

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

didate for whom he appears on those trips dedicated solely to campaigning.

Keating was also asked about renewed allegations by the Oklahoma Democratic Party executive director Pat Hall regarding Secretary of State Tom Cole's political consulting work.

"Tom Cole is so busy conducting push polls and writing contrived political analysis that he doesn't have time to put in the 40-hour work week Oklahoma taxpayers are paying him for," said Hall. "Governor Keating needs to put his foot down once and for all and make Tom show up for work."

Cole is a principal in the Republican political consulting firm of Cole, Hargrave, Snodgrass and Associates, which is currently involved in one statewide race, three US Senate campaigns and ten congressional races in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Georgia and Florida. The firm is also doing some work for the Dole for President Campaign, according to one of the firm's partners, Deby Snodgrass.

In defense of Cole, Keating, who called the firm's polling work "more accurate and more professional" than that of others, said much of the company's work was the result of staff members' efforts and not just the work of Cole.

"The reality is that Tom Cole has to earn a living," Keating added, attacking Hall for what he called "hiring himself out to the highest bidder."

The governor called Cole's \$40,000 annual salary "modest for what he does" and added that he believed Cole handles his state job with "competence and professionalism."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/10/96

ROBERTS' RECORD-KEEPING IN SPOTLIGHT

■(GIT) After telling *Capitol Network News* Monday that the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) "did this several months ago and never filed a complaint," candidate for U.S. House of Rep. District 3 Darryl Roberts got slapped with a second complaint to the Federal Election Commission (FEC) in three months Tuesday.

Roberts received a campaign contribution of \$5,000 from the Choctaw Nation in June, and the NRCC notified of their intent to file a complaint on Aug. 21. According to the complaint, the Choctaw Nation does not have a political action committee (PAC) or

a multi-candidate PAC capable of contributing \$5,000 per candidate, per election.

The relief sought was a return by Roberts of \$4,000 of the money donated by the Choctaws.

Last Monday, Cino said in a press release a complaint would be filed with the FEC that Roberts "illegally and arbitrarily chose to conceal two weeks of his campaign's activity. Roberts' failure to disclose is unlawful and must be remedied immediately," Cino stated. That complaint was filed with the FEC, Tuesday.

Roberts is a Democratic candidate for the District 3 seat currently held by retiring U.S. Representative Bill Brewster. Wes Watkins, R-Stillwater, and Scott Demaree, I-Glencoe, oppose Roberts in the race.

The NRCC complaint is based on two campaign Reports of Receipts and Disbursements filed with the FEC, one covering January 1, 1996 to June 30, 1996 and the other covering July 15, 1996 to August 7, 1996.

Reached at his home in Ardmore, Roberts told *Capitol Network News*, "all contributions and all expenditures are reported. Where the form says July 15, it should read July 1. There was an error."

FEC spokesman Kelly Huff said the commission is aware of the problem, and sent Roberts a note Oct. 1 asking for an amended report by Oct. 15, covering the disputed period.

Roberts was out of the office, Thursday, and could not be reached for comment.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/10/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

WELFARE AS WE DON'T KNOW IT

■(GIT) It was touted as an "... end welfare as we know it."

But the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, more commonly known as the Welfare Reform Bill, has Oklahoma's top human services official scratching his head.

"The simplest truths often meet the sternest resistance and are slowest in getting general acceptance."

Frederick Douglass
'The Women's Suffrage Movement'
The New National Era, Oct. 6, 1870

"There's a lot we just don't know yet," said George Miller, director of the Department of Human Services, which administers Oklahoma's welfare programs. "There are a lot of questions and not a whole lot of answers."

"We are concerned, and I think so are a lot of other states," added Miller. "One reason is because when we go to the feds with a question, they don't have an answer. What they're doing is telling us, 'Stop asking questions. Just go out and do it. We're transferring the money to you, so you figure it out.'"

There is, however, an upside, Miller said.

"Now we have more flexibility, more discretion, and I think that means we'll be able to do things that are more innovative, more suited to Oklahoma's needs."

In short, the new law eliminated the nation's 60-plus-year-old federal welfare program and replaced it with a plan that gives states annual payments or block grants, which states can use, to a degree, as they wish. The limits on the new system depend on the ability of the states to cut their welfare rolls. Benefits to any given recipient are limited to five years and an elaborate and some would say complicated timetable is in place by which states must funnel welfare recipients into the workforce. And if they don't cut their caseloads by one-half in five years, they will be penalized with a loss of funds.

Exactly how to accomplish all those goals within the vague framework is the problem, said Miller.

"We really won't be doing anything new for a while," Miller explained. That's because legislative approval of some efforts will have to be obtained, he said.

Within the Department of Human Services, Miller added, partnerships with other state agencies, such as the Employment Security Commission, the Department of Education and the vo-tech school system, will have to be forged to provide the means necessary to move people off the welfare rolls and onto employers' payrolls.

Such partnerships, Miller predicted, will extend to the community level and will mark the most significant change in the welfare system.

Miller said he, for example, is uncertain how the federal government plans to enforce one of the bill's mostly highly touted provi-

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