

What Is the Oregon Education Association?

From time to time various readers have raised some questions about the Oregon Education Association — what it is, how it is financed, and how it works, and whether or not it is "a vicious lobby" as portrayed by some of the tax conservation organizations. The Oregon Education Association is an organization of, for and by some 9100 teachers in our public schools. It fights for the teachers and for the public schools.

From C. W. Posey, executive secretary, we have obtained copies of OEA's budget for the fiscal year 1951-52 which shows all sources of revenue and all expenditures in the same form required for school districts. During the year 1951-52, OEA will budget \$206,284.83, of which \$165,600 will be derived from the dues of one-half of one per cent of annual salaries from every teacher in Oregon. Other sources of revenue include \$9000 from fees paid to its teacher placement bureau, \$8000 net profit on the Oregon Education Journal, \$10,464.83 cash balance from the preceding year and various miscellaneous items.

The principal expenditures will fall under these main headings:

Dues to National	\$46,000
Support of County-Local	9,200
Staff salaries (5)	31,700
Administration costs	8,720
Placement bureau	8,050
OEA Journal and Newsletter	10,758
Field service	4,975
Research service	4,770
Membership contacts	5,295
General expenditures	21,050
Emergency fund	1,204
Departmental aids	6,555
Building program	11,862
Legislation	4,000
Total expenditures	\$192,820
Anticipated balance	\$13,464

For 1951-52, the appropriation for legislation is very small, probably because there is no session of the legislature this year. During 1950-51 the expenditures for legislation were

\$24,027.80, due mainly to the fight for increased state support per census child. We are told that at the time of the Basic School Bill some years ago OEA spent \$40,000 on legislation.

The salaries of the executive staff are as follows:

C. W. Posey, executive secretary	\$8700
Richard H. Barss, assistant and editor of OEA Journal	6600
Marcia L. Mills, director of placement	4800
L. Marble Cook, field service and membership	5800
Paul V. Collins, research	5800

At any rate there is no secret as to what OEA is and how it functions. When the legislature meets, Mr. Posey and his co-workers spend much of their time in Salem (but it is awfully hard to cadge a drink out of that lobby). It is our guess that the "school teachers' lobby" spends far less than most lobbies. At any rate, lobbying is a relatively small portion of their outlay. Most of their work is within the profession and with school patrons.

"Is this the school teachers' labor union?"

No. AFL has a union for teachers, although it has few members outside of Portland. OEA is a professional association in which membership is not compulsory, although "one usually belongs." It operates very much as does the Bar Association, or Medical Association, or the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, and many other professional groups.

It is a matter of opinion as to whether OEA is superficial or altruistic. It has done a great deal to produce better pay and better working conditions for teachers and has done a great deal to make the people of Oregon school conscious and give them better schools. It spearheaded the fight for equalization between "rich" and "poor" school districts.

These are the facts about it and what it does.

He Who Fights and Runs Away...?

In the reports of that former Euenian who is now sojourning in the sunshine of the great state of Georgia, there are some interesting comments about Georgia's governor, "Little Hummon" (Herman) Talmadge, who has inherited the political sceptre of his notorious parent, the late Gene Talmadge, since the "liquidation" of the progressive Ellis Arnall, who gave the Cracker State a few years of progress.

"Little Hummon," according to our friend, has picked up where the old man left off (unlike Huey Long's offspring in Louisiana, who seem to be trying to live down their old man's reputation). "Little Hummon" thrives by parroting the old man's Jim Crowism and on Georgia's antiquated "county unit system" which gives backwoods counties more political power than the thriving urban areas around Atlanta and other cities. The power behind "Little Hummon" is a character by the name of Roy Harris, who is "a boss" in every sense of the word. The most amazing part of the report is this:

Lewis D. Pierce, A Trusted Citizen

When Lewis D. Pierce came to Eugene from the state of Michigan in 1908, this place was a village. The 44 years of his life which he spent here covered a period of tremendous growth and change, and Mr. Pierce had a part in all that.

Through good times and bad times, Mr. Pierce was a man who did his full share, according to his time and his means. He grew constantly in the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens.

The best proof of this was his long service on the Eugene Water Board. When he resigned on January 7, 1949,

he had served 19½ years as a board member. This is a record. Mr. Pierce would have served 23 years had he been able to finish his term through 1951.

(Next to Mr. Pierce in years of service as a member of the Water Board is Percy Brown, who served continuously from 1922 to 1940—18 years.)

Mr. Pierce was not a man who aspired to great wealth or power. His most conspicuous qualities were modesty and friendliness and integrity. He did not have to seek friends, because friends were drawn to him. He was a citizen trusted.

