

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

\$1.8 million allocated to the Oklahoma Tax Commission were at issue on Thursday when House members considered overriding Governor Frank Keating's line-item vetoes in **HB1787**.

The 63-35 vote to sustain the governor's veto came despite praise from both sides of the aisle for State Auditor and Inspector Clifton Scott and the work performed by his office.

"He may have the toughest job in all of state government," Rep. Tommy Thomas, D-Atoka, told fellow House members during debate on the motion to override the governor's line-item veto. But, Thomas said, the veto was inconsistent with Keating's claim of being a law and order governor and protector of the public's interest.

House Majority Leader Rep. Loyd Benson, D-Frederick, also praised the auditor and his staff, reading off a long list of investigations conducted by the auditor's office, as well as a list of criminal convictions that have resulted from the probes.

The veto, Benson added, could lead the office to cut 10 auditors if funds for the state employee pay raise are not made available. That, Benson said, would devastate an office already involved in seven investigations and with more than a dozen requests waiting.

Republican lawmaker Leonard Sullivan, of Oklahoma City, said the veto represented part of "a new era in state government."

"This and the other vetoes show that the Republicans and governor are part of the process. This is like a training program for you, because you may be in the minority next year."

That idea did not sit well with Rep. Jim Glover, D-Elgin, who argued the Republicans should have been active in the process last week when the appropriations bills were considered.

"The right thing to do," Glover said, "was to stand up when the bills were out here."

Rep. James Dunlap, R-Bartlesville, also said the vetoes represented a change in the status quo.

"But these bills put all the appropriations together into one lump sum. That doesn't give the governor the ability to line-item veto those things he feels are inappropriate or excessive," Dunlap said.

Speaker of the House Glen Johnson, D-Okemah, concluded debate on the unsuccessful effort to override the governor's veto, saying the Republicans' idea of affecting the budget process "was a good idea — one week ago when the bills first came through."

"What has changed in this bill?" Johnson asked. "Not one word. But what has changed

is that the governor has decided he didn't like this bill.

"You've got a chance to exercise your best judgment," Johnson added, "or to let someone else decide what is your will. You were elected to cast your vote, not to vote the way the governor decides is best.

"This," Johnson concluded, "is the right thing to do."

Like the three override attempts before Thursday's, the final vote reflected a strict party-line decision and the attempt failed.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
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AWARDS / EVENTS

GETTYS TO DESCRIBE 19th-20th CENTURY CERAMICS OF OKLAHOMA AT CHISHOLM TRAIL MUSEUM IN KINGFISHER

■(KINGFISHER) Marshall Gettys, historical archaeologist with a special interest in ceramics, will present a program on "Historic Ceramics of Oklahoma" at 1 p.m. on June 15 at the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher.

"He will describe ceramics of the 19th and 20th Centuries, covering the period from the 1820s to 1920," said Curator Renee Mitchell of the museum. "The lecture-workshop will focus on the types of ceramics which have been recovered from archaeological sites around Oklahoma and date to this period."

The presentation will include a display of period ceramics from both archaeological sites and public and private collections. Also included will be materials focusing on dating historic ceramics and discussions of source material available to ceramic collectors and scholars.

"Those attending are strongly encouraged to bring ceramic items for examination and identification," Gettys said. The public is invited without charge, said Mitchell.

Gettys served as historical archaeologist for the State Historic Preservation Office of the Oklahoma Historical Society since 1980. He earned his bachelor's degree in anthropology and his masters in anthropology Eastern New Mexico University.

The Chisholm Trail Museum and Seay Mansion are operated in Kingfisher by the Oklahoma Historical Society with support

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