$10,668 Overtime Claim Settled By State Fair After Complaint

The Oregon State Fair informed OSEA that it will pay 47 employes a total of $10,668 for back overtime after the Association filed a complaint with the Public Employe Relations Board.

The complaint, drafted and filed by staff attorney John S. Irvin, was the latest action taken by the Association in its seven-month attempt to collect the overtime pay.

Staff members John M. Schoonover and the late Donald A. Beninger filed the overtime claims shortly after the 1970 State Fair. Numerous meetings were held by OSEA and State Fair representatives without settlement of the claims.

State Fair representatives told OSEA that the agency could not pay the claims because of budgetary problems. However, the Emergency Board in January gave the agency authority to spend $63,000 for overtime payments, some of which dated back over several years. Later the 1971 Legislature authorized an additional $14,327 for overtime obligations.

Despite the fact that it was given authority to pay for the overtime, the agency did not indicate payment would be made until OSEA's complaint was filed with the PERB.

The complaint was never heard by the board, however, because Robert L. Stevens, manager of the State Fair, notified Schoonover that the agency would pay the claims.

Claims filed in behalf of employes by OSEA range from a low of $12.15 to a high of $1,570.23. Nearly all of the claimants are part-time or seasonal employes. They include laborers 1 and 2, student workers, electricians and carpenters.

OSEA Growth Shows Increase

Membership in OSEA continued its steady increase during April as the Association ended the month with a net gain of 84 members.

According to the May 1 membership report, 281 new members were enrolled during the month while 197 left state employment during that time. It was the eighth consecutive month OSEA has had a net increase in membership.

Six of the Association's nine districts ended the month with a net gain. They were led by District One which gained 37. It was closely followed by District Six with 31.

Next in order came District Two with 15, District Four with 6, District Nine with 5 and District Three with 4.

District Seven suffered a net loss of 8 members, and District Five lost 6. District Eight remained even.

Corvallis Chapter 29 at Oregon State University, OSEA's largest chapter with 1,117 members, led all 81 local chapters throughout the state with a net gain of 22 members. Next came Viking Chapter 81 in Portland with 12.

Action on State Employe Bills Increases as Session End Nears

As the Legislature speeds towards adjournment (possibly by Memorial Day; the first week of June at the latest) action on state employe bills other than pay is accelerating. Such is the present pace that some bills commented on as of the NEWS publication date may have been acted on further and passed or defeated before this issue is received in the member's mail. Watch your agency bulletin board for up-dating reports in the OSEA Legislative News Bulletin.

Following is a summary of legislative action as of May 14:

AGE 65 RETIREMENT: The House on May 13 defeated HB 1907, which had previously been voted back to the Ways and Means Committee on April 28 because it would allow no retention in employment beyond age 65. As further amended, the bill would apply only to classified employes and would allow retention in certain justified cases. Several House members were absent from the May 13 vote, so motion may be made for reconsideration. If the bill then passes the House, it is expected to have some opposition in the Senate.

TRAVEL: HB 1234, which would raise private car mileage allowance limit from 8 to 9 cents and allow Executive Department to set up travel advance system, passed the Senate May 12 and now goes to Governor for signature.

STATE PAY PERIODS: A Ways and Means subcommittee held another hearing May 10 on HB 1901, which would allow the Executive Department to change from monthly pay. No further action has been taken, but indications are it will not be given favorable consideration.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: Despite much pressure from many groups, including State Executive Department, who offered amendments letting cities and counties out from mandatory bargaining, HB 1044 continues to stay in Governmental Reorganization subcommittee of House State and Federal Affairs Committee. SB 104, OSEA's bill regarding public employe strikes, was heard by Senate Judiciary Committee but no action taken. Prospects extremely doubtful.

MERIT SYSTEM BILLS: HB 1903 and 1908, with amendments approved by OSEA, passed House and went to Senate Labor and Industries Committee, who held hearing May 10 but did not take action. HB 1902 was heard by Salary Subcommittee of Ways and Means, in amended form which removed OSEA objections. Action deferred. HB 1904 (doing away with "rule of 5") and HB 1905 (test notices) appear to be dead. HB 1982, which would have given point preference to welfare recipients, still has not come out of House State and Federal Affairs, even though its sponsor offered amendments which would change it significantly.

RETIREMENT: OSEA and Public Employees Retirement Conference omnibus bill, HB 1397, heard by Ways and Means Salary Subcommittee May 11, with apparently favorable response, but action deferred. SB 622, regarding benefits for certain employes who worked after age 65 but were inadvertently left out of 1969 corrective bill, has been shifted from Senate State and Federal Affairs Committee to Ways and Means.

MEDICAL-HOSPITAL CONTRIBUTION: Salary Subcommittee held a hearing on HB 1462 on May 13, to consider amendments prepared by Legislative Fiscal staff. Amendments make administrative improvements. Appropriation of $10 per month is in salary appropriation bill (HB 3047), and favorable action is expected.

MILITARY TAX EXEMPTION: HB 1283, which would allow tax exemption of up to $2,400 of military retirement pay, will receive hearing by Senate Taxation Committee May 14. If approved, will still have to go to Ways and Means because of effect on state revenues.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: Academic unclassified employes will be eligible for unemployment compensation, and employes will get credit for state service for unemployment compensation service after retirement from state, if able and seeking work, under provisions of HB 1294. Bill passed House and is now in Senate State and Federal Affairs. Passage expected, because bill is required to conform with federal law.