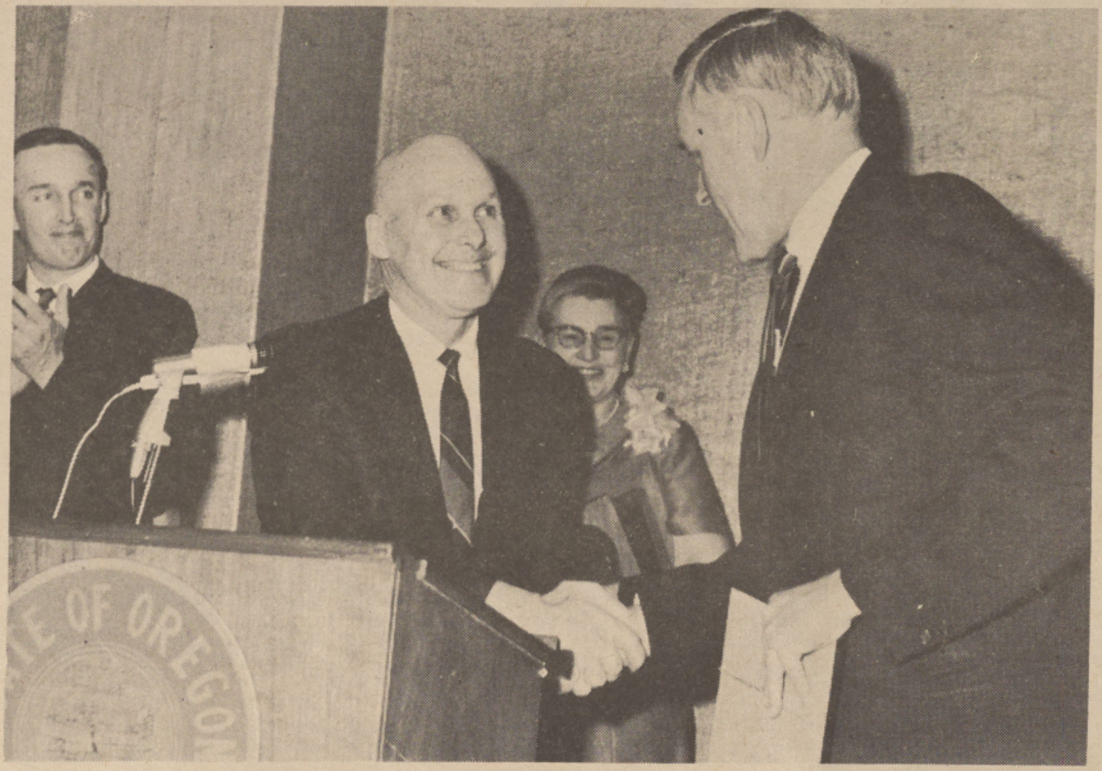

PRESENT FOR McCALL OSEA Executive Secretary Thomas C. Enright gave Gov. Tom McCall a surprise present at OSEA's awards banquet in Salem Jan. 25. It was the original editorial cartoon which appeared in the December issue of the OREGON STATE EMPLOYEE NEWS thanking McCall for his recommended salary increases for state employees. The cartoon was drawn by Joe Pierre.

Support Sought For Retirement Legislation

Support for proposed legislation to help some career state employees who withdrew their retirement contributions in 1953 is being sought by an ad hoc committee recently organized in Salem.

Its chairman is Don Parker, chief counsel for the Department of Agriculture.

"Career employees who withdrew their retirement contributions in 1953 have suddenly discovered that instead of losing a few dollars in future retirement benefits as was indicated and verified at the time, they will now lose many dollars," Parker said.

He noted that the committee is asking all employees affected by the 1953 withdrawal to immediately write him so the committee can build up a list of employees interested in corrective legislation.

Letters should be addressed to Parker in care of OSEA, 1515 State Street, Salem, 97301.

The matter was brought to OSEA too late for study or inclusion in its 1969 legislative program. The association has offered to help the group, however, by collecting the letters of support and passing them on to the committee.

Parker said the committee believes the legislature will give "fair and reasonable treatment" to career employees who withdrew their funds. "All we ask is to be allowed to participate in the present PERS benefits in the same manner as all other employees," he said.

"The 1968 retirement law, however unintentionally, seriously hurt employees who were between 35 and 50 years of age in 1953 and who have retired or are approaching retirement," Parker noted.

"As a result, those who withdrew their money in 1953 no longer have any prior service credit, or any retirement credit for years worked prior to 1953," he said.

The other three members of the committee, also state attorneys, are Ray Lafky, Workmen's Compensation Board; Carlisle Roberts, Tax Commission; and E. G. Foxley, Department of Justice.

Weather Delays Highway Council

The first meeting of OSEA's Collective Bargaining Council in the main unit of the Highway Department has been delayed by the weather.

Staff member Edward L. Wilson said council members representing the agency's Maintenance Division have been kept busy by the unusually heavy snowfall this winter.

He said a meeting would be scheduled as soon as the weather breaks. Council members will be informed of the meeting by letter, he said.

Scholar Fund Needs Dollars

Local OSEA chapters throughout the state have less than three weeks left in which to contribute to the association's scholarship fund for the 1969-70 school year.

The deadline for receiving contributions is March 1.

As of Feb. 4, only 25 of 80 chapters had contributed to the fund. The amount was listed at $1,636, far short of the $3,750 donated by 65 chapters last year.

OSEA President Jerry Liebertz has urged all chapters to support the scholarship program by contributing to the fund.

Liebertz reminded chapters that they must contribute to the fund in order to be eligible to sponsor a scholarship applicant.

Scholarship and grant-in-aid recipients will be selected in late April.

Cleveland Says State Pay Lags Competition

"We just can't meet private competition," Civil Service Director Melvin Cleveland told the Legislature's Ways and Means Committee Jan. 15 as he described the state's employment recruiting problems.

"I don't recall a single instance last year where we hired a college graduate who was in the upper half of his class," he said.

Cleveland told Ways and Means Committee members that about 600 college graduates were hired last year.

"Last year there were more firms competing for Oregon State University graduates in engineering than there were graduates," Cleveland declared.

The civil service director said the state had a 25 per cent employee turnover rate last year. He claimed a major reason for the high turnover was a relatively high level of employment in private industry and business.

Since the legislature only meets every two years, he said, Oregon doesn't keep its salaries as current as many states. Annual sessions would allow the state to keep more competitive, he said.

Cleveland and Budget Director Cleighton Penwell told legislators that the state's pay scales rank better for low paying jobs than for those in higher brackets. That is generally true of most governments, they said.

The Ways and Means Committee began its deliberations on the proposed salary increase package for both classified and unclassified state employees in January.

Committee members told OSEA representatives that they want to reach a decision on salaries early in the session in order that they may write new pay levels into each agency's budget before the budgets are sent to the House and Senate.

Tongue Point Union Ousted

For the third time in the past three months, an AFL-CIO union has been ousted by state employees as their collective bargaining representative.

The Tongue Point domestic workers, cooks and food supervisors, by a vote of 11-2, decertified Local 311 of the Culinary Alliance in January. Twelve employees in the 20-member unit did not vote.

It was the second decertification at the Astoria institution. Earlier the physical plant employees there voted out the Clatsop-Tillamook Building Trades Council as their bargaining agent. OSEA was later elected by the unit.

OSH Charged With Contract Violation

The Oregon State Hospital has been charged with two violations of OSEA's collective bargaining contract in the past two months.

Both violations grew out of the method used by the agency in assigning two employees to vacant positions, OSEA said.

The association claimed the first instance occurred when a vacant Aide I position in Unit 1, Ward 46 was filled without any "notice of the vacancy being posted nor any employee given an opportunity to apply."

Later the hospital filled a vacant Aide III position in Unit 1, Ward 44 "without notice of the vacancy or any opportunity given to employees to request assignment to the position." That action also breeched the contract, OSEA said.

The association charged that the two assignments violated the following section of its contract:

"A notice of vacant positions to be filled in the department or unit shall be posted on the department or unit bulletin board and on a central bulletin board. Employees shall have an opportunity to request assignment change to the vacant position."

The hospital has not yet replied to OSEA's charges.