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contacting Apple at the Corporation Commission by phone at (405) 521-2264, and college seniors can get participation information by contacting the placement office at their schools, Apple said.

FROM: OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION

DATE: 03/06/96

CORRECTIONS

EXECUTION VIEWING BILL RECEIVES MINOR DISCUSSION

■(GIT) HB2056, authored by Rep. Wayne Pettigrew, R-Edmond, proposed a bill Monday that would provide a place within the walls of the state prison for immediate family members of the victim to watch those convicted of the capital crime die.

Pettigrew explained to members that a room set up with a closed circuit monitor will serve as the viewing area.

House Speaker Pro Tempore, Jim Glover, D-Elgin, asked Pettigrew how many people could fit in the viewing area.

Pettigrew explained that immediate family members defined by the bill mean the spouse, a child by birth or adoption, a stepchild, a parent, a grandparent or sibling of the deceased victim.

The measure passed with a vote of 98 to 2. It will now go to the Senate for further consideration.

FROM: MARTA MCCLOSKEY

DATE: 03/04/96

WOMEN'S GROUPS MAKE PLEA FOR INCARCERATED WOMEN

■(GIT) Women's groups from across Oklahoma urged state legislators Wednesday to begin looking for ways to deal with what they described as a developing crisis in Oklahoma's prisons — the incarceration of women for nonviolent offenses and a plan to transfer some of those women to out of state facilities.

According to Mary Tinker, a criminal justice specialist with the League of Women Voters, Oklahoma has the highest incarceration rate for women in the nation, and increasingly, more women are being sent to prison for nonviolent offenses.

"Because of this policy," Tinker added, "Oklahoma has crowded prisons well beyond capacity at a continuing danger to employees and inmates. The current solution is to contract for private prison beds. However, there are no private prison beds for women in Oklahoma, not do informed sources at the Department of Corrections anticipate any to be available soon.

"Therefore, 50 women have been sent to a converted city jail in Odessa, Texas, and 80 more are scheduled to go to San Antonio soon."

Asked whether the department is planning to transfer more women out of state, corrections department spokesman Jerry Massey replied:

"Yes. Part of our latest proposal before the Board of Corrections asks for bed space for an additional 89 women."

That space, Massey said, would be in private prisons located out of state.

"An Episcopal minister who works in prison ministries states that of the fifty (women transferred to Texas), 16 have young children who have been regular weekly visitors to the children and mothers program at Mabel Bassett.

"Since the women went to Texas two months ago, only six have had visits from Oklahoma."

That, Tinker said, punishes children and families and diminishes the effectiveness of pro-

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