

the OSEA news

The monthly publication of the Oregon State Employees Association

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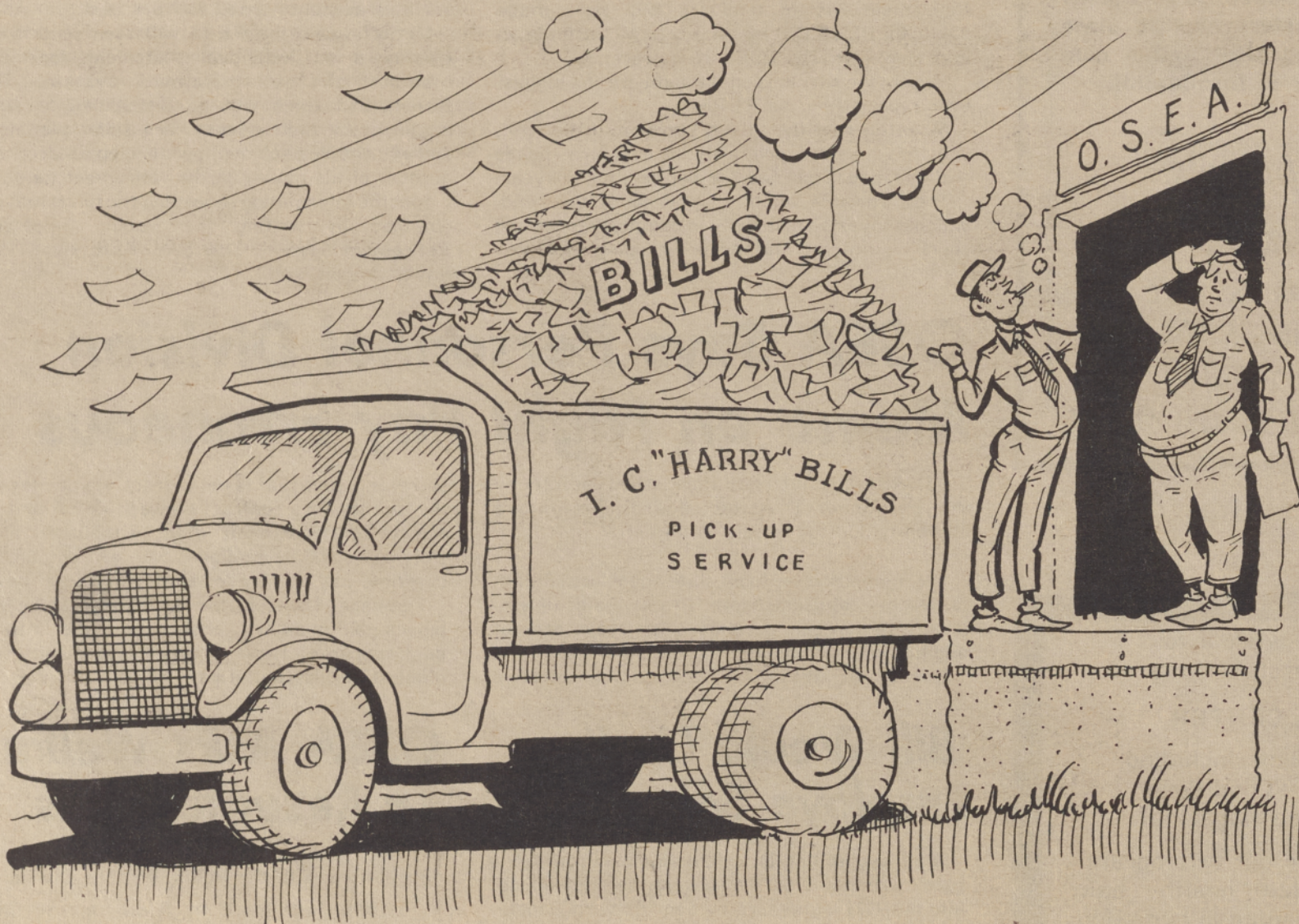
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I'M FROM THE CAPITOL, WHERE DO YOU WANT THESE BILLS?

3-22-73 H. HAYES

From the....

Executive Secretary

A Blizzard of Bills

Your OSEA lobbyists' list of bills being followed closely in the current legislative session now totals 106, with more to come. That amount does not include a large number of workmen's compensation and unemployment insurance bills in which OSEA also is much interested.

The greatly increased bill surveillance load can be accounted for largely by two factors: a broadened field of legislative concern resulting from OSEA General Council resolutions, and the change in the makeup of the Legislative Assembly.

While the Association at one time concerned itself almost entirely with state pay, fringe benefits and personnel-type legislation, we are now also involved with consumer and civil rights legislation and bills dealing with subjects such as no-fault automobile insurance and reform of probate laws.

New faces in the legislature have meant new ideas. Quite a few of the new legislators are public employes. One of them, Representative Mary Roberts (D-Portland), has introduced a number of worthwhile bills concerned primarily with the Public Employees' Retirement System and public employee political rights.

OSEA's entry into the political action field has resulted not only in bills covering such subjects as campaign contribution legislation and contribution tax credits; it also has seen requests by various people, including legislators, for support of or positions on legislation of broad citizen interest.

Along with these developments appears to have come an increased interest on the part of state employes as to what is happening at the legislature. Never before has the headquarters office received more letters or calls for information about bills or to express opinions on pending legislation.

Limited space precludes The OSEA News from listing and describing all of the bills which your lobbyists are following. More complete listings and up-to-date developments on an almost weekly basis are reported in the OSEA Legislative News Bulletins and a similar bulletin prepared specially for academic employes. If the bulletins are not reaching your work area bulletin board, please notify OSEA headquarters and give the name of a person to whom the bulletins can be sent for posting.

Behind all the legislative activity stands the one and most important ingredient—the informed OSEA member. His or her interests, their meetings with and calls or letters to their legislators—these are the things that make the whole thing go.

The judge in an old court case once said, "No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session." But state employes also know that the legislature is where the things important to them happen. Your interest and support will make sure they happen in the right way.