

State News Weekly Summary

APPROPRIATIONS

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

■(GIT) General Administrator for the Corporation Commission, Jay Edwards, told members of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Regulatory Services on Monday 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.

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.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/04/96

BUSINESS & LABOR

AMERICA ONLINE TO EMPLOY UP TO 1,000 AT OKLAHOMA CITY CENTER

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) America Online, the world's largest and fastest growing online service will open a new customer support center in Oklahoma City, employing up to 1,000 over the next two years.

"AOL is excited about expanding its customer support facility to Oklahoma City as well as participating in helping to build the local community," says Stuart Welstein, site expansion manager for America Online. "AOL chose to open a new call center in Oklahoma City because of its pro business community and vast pool of skilled labor. In addition, the state's Quality Jobs Program was a very attractive incentive for expansion here."

"America Online's announcement reinforces the fact that Oklahoma City has the economic environment to attract expanding companies," says Clayton Bennett, chairman, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

America Online's Oklahoma City Call Center will be located in Shepherd Mall, 2720 Villa and is expected to be operational in May.

"With more than 5 million subscribers, Oklahoma welcomes this premier on-line service," said Oklahoma Governor Frank Keating.

America Online will host a job fair March 13-14 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd. For more information about the job fair call: 1-800-827-0035.

FROM: OKLAHOMA CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DATE: 03/04/96