

# In Brief

## Federal Workers Contemplate Job Actions

The federal government's Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is trying to head off union unrest among federal employes.

According to the Wall Street Journal, OPM Director Donald Devine has promised federal employes he will let them know in advance about staff-cutting plans and will refer laid-off employes to agencies, like Defense, that are hiring.

In addition, Devine said President Reagan will soon praise "the positive contributions" of federal workers.

However, these steps offer little remedy, according to Kenneth Blaylock, president of the American Federation of Government Employees. "People have reached a point of exasperation," he says. "Mass leave requests and picketing, as well as work slowdowns, are possible courses of actions we are considering."

A strike by federal employes would be illegal.

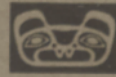
## Western Bank Urges Reduction of State Wages

State legislators are being urged by Western Bank to "reduce (state) expenditures through reducing state staff and related expenses."

In a letter addressed to all 90 Oregon legislators, Western Bank President Merle D. Courson said that tax dollars have been "squandered" by state employes and accused them of "destroying credibility between state government and the citizens, and have succeeded in completely discouraging business and industry from having much to do with a state devoted to bureaucratic domination."

Courson also urged legislators to

reject a series of bills that increase personal and corporate taxes. He warned that "additional taxes on



### WESTERN BANK

producers cannot be tolerated."

"Western Bank's attempt to use state employes as a scapegoat for the State's financial posture and as a means to lobby against increased taxes, should be viewed with

contempt by state employes," said OPEU Government Affairs Director Chuck Mendenhall. "I would urge state employes to withdraw any funds they have deposited at Western Bank as a means of protesting this action."

Western Bank has offices in Ashland, Baker, Bandon, Bend, Brookings, Clatskanie, Coos Bay, Eagle Point, Florence, Gold Beach, Gold Hill, Harbor, Cave Junction, Keno, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Medford, North Bend, Prineville, Redmond, Scappoose, Shady Cove, Sisters, St. Helens, Tillamook, Ontario, Vale and White City.

## Nominations for Officers Due June 20

Nominations for statewide office in OPEU will close at noon, June 20, according to Delbert Bolton, OPEU President.

The General Council's Candidate Search and Nomination Committee will meet at headquarters on June 20 to formally accept the nominations and seconds. The meeting is open to all members.

Candidate nomination forms can be obtained from Candidate Committee members (all Assistant District Directors), Board members and Local presidents.

Statewide offices include president, vice president and secretary-treasurer. Each office is a one-year term.

## Less Government, Not Lower Wages

To House and Senate Members:

As the 61st Legislature practices its juggling act with the Governor's budget in one hand and money requests in the other, I find it extremely important that we keep ourselves thoroughly informed about those needing money and why.

As more and more deserving groups enter the "act," I have discovered how easy it is to pick up on a piece of incorrect information and pass it on as fact. I think some of my colleagues have inadvertently done this concerning the income level of state employes.

I've heard it said that the Governor's offer of a 6 percent pay raise for state workers is "indeed a generous offer," and even that "state employes do all right; they don't need a raise."

Whether you are in agreement with these statements or not, there is one point that we can all agree on: the public has spoken loud and clear that it does not want higher

taxes but it does want less government.

The message got through to the Legislature, but how some of us translated that message into action is unworkable. Some of my colleagues see the solution as simply cutting wages of the state workers so taxes won't have to be raised and services can be continued at their present level.

I find trying to maintain the current level of services by not providing a reasonable standard of living for the service providers to be a short range solution to the problem.

In my mind, the real answer to a call for less government is just that . . . less services and less taxes. This means less programs, possibly a freeze on hiring and perhaps layoffs.

Here are some approximate figures on the disparity between Oregon State and City of Portland employes:

	State Pay Range	City of Portland
Accountant #2	\$1302.00-\$1663.00	\$1817.00-\$2059.00
Carpenter (flat rate)	\$1436.00-\$1584.00	\$1782.00 (flat rate)
Electrician	\$1507.00-\$1663.00	\$1974.00 (flat rate)
Engineering Technician	\$1302.00-\$1663.00	\$1692.00-\$2021.00
Secretary	\$ 818.00-\$1031.00	\$ 931.00-\$1245.00
Automotive Driver	\$ 985.00-\$1082.00 (2 yr.)	\$1315.00-\$1482.00 (1 yr.)

Rep. Lonnie Roberts, D-Multnomah

## THE OREGON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

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## Resolution Deadline is June 26

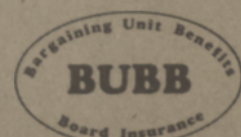
Deadline for submitting resolutions to headquarters for the 1981 General Council is 2 p.m., June 26.

OPEU President Deb Bolton is urging members to submit their resolutions or ideas for resolutions to their Local or District Executive Committees for review. "Your Executive Committees will determine if the subject matter has been previously covered, and will be able to put the resolution or idea into proper format for submission," Bolton said.

However, Bolton says that if members want to submit a resolution directly to headquarters, District and Local officers or delegates to General Council can answer questions on proper format.

## Open Period for BUBB Begins June 15

Open enrollment period for all insurance programs in the Bargaining Unit Benefit Board (BUBB) begins June 15.



State employes currently enrolled in BUBB programs may change insurance companies or add dependents during this period. The open enrollment period ends August 15.

Informational brochures and applications can be obtained from personnel and payroll offices or by calling BUBB at 373-1174 in Salem or 1-800-452-1174 statewide.