

(Continued)

various participants displaying and demonstrating various technologies, including telemedicine, telecommunication, distance learning and the latest in Internet technology. It was also the day chosen by representatives Abe Deutschendorf, D-Lawton, and Fred Perry, R-Tulsa, to unveil a plan to increase the public's computer access to the capitol.

Speaking before the House's Science and Technology Committee, Deutschendorf said, "We have a vision of making Oklahoma number one in technology infrastructure and technology."

Deutschendorf's sentiments were echoed by Perry, who said the committee and the House should not only talk about such a program, but should do something about it.

Specifically, Deutschendorf and Perry said they believed the House should move toward adding short titles to the Capitol's Internet home page, and moving toward a day when complete bill texts, as well as the state's statutes, would be available on the Internet.

Perry and Deutschendorf were joined before the committee by Steve Shieven, superintendent of Frontier Public Schools, and Frontier High School senior Jeffery Fillmore.

Shieven said the rural school, with some 400 students, was now a "technology based institution," relying on the Internet for a variety of services and educational programs.

Fillmore, who once attended another school, said his move to Frontier had provided him with a view of classrooms with and without computers.

"I would rather be on this side," he said, referring to Frontier and its computer system.

Lawmakers, various staff members and others, meanwhile, were in the rotunda, examining the various programs and services on display. Some watched as the Wednesday session of the Senate was broadcast to the rotunda and classrooms across the state.

In other business before the Science and Technology Committee, **SB1277** received a do pass recommendation. The bill, by Sen. Keith Leftwich, D-Oklahoma City, and Rep. Joe Hutchison, D-Jay, authorizes the Department of Transportation to engage in negotiations regarding contracts for the use of certain rights of way.

The measure, Hutchison told the committee, would allow the installation of fiber optic cable through the state. That cable, he noted, could be used as part of a technological link from Canada to Mexico.

FROM: SHAWN ASHLEY

DATE: 03/27/96

SOUTHWESTERN BELL HELPS FUND OKLAHOMA TELECOMMUNICATION CENTERS

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Dr. Leo Presley, executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, received a \$1.4 million check Wednesday from Southwestern Bell-Oklahoma president, Dave Lopez, to help construct and maintain telecommunications centers across the state.

The money from SWB will be added to a \$1.5 million grant awarded last year to the Commerce Department funded by the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Partners in the project include the Oklahoma State Data Processing and Telecommunication Advisory Committee, OSU Institute for Telecommunications and the State Regents for Higher Education.

According to Beth Rodriguez, director of programs for the Commerce Department's research and planning group, the concept for the telecommunications centers originated from Oklahoma's 1993-98 Strategic Economic Development Plan. "Most centers will have equipment in several locations—for example, a public library, cooperative extension office, and a school—creating a 'virtual,' rather than physical, community center," commented Rodriguez.

FROM: OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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