



# Capitol Network News

Today's news from Oklahoma's best government information resource

Weekly Edition, Friday, October 11, 1996

## GOVERNOR'S FLIGHTS BECOME HOT TOPIC

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) "Wrong. Dead wrong."

Those were the words used Friday by Governor Keating's communications director Dan Mahoney to describe criticisms from two lawmakers and the head of the state Democratic Party of his boss' use of a state airplane for campaign trips.

"Of the 50 political events the governor has attended this year," said Mahoney, "he has driven to 27 of them. Of those remaining, he flew to 12 and they were trips that also involved state business and the other 11 were strictly political trips. We will be asking the candidates involved for reimbursement for those trips at the end of the campaign."

In some other instances, too, Mahoney added, candidates will be asked to reimburse the state even though the governor was on a trip for state business. That, he explained, is because the political event resulted in what might be considered additional cost for the trip.

Governor Keating admitted during a Thursday news conference that he sometimes

mixes business and politics and that sometimes the state airplane is the mode of travel to such out-of-town events. However, the governor said, those trips made strictly for political reasons will be reimbursed by the campaigns involved. In those instances where the trip also involved state business, he said, no reimbursement will be sought. That's because, he explained, it's impossible to calculate how much flight time was dedicated to the campaign portion of the trip and how much flight time was dedicated to the business part of the trip.

Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa and a critic of state air travel, fired Friday's first shot, saying "Apparently the governor is using what he considers to be his private airplane as a shuttle service."

Roach pointed to six of Keating's trips and alleged the governor "has abused his privilege of traveling at state expense."

In several of the instances cited by Roach, the governor's airplane appears to leave Wiley Post Airport in Oklahoma City more than once for what is often the same destination.

That, Mahoney said, is a problem with the records used by Roach to draw his conclusions, as well as with Roach, who Mahoney said was launching a purely po-

litical attack. The records used by Roach, Mahoney explained, do not accurately reflect the flight logs maintained by the Department of Public Safety. In some instances, he said, the plane was brought back to Oklahoma City for maintenance, training or some other reason deemed appropriate by the department. In other instances, he added, the governor did make two trips to the same city, but only because his schedule required it.

As an example, Mahoney pointed to an April 17 entry that shows the governor flew from Oklahoma City to Tulsa, back to Oklahoma City and then to Tulsa again, before ultimately returning to Oklahoma City again. That, he said, was true, but only because the made a speech in Tulsa in the morning, held a cabinet meeting in Oklahoma City later that day and returned to Tulsa for another state event that evening, before ultimately returning to the state capital.

Also critical of the governor and his trips was Sen. Kevin Easley, D-Broken Arrow. "I hate to say, 'I told you so,' but these are the same concerns I raised when Governor Keating started trying to finagle his own airplane," said Easley. "I figured he was going to turn the state plane into his own little campaign shuttle to take him from one partisan

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### AG TO FILE RESPONSE IN OG&E RATE CASE

From Office of Attorney General

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Attorney General Drew Edmondson said Friday he agrees with OG&E that the company's rates should be reduced, but by at least double the amount OG&E has proposed.

OG&E asked the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to reduce their rates by approximately \$14.2 million per year beginning March 1, 1997.

"We will file testimony in the OG&E case Monday," Edmondson said. "Our expert consultants are still working on a final number, but based on preliminary estimates I expect it to be at least double and as much as four times larger than the reduction OG&E has requested. That would translate to a rate reduction from \$28 million to \$56 million per year."

Edmondson's experts will finalize their testimony over the weekend. Monday is the deadline for parties wishing to file responses to OG&E's request.

"Our responsibility is to make sure Oklahoma ratepayers are paying not one penny more than they should for electrical service," Edmondson said. "We intend to push for as great a rate reduction as the evidence will support."

## REFORM PARTY OF OKLAHOMA MAY TAKE VOTER REGISTRATION CONFLICT TO COURT

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Reform Party of Oklahoma may take its voter registration dispute with the State Election Board to court, a spokeswoman for the recently recognized political party said Friday.

Elissa Meininger, volunteer spokeswoman for the party's Oklahoma affiliate, confirmed that the organization has spoken with legal counsel and is weighing a number of possible alternatives for addressing what party officials described as a possible "sign that we have a disorganized State Election Board that is terribly inefficient."

In a Wednesday press conference, Dale Welch Barlow, chairperson of the Reform Party of Oklahoma, and Libertarian Party candidate Agnes Regier complained that potential voters were being denied the opportunity to register as members of their parties by tag agents, the League of Women Voters and the Republican and Democrat parties. The pair pointed to the state's voter registration form and the unwillingness of the election board to update the form and inform voter registrars of the parties' recognition as underlying causes of the problem.

The form lists only the two major politi-

cal parties as options for new registrants, as well as "no party" or independent.

Election Board Secretary Lance Ward said the Reform and Libertarian parties were not added to the form for two reasons. First, he explained, the parties were recognized in June, when only a few days would be open for new voters to register. Voter registry books were closed from late August to early October because of ongoing elections. The longest time during which new voters could register was the past two week period, he said. Secondly, more than one million voter registration forms were already printed and in the hands of voter registrars, Ward said. That, combined with the possibility that the two parties might not received the required 10 percent of the general election vote to remain recognized political parties, made it impractical to reprint the forms for the short registration period, Ward explained.

While Meininger agreed it would be unwise to reprint the forms under present circumstances, she said it is her party's belief that the election board failed to live up to its promise to properly notify voter registrars of the Reform and Libertarian parties' recognition.

"That's what we were told in the summer that they were going to do," she said.

Barlow suggested Wednesday that a sign that lists the parties in which one could declare membership be provided to voter registrars to help alleviate the problem. Ward rejected that suggestion.

"First of all," Ward explained, "that could

lead to additional problems because most of the members of those parties are already members of the other political parties. They could not change their party affiliation during the current registration period, and I think such an effort would have resulted in a greater level of confusion.

"Additionally, we do not want tag agents or other voter registrars advising those who are registering about what they can or cannot do. We would rather they took the voter registration forms and submitted them to the election board. To do anything more, I think, leaves the door open to even greater confusion."

While Meininger said others in the Reform Party mull possible legal action against the election board, the party's Oklahoma City headquarters has become a haven for those wanting to register under the new party's banner. The group announced Wednesday that it would begin its own effort to register voters.

"Of course, we would hope everyone would join the Reform Party, but we're not just taking registrations from those who do," Meininger said. "In fact, we don't even look at the forms and see how they registered."

## BOREN INTRODUCES NEW CAMPAIGN TOOL

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) His cousin, David, had a broom and a brigade that promised a "clean sweep" of state government. On Friday, Jim Boren unveiled his latest tool in his campaign for the US Senate — what he called the Boren Protective Device Against Inhofe's Untreated Sewage, a bathroom plunger.

Boren, D-Tahlequah, accused Jim Inhofe, the incumbent Republican Senator from Tulsa, of taking their race "into the sewer" by launching what he said were last minute personal attacks designed to prop up his falling poll numbers. The plunger, he explained, was his way of bringing the campaign out of the sewer.

Specifically, Boren took issue with two recent Inhofe television ads. The first, Boren said, attempts to make fun of "fat people with beards." The second commercial takes aim at Boren's writings, which the ad defines as sexist.

The first commercial, Boren joked, "ensures me I'll get the pudgy vote."

Of the second commercial, Boren said,

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## ★★ Important Date ★★

General Election  
Tuesday, November 5

## Capitol Network News

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*Governor's Flights, cont. from page 1* political event to another, and lo and behold, that's just what happened. What it amounts to is Governor Keating using taxpayer dollars to advance his own partisan political agenda."

That view was also shared by Betty McElderry, chairwoman of the Oklahoma Democratic Party, who said, "There are some very serious allegations of abuse of power and misuse of taxpayer funds that must be addressed by legal authorities as soon as possible."

Mahoney disagreed, noting that state law says the Department of Public Safety shall provide the governor and his family with transportation, as well as security.

"You could say that if the governor wanted to go to the moon that the department would have to find a way to take him," joked Mahoney.

## SENATOR CHOSEN AS NEW ENERGY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

From Senate Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Senator Larry Dickerson has been chosen to serve as the 1997 chairman of the Energy Council.



Sen. Larry Dickerson

"This is a tremendous honor, and a wonderful opportunity to bring national attention to some of the issues that are so important to our state," said Dickerson, D-Poteau.

The Energy Council is an organization of state legislators from ten energy producing states and the Province of Alberta. Together they produce more than eighty percent of the oil and gas in the U.S. and Canada.

Senator Dickerson explained that the Energy Council's primary purpose is to participate in the formation of national energy policy, as well as assisting member states and the province in developing energy and environmental policies.

"I think it's important for all of us to remember that the energy industry is still a vi-

tal part of Oklahoma's economy. In 1995, the total economic impact of the oil and gas industry in our state alone was about \$4.09 billion," noted Dickerson.

However Senator Dickerson said he was concerned that instead of finding greater incentives to increase domestic energy production, the U.S. has become far too willing to rely more heavily on imported oil.

"We must not allow our country's economy and our national security to be held hostage by events in the middle-east. But without a more aggressive energy policy to protect and stimulate our domestic production, we're leaving ourselves wide-open to that possibility," said Senator Dickerson.

"But there's still a great deal we can do to prevent that from happening. For example this last session, we passed Senate Bill 911, which gave tax relief to marginal wells. We also need to do more to continue to stimulate coal production in Oklahoma, another important component of our energy industry," said Dickerson.

Dickerson, who has served in Oklahoma's Senate since 1986, won the unanimous support of his fellow legislators at the Council's 1996 annual meeting in Tulsa. "Senator Dickerson knows energy and its importance to producing states like those in the Council. Oklahoma was one of the founding members of the Council over 20 years ago and Larry Dickerson carries on a proud tradition of Council leadership from his state," said Louisiana Senator Chris Ullo, the outgoing Chairman.

A long-time member of the Council's Executive Committee, Senator Dickerson chairs the Oklahoma Senate's Appropriation Subcommittee on General Government and Transportation. He also sits on a number of other committees, including the Energy, Environmental Resources and Regulatory Affairs Committee.

*"Liberty is to faction what air is to fire, an ailment without which it instantly expires. But it could not be less folly to abolish liberty, which is essential to political life, because it nourishes faction, than it would be to wish annihilation of air, which is essential to animal life, because it imparts to fire its destructive agency."*

James Madison  
'The Federalist'  
Nov. 22, 1787

## INNOVATION WORKSHOP TO HELP OKLAHOMA ENTREPRENEURS

From Oklahoma Dept. of Commerce

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The National Innovation Workshop "Making Invention Pay" will be held next Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18 and 19, 1996 at the Hilton Inn Northwest, 2945 NW Expressway in Oklahoma City.

Coordinated by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, this workshop is a cooperative effort of federal and regional programs to provide practical guidance and information to innovative businesses, entrepreneurs and inventors.

Kathy Bowles, Program Planner for the Commerce Department, said the generally perceived need to improve America's industrial competitiveness has resulted in increased interest in contributions to technology and business of independent inventors and innovators. "The fact is, without significant support, chances are slim that an individual inventor will move an idea from the workshop to fruition. Through a wide range of individual workshops, 'Making Invention Pay' will help entrepreneurs bring their ideas to the marketplace," explained Bowles.

The workshop features lectures and panel discussions on the invention and innovation process including such topics as "Protecting your Idea," "Commercializing Your Invention," "Licensing" and "Starting a New Business." Featured presenters include economic development author and speaker G. Douglas Fox, computer entrepreneur Rick Martin and entertainer