

SENATE BUSINESS AND LABOR CONFIRMS KEATING APPOINTEES

By Brandon Beard
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Senate Committee on Business and Labor unanimously confirmed nine of Governor Frank Keating's appointees Monday. Each serving a minimum of a four year term, the executive nominations have filled vacant spots on the Oklahoma Accountancy Board, the Commission on Consumer Credit, the Oklahoma Employment Securities Commission and the Oklahoma Motor Vehicle Commission.

Longtime independent insurance agent and former member of the Board of Regents for Higher Education, Dean Corder, of Oklahoma City, was confirmed to serve a five year term on the Commission on Consumer Credits. He fills a vacant position that expires Jan. 1, 2000. Corder's nomination was carried by Sen. Keith Leftwich, D-Oklahoma City.

Addressing concerns from Sen. Ben Brown, D-Oklahoma City, about a stretch of small loan companies that may be "exploiting the poor," Corder said he would look into the matter.

"So far," Brown said, "they [the Commission on Consumer Credit] have refused to do anything about it."

Corder was confirmed with a vote of 7 to 0.

Also appointed to the Commission on Consumer Credit, Terry Wyatt, of Hollister, sponsored by Sen. Gilmer Capps, D-Snyder, was confirmed with a vote of 11 to 0. She also agreed to look into Brown's concerns.

Wyatt will serve a five year term, expiring Jan. 1, 2001.

Succeeding himself, Vernon Askew, of Oklahoma City, was reconfirmed to his post on the Oklahoma Accountancy Board. He will serve a five year term, ending June 30, 2001. He was confirmed with a vote of 11 to 0.

James Nickles, of Tulsa, and brother of U.S. Senator Don Nickles, was also confirmed to the Oklahoma Accountancy Board with a vote of 11 to 0. He will serve a five year term, ending June 30, 2001.

Mike Bartlett, of Tulsa, was also confirmed to the Oklahoma Accountancy Board with a vote of 10 to 0. He will serve a four year term, ending Dec. 31, 1999. He was sponsored by Sen. Don Rubottom, R-Tulsa.

Bartlett, an insurance buyer for Mazzio's Pizza stores for 23 years, said he has the privilege of not being biased toward high and low rates, as his company self-insures its people and property.

In the automobile industry since 1978, Bob Howard, of Edmond, was confirmed to serve on the Oklahoma Motor Vehicle Commission with a vote of 10 to 0. He will serve a six year term, ending June 30, 2001. He was sponsored by Sen. Mark Snyder, R-Edmond.

W.L. "Mac" McCulloch, of Ardmore, was confirmed to a position on the Oklahoma Motor Vehicle Commission. Sponsored by Sen. Darryl Roberts, D-Ardmore, he was confirmed with a vote of 10 to 0.

McCulloch, in the automobile industry since 1949, said he hopes to require car salesmen to pass examinations on ethics and sales procedure before being licensed to sell cars in the state. Born out of a convention in Las Vegas, the idea is aimed at better regulating the industry and strengthening the image of the car salesman.

McCulloch will serve a six year term, ending June 30, 2001.

Also appointed to the Motor Vehicle Commission was Dan Mullins, of Lawton.

Sponsored by Sen. Jim Maddox, D-Lawton, he fills an unexpired term, ending June 30, 1999.

Rev. W.L. Parker, of Spencer, was reconfirmed to his position as chairman of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. In his fifth year, Parker was confirmed with a vote of 10 to 0. He was sponsored by Sen. Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City. He will serve a six year term, ending July 2, 2001.

Parker said he is hopeful about the commission's future. With approximately \$500 million in the commission's trust fund, he hopes to weather federal cutbacks and not have to release any personnel.

"We are down to the bare bones in terms of personnel," he said. Though he admits, "Things are going rather well now. We have been through some tough times."

Last year, Parker oversaw the dismissal of former OESC Executive Director Wayne Winn.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS SERVICES

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) A group of lawmakers and employees from state agencies involved in providing various human services in Oklahoma meet on Monday to discuss ways to improve those efforts.

While no specific plan was adopted, those on the panel agreed to work together toward creating a plan that gives greater control to local agencies and unifies state agencies behind a common set of goals.

At issue is **SB1237**, by Rep. Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, and Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa, which creates the Family Centered and Community Designed Services Act.

A similar piece of legislation was vetoed last year, those on the panel noted, and those involved this year hope to draft something that will be acceptable to the governor, as well as the heads of those state agencies involved.

A consensus of the group, however, is that state agencies have resisted efforts to be unified behind a common set of goals.

Tom Kemper, executive director of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, said Oklahoma, unlike a number of other states, does not have a cooperative ef-

fort at the state level. That means, he explained, there are no funding priorities set and political influence, rather than needs, determines which programs are pushed each year.

Responding to questions from Sen. Howard Hendrick, R-Bethany, Kemper said Oklahoma needs to develop some goals for providing human services based on input from the community level and to make funding decisions based on those goals.

Asked to define what might be such a goal or priority, Kemper said preventative efforts focusing on the underprivileged was, in his opinion, one such area.

"Until the state decides to set its priorities," Kemper said, "we won't have coordinated efforts."

While that assessment was echoed by many in the meeting, Secretary of Human Services Ken Lackey noted, "I think we can come up with some broad, shared goals, but in terms of developing a statewide plan, I don't think we can do that."

Lackey added, "I think the best thing the state can do is look at a (local) program and accept it or not. If the state agencies can't make the decisions on their own, maybe the legislature can by the way it allocates its

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