Statisticians estimate a record 3,900,000 babies was born in the U. S. in 1951. There'll be a lot of changes made.

You'd better start saving now for next summer's vacation, if you expect to get away with it.

One big trouble with a bad past is that it's often an ever-present difficulty.

Marquis Childs

British Aid May Anger Mid-East

WASHINGTON — Behind the decision to release \$300,000,000 in aid to Great Britain—funds take out of the current appropriation granted by Congress for military assistance—were some long and soul-searching discussions. The timing, as everyone concerned was well aware, could hardly have been more unfortunate.

A source of discontent in the seething volcano of the Middle East is that American economic assistance has been so small in relation to the need. Technical assistance under Point IV is being given in terms of millions of dollars. But those who are trying to hold the line for an orderly transformation see the need in terms of hundreds of millions or billions. In the wake of the eruption of the mob in Cairo, the hated enemy, Britain, is given a large sum.

But time and the economic tide would not wait. A long series of telegrams exchanged between London and Washington stressed that an announcement of assistance was imperative before the Conservative government revealed the nature of the deep budgetary cuts that must be made in every department which will affect every phase of British life.

FOR WEEKS THE NEW chancellor of the exchequer, R. A. Butler, has been closeted with his experts seeking to face up to the grim realities of Britain's financial situation. It was perfectly clear that the rearmament goal of \$13,000,000,000 could not be met under any circumstances. Without substantial American aid, cuts of a crippling nature would have been inevitable.

American policy makers concluded that failure to act immediately would put the whole plan for the defense of Western Europe in jeopardy. So the step was taken with a realization of what the political consequences might be.

With Congress in the midst of election-year fidgets, the recent visit of Prime Minister Churchill was not entirely sweet-scented and light. The British embassy was dismayed by a telephone blast from Senator Tom Connally of Texas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. When Churchill returned to Washington from Canada for the second part of his stay and long after all arrangements had been made, Connally called the embassy and asked for the Prime Minister. He was told that Churchill was in conference with Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks.

After some pretty emphatic insistence he got Franks on the phone and informed him that the Foreign Relations Committee would like to have a luncheon meeting with Churchill. The ambassador explained that unfortunately this would be impossible since the Prime Minister had invited his old friend, General George C. Marshall, for lunch at the embassy that day, and the following day, which would end his stay in Washington, he was lunching with most of the Washington press corps.

"WELL," CONNALLY shouted into the phone, "if the Prime Minister isn't interested in the Foreign Relations Committee, then the Foreign Relations Committee isn't interested in the Prime Minister."

During the visit of Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, the explosive subject of the Middle East was not ignored. Secretary of State Dean Acheson talked frankly with Eden about American concern over the direction of British policy in the area where once British power held sway. The tragedy of Iran and the loss of British oil resources, contributing directly to the current fiscal crisis, figured in these talks.

Likewise, President Truman raised the problem of the Middle East with Churchill. In their conversation, according to informed sources, there was the suggestion that the United States could not continue to follow the British lead if this meant that America would be identified in the minds of the millions of the Middle East with a determination to do nothing but hold on.

THE FACT IS that serious consideration has been given to an independent line for American policy. It is, of course, very late. Repeatedly in the past this country has appeared to underwrite British moves even when many in the government here were deeply distrustful of the wisdom of those moves. Our own policy-makers have apparently been reluctant to press the British to take steps essential to make the position of the West tenable in the middle eastern countries on a basis of cooperation and partnership.

What came out of the Middle East phase of the Churchill-Eden talks in Washington was apparently very little, at least insofar as any agreement on a common course was concerned. Americans were not happy, and that is a generous understatement, when Churchill included in his speech to Congress a plea for a token force of United States troops in the Suez Canal. No one could believe that this would happen and the request was bound to do little more than stir the old irritation and distrust.

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SO THEY SAY—

The public is well fed up with professional politics. They've had a lot of it for 20 years—Sen. James Duff (R.-Pa.) on Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's presidential candidacy.

The Shepherd

FEBRUARY

"In the time of snow."
II Sam. 23:20
On ski runs and on sleigh ride merry
... Clap hands to coming of February
... Resigned to winter and its snow
... Be snug indoors when North Winds blow
... The statues remind us in the park
... That Lincoln and Washington left their mark
... Upon our country, their glories shine
... This month we welcome St. Valentine
... A hardy month in which to live
... For it your thanks to Heaven give.
JULIEN C. HYER

Not Very Revealing So Far



* * In The Editor's Mailbag * *

NEW CALENDAR

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—We understand that the State Department hopes to get early action from Congress on their approval or disapproval of the new world calendar so they will be free to recommend it to the United Nations General Assembly now in session in Paris. Should Congress approve, the State Department will take it as a mandate from the people, and the chance of success of international favorable action would be assured.

