessity of sending the bill to the Ways and Means Committee.

Board Meeting Set March 11

OSEA President Smith French has scheduled a meeting of the association's Board of Directors in Salem on March 11.

The meeting will be held in the Marion Motor Hotel starting at 9:00 a.m.

Among the items on the agenda will be a report on legislative developments by Executive Secretary Thomas C. Enright.

Board members desiring overnight accommodations should contact Office Manager John Lewis at headquarters.

OSEA CONSTITUTION DISTRIBUTION DUE

The association's new constitution and by-laws have been printed and will be mailed to all chapter officers during the first week in March, according to Office Manager John Lewis.

Over 40 of OSEA's 79 local chapters throughout the state ratified the three amendments in January.

Enright's Testimony Obtains 'Political Rights' Memorial

As the result of testimony by OSEA Executive Secretary Thomas C. Enright, a memorial has been introduced in the Oregon House of Representatives requesting Congress to amend the Hatch Act removing restrictions on political activities of state and local government employees.

OSEA Records More Members

Membership in the Oregon State Employees Association continued to increase steadily during the past month.

Membership Secretary Mrs. Eleanor Shryock said the association gained 48 members during the last reporting period.

She set the total membership figure at 15,484.

That is 69.8 per cent of the state's employees.

District No. 5 led all districts in new members enrolled during the past month. It recorded a net gain of 26.

John Day Chapter 13 and EOSH Chapter 52 tied for first place honors with 12 members each.

District No. 6 led all districts in enrolling new members in November, December and January. The district's net gain for the three month period was 244.

Within District No. 6, Corvallis Chapter 29 led all of the other nine chapters in membership growth during December and January with a net gain of 96.

OSU Faculty Chapter 72 led the district in November with a net gain of 26.

The memorial was introduced by Representative L. B. Day (D-Salem), William Guinn (R-Albany) and Don Wilson (R-Eugene).

Enright's testimony came at a hearing of the House Elections Committee on two bills which would remove restrictions on political activities of state employees.

He told committee members the 1966 OSEA General Council adopted a resolution in favor of expanding the political activities of state employees "subject to reasonable safeguards."

However, he pointed out that removing state restrictions would not aid those employees "paid wholly or in part from federal funds" who are subject to the provisions of the federal Hatch Act.

He suggested the committee draft a memorial to Congress asking for removal of restrictions in the Hatch Act that apply to state and local government employees.

The committee seemed to generally favor removing the restrictions, but were not decided on how to protect employees from political pressure.

So far this session, two House bills and three Senate bills have been introduced expanding political activities for governmental workers.

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