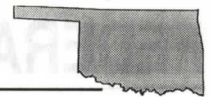


STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



quest was granted by unanimous consent.

The bill returned to the House floor sometime later, and Kirby said the delay was necessary to correct some wording in the bill. The new wording in the third conference committee report (page 19, lines 2-6) allows public sector employees to also take advantage of the tax exemption as long as their combined exemption does not exceed \$5,500.

House members readily accepted the third conference committee report and gave the bill a 97-0 passing vote.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
05/16/96

AG PROCESSING TAX CUT PASSES HOUSE

■(GIT) House members voted 96-0 on Thursday to advance another portion of the tax cut program agreed to by a bipartisan group of lawmakers and the governor.

HB2959, by Rep. Clay Pope, D-Loyal, provides the so-called value added tax cut. The bill exempts certain investments in value added agricultural processing from taxes.

Specifically, the tax exemptions include:

- ✓ An exemption equal to 15 percent of the investment by the owner in the new or expanded processing facility; and
- ✓ An exemption equal to 30 percent of the investment by Oklahoma agricultural producer-owned cooperatives, processing venture or marketing associations.

In an unusual chain of the events, the bill actually passed the House twice in the same day. House members had to reject their first vote on the bill after what was called a minor wording problem was found. That sent the bill back to conference committee.

After the problem was corrected, a third conference committee report was produced, accepted and the bill was passed.

The bill is expected to receive easy passage in the Senate, where leaders there have endorsed the proposal, and a signature from the governor, who has also praised the tax cut idea.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
05/16/96

TOURISM & RECREATION

GOVERNOR SIGNS SIMULCASTING BILL

■(GIT) Governor Frank Keating on Wednesday praised the efforts of some state

lawmakers and the state's horse racing industry for being able to fashion an agreement for racetracks to carry full-card simulcasts.

The comments came during a special ceremony in which the governor signed **SB1167**, by Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, and Sen. Lewis Long, D-Glenpool.

"I think this is extremely important for the horse industry of Oklahoma and certainly for the racing industry," Keating said, calling the measure a prosperity issue.

Under the terms of the measure, Oklahoma horse tracks can offer up to six full-card simulcasts during a racing day. Two of those cards can be offered while the track is holding its own races.

When there is no live racing, tracks can simulcast six full-card, out-of-state races for up to one-half the number of days the track holds live races.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
05/15/96

TRANSPORTATION

AMERICAN AIRLINES TO RESTORE DFW JET SERVICE

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) American Airlines has decided to restore jet service between Oklahoma City and Dallas-Fort Worth, according to two leaders of the Oklahoma Senate.

"We have it on good authority that the official announcement will be forthcoming very soon," said Senator Stratton Taylor, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate. "This is going to be a great boost to our economic development efforts."

"A lot of people have been working very hard to bring jet service back, and it looks like that hard work has paid off," said Senator Taylor.

According to American Airlines, jet service will resume between Oklahoma City and DFW on August 1, 1996.

"I think this is great news for Oklahoma City and the entire state," said Senator Keith

Leftwich, Majority Whip and Vice-chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Reports indicate that American will initially add three jets to its Oklahoma City/DFW route in August, followed by another two in September.

—SENATE MEDIA
05/14/96

BUSINESSES, CITY CHAMBER AND GOVERNOR BRING AMERICAN AIRLINES JET SERVICE BACK TO OKLAHOMA CITY

■(GIT) After a series of meetings between officials of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Governor Frank Keating and representatives of American Airlines, an announcement was made Thursday by the airline to restore jet service to Oklahoma City.

Lieutenant General Richard Burpee from the Chamber, along with efforts of Keating's office and the State Department of Commerce, had asked local businesses "What increased level of business would American Airlines receive if they restored jet service to Oklahoma City?" Apparently, the response was positive. "We received pledges from high-ranking officials that revenue performance would improve," Jack Williams, American's vice president and general sales manager added, "Those leaders, including Burpee, came to us with specific business plans that show genuine support for American jet service on the Oklahoma City-Dallas/Fort Worth route. It's a decision based on solid business principles and we are excited about bringing service back."

The new jet service flight schedule will begin August 1, with American initially offering three round-trip flights each day, using its 97-seat Fokker F-100 jets. Later, on September 4, the airline will add two more round-trips, making a total of five round-trip flights a day between Oklahoma City and Dallas-Fort Worth.

Williams explained that American Eagle will continue to serve the route with 16 round-trips to Dallas. However, he said that initial plans call for that number to be reduced as jets are re-introduced on the route.

In addition to reinstating jet service, American will provide 200 round-trip tickets to Denver for families of the Oklahoma City bombing to attend the upcoming trial.

—MARTA MCCLOSKEY
05/16/96

*"A silly remark can be made in Latin
as well as in Spanish."*

Cervantes

The Dialogue of the Dogs, 1613