

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE CONFIRMS RICKS, OTHERS

By Brandon Beard
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Despite rumors of possible problems with the confirmation of Keating appointee Bob Ricks to the post of commissioner of public safety and cabinet secretary of safety and security, the Senate Judiciary Committee effortlessly confirmed the Edmond man to the two positions Tuesday.

With a unanimous vote on both accounts, Ricks will serve both positions at the pleasure of the governor.

Ricks has already served for just over seven months in the position, but required Senate confirmation to firm-up the post.

"As the commissioner and cabinet secretary, I have been pleased with what I have learned about the professionalism of the men and women of the Department of Public Safety (DPS)."

In an impromptu gathering with the media following the Senate hearing, Ricks dispelled rumors that, once confirmed, he would remove many DPS personnel from the positions to correct a reported "wide-spread problem" within the department.

"I will not go in and arbitrarily replace people," he said, calling the department one of the finest in the nation. "The point is, I have no desire to cause harm to the department."

When asked if his confirmation was anticlimactic, "It's never anti-climactic when you get a positive reaction," commenting on the unanimous decision made by the committee.

Ricks, and others, were later unanimously confirmed by the full Senate.

Other Keating appointees confirmed to their posts include:

Keith B. Aycock, of Lawton, to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Commission, to serve a seven year term ending Dec. 31, 2002, sponsored by Sen. Jim Maddox, D-Lawton.

Bill Burkett, of Oklahoma City, to the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System, to serve a five year term ending July 1, 2001, sponsored by Sen. Howard Hendrick, R-Bethany.

Bryan B. Close, of Jenks, to the Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission, to serve two consecutive terms ending June 23, 2001, sponsored by Sen. Don Rubottom, R-Tulsa.

Stanley Glanz, of Tulsa, to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Commission, to serve a seven year term ending July 1, 2002, sponsored by Sen. Lewis Long, D-

Glenpool.

Warren K. Jordan, of Oklahoma City, to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Commission, to serve an unexpired term ending Dec. 31, 2000, sponsored by Sen. Gerald "Ged" Wright, R-Broken Arrow, in lieu of Sen. Brooks Douglass, R-Oklahoma City, who was unavailable.

Joe Lester, of Norman, to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Control Commission, to serve an unexpired term, ending Dec. 31, 1996, sponsored by Sen. Trish Weedn, D-Purcell.

Red Uphoff, of Norman, to the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System Board, to serve a five year term ending July 1, 2000, also sponsored by Weedn.

SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE CONFIRMS ONE

By Brandon Beard
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Senate Committee on Finance met Tuesday to confirm one of Governor Frank Keating's executive nominations.

Leslie W. Rector, of Tulsa, was unanimously confirmed to the Oklahoma State Credit Union Board. Sponsored by Sen. Charles Ford, R-Tulsa, Rector will serve a four year term, ending Oct. 11, 1999.

Rector succeeds Kenneth Sorrels.

SENATE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE CONFIRMS KEATING NOMINATIONS

By Brandon Beard
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Senate Committee on Human Resources unanimously confirmed 14 of Governor Frank Keating's executive nominations Tuesday.

L. Dwight Holden, of Tulsa, was confirmed to the Board of Mental Health and Licensure.

Sponsored by Sen. Don Rubottom, R-Tulsa, Holden's term expires Dec. 31, 2002.

Phillip E. Davis, of Oklahoma City, was confirmed to the Board of Licensed Social Workers.

Sponsored by Sen. Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City, he will serve an unexpired term, ending Oct. 1, 1996.

Bill Follis, of Miami, was confirmed to the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission.

Follis is chief of the Modok Tribe and a member of the Oklahoma State University Alumni Association.

He was sponsored by Sen. Rick Littlefield, D-Grove, and will serve a three year term, ending Aug. 15, 1997.

Odell Gunter, of Lawton, was confirmed to the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission.

Gunter has been serving on the commis-

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SENATE APPROVES TAX BREAK FOR ADOPTIONS

From Senate Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Senate has approved a measure which would give a state income tax deduction of up to \$10,000 to Oklahomans who adopt a child.

"I think it's very important that we do all we can as policy makers to encourage adoptions," said Senator Brad Henry, Senate author of **HB1088**.

"This measure will have little fiscal impact for the state, but it can make a huge difference for couples who'd like to adopt," said Henry, D-Shawnee.

"It may even save the state money if it results in more adoptions of children who receive AFDC."

Because of the long waiting list associated with adoptions through the state, some couples seek out private agencies or private attorneys to help them adopt children. But Senator Henry explained, the cost can be

staggering.

"For those families trying to adopt through private lawyers or agencies, they're often looking at a cost of \$10,000 to \$20,000. I'm sure it makes some families decide not to adopt. For those who decide to go ahead, it's definitely a major financial hardship," said Henry.

"This measure allows families to deduct most of the expenses associated with adoption, including adoption fees, medical expenses, court costs, attorney fees and other expenses directly related to the adoption process up to a maximum of \$10,000," said Henry.

The measure would apply beginning in tax year 1996. It applies to all adoptions, whether through private or public agencies.

The House has also approved the bill, which must now be signed by Governor Frank Keating before it can become law.