



STATE OF OREGON

INTEROFFICE MEMO

TO: Governor

DATE: January 30, 1985

FROM: Gerry Thompson *Gerry*

SUBJECT: Klamath County School District

JAN 31 1985
Governor Atiyeh

Jim Conroy, superintendent from Klamath County, called to speak with you today. I took the call. Conroy specifically called to request your intervention in what looks to be a strong possibility of a school teachers' strike. Conroy is concerned about the 6,600 students that would be put out of the classrooms for probably a week before they could get classrooms going again. He asked specifically that you contact OEA and explain to them why this would not be the best time for a strike.

There are 14 issues on the table, among them such items as salaries and medical benefits. They are getting close on most of the issues. However, funding is the biggest issue for which they expect no closure. The district is making a case that because of the Governor's tax rate freeze, resources will be reduced in the amount of somewhere between \$1.2m and \$3.5m, therefore the district is advocating a cut in salaries or layoffs.

In my most polite way I tried to explain we do not get involved in labor negotiations, nor would it be wise for either side to have the Governor directly intervene. I assured Conroy you are aware of the situation and did not tell him OEA had also asked you to do the same thing. He was bitterly disappointed and asked that if the opportunity should arise in your meetings with OEA on the sales tax proposal, would you please make some mention of your concern for the bad political timing of a strike. I left the conversation with the comment that if the opportunity arose and it seemed appropriate, you would mention it *in very*

general terms.



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