

OREGON STATE **employee news**

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From the...

Executive Secretary**Time For One More**

The current session of the legislature is expected to end within two weeks. Generally it has been a good one for state employees. A record salary adjustment has been funded, and by the time of adjournment a substantial number of bills favored by OSEA will have been passed and those opposed by OSEA defeated.

The session cannot be considered completely satisfactory, however, unless the Joint Ways and Means Committee reports out and the legislature passes House Bill 1351. That is the bill to give state employees the medical-hospital premium contribution fringe benefit now enjoyed by most other Oregon public employees.

Although its chances have been weakened by unexpected demands upon available funds, HB 1351 is not dead. It is not too late to write the legislator member of Ways and Means nearest to you, urging favorable consideration of the medical-hospital bill.

They Count

For those who doubt that those letters count, we were present at a "work session" meeting of a Senate committee last week when a bill which seemed to have a good deal of merit but no strong interest on the part of committee members was being considered.

The chairman reported that although a hearing on the bill had been held and there was favorable testimony, nobody had been heard from since. Assuming that support for the proposal had petered out, the bill was tabled. A half dozen letters might have saved it.

Lighter Moments

George Brown, Political Education Director of the AFL-CIO appeared before the Senate Labor and Industries Committee to ask that two bills introduced at the request of the unions be withdrawn from consideration, apparently because there seemed no chance of their passage. A senator obliged with a motion.

Whereupon Sen. Victor Atiyeh said, "Aw, shucks, I wanted to make that motion. I'd like to be able to say I'd done something for George". . . .

Last Friday Chairman Joe Rogers of the House Labor and Management Committee assigned to Rep. Robert Ingalls the job of "carrying" HB1863 on the House floor. The latter said he would be glad to do so but might have trouble explaining the PER variable annuity program and TIAA-CREF provisions for academics involved in the bill.

A fellow legislator said, "Don't worry. Just say very little and mumble a bit. This late in the session, they'll never know the difference". . . .

Getting The Words

One of the things that for all of us will take a little getting used to, is the new language resulting from passage of Senate Bill 232. The words "civil service", insofar as the state personnel system is concerned, are a thing of the past.

The enactment redesignates the "Civil Service Law" as the "State Merit System Law". The "Civil Service Rule Book" will be a book of rules of the "Personnel Division". Employee appeals will no longer be to the "Commission" (Civil Service) but to the "Board" (Public Employee Relations).

There is always a bright spot, tho. If we think we have problems, how long has it been since Highway Personnel got out its new, revised and up-to-date book of "interpretations" of the existing rules?

Correspondence

To the Editor:

I would like to use our newspaper to publicly thank the OSEA and staff member Jack Schoonover. Through his efforts I received \$82 for my overtime claim.

I also wish to thank my employers at the University of Oregon dormitory system for making this payment possible.

Mildred L. Johnson
Webfoot Chapter 49

To the Editor:

On behalf of Mercury Chapter 39, I wish to thank staff member Joe Johansen for taking time from a busy schedule to attend our chapter meeting March 31 and present the slide presentation on Oregon's compensation plan. We also appreciated his answers to questions following the presentation which has helped the chapter understand the effects of OSEA on legislative activity.

The slide presentation is an excellent presentation for showing to state employees. The headquarters staff is to be commended for developing such a highly professional film.

Duane Ohlsen
President
Chapter 39



EDWARD WESTERDAHL

Westerdahl New Department Head

Edward G. Wester Dahl II, Gov. Tom McCall's executive assistant, will become director of the new Executive Department on July 1.

The department will begin operation on that date as the result of Senate Bill 232. It is the first of McCall's governmental reorganization bills to pass the legislature.

It consolidates the Department of Finance, Department of Emergency Services, economic development division of the Department of Commerce, intergovernmental coordination, planning and the personnel management function of the Civil Service Commission.

Westerdahl, 33, is McCall's principal liaison with state agencies, boards and commissions. He is chairman of the Intergovernmental Coordination Committee and vice-chairman of the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments and the Emergency Services Advisory Council.