

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

conversion, but it's certainly good news for our economic development efforts," said Sen. Cal Hobson, vice-chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"Now if we can just get him to follow through with additional funding for schools this year, we'll be batting a thousand."

On the Commerce Department's Internet home page, Governor Keating urges industrial recruits to "visit our pro-business state," saying "it simply costs less to do business here." Keating then directs their attention to a series of informational pages detailing Oklahoma's recent economic growth, its low tax status, its low cost of living, its commitment to education and other positive statistics.

"I'm especially encouraged by their recognition of education's role in economic development. It indicates that Governor Keating will be supportive of the Legislature's plan to invest an additional \$218 million in education this year."

"This should end the debate over our tax structure, once and for all," said Senator Hobson. "By the Keating administration's own admission, we have one of the most business-friendly tax systems in the country."

Before his latest statements on the Internet, Governor Keating has painted Oklahoma as a "third world economy" with a poor business climate in speeches and media briefings around the state.

"I'm glad Governor Keating has finally seen the light and recognized the many positive aspects about our economy and our education system. I think he'll be a much more effective job recruiter and state spokesman because of it," said Senator Hobson.

For those interested in visiting the Commerce site, the web address is [www.odoc.state.us](http://www.odoc.state.us)

—SENATE MEDIA  
05/06/96

## MORE KEATING NOMINATIONS CONFIRMED

■(GIT) The Senate Committee on Human Resources met Tuesday to confirm seven of Governor Frank Keating's nominations to boards and commissions.

Ed Glinski, of Oklahoma City, was confirmed to a position on the Oklahoma State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators. Sponsored by Sen. Helen Cole, R-Oklahoma City, he will serve an unexpired

term, ending July 1, 1998.

Jerry Allen, of Weatherford, was confirmed to a position on the Board of Pharmacy.

Sponsored by Sen. Robert M. Kerr, D-Altus, he will serve a five-year term, ending June 30, 2000.

Also sponsored by Kerr, Don Black, of Weatherford, was confirmed to a position on the State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.

He will serve a three year term, ending Oct. 1, 1998.

JoAnn Bullard, of Edmond, was confirmed to a position on the Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology.

Sponsored by Sen. Mark Snyder, R-Edmond, she will serve a three year term, ending Aug. 17, 1998.

Also sponsored by Snyder, Stephen Dudley, of Edmond, was confirmed to a position on the State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators.

He will serve a three year term, ending July 1, 1998.

Also appointed to the Nursing Home Board, Sharon Parker, of Norman, brings with her 29 years of experience as a practicing registered nurse.

Sponsored by Sen. Cal Hobson, D-Lexington, she will serve a three year term, ending Oct. 1, 1998.

Ed Vendley, of Tulsa, was confirmed to a position on the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission for a three year term which expires July 15, 1998.

He was sponsored by Sen. Charles Ford, R-Tulsa.

Following confirmations, committee members adopted **HCR1092**, by Sen. Ben Robinson. The measure memorializes Congress to amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Public Health Service Act to facilitate the development and approval of new drugs and biologics.

—BRANDON BEARD  
05/07/96

## MAPS — THE BUDGET NUMBERS GAME

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The MAPS budget numbers game continued late Tuesday afternoon as a MAPS Citizens Oversight Board subcommittee voted to rearrange — again — budget numbers dealing with parking in Bricktown, building permits for all nine projects and the cost of adding a consultant requested by the mayor. The effect

of Tuesday's actions was that the budget went up by \$1.5 million, then down by \$819,000, with no final figure on what the final cost really will be.

Members of the MAPS Finance Subcommittee were divided in their voting and opinions on several budget items, but overall agreed that the ultimate goal was to build MAPS properly and if that means spending an additional \$12 million as called for in the latest budget estimate, so be it.

Specifically, the subcommittee voted to:

- Recommend that the full MAPS Board reinstate \$1.5 million that had been eliminated from the budget for a 1,200-space parking lot in Bricktown.

- Recommend the deletion of deduction of \$819,000 worth of building permits called for by City officials. Previously there was discussion that the city would exempt itself from having to pay for building permits for public buildings, but pending city council budget talks and private sector pressure is said to be responsible for the change. City officials don't want to be seen as excusing themselves from paying for a permit that any other developer would have to pay.

- Recommend the overall budget as presented with the above exceptions.

## Mayor's Proposed Consultant Questioned

Members of the subcommittee also called into question the need for the mayor's office to hire yet another MAPS consultant, this one to report directly to the mayor and council.

The idea for an additional consultant came about after bids for the Ballpark at Bricktown came in extremely over budget and internal sniping between city staff and hired MAPS consultants caused Mayor Ronald Norick to step in with a promise to "take control" of MAPS.

While generally applauded by most city hall observers, the Mayor's idea was questioned Tuesday by MAPS Citizens Oversight Board Member David Sellars. Sellars questioned the additional cost to MAPS funds to pay for the consultant as well as the additional layer of bureaucracy.

## Local Business Plan Future — Uncertain

Meanwhile, the highly touted Local Business Utilization Plan — put into place as a resource for small disadvantaged or minority businesses — is in danger of running out of funding.

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