

The OSEA News

EXTRA!!

Volume XXI, Number 2

January 18, 1978

*You'll want
to read. . .*

By JIM DYER
OSEA President

To my knowledge, this is the first "Extra" of The OSEA News. I have ordered this extraordinary step taken to help you put in perspective many of the problems we now are having and which you've only heard rumors about or read about in the commercial press.

It's been a full year of innuendo, charges, leaks to the press, legal actions and disruption at Board meetings.

On several occasions I thought it would end. My immediate predecessors in the office of president have taken several actions to provide avenues for legitimate dissent. I thought that district elections and General Council would bring these attacks to an end. After all, if your ideas don't have the support of a majority of your peers, you're expected to take your lumps and try another day -- another day within the democratic process!

Things did not clear up. OSEA or our executive director is the object of four legal actions.

On Nov. 18 I conducted the standard, open Board meeting. It proved to be an impossible situation with a small group of people in the gallery monopolizing the discussion.

Since that time, I have established the Open Forum on Friday nights before the Board meeting in which any member can talk at any length on any subject he or she wants. The ones that have been held so far have proved to be profitable both for me and, I believe, the membership in attendance.

A column I had in the last issue of The OSEA News talked about the need to lobby Board members between Board meetings, and to bring your ideas up through the chapters. An idea good enough to win the support of your chapter will get a full and complete hearing at the Board meeting.

The bulk of what's in this "Extra" was first presented at the Board of Director's regular meeting Jan. 13. We've reprinted several of the statements made by various district directors as well as a statement I read which is reprinted on Page 8.

We've suffered some terrible losses in membership. A chart reprinted on Pages 4 and 5 shows that a major damaging event -- either a meeting or a legal charge -- and the subsequent reporting in the commercial press has correlated very closely with a decline in our membership.

As you can see from the other statements reprinted in here, much of the membership has said "Enough!"



OSEA leadership



. and membership

**must grapple with financial, membership
and internal problems.**