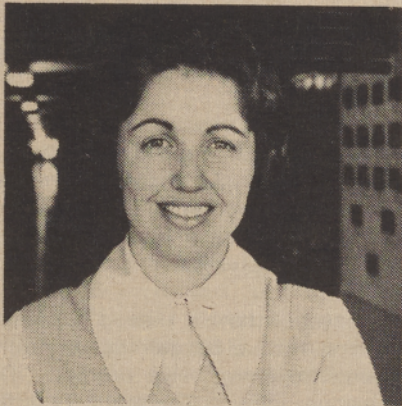


Inquiring Photographer

Do You Favor the Tax Plan Referred To the People by the Legislature?

(Asked after a meeting of Putnam-Stephens Chapter 23 in Salem)



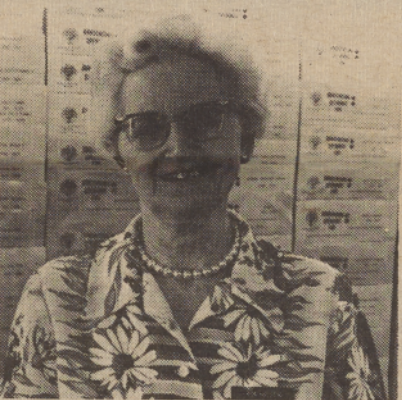
CAROL MORGAN
Secretary
Department of Education

I tend to favor the plan, but I would like to know more about it before I vote. I understand there are going to be several meetings around Salem to explain the plan, and I'm going to try to attend one of them. I think one of the best features of the plan is the provision that shifts the cost of operating the public schools from local property taxes to the income tax.



JOE CLINTON
Systems Analyst
Vocational Rehabilitation Division

I don't think so. I would like to see some form of property tax relief but I'm not sure this plan is the way to go about getting it. The increase in my property taxes doesn't come so much from an increase in the millage rate as it does from the inflated value of the property. I haven't seen anything in this plan that would keep the assessor from increasing the value of my property and therefore my property taxes.



LYDA HOLSTAD
Accounting Clerk
Department of Education

Yes I do. I favor it. I haven't received my voters' pamphlet explaining the tax plan, but I've heard enough about it to make up my mind. My husband is a property appraiser for Marion County and he says it is a good tax plan for us. He says it will pay us to vote for it. In fact, it is a good plan for anyone who is retired or about to retire because it will lower property taxes.

DOYLE TAYLOR
Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist
Vocational Rehabilitation Division

I'm going to defer my decision until I get my voters' pamphlet, but if pressed for for an answer I would have to say I tend to favor the plan. We must find an alternative to the property tax to finance schools even though we may not all benefit financially. The legislature seemed to move awfully fast for such a complicated tax plan, and I don't think all of the alternatives have been examined.



CHARLOTTE PAULSEN
Counselor
Vocational Rehabilitation Division

I think I do. It helped to hear Ev Stiles explain the effects of the tax plan at our chapter meeting. One good thing the plan does is eliminate the annual budget battles our schools must go through to get their operating funds. It will give them a much more stable financial base. I also like the idea of basing taxes on the ability to pay rather than on the ownership of property.



GLENN MIDDLETON
Hearings Referee
Department of Education

If I voted my billfold I would vote against this tax plan. But I think I will support it because it's the only readily available solution to the school finance problem. It's the only plan on the table and we must decide whether or not we want it. It is essential that we reconstruct our school financing system to provide reasonably equal education. This tax plan will do that.



LIFE WITH OTHERS

Supreme Court Will Review Hatch Act Decision

The United States Supreme Court has agreed to review a lower court decision that struck down some of the Hatch Act's restrictions on political activity by federal employees.

In a case brought by the National Association of Letter Carriers, a U. S. District Court three-judge panel in Washington, D. C. last July held that a section of the law barring federal employees from taking "an active part in political management or political campaigns" was "vague, overly broad and in conflict with the First Amendment"

The Hatch Act was first adopted in 1939 to protect the federal merit system from partisan political abuses, was amended a year later, and has been under attack since its birth as a severe infringement upon the rights of federal employees. Proponents of the act hail it as a valuable buffer for public employees.

Virtually all of the federal government's 2.7 million employees are covered by the law, as are about two million state and local government workers whose salaries are funded wholly or in part from federal dollars.

Since 1939, well over 4,000 complaints have been filed against federal employees for violations of the Hatch Act. As a result, 244 federal workers have lost their jobs and 398 have been suspended.

Neither the letter carriers union nor the court disputed the government's

right to shield the civil service from politics. "There is an obvious, well-established governmental interest in restricting political activities by federal employees which was asserted long before enactment of the Hatch Act," Judge Gerhard Gesell, writing for the 2-1 majority, said.

However, the court found the law was "capable of sweeping and uneven application." For example, part of the Hatch Act instructs the enforcing agency—the U. S. Civil Service Commission—to follow the precedents of some 3,000 pre-Hatch Act CSC rulings. Some of those ruling disciplined federal employees for "disparaging the President," "making offensive political remarks," "failing to discourage a spouse's political activity," and "authoring an anonymous political communication."

The law's prohibitions are so vague that the CSC itself has puzzled over their meaning. ". . . . generalized, vague prohibitions become misunderstood and misapplied and serve to limit expression by millions of federal government employees and their families" the court declared.

That essentially has a "chilling effect" on First Amendment freedoms, Judge Gesell said, in that federal workers may not exercise their lawful political rights of expression for fear of violating a law whose standards are imprecise.

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the case May 26. The high court last upheld the Hatch Act in 1947, but according to Judge Gesell's opinion, that decision has "become outmoded by passage of time."

ALASKA

A one dollar a month dues increase—from \$3 to \$4—has been adopted by the Alaska Public Employees Association by a 4 to 1 vote of its membership.

APEA will use the money to open a branch office in Fairbanks, expand its Juneau office and hire additional staff members to handle collective bargaining activities.

Regulations governing collective bargaining in state government recently were adopted by the state's Labor Relations Agency. The APEA immediately filed for certification of two bargaining units—classified and confidential employees.

IDAHO

The Idaho State Employees Association has begun work on its legislative program by introducing bills to provide increased mileage and per diem allowances, mandatory agency grievance procedures and an interim study of collective bargaining.

The state's Personnel Commission has recommended a five per cent salary increase for state employees. An ISEA

spokesman called the recommendation "not adequate."

WYOMING

The Wyoming attorney general's office recently issued an opinion that said the state cannot pay overtime to its employees except to laborers, workmen or mechanics employed on public works projects.

Following that opinion, the Wyoming State Employees Association introduced a bill to change the law and provide regulations for overtime pay at the rate of time and one-half.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The 600,000-member Assembly of Governmental Employees and the 100,000-member American Association of Classified School Employees have merged.

AGE is a federation of 36 public employee organizations representing state, county and municipal employees throughout the country. OSEA is a charter member of the group.

The AACSE represents non-academic public school employees in school districts in California, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Ohio. Those employees include custodians, clerical and secretaries, maintenance personnel, educational aides, cafeteria workers, business administrators and transportation personnel.