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The Oregon PUBLIC EMPLOYEE

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.

OPEU takes "Just Vote NO!" message to voters

Six ballot measures reveal anti-worker, anti-government agenda

The anti-worker, anti-government forces have purchased major space on the November 8 General Election ballot with mean-spirited attacks on public workers' pay and benefits (Ballot Measure 8) and prevailing wages for private sector workers (Ballot Measure 12), and a proposal that would cripple funding for public services (Ballot Measure 5).

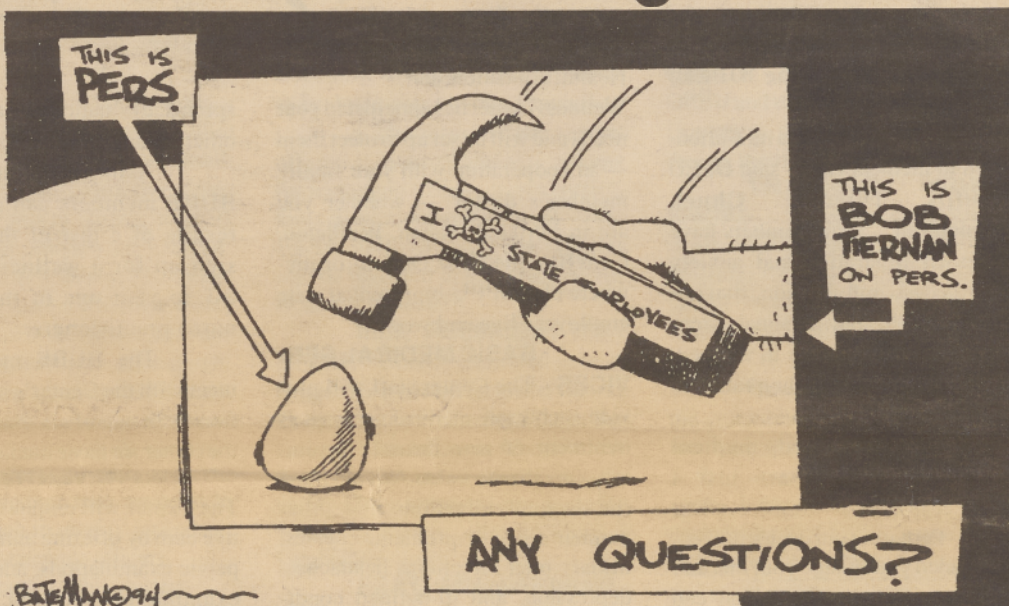
Right behind them is the Oregon Education Association, with a me-first proposal to increase funding for elementary, secondary, and community college education at the expense of all other government services (Ballot Measure 15).

Also on the ballot are two initiatives that would reduce the power of political action committees made up of small contributors (Ballot Measures 6 and 9) and another attempt to insert discrimination into the Oregon Constitution (Ballot Measure 13).

This is shaping up to become a situation where the message to voters on November 8 will be "Just Vote No!"

It's the same Vote No message that OPEU successfully took to voters in the General Election of 1986 when we defeated four ballot measure initiatives.

This year, the individuals and groups pushing the anti-worker, anti-government initiatives are awash in big money that helped them buy their



This cartoon, which ran in several daily newspapers around the state during July, shows what state Representative Bob Tiernan thinks of public employees.

way onto the ballot. One wealthy Salem eye doctor accounted for virtually all of the \$192,000 that put Measure 6 on the ballot. OEA spent \$153,000, paying as much as \$1.25 a signature, to put the "me-first" Measure 15 on the ballot. A conservative Aloha businessman pumped nearly \$75,000 into several initiatives — \$35,000 went to Ballot Measure 8. The National Taxpayers Union contributed \$80,000 to the support of Ballot Measure 5.

The campaign has begun. The stakes are high. To lose on these measures will cost jobs for all of us, whether we work in city, county, state government or special service districts. They will cost jobs in private, nonprofit agencies caring for children and adults. They will cost jobs in higher education. They will cost jobs in human resources.

Workers remaining in government will see their take-home pay reduced by 6%. Workers who retire will see their pensions reduced.

Passage of these measures will embolden the proponents. The supporters of these measures will feel justified to deny rights to other groups of citizens and to further deny the ability of workers to earn a family wage or to secure a decent retirement.

The campaigns are in place and ready for the impact that the participation of our members brings to them. Contact your OPEU Steward or Organizer and remember to:

- ✓ Register to vote. Contact your worksite organizer or county elections office.
- ✓ Distribute 10 of the "Proud to be working for you" pension brochures.
- ✓ Host a house party of non-public employee family, friends, and neighbors to show the pension initiative video (See Page 9) and explain why Measure 8 is bad for all Oregonians.
- ✓ Fill out a "Friends and Neighbors Opposed to Measure 8" form with at least five registered voters, who are not public employees and who have assured you they will join us in opposing the Tiernan/Sizemore initiative. If every public employee recruits five other voters we will win.

✓ Keep a copy of this issue of THE OREGON PUBLIC EMPLOYEE to help you explain the problems with these initiatives.

✓ Fill out and return a volunteer card. This will show your willingness to participate in phone banks, canvass days, and other campaign activities.