

**Appropriations**, continued from page 1 to higher education," he said. "They will probably use it to hire some more football coaches. But we can't solve criminal cases because we can't hire another pathologist in Tulsa — it's wrong wrong."

Senate Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman Cal Hobson, D-Lexington, said, while he understood the members' frustrations, to hold up the appropriations of six agencies was not feasible.

"We simply cannot make them move on this point," Hobson said of negotiations with the House. "It is not prudent to reject the conference committee report because we cannot come to an agreement on one agency."

Through a role call vote, the bill's conference committee report was adopted with a narrow vote of 27 to 17. The measure itself was passed with a vote of 44 to 0.

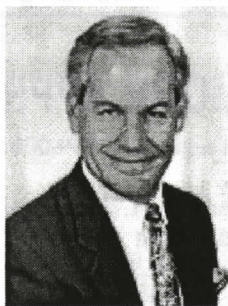
Without debate, the House adopted the bill's conference committee report and gave the bill a 95 to 0 passing vote.

**HB1805**, also by Haney, appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Rehabilitative Services and the Office of Juvenile Affairs.

A key point in DHS funding is \$983,691 for the funding of 97 new social workers to take on the agency's child welfare caseload, many coming from promotions within the agency.

Governor Frank Keating said previously he would closely examine any funding mechanisms for DHS and consider a veto if it failed to make "significant structural changes."

As senators considered the measure Wednesday, an emotional Sen. Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City, blasted Keating, saying he was neglecting the state's poor.



Sen. Bernest Cain

"I am frustrated that we can buy these big planes and give tax breaks to all these people, but that the chief administrator has chosen to go after poor people," he said. "I sometimes wonder why we are here if we can't defend the

poorest of the poor."

Echoing Cain's reaction, Long chastised state government for spending more money on the state's lodges and golf courses that "continue to lose money," than the less fortunate of the state.

Members adopted the measure's conference committee report and eventually passed the bill with a vote of 45 to 0.

The bill drew little interest in the House, where members voted 62-29 to adopt the conference committee report and 89-3 to pass the bill.

Rep. Wayne Cozort, R-Tulsa, offered the only resistance to the bill, saying he believed the \$15.8 million appropriated to the Office of Juvenile Affairs for Community Youth Services was neither well spent nor well accounted for.

Also passing both houses on Wednesday were **HB1812** and **SB812**. The House bill appropriates funds to the State Election Board and Ethics Commission, while the Senate bill appropriates funding to the State Banking Department and Oklahoma Securities Commission.

Both measures passed the House without discussion or debate and no negative votes. The same was true in the Senate.

The Senate also passed two measures considered by the House on Tuesday — **HBs 1792** and **1815**.

Appropriations in **HB1792** include \$96,392 to the Merit Protection Commission and \$527,718 to the Office of Personnel Management. The bill received a 45 to 0 passing vote in the Senate. **HB1815**, which received a passing vote of 47-0 in the Senate, appropriates nearly \$2.5 to the Department of Central Services, including \$308,708 for the employee pay raise and OPERS increase, \$1.7 million for debt service on 1995 bonds and \$400,000 for re-

placement of the agency's asbestos removal revolving funds.

The bill also allows the department to spend up to \$548,775 from the Motor Vehicle Liability Account to provide salaries and administrative expenses; \$274,637 from the Risk Management Participation Revolving Fund and \$42,666 from the Oklahoma Motor License Agent Indemnity Fund for salaries and administrative expenses of the Comprehensive Professional Risk Management Program. Exempted from budgetary limits by the bill are expenditures from the Risk Management Revolving Fund.

**Corrections**, continued from page 1 subcommittee. Some 866 additional beds will be needed by the department by the end of the current fiscal year, according to those estimates. In addition, the department projects its total population will grow by another 1,530 inmates during fiscal year 1997. That means that while being funded for 800 beds, the agency is projected to need 2,396 additional beds.

In his presentation to the subcommittee, Fields put the cost of fully funding the needed bed space at \$26.5 million. The governor's office had recommended allocating only \$11.5 million for additional bed space.

Full funding for the department's Northeast Oklahoma Correctional Center at Vinita, \$1.5 million, and a work center in Frederick, \$511,500 are also proposed in the bill. Some \$885,800 is included in the bill for the creation of a reassessment unit to the Northeast Oklahoma facility. Additionally, \$3.2 million is proposed to increase the per diem rate paid to county jails holding state prisoners to \$24 per inmate per day.

The bill also calls for \$136,245 to be appropriated for the supervision of added inmate work crews, as well as \$122,000 for expansion of the Joseph Harp mental health unit.

Lawmakers will also consider a \$1 million appropriation in the bill to fund the Community Corrections Act. That act, **SB1200**, was returned to conference committee for additional consideration by the Senate on Wednesday.

The remainder of the department's additional funding — \$7.1 million — will be used to fund the state employee pay raise, increased OPERS contribution and teachers' retirement contribution increase for teach-

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