

(Continued)

the Health Department to receive their shots. "It costs them less," he explained. "We supply free vaccine to every doctor, but they may charge a fee for the inoculation."

Nida explained that staff time accounted for most of the cost in universal coverage. The Health Department is mandated by federal law to not turn any child away. "This is a program that involves no bureaucracy," said Brent Van Meter, Deputy Commissioner for Special Health Services. "This money goes straight to the people."

Nida explained that the agency may not lose its federal funding this year. However, the powerful pharmaceutical lobbies in Washington demanding full price for the vaccines, could "kill" the federal contract.

The committee touched on other items including infectious disease control, family planning and teen pregnancy. Members plan to tour a facility that provides programs for teen mothers and their children. "This is one area we could gain bipartisan support," Chairman of the Committee, Sen. Ben Robinson, D-Muskogee.

## TULSA MAYOR SUSAN SAVAGE ADDRESSES WOMEN

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Tulsa Mayor Susan Savage urged Oklahoma women to challenge their own and the state's priorities in her keynote address Wednesday before an estimated 300 women who gathered at the Capitol for Network for the Nineties Legislative Day.

Speaking in the House chamber, Savage, who is serving her second term as Tulsa's mayor and chairs the Indian Nation Council on Municipal Governments, said that it is important, particularly for women, to take the time to examine what government does and how to find new ways to achieve their goals.

"There are so many challenges before us, and the world is changing so quickly," Savage said.

Savage said the pioneer women who helped settle Oklahoma were an excellent example of what it sometimes takes to achieve one's goals.

"The future was all they had when they arrived in Indian Territory," Savage explained. "But they were full of hope and promise."

"Despite all the hardships, they showed courage and were unyielding in their pursuit of their goals."

Savage also praised the women of Oklahoma who had found personal success, noting that more women currently serve in the state legislature than ever before and that other key government offices, from Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court to legislative pages, are also held by women.

"Despite women's accomplishments," Savage cautioned, "women are often evaluated by different standards," including looks, emotional quotient, their children and whether they work or remain in the home.

That is why, Savage said, it is important that women challenge the priorities of the state and themselves.

"We must challenge the priorities of a state that imposes a greater penalty for bear wrestling than it does for family violence. We must challenge the priorities of a state that has seen its corrections department budget grow by eight percent, while its education budget has grown by only one percent," Savage said.

Savage also said the women should challenge the passage of State Question 669, which she said would limit economic development, hurt education and shift the tax burden to those interested in coming to Oklahoma and creating jobs.

In closing, Savage urged those in attendance to continue their personal searches for growth and involvement.

"Each of you has to continue to look for the pattern of life in unusual places," Savage said.

*"We must challenge the priorities of a state that imposes a greater penalty for bear wrestling than it does for family violence."*

*Susan Savage  
Mayor, Tulsa, OK*