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Oregon State Employees Association

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From the . . .

Executive Secretary



On May 9, 1967, when Senator Ross Morgan presented House Bill 1076 to the Oregon Senate for final passage, he described it as a monument to Legislative Fiscal Officer William E. Bass, who had labored for six years toward the enactment of legislation to improve the financial yield on PERS and other state investments.

Bill Bass at that time was in the University of Oregon Medical School Hospital, where he was receiving treatment for cancer for which he was first treated 12 years ago.

On Sunday, March 31, 1968, Bill Bass died.

The Oregon Statesman of Salem, in an editorial headed, "Faithful Public Servant," commented:

"Men in such circumstances are tempted to mark time, setting aside long range plans. Bass did the opposite, while knowing death was over his shoulder, he welcomed each new challenge in state government service. Three years ago a reporter asked why he accepted the hard work connected with his last appointment. He replied, 'I don't have to worry, I am living on borrowed time.'"

Steady chemical and radiation treatment prolonged his life. But during the final year nothing could be done about pain all over his body. Yet when tensions were high at Ways and Means Committee meetings and legislators had to have immediate answers, he remained courteous and outwardly calm.

Legislators recognized his honesty and his word was unquestioned.

Scores of persons working around him drew inspiration from his courage."

The career of William E. "Bill" Bass will stand as an example for state employees and the public they serve.

Union Seeks Special Unit at Med. School

A special collective bargaining unit of physical plant employees is being sought at the University of Oregon Medical School in Portland by an AFL-CIO affiliated union.

The request was made March 19 by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union Local 1723 in a letter to Dr. D. W. E. Biard, dean of the school.

It was accompanied by petitions bearing the signatures of 92 employees.

There are presently two collective bargaining units at the institution. One, composed of about 400 classified employees, is represented by OSEA. The other, composed of about ten watchmen and patrolmen, is represented by the AFSC&ME.

The union opposed the association in the certification election for the larger unit, OSEA won by a vote of 145 to 107.

Under a new rule adopted by the Civil Service Commission in February, appointing authorities may trim special bargaining units from the original unit after an election has been held and a bargaining representative certified.

The following conditions must

be met before severance of a special unit can be authorized:

(1) The request must be accompanied by a petition bearing the signatures of 30 per cent of the employees in the proposed special unit, stating that they desire to be represented separately, and

(2) It must be demonstrated that the employees in the proposed special unit are a distinct and homogeneous group, having an established separate identity while included in the broader unit, with significant problems which can be negotiated and adjusted without regard to the interests of other employees in the agency, and severance would not unduly disrupt the stability of employee-management relations in the agency.

The rule also gives the bargaining representative, in this case OSEA, the right to appeal the appointing authority's decision.

It is not known at this time whether or not Dr. Biard will allow formation of the special unit.

Action by the association will await his decision.

Correspondence

To the Editor:

Consolidated Chapter 61 in Portland, by vote of the membership during our last meeting, instructed me to write to OSEA Executive Secretary Thomas C. Enright to convey our congratulations to him and the staff for participation in the reinstatement of Mrs. Marie Hutchens to her employment at Oregon State University, and obtaining the back pay for her.

This kind of action is clear evidence of the value of our organization.

Loren F. Bridge
President
Chapter 61

(Editor's Note: Mrs. Hutchens was suspended and later dismissed from her job last September. OSEA staff representatives, in cooperation with a private attorney, appealed the action to the Civil Service Commission. The commission struck down the dismissal and ordered Mrs. Hutchens reinstated with full retroactive pay. The story was reported in detail in the January issue of the NEWS.)

To the Editor:

OSEA Executive Secretary Thomas C. Enright's discussions at the recent Superintendents and Tribal Leaders Conference at Chemawa School contributed a great deal to the overall success of the meeting. We were particularly pleased and impressed with his presentation of "Employee-Employer Relationships."

This area of any operation is one that far too little thought has been given to in the past. Many tribal leaders and bureau personnel became cognizant of this most difficult management area as a result of Mr. Enright's presentation.

As conference participants move along in future planning and operations, they will be much better prepared as a result of his participation to handle the problems that are sure to arise.

Richard M. Balsiger
U. S. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs

(Editor's Note: Enright recently participated in a two-day conference on Indian problems at Chemawa Indian School in Salem. The conference was sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U. S. Department of the Interior.)

140 Compete For Awards

Recipients of OSEA scholarships and grants-in-aid for the 1968-69 school year are now in the process of being selected.

Selection of recipients is being made by the State Scholarship Commission using criteria set forth by OSEA.

Nearly 140 students applied for awards this year. That's an increase of more than 40 over last year.

The latest chapter contributions to the scholarship fund are listed on page 9.

MAINE STATE EMPLOYEES ASS'N HONORS OREGON STATE EMPLOYEES ASS'N ON ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

