

the OSEA news

The monthly publication of the Oregon State Employees Association

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—Cartoon courtesy of The Federal Times

From the....

Executive Secretary

Thoughts About the Session

The accomplishments of the fifty-seventh Oregon Legislative Assembly for state employes will be described in greater detail in an issue of The OSEA News later this month. Here are only a few of your lobbyists' reminiscences on adjournment day:

A high point: The visit to House Speaker Dick Eymann's office in May, when, after the May 1 election, some House members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee were showing reluctance about implementing the negotiated pay and benefits package. How good it was to receive the solid assurance that the Speaker and Senate President Jason Boe had decided early in the session that the package would be funded, and that it was going to go!

A thriller: When the vote in the Senate of HJR 30 (constitutional amendment to allow state employes to serve in the legislature) was announced as 15 in favor (16 votes are required to pass a bill). President Boe, who had promised us he would support the measure, re-announced the vote and entertained parliamentary inquiries from Senator Keith Burbidge, a strong supporter of the bill, allowing time for other supporters to get one senator to change his vote from "nay" to "aye." If there is a state employe serving in the legislature one of these years, he or she can give thanks to Jason Boe's "slow gavel."

A low point: When first-term Marion County Representative Jeff Gilmour, previously described by the news media as a "sulky kid obstructionist," warned the House not to vote for HJR 30 because

they would regret the day they "let the hogs into the trough."

Session's best speech: The magnificent, emotional words of Senator Ted Hallock in opposition to closing Columbia Park Hospital.

Best joint activity: Solid cooperation between public employe associations and unions won passage of HB 2263, the collective bargaining bill, and bailed out SB 411, the retirement improvement measure, when it was in trouble. This relationship will be continued in next year's political campaigns.

Other leaders: A great job by Ways and Means co-chairman Phil Lang; a constructive meeting with Minority Leader Gordon Macpherson, at his invitation, when tempers were high regarding the collective bargaining bill; help from Representative Roger Martin on opposition party votes on an important measure in the Senate: the patience of House Labor Committee chairman Glen Whallon and vice-chairman Bob Elliott and the work of their subcommittee members—Representatives Larry Perry and Bill Grannell on HB 2263; Senator Dick Groener when the bill reached the Senate; House Majority Leader Les AuCoin and his vice-chairman, Earl Blumenauer, working on different bills in the House State and Federal Affairs Committee.

Most helpful: Nobody could top the kind of assistance given us by Senator Keith Burbidge and Representatives Peg Dereli and Mary Roberts, but there was much support from others such as Senators Bill Stevenson, Fred Heard, Jack Ripper, Ed Fadeley and Wally Carson, and Representatives Harvey Akeson, Bill McCoy, Norma Paulus and quite a few more.

Many of us have written letters to legislators during the session, asking for help. Why not take some time now to drop a line to your Senator or Representative, giving thanks for the help he or she has given us?

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