

PRESIDENT STEPS IN TO HELP SETTLE RAILWAY DISPUTE

From The White House

■(WASHINGTON) The President has established, by Executive Order, Presidential Emergency Board No. 228 to make recommendations for the settlement of the current dispute between certain railroads represented by the National Railway Labor Conference and certain of its employees represented by the Transportation Communications International Union, effective May 8, 1996.

The National Mediation Board (NMB) has notified the President that this dispute is critical and a strike would have an immediate and adverse effect on the public. On this recommendation, the President has created the Emergency Board to investigate and report on the current dispute between over 50 railroad and railway companies and their employees. The Emergency Board must report its findings and recommendations for settlement to the President within 30 days.

The President appointed Rolf Valtin of Virginia to serve as chair of the Board, and Gil Vernon of Wisconsin and Herbert L. Marx, Jr., of New York to serve as members.

FUEL TAX ISSUE SHOULD BE SETTLED THIS SESSION

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The speaker of Oklahoma's House of Representatives said this week that a resolution to the Indian fuel tax issue is possible during this legislative session.

Speaking to a group of reporters during his weekly press conference on Thursday, Johnson said, "We haven't arrived at a final resolution, but our discussions are ongoing. I believe there is a real possibility of a resolution to this situation, and personally, I think there will be one during this session."

Johnson had joked with reporters at the start of the gathering, saying he was glad to be facing them, rather than attending "one of the three meetings taking place in my office right now."

When asked about the fuel tax issue, Johnson smiled and told reporters, "That's what one of the meetings is about in my office."

The debate over the Indian fuel tax issue has already moved closer to resolution in conference committee.

A controversial bill, **HB2818**, died in

committee earlier this month. HB2818 started out as a shell bill designed to set state officers' salaries. But in a surprise move on the Senate floor in April, Sen. Dick Wilkerson, D-Atwood, offered a floor substitute to the bill, gutting its original intent and proposing a solution to the fuel tax issue.

The move struck a cord of discontent among House members. Johnson described the situation by saying, "The House and Senate are not necessarily on the same page."

Ironically, the move didn't sit well with Governor Frank Keating, who joined Johnson by throwing his support behind **HB2208**, another measure specifically designed to address the gas tax issue.

That bill survived the committee process and in a conference committee, the Senate was asked to recede from its amendment to the bill. That amendment struck the bill's title.

Pressed on Thursday for when the issue might make its appearance on the House floor, Johnson said he was not yet certain.

NCI REPORTS IMPROVEMENTS IN BREAST CANCER DEATH RATE

From US Dept. of Health & Human Services

■(WASHINGTON) The National Cancer Institute announced today that the breast cancer death rate in American women continued to decline through 1993, a finding that suggests improved breast cancer management from early detection to treatment is having a beneficial effect.

Breast cancer mortality trends for white women in the United States have improved markedly in the 1990s compared with the 1980s. For black women, increases in mortality persist, especially among older women, but the overall increase has slowed significantly.

During the most recent 5-year period of available data, 1989 to 1993, the age adjusted breast cancer mortality rates fell approximately 6 percent in white women and rose about 1 percent in black women. By comparison, from 1980 to 1989, rates increased 3 percent in white women and 16 percent in black women, according to data from the National Center for Health Statistics.

"These finds are good news, but not good

enough," said HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala. "The Clinton Administration will keep pursuing every opportunity for prevention, early detection and treatment, and an effective research agenda to fight breast cancer."

NCI Director Richard Klausner, M.D. said "The data suggest the trend is starting to move in a positive direction for African-American women as well as white women. Rates have declined among younger black women, although they are still higher than those of white women and are improving more slowly."

The overall rate in U.S. women has fallen about 5 percent in recent years, dropping from 27.5 per 100,000 women in 1989 to 25.9 in 1993. This year, an estimated 44,300 women will die of the disease nationwide, but that estimate could prove to be too high if the trend continues.

In both white and black women, the greatest improvements in mortality during the recent 5-year period were seen in younger age groups, but the changes were more modest in blacks than in whites of all ages.

The Cancer Information Service (CIS),

a program of the National Cancer Institute, provides a nationwide telephone service for cancer patients and their families, the public, and health care professionals. The toll-free number of the CIS is 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237).



"No, the lady of the house is not home and I'm not a househusband, I just don't work."