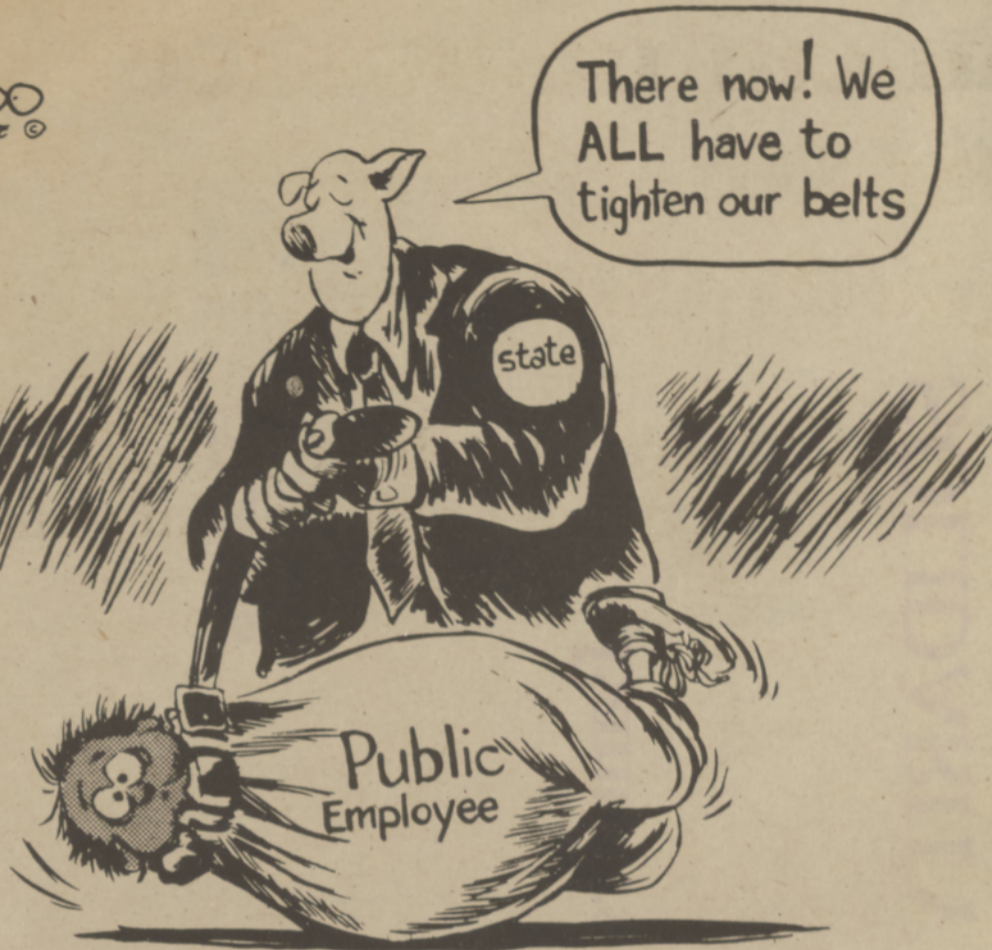


**Evan**  
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## Atiyeh's Strategy to Bust OPEU Relies on Complacent Members

Top management of the State of Oregon apparently is engaged in a union busting campaign and their target is OPEU.

As the facts surrounding this campaign slowly become apparent, one thing is clear: it is a well calculated strategy, that has been designed and authorized at the highest levels of state government.

The State has one goal—to destroy *your* union or weaken it to the point that you will no longer stand on equal footing with management. If they achieve this goal, management will be able to take away *your* job security, take away *your* benefits, deny *you* a decent wage and even take away *your* job in many cases.

This is a high stakes game of power. It is a campaign that can be waged only when authorization comes from one source—from the governor—from Victor Atiyeh.

However, once he has given his okay, Atiyeh can step back and let his surrogates in the Executive Department fight the behind-the-scenes battle. In doing so, he can keep his hands clean and maintain his image of the fair, gentlemanly governor. He can and probably will publicly deny that

he would ever consider such a campaign and that management is offering state employees the most it can under its difficult financial situation.

If all this sounds a little harsh or farfetched, consider this scenario for busting public employee unions:

First, management draws out the negotiating process by making offers that are so preposterous that the union will never accept them. Management then forces the employees and their union to impasse by proposing that settlement can only be reached if workers give back hard-won provisions from previous contracts. Once the desired strike is secured, management then initiates a detailed plan for maintaining desired services.

Does this sound like what the State is doing to *you* and *your* union? It is considered the most successful strategy for busting public employee unions. It was designed by the Chicago "management consultant" firm of Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather and Geraldson, specialists in breaking public employee unions.

In its internal memos, management has indicated that state employees are too weak, compla-

cent and scared to effectively resist a union busting campaign.

They are wrong!

If they would look in the work areas they would see 10,000 "Must I Strike" buttons being worn by every classification of employee. If they watched the membership figures they would see that over 1,000 employees have joined the union in the last six weeks. If they looked out the window they would see hundreds of employees holding informational picket signs.

Employees are saying—and they must continue to say—"I am not going to give into your scare tactics, I am not going to take any more of your calculated strategy to reduce my dignity and my standard of living and I won't lose my union and my ability to stand on an equal footing with management."

The governor and his managers have laid down the most serious challenge a union can ever face. But the members of OPEU will win a fair contract because the governor is wrong—they are not too frightened or too complacent to fight for what they have earned.

Douglas Crooks  
Editor

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