

(Continued)

members, ten appointed by him and ten appointed by Garrett. "I will direct my staff to move expeditiously to name my appointees to this panel so that our efforts can get underway soon," he said in the letter.

"We may lose the first year funding if we don't make those allocations pretty soon," Garrett said. "We need this money in Oklahoma — if we don't get it, somebody else will spend it."

Coppedge blamed the governor's failure to make the appointments on concerns surrounding federal requirements. "There has been a further delay in getting that done, as the governor checks to see if there are any federal controls that we can't have."

In a statement last week from Keating Communication Director Dan Mahoney, "Our concern, of course, is it [Goals 2000] will come with federal strings attached like so many federal programs do. If that is the case, and it means federal intrusion into Oklahoma's public schools, the governor will not support it."

Mahoney said Keating was in consultation with other governors, some of who turned away the federal funds. "We want to make sure that we keep federal hands off our education system and until we know the details, we aren't going to go rushing for this money," he said. "We don't want some sort of national education curriculum."

"There are a lot of governors who support the concept of Goals 2000," Garrett said. "George Bush of Texas, for example — they are in their second year." Garrett said conversations with U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley have assured her there are no further federal requirements.

"Who would we request to state that there are no further requirements on these funds," asked Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko, committee chairman. "How do you go beyond Secretary Riley?"

If received, Garrett, Coppedge and Keating all agree that the funds could be used to improve the reading, writing, math and science skills of the state's teachers.

"Do we not need this money for core teacher preparation," asked Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa. "To me it is just mind boggling that we are about to turn away money that we desperately need. Why would we want to turn down six million dollars?"

"We have received nothing," Garrett said. "We can access the money when the panel is in place."

114 STATE EMPLOYEES COULD BE FURLOUGHED AS A RESULT OF BUDGET SHORTFALLS AT THE CORPORATION COMMISSION

By Marta McCloskey
Staff Writer

■(GIT) General Administrator for the Corporation Commission, Jay Edwards, told members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Regulatory Services that without supplemental funding, the Commission would have to shut down the Oil and Gas Conservation Division for 23 days. A move that would furlough the division's 114 employees.

Currently, Edwards said the Commission is \$1,278,396 in the red. These losses, Edwards attributed to revenue shortfalls in the Indemnity Fund and a fall off in excise tax from gross production.

Edwards said the governor recommended an increase of \$500,000, however, that was before the shortfall from gross production. If the agency receives what the governor recommended plus \$278,000 to make up for the loss in gross production, Edwards said the Commission could survive.

Edwards said he will most likely know within two weeks of the Legislature's and the Governor's decision. "I am hopeful the Commission will receive the supplemental funding," he said.