Is public opinion back of this program? Do you realize that with this blank day shifting week calendar that in five years after this new calendar goes into effect we will find that our "Glorious Fourth" will really be in the latter part of June? The same will be true of your birthday and mine, and Washington's and Lincoln's also our Sundays and other time-honored days.

The question is: Do we want to continue to memorialize the identical day of our birth or will you be satisfied with some other day? Many Sunday laws have been passed to prevent desecration of that particular day. Think you that these zealous people are going to agree to this innovation when they wake up to what is going on?

Unless we all write our Senators and Congressmen immediately stating our objections we will find that our mathematics minded accountants have placed us in a very uncomfortable situation.

E. E. WILLSON

WATER BONDS

RIVER ROAD—(To the Editor)—I will appreciate space to discuss proposed \$40,000 bond issue for installing additional water mains in River Road Water District. The proposed main will in effect parallel the existing main and will not serve any additional territory.

The original system in this district, some 13 miles of mains, after several years of discussion and planning was installed in 1941. From an inadequate at present connection with Eugene main and a 6-inch meter, a 10-inch main runs along River Road to about Knoop Lane, there reduced to an 8-inch main past River Road School, with the portion of district west of the highway served by circulating 6-inch mains. Fire hydrants were installed and provisions made for installation of mains to those areas not then developed.

During the evenings in summer hot dry spells, the pressure has dropped to a fairly low figure as it has in many parts of Eugene itself. This low figure I am informed has been 20 lbs., which, while low still produces a good flow of water. Probably the cause for the largest drop in pressure has been the use of irrigation by Colin Kelly School which is not in the District. When the District agreed to furnish water for this school one of the conditions was that the school would install their own irrigating water supply and take from the District water for only drinking, sanitary and fire protection purposes.

Some \$78,000 in bonds were sold to pay for original system and another \$40,000 issue has since been sold of which quite a portion has not been used. All bonds are on a 20-year payment plan with yearly payments increasing at stated intervals and with bonds callable at par after a stated period. I understand there are now some \$75,000 outstanding bonds. In my opinion the District has been operated on a sensible efficient basis with the exception that it has had entirely too much cash on hand for some time, largely from sale of bonds. I understand that these monies are invested in Government bonds, but it is questionable whether there will be any final interest earned

as at least a portion on these bonds were sold before maturity incurring the usual penalty. It is an old saying that a municipal corporation with too much cash on hand will always find a desirable way of spending it.

The operations of the District have almost taken care of costs such as water purchase, operating expenses and retirement bonds with only a very small property tax levy necessary over the ten year period. What shows on the tax rolls for this District is made almost entirely to cover millage cost of fire protection contract with the City of Eugene. The District's attorney advised that this levy is mandatory under state

laws even though the water district might have money available from operations to pay.

With the extreme scarcity of iron during this national emergency, with the present astronomical costs of construction and with payments on present bond obligations due to increase at stated intervals, in view of the present nearly satisfactory water supply, it would seem only prudent business judgement to forego the urge to make this District a 100% engineer's dream at least for the present time.

Yours truly,
E. E. MARTIN,
Reg. Prof. Engineer,
305 Horn Lane.

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Accidents Kill 93,000 in U.S.

9 Million Others Hurt in Mishaps

CHICAGO—(P)—Accidents killed 93,000 Americans in 1950, injured more than 9 million, and cost the nation a whopping billion dollars, the National Council said Thursday.

The death toll was 4,700 more than in 1950.

No. 1 killer was the automobile. Of the 93,000 accidental deaths, 37,500 resulted from traffic accidents—the highest toll in the decade. The 1950 traffic toll was 35,000.

Home accidents took 27,000 in 1951, a figure unchanged in 1950. Occupational mishaps, 16,000 deaths, compared with 800 the year ago, and public accidents not involving automobiles claimed 15,000 victims, pared with 14,000 in 1950.

The motor vehicle death toll, 37,500 was only about 2,500 from the all-time high of 39,999 lashed in 1941.

Leading cities in various relation groups on the basis of number of traffic deaths per 100 registered vehicles, took 350,000-500,000—Seattle 24, umbus, 24.

State Studies Control Of New Rainmakers

PORTLAND — (P)—A legislative interim committee sound out opinion in March what state regulations are for control of the new rainmakers.

State Sen. Ben Day of Gold committee chairman, said hearings would be at March 1, and Arlington, Mass. All types of attempts at weather control—fog-dispersal, rain-making, and hail prevention—will be up for discussion Day said.

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