

the OSEA news

The monthly publication of the Oregon State Employees Association

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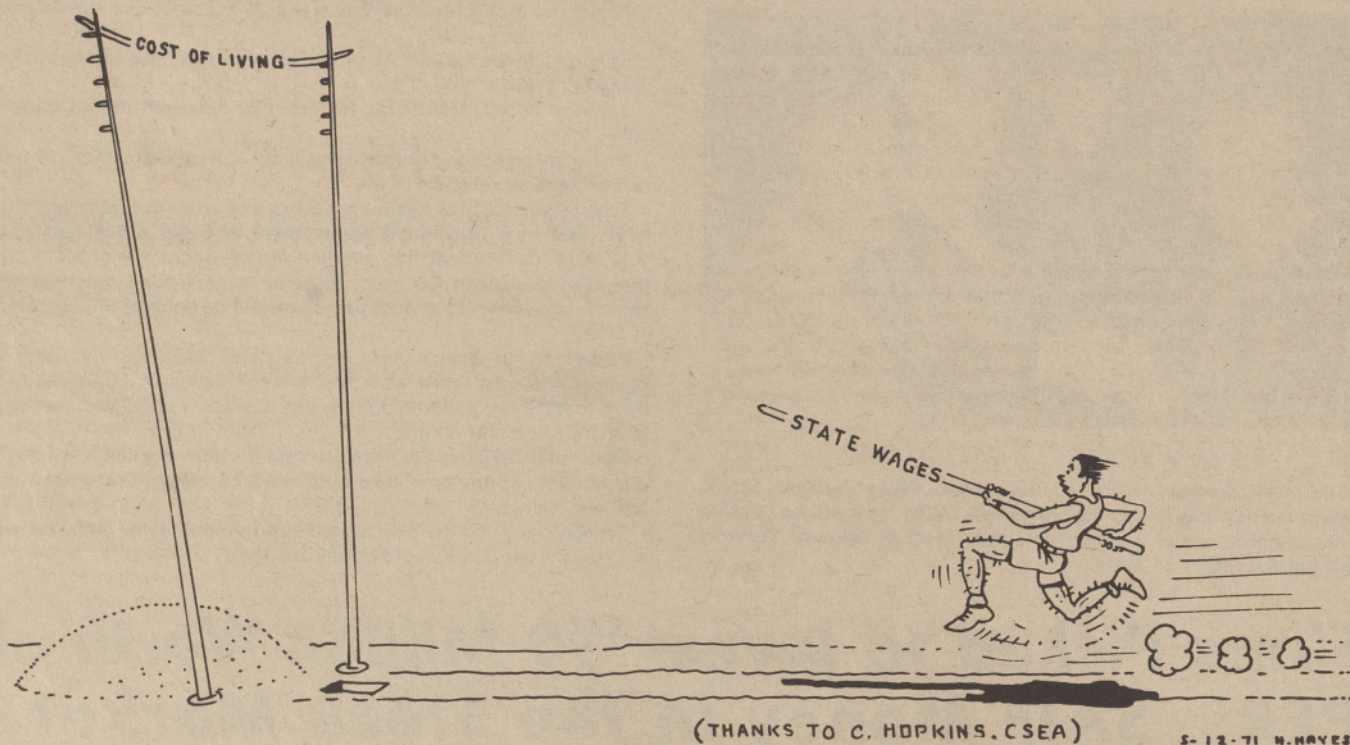
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(THANKS TO C. HOPKINS, CSEA)

S-12-71 H. HAYES

From the....

Executive Secretary

Difficult Decision

Last Monday night a Ways and Means sub-committee held another hearing on HB 1901. That is the bill which would consolidate certain payrolls and allow the Executive Department to set pay periods. It is expected that the state's monthly pay would be changed to bi-weekly.

The proposal to change pay periods was brought to OSEA last summer. Three resolutions for different kinds of changes failed to pass last October's General Council. There was no resolution calling for OSEA to support the present pay system. When HB 1901 was introduced, the question of whether OSEA would support it or oppose it was thus put up to the Association's Board of Directors.

Deciding that feelings on the question were equally strong on both sides, the board voted to take no position on HB 1901. Answering a critic who questioned the courage of not taking a stand, a board member said: "I know we'll catch the devil from half the people whichever way we might go, but this position is even tougher. Now we'll catch it from both sides. But I think this is fairer to all our members."

If HB 1901 passes, OSEA certainly will be criticized by some. It also will be blamed if the bill doesn't pass. Hopefully, those who value democracy and want the Association to truly reflect the desires of its members will sympathize with the difficult problem faced by their elected representatives.

Call OSEA

A prime concern of OSEA's Board of Directors and staff is to keep members informed on legislative matters. Besides the monthly OSEA News, about 1,300 Legislative News Bulletins are sent out each week for work area bulletin boards; special bulletins are sent to board members and chapter presidents; and staff representatives cover as much area as they can to report at chapter and district meetings.

Legislators are now talking about adjournment by Memorial Day, and salaries and many other vital matters are still hanging in the balance. In the hectic closing days of the session, the job of up-to-the-minute communication will be even more important, and more difficult.

Bulletins will be issued as often as appear to be necessary, but members who are not getting the news from other sources are encouraged to write or call the Salem or Portland OSEA offices. We will get you the answers to your questions as soon as possible.

Message Received

Senator Berkeley "Bud" Lent, co-chairman of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, served his last day in the Legislature on May 11. He was appointed by Gov. McCall to replace the deceased Charles Redding as circuit judge in Multnomah County. He will take office June 1.

Bud Lent will be remembered by state employees as a good friend. He will be remembered by those who spend a lot of time around the Ways and Means Committee room, not only for his outstanding ability, but also for the humor he often injected into serious sessions.

Lent recently received an OSEA Legislative News Bulletin which somehow had "skipped" in the multilith printing press and passed through the mailing machine as a blank piece of paper. His reaction was characteristic. A note to us on the blank sheet of paper said: "Dear Tom. I get your message. You're trying to tell me what you think of the Hansell salary plan. Bud."

Good luck, Judge Lent.