

Senate, continued from page 7

"they are already adjudicated."

After the bill's conference committee report was adopted with a vote of 35 to 9, the measure itself also passed with a vote of 35 to 9.

SB1166, by Sen. Ed Long, D-Seminole, requires disclosure of actual payments if co-payments are based on discounted or non-discounted charges. It also requires explanation of benefits and co-payments to clearly and accurately disclose the actual amount paid or to be paid.

After adopting the bill's conference committee report, members passed the measure with a vote of 42 to 0.

SB1200, by Sen. Herb Rozell, D-Tahlequah, authorizes the establishment of drug courts in the district courts of the state and creates the Community Corrections Act.

Fresh from its conference committee, the bill was laid over to allow members to review it.

SCR38, by Robinson, authorizes the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges to issue revenue bonds on behalf of Connors State College.

After adopting its conference committee report, members adopted the measure.

SCR57, by Sen. Ben Robinson, recognizes atomic veterans.

Members adopted the measure.

SCR63, by Sen. Trish Weedn, D-Purcell, disapproves proposed amendments and additions to rules of the Board of Governors of the Registered Dentists of Oklahoma.

After adopting its House Amendments, members adopted the measure.

SCR67, by Sen. Billy Mickle, D-Durant, was adopted. It praises the life of M.E. Dobbins. It also commends the First Baptist Church of Durant for their support of the Boy Scouts.

Members also granted further conference on **HB3008**, **HB2648** and **SB1071**.

Members rejected the conference committee reports to **SB681** and **SB1227** and requested further conference.

The Senate is scheduled to convene at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 1996.

"In Democracies there is a besetting disposition to make public opinion stronger than the law. This is the particular form in which tyranny exhibits itself in a popular government."

*James Fenimore Cooper
The American Democrat, 1838*

MOISTURE BRINGS END TO BURNING BAN FOR MOST COUNTIES

By Marta McCloskey
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Governor Frank Keating issued a proclamation Monday revoking the recent burning ban for all counties in Oklahoma except Beaver, Beckham, Cimarron, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Texas and Washita. The proclamation was supported by information from the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture. The Department concluded that pasture conditions are improving, but above average temperatures and high winds continue to dry residual moisture.

Considering the weather, southwestern Oklahoma wheat farmers will begin harvest early this week. "Thirty-six percent of the wheat has reached the soft dough stage compared with 32 percent last year and 39 percent for the five year average," the Department reported.

Amid row crops, producers have started preparing seedbeds and planting sorghum, soybeans, peanuts, and cotton. However, corn planters have now completed their planting, ahead of schedule. In addition, alfalfa hay's first cutting progressed to 49 percent. "Hay is rated as mostly fair to good," the Department noted.

Changing to something sweeter, water-

melons and strawberries were rated by the Department to be in fair condition. Watermelon planting remained active with 82 percent planted.

Cattle marketings continue below average, but they have shown an increase in movement. Livestock conditions are rated fair, and insect activities are light to moderate across the state. "Feeder cattle prices were \$1.00 to \$2.00 cwt. higher," the Department recorded.

Keating, in the past several months has expressed his concern for "drought ridden" weather conditions on Oklahoma's agricultural industry. Earlier this month, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman announced a disaster declaration for Oklahoma. The move will provide the means for low interest loans to save and replant Oklahoma farmers' crops.

Keating's proclamation will be distributed at the Department of Public Safety, the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, the State Fire Marshal, the South Central Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact, the Secretary of the Environment and to the sheriffs of Oklahoma's 58 counties, where the burning ban has been raised.

OFB DIRECTOR SAYS FEDERAL RULES NEEDLESSLY INCREASE COSTS, VICTIMIZE FARMERS

From Oklahoma Farm Bureau

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahoma Farm Bureau director Charles Sloan testified before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee field hearing investigating the hidden costs of government regulations.

The Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing May 20 at Rogers State University in Claremore.

"I feel as though I am being robbed and can do nothing to stop it!" declared Sloan.

The Farm Bureau director addressed the high costs to farmers resulting from the ban on production of Freon in the United States and Canada.

"There is very little scientific evidence that proves the product (Freon) damages the ozone," the OFB district six director told the hearing. "The scientists disagree. Who knows?"

Sloan told the committee that before Freon production was banned that he and most other farmers could re-charge air con-

ditioning systems on tractors and equipment themselves.

"Before the regulations, I kept Freon on hand that I paid 98 cents a pound for. I keep a set of gauges in my truck to safely install Freon in my equipment. If the job was bigger than me or my son could handle, there were a couple of fix-it-all men in town who could be in my field in 30 minutes or so to fix the problem."

Sloan said that scenario is not applicable today because of the government ban on Freon due to questionable studies linking it to ozone damage.

"Who cares if on a hot, dusty day in June combining wheat that my air conditioner quits cooling. A quick inspection reveals I am low on refrigerant, R-12 Freon, in my system.

"The system holds four pounds. I am probably less than one pound low, but it stops me from cutting wheat, stops my trucks, stops my sprayer and, most importantly, stops my

See Freon, page 9