

The Oregon PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

MARCH/APRIL 1994

The Mission of the Oregon Public Employees Union/SEIU Local 503, AFL-CIO, CLC, is to Improve the Quality of Life through Worker Empowerment and a Progressive Labor Program.

The fight is on:

OPEU MEMBERS voted resoundingly for a temporary dues assessment of \$2 per month to defeat the Tiernan Initiative and all attacks on public employees' pay and retirement benefits.

State Representative Bob Tiernan's initiative would cut take-home pay by 7%-9% and slash promised retirement benefits by as much as 20% for all public employees covered by PERS or any other public employee retirement plan.

Tiernan and Bill Sizemore, a co-sponsor of the initiative, have promised a "bloodbath" on the campaign trail between now and November, when their initiative is expected to be on the state-wide ballot.

Sizemore is executive director of Oregon Taxpayers United, an antigovernment group, which recently launched a series of public employee-bashing ads on Portland radio stations (see Page 2).

To counter this attack, public employees have taken to the airwaves with ads of our own (see Page 2). And OPEU President **Dawn Morgan** recently took to the campaign trail to debate Sizemore.

In a Eugene debate, Sizemore admitted, "Public employees are like everyone else. I've known public employees. I have friends who are public employees."

Morgan pointed out what public employees do: The police officers and firefighters who protect our homes, the teachers who teach our children, child welfare workers who protect chil-

STOP

the pension thieves



**Dawn
Morgan**

"The private pension system has treated women very poorly. I'm proud to say that of PERS participants, 58% are women, women who will have a pension when they retire."



**Bob
Tiernan**

"It's outrageous. (Public employees) are cutting such a fat hog. . . . It galls the crap out of me."



**Bill
Sizemore**

"When it comes to the area of fringe benefits, public employees almost always drive a Cadillac, the best money can buy."

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