

SENATE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONFIRMS ONE

By Staff Writers

■(GIT) The Senate Committee on Science, Technology and Telecommunications confirmed one executive nomination Tuesday.

Clifton L. Taulbert of Tulsa, to the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority. He will serve a seven year term ending June 30, 2003. Taulbert succeeds Eddie Gates and is sponsored by Sen. Charles Ford, R-Tulsa.

Taulbert's nomination will now go before the full Senate for final confirmation.

SENATE TRANSPORTATION APPROVES ONE EXECUTIVE NOMINATION

By Staff Writers

■(GIT) Tuesday, in the sixth meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee, members approved the following executive nomination.

Albert Kelly of Bristow, to the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. He will serve an eight year term ending July 1, 2004. Bristow is sponsored by Sen. Ted Fisher, D-Sapulpa.

Bristow's nomination will now go before the full Senate for final consideration.

USDA BUYS MORE THAN 4 MILLION POUNDS OF GROUND BEEF

From US Dept. of Agriculture

■(WASHINGTON) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman Thursday announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is purchasing 4.3 million pounds of bulk frozen ground beef at a delivered cost of approximately \$4.1 million. The purchases will be used for distribution in the National School Lunch Program and other federal food assistance programs.

Glickman said this purchase includes USDA beef purchases for the 1995-96 school year under Announcement LS-43, which is nearing an end. However, beef purchases will continue on a weekly basis for the 1996-97 school year.

*"A man's ruin lies in his tongue."
Egyptian saying*

GLICKMAN ANNOUNCES TRANSFER OF FUND TO EMERGENCY FARM LOANS

From US Dept. of Agriculture

■(WASHINGTON) Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman last Friday ordered the transfer of \$16.4 million into the emergency farm loan account so that loans can continue to be made to family farmers and ranchers to help them overcome natural disasters which are affecting wide areas of the country this year. The \$16.4 million will allow the Department to make or guarantee \$56 million of emergency loans.

"The emergency loan fund was exhausted this year for the first time," Glickman said. "All \$109.3 million that was available was loaned out with nearly five months left in the fiscal year. To meet this unusually heavy demand, I have exercised the Secretary's

emergency transfer authority to move funds that otherwise would not have been used from the Conservation Reserve Program to the Emergency Loan Program.

"These additional funds should be sufficient to take care of loan applications on hand and those expected by the end of the fiscal year in September. Ample funding will be left for any needs that might arise in the Conservation Reserve Program."

Glickman said that in recent years, appropriations for emergency loans had been reduced from previous years' levels. "This year, the funds available just weren't sufficient to meet demand caused by the unusually large number of disasters," he said. "In recent weeks, I have traveled to places such as Texas, Kansas and Colorado and have seen the disastrous effects of this drought. I know people are suffering. This administration is committed to helping our producers make it through these tough times."

At latest count, 2,260 of the nation's 3,218 counties had been designated as disaster areas, and designation requests for another 317 counties were being considered. Since last summer, most states have suffered from drought, flooding, unseasonable freezes or other weather disasters.

Family farmers and ranchers in designated counties are eligible for low-interest loans from the Farm Service Administration to help them recover from the disasters.

The most severely affected states are in the southwest, especially in the winter wheat region. Much of this year's wheat crop has dried up from lack of moisture and the harvest is expected to be seriously affected. Other states, in the midwest and elsewhere, have had excessive rain, often accompanied by severe storms, and spring freezes that damaged fruit and vegetable crops.

SENATE JUDICIARY CONFIRMS EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

By Staff Writers

■(GIT) Tuesday, in the eighth meeting for the Senate Judiciary Committee, the following executive nominations were considered.

Delbert Foltz of Billings as appointed to the ABLE Commission. He will serve an unexpired term ending June 23, 1999. He will succeed John Whetsel and is sponsored by Sen. Ed Long, D-Enid.

Sandi Liles of Woodward was appointed to the ABLE Commission. She will serve a five year term ending June 23, 2001, and succeeds Jack Black. Liles is sponsored by Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko.

Arthur D. Linville of Cement was appointed to the Polygraph Examiners Board. He will serve a six year term ending May 17, 2002. Linville is sponsored by Sen. Sam Helton, D-Lawton.

Dennis McGrath of Stillwater was appointed to the Polygraph Examiners Board. He will serve a six year term ending May 17, 2001, and succeeds Russell Higbie. McGrath is sponsored by Sen. Bernice Shedrick, D-Stillwater.

J.O. Williams of Tulsa was also appointed to the Polygraph Examiners Board. He will serve a six year term ending May 17, 1998, and succeeds Charles Ryan. Williams is sponsored by Sen. Don Rubottom, R-Tulsa.

All nominees were approved unanimously and will go before the full Senate for final confirmation.

