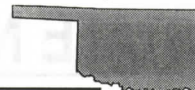


STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



31, 1997, giving money managers two fiscal quarters to make the sale and protect the investment portfolio.

Johnson and the investment committee looked at CLO holdings after Attorney General Drew Edmondson filed a lawsuit, Aug. 22, on behalf of the State of Oklahoma and others, against 12 tobacco firms, two research institutes funded by tobacco companies, a public relations firm and three law firms. The suit seeks recovery of Medicaid funds used to treat smoking-related illnesses, but a specific amount is not demanded.

Johnson told *Capitol Network News* later Tuesday that two investment managers had purchased the stock as part of a portfolio, looking at dividends and rate of return as the only criteria.

"We saw some inconsistencies, however," Johnson said. "Here you are, a trust, holding stock in a company your own state is suing. When you couple that with who our beneficiaries are (common schools and universities), it makes sense to sell the stock."

State law limits the investment level in equities to 40 percent Johnson said, but the commission will ask the legislature to increase the equity investment level to 60 percent during the next session.

Commissioners also accepted the recommendation of the investment committee to cease funding of seven equity managers and continue with Essex — a small-cap growth equity manager, until Essex reaches the \$20.4 million level, to enhance short term gains and returns for distribution to beneficiaries, Oklahoma's common schools.

In other action, members voted to approve a resolution that all contracts and invitations to bid, as well as all claims and expenses in excess of \$7,500 be brought before the commission for approval.

Keith Kuhlman, real estate management division, informed members of a buyer for land near I-35 and Covell Rd., Edmond. The land, containing 148.18 acres, was purchased

by Gary Spencer and Dorothy Sudeghy, with CLO approval. Appraisal value is \$748,000. Spencer and Sudeghy bid \$888,000. The CLO authorized an appraisal for sale on May 9. The sale was Sept. 17.

Commissioners voted to go in to executive session for possible discussion of a lawsuit with Apodaca-Johnston Capital Management, Inc., former CLO investment manager.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/09/96

VOTER REGISTRATION, ELECTION PROBLEMS NOT NEW FOR LIBERTARIANS

■(GIT) When a member of the Libertarian Party complained Tuesday the party wasn't getting a fair shake in Oklahoma, it wasn't the first time the party reported problems with state election laws and the agencies that enforce them.

According to information distributed at a Tuesday press conference by Agnes Regier, the party's candidate for US Senate, Libertarians have run afoul of state officials in at least four other states.

In Illinois, 25 state party candidates filed suit in September against the Illinois State Board of Elections and the Chicago Electoral Board, asking to be restored to the ballot for the November general election. The Illinois branch of the party now has candidates on the ballot in 10 districts, and Libertarians also filed for all 20 state congressional seats.

Meanwhile, in Georgia, the party's state branch filed a lawsuit in August against a state law requiring the party to submit petitions signed by five percent of the registered voters in order to run candidates for the US House of Representatives, even though the party is already qualified for statewide offices. A similar suit filed in 1994 was not pursued.

The Libertarian Party of Colorado lost a suit earlier this year against that state's secretary of state in which the party alleged that state law discriminates against candidates who are not members of the Republican or Democratic parties.

Colorado law ensures the top ballot position in all partisan races is awarded to either the Republicans or Democrats.

A similar law in Oklahoma was struck down in 1994, when a group of 30 Republicans successfully challenged a law ensuring

Democratic Party candidates received the top spot on general election ballots. The judge's ruling this year resulted in a new policy, in which a drawing is held by the State Election Board for the order of parties on the general election ballot. The recently recognized Reform Party won the top spot on this year's general election ballot.

A Libertarian Party candidate for Congress and the Maryland chapter of the party filed suit in US District Court in Maryland in late August to get a place on that state's November ballot.

Robert E. Creager is seeking injunctive and declaratory relief against the State Administrative Board of Election Laws, which he and the party claimed unfairly denied him a spot on the state's ballot.

Regier, joined by representatives of the Reform Party, said on Tuesday that members of their parties were being denied the opportunity to register to vote as members of their respective parties. The problem they said, resulted from the decision of the state election board not to reprint its voter registration forms after the parties won recognition and from the failure of the board to properly inform voter registrars of the parties' recognition.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/09/96

KEATING DEFENDS POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

■(GIT) Governor Frank Keating defended his use of a state airplane for trips that include stumping for Republican candidates, as well as the political consulting work performed by his Secretary of State.

Asked by reporters about his use of a newly-acquired airplane for political events, Keating said, "If it is exclusively a political trip, then it is reimbursed. If it is not, then it's not. I would say in most cases the state is not reimbursed."

Keating attempted to explain the practice by saying that it is difficult to calculate the exact number of minutes of a given trip that are dedicated specifically to politics or to other state business. The governor added, however, that most of his current trips involve both state business and political campaigning.

Keating estimated that it costs approximately \$175 per hour to operate the state plane. That cost, he said, is paid by the can-

Continued on next page

"Offices are as acceptable here as elsewhere, and whenever a man has cast a longing eye on them, a rottenness begins in his conduct."

Thomas Jefferson
letter to Tench Coxe
May 21, 1799