

the OSEA news

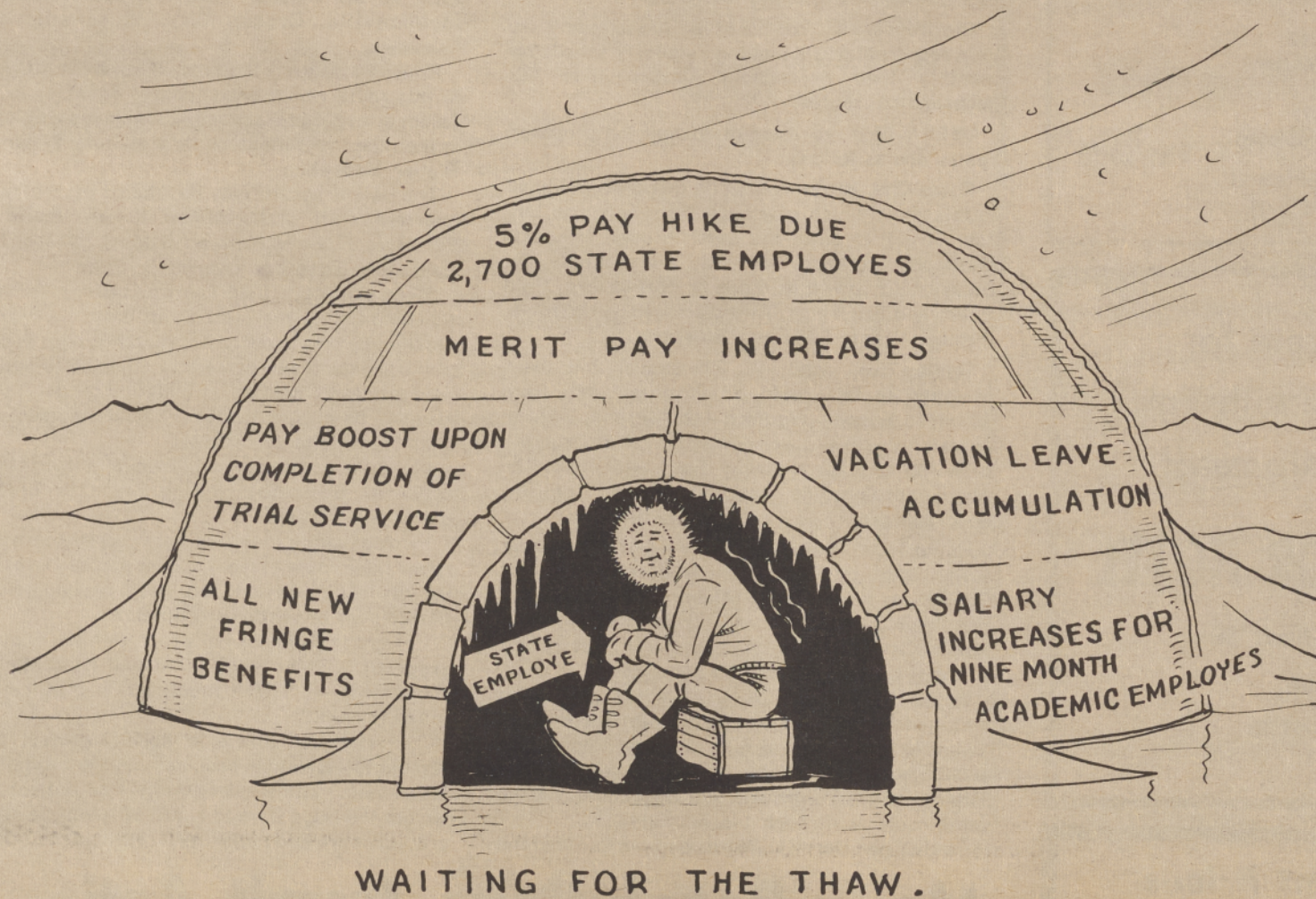
The monthly publication of the Oregon State Employees Association

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10-6-71 H. HAYES

From the.... Executive Secretary

Shock Treatment for Employees

OSEA headquarters has received more calls about the freeze on vacation leave accumulation than any other aspect of the President's so-called "wage-price freeze." No doubt this is because it is so patently ridiculous.

First, it should be understood that the vacation limit did not originate in the state's Executive Department. It is a ruling of President Nixon's Cost of Living Council, and was the result of questions raised in other states.

Obviously the accumulation of vacation credits based on years of service is not an inflationary item. Freeze application to the credits is to hold the status quo on pay and benefits for state employees for a 90-day period. It's also apparently part of the shock treatment on workers which presidential advisers seem to think will have an anti-inflationary effect.

Oregon State Senator Don Willner (D-Portland), president of the National Consumers League, recently met with President Nixon to express consumer views on the freeze. He reported on the meeting at a recent Salem City Club luncheon.

One of Willner's main points is that the freeze will work only as long as the public, made up mostly of workers, has confidence in it.

When "phase two" of the freeze goes into effect after November 13, its provisions are going to have to be more plausible than the vacation credit limit in order for it to continue to be accepted.

OSEA Sets Its Course

OSEA President Chalmers Jones will bang down his gavel at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 14, to open the first session of the 1971 General Council. The happenings of the following three days will set the Association's course for the year ahead.

During those three days there will be speeches (not many), visits from the state's top officials and legislators, some social activity, but most of all there will be work. Visitors and new participants never fail to be surprised by the way OSEA delegates—after night meetings, caucuses and "politicking," or late hour visiting with old friends and fellow employees from around the state—man every station when the session reconvenes early the next morning to take their part and have their say on the resolutions which establish the Association's program.

President Jones and his fellow board members want to emphasize that General Council attendance is not limited to delegates and their alternates: the presence of rank and file members at any of its sessions will be very welcome. Those who are able to attend will find it a rewarding experience.

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