

the OSEA news

The monthly publication of the Oregon State Employees Association

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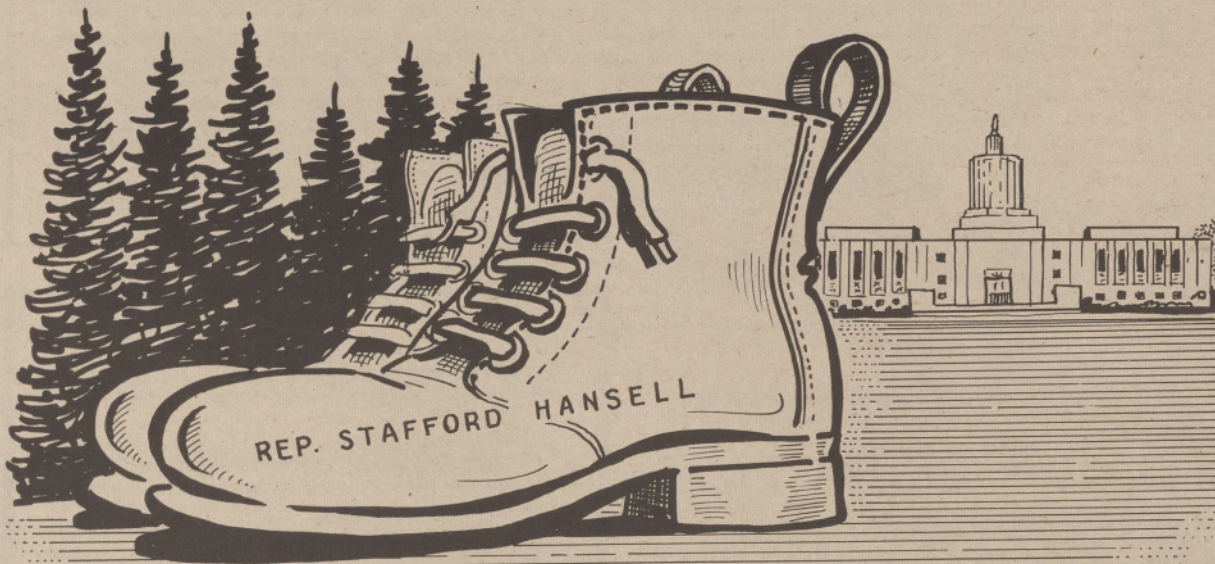
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A DIFFICUT PAIR OF SHOES TO FILL

12-19-73 H. HAVES

From the....

Executive Secretary

Hansell Will be Missed

Back in June, 1967, we wrote the following about State Representative Stafford Hansell in this column:

"An Eastern Oregon rancher, Rep. Hansell appears to be the epitome of the fiscal conservative. He is a tight man with a state buck. He is not the kind of legislator who can be pressured, fooled or blandished into expenditures which he does not think are sound. But when the facts tell him something should be done, he is the kind of fellow who sees they are done. In the long run, this is the kind of legislator people with meritorious needs can count upon."

The same issue of The OSEA News carried a double-page spread regarding the new retirement system which had just been passed by the legislature. Most of the credit for its passage went to Stafford Hansell, chairman of the Joint Ways and Means Committee, assisted by then Rep. Betty Roberts and then Sen. Ross Morgan.

This month Rep. Hansell announced that after 18 years in the Legislative Assembly he will not be a candidate for re-election. We are among those who feel that his absence will be a serious loss to the people of Oregon, including state employees.

We have had our differences with Staff Hansell. One particularly strong exchange, widely covered by television, occurred during the 1971 session when we protested the diversion of \$25 million that had been earmarked in the governor's budget for salary increases to boost basic school support. Later in the session, however, when the need for salary increases was justified with facts, Hansell led passage of an adequate salary appropriation as well as the beginning of an employer medical-hospital contribution and further retirement improvements.

One piece of legislation regarding which Hansell has received the most criticism was the imposition by the 1971 Ways and Means Committee of the 15-25 per cent limitation on merit raises. He did push strongly for this measure, but when it proved to have been an ill-advised move, the person who made the motion in the 1973 committee to do away with it was Rep. Hansell.

No mention of Staff Hansell and his political career would be complete without respect being paid to his wife and partner, Mary Elizabeth. We have particularly warm memories of a tour our family made of the Hansell farms two years ago, with four-year-old Tommy leaving a toy truck in the back of the Hansell pickup. The next time the Hansells came to Salem for an Emergency Board meeting, this lovely lady went out of her way to deliver in person to our home a little boy's lost toy.

We will miss Stafford Hansell when he leaves the legislature. But the Hansells being the kind of persons they are, we can expect they will be performing public service in other areas when there are needs for people you can count upon.