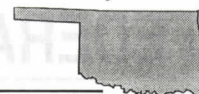


# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



tioned the legality of the state entering into contracts for more than one year at a time, which is prohibited by state law.

Hobson assured that officials, including the Attorney General's Office, were in agreement that the compact was perfectly legal.

The bill now heads to the governor.

"This is a win-win agreement. It strengthens the ties between Oklahoma and its tribes and ensures this important funding to help the tribes and to help rural Oklahoma," Governor Frank Keating said only hours before the bill's passage.

—BRANDON BEARD & SHAWN ASHLEY  
05/30/96

## PETTIGREW MOVES TO STOP UNNOTICED TAX SALES

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Jim and Dee Stottlemire thought it was a bad joke the evening a stranger approached them saying he had purchased their home at a sheriff's sale. During the course of the following days, their bad joke turned into painful reality.

According to recent information uncovered by Rep. Wayne Pettigrew, the Stottlemires' predicament is not an isolated incident.

"In visiting with the county treasurers of Oklahoma and Canadian counties, I discovered that as many as 20 or 30 properties are sold each year at sheriff's sales because of delinquent tax bills," the Edmond Republican said. "Yet of these sales, there is always the chance an owner may not be aware that action is being taken by the county to recover back taxes."

In response to the situation, Pettigrew, a first-term legislator, amended **Senate Bill 682** to require physical notification of the imminent sale of homestead property to be posted on the front door of the home in question at least 30 days before the sale.

Governor Keating signed the bill into law May 14.

Stottlemire says neither she, her husband nor the mortgage company which financed the house was notified of the sale until it was too late.

"Our home was literally sold from underneath us," she said. "We had paid our taxes for 1992, 1993 and 1994; the back taxes were just an oversight."

Written notice of the Stottlemire sale was published in the El Reno newspaper, a town 15 miles away, which they neither take nor read, she said. Personal correspondence of

the impending action was mailed to a post office box which they closed in 1992.

Within days, the Stottlemires found themselves out of the home she had occupied for 19 years — all for an unpaid tax bill amounting to about \$189. Adding insult to injury, their home, valued at \$45,000, was sold as sheriff's sale for \$501.

The Stottlemires are appealing the court's decision that the sheriff's sale was valid. In a separate lawsuit, the Farmers Home Administration, which financed the purchase of the house, is suing for improper notification.

Pettigrew said that although his amendment may be too late for Jim and Dee Stottlemire, it may save another family from the heartache they have experienced.

—HOUSE MEDIA  
05/30/96

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### ONENET FUNDING AND EXPANSION APPROVED

■(GIT) In a decision to expand OneNet service and access statewide, the Contingency Review Board (CRB), with members consisting of Governor Frank Keating, Senate President Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor and House Speaker Glen D. Johnson, met Wednesday and approved allocating approximately \$5.8 million to further upgrade the system out of 1992 remaining capital bond monies.

Last October, the CRB voted and approved an expenditure totaling approximately \$8 million from the \$14 million Oklahoma Building Bonds Fund to upgrade OneNet (the telecommunications information network for local government and education). As a result of that approval, 33 hub sites for the network were installed across the state. With today's approval, an additional 26 to 28 hub sites will be installed.

The approval came after a recommendation by the State Data Processing and Telecommunications Advisory Committee. Rep. Calvin Anthony, D-Stillwater and co-chairman of the committee endorsed the move.

"I am excited to be adding additional hub sites for OneNet. It is particularly important to rural Oklahoma and will allow rural areas to greatly improve in the areas of education and economic development," Keating said.

To be exact, allocations of \$2,708,112

will go to enhance hub sites, \$387,859 for security, \$2,346,920 for switching and conversion and \$332,458 for other enhancements, totaling \$5,775,349.

—MARTA MCCLOSKEY  
05/29/96

## TRANSPORTATION

### LEGISLATIVE LEADERS AGREE ON TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Legislative leaders have reached a budget agreement Wednesday that will pump an additional \$28.3 million into Oklahoma roads and highways in the coming fiscal year.

"This represents one of the largest funding increases for Oklahoma roads and highways in state history," said Sen. Stratton Taylor, President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma Senate. "Coupled with our investment in education, the transportation increase will be a great boost to Oklahoma's job creation efforts."

The agreement was announced Wednesday after several weeks of budget negotiations between House and Senate leaders.

"Every member of the Legislature, regardless of political party, has a strong commitment to improving Oklahoma's transportation system," said House Speaker Glen D. Johnson. "Any suggestion to the contrary simply is not true."

The additional transportation funding is divided into several different pieces of legislation. For example, an additional \$6.6 million was sent to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in the general appropriations bill earlier this session. Another \$7.5 million was earmarked for rural road projects in the REAP program approved earlier this month.

The latest agreement will send another \$14.2 million to ODOT—\$11.2 for general highway maintenance and construction, an additional \$2.5 million for rural roads, \$500,000 for rural mass transit—for a total increase of \$28.3 million.

—OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE  
05/29/96

*"Politics is the skilled use of blunt objects."*

Lester B. Pearson  
"The Tenth Decade"  
CBC-TV, 1972