

THE EMPLOYERS CORNER – FUTURE OF THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

Twenty Job Service Employer Committees (JSECs) advise and critique the performance of the local employment office serving their area. In cooperation with your local JSEC, each issue of the Oregon Labor Trends features an article of special interest to employers.

This issue and next month's issue will deal with important facts and rumors concerning the future of the Employment Division - specifically, the Employment Service. At this writing, there are rumors that the current Federal administration is working toward devolvement of the United States Employment Service (USES). As employers, you need to decide if there is a role for a national program of some kind. If so, what is that role? We are at a crossroad on the future of the Employment Service. We need your input now more than ever.

We are taking steps to insure full discussion. The first Region X JSEC meeting, hosted by Oregon, will be held October 17-19, 1984 at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion Inn, Portland. JSEC's from Alaska, Idaho, Washington and Oregon will attend. JSEC's will identify and recommend alternatives for funding the Employment Service. Anyone interested in attending portions, or all, of this Regional Meeting can contact your local Employment Office Manager for further details.

THE FACTS ARE: The Employment Service funding for Fiscal Year 1985 proposed by the current Administration and accepted by the Senate contains zero dollar increase in spending. This will result in a loss of staff once inflation is considered.

The House proposed a 3 percent increase. This will not cover the predicted 5 percent inflationary increase.

NEW PUBLICATION – OCCUPATIONAL WAGE REPORT

The 1983 Oregon Wage Information Publication is now available. The occupational wage data are compiled from various wage studies done in Oregon. Over 330 common occupations are listed including 1982 employment, the sources of data for that occupation, and various wage parameters (low, high, quartiles, and an average). The number of parameters shown varies by occupation according to the representativeness of the data sources.

Your copy of this report may be ordered from:

Employment Division - R&S
875 Union NE
Salem OR 97311
503/373-1816

THE RUMORS ARE: The Administration will continue with its program to phase out the United States Employment Service. This means the states will pick up the operation if they want to. John Cogan, an official with the Office of Management and Budget, hopes to present a zero budget for the Employment Service in Fiscal Year 1986.

Further, once the Employment Service is eliminated, the UI system will be the next to "devolve" to the states. None of this mentions employers tax dollars. One guess is that the employers' taxes that finance the system (FUTA) will be kept in Washington to help balance the federal deficit.

THE REASON: The Federal deficit is cited as the reason to get out of the Employment Security business.

Two years ago, we were concerned with the level of USES base staff nationwide. Budget Cuts reduced the USES staff from 30,000 to the current nationwide level of 22,800.

While we agreed with the initial cuts, additional cuts are "into the bone". During the month of July 1984, we had 266 ES staff. These 266 people took 14,569 job orders and placed 12,368 job applicants.

The next Employer's Corner will continue talking about "The Future of the Employment Service". REMEMBER: employers pay for this service. Become involved by participating in the local and state level JSEC meetings. Contact your local employment office manager for further details. □

