

the OSEA news

The monthly publication of the Oregon State Employees Association

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I WONDER IF A COURTEOUS LETTER TO HIS SENATOR WOULD HELP HIM FIND A PARKING SPACE ?

1-17-73 H. HAYES

From the....

Executive Secretary

You Can Lobby, Too

The most exciting and most fruitful phase of OSEA's activities—the legislative session—has begun. In the months ahead, state employees will be making many contacts with legislators, telling them their needs and views on many subjects. It appears appropriate to quote the following from OSEA's Political Education Guide:

(1) The great majority of legislators are friendly people. It is also to their advantage to meet and talk to people. Chapters should not be at all shy or reluctant about asking them to meetings or social events. Legislators do not expect you will always agree with them, and most appreciate honest expression of opinion and proper argument. But, like you, they expect courteous treatment and not abuse.

(2) Legislators like to hear from their constituents. They do not, however, particularly appreciate form letters or petitions. Obviously, an insulting, abrasive or threatening letter does more harm than good to the cause of the writer. One legislator told us he cannot understand why he receives so many unsigned letters from state employees. If you write a letter to a legislator, you can expect both your privacy and your opinion to be respected.

(3) The secretarial help furnished legislators, even during the legislative sessions, is very limited. We hear complaints that a person has

written a legislator and not received an answer. Legislators would like to answer all of the letters sent to them, but when their mail is heavy it is just physically impossible for them to do so.

(4) Many demands are made upon legislators, but the thanks they receive are few. Like all of us, they appreciate an occasional few words of praise or gratitude. As a practical matter, you will probably be calling on him or her again, and the legislator will be more receptive if he or she remembers you expressed some appreciation for what was done for you last time.

Toll-Free Information on Bills

Senate President Jason Boe (D-Reedsport) and House Speaker Richard Eymann (D-Springfield) have announced an important new public service. Any person can obtain information on the status of a bill by calling toll-free from any part of the state to 1-800-452-0290. (Jot that number down!) If you want more detailed information, call or write OSEA headquarters.

OSEA Legislative News Bulletins

The OSEA Legislative News Bulletin, designed for posting on work area bulletin boards, will be published at intervals of about 10 days throughout the session. Its distribution of about 1,700 includes OSEA chapter officers and group representatives, agency field offices, legislators and the news media.

Any group of employees who have not been receiving News from OSEA or the OSEA Legislative News Bulletin at their work location will be put on the distribution list upon request by simply sending to OSEA headquarters the name and address of a person who agrees to be responsible for receiving the publication and posting it in the work area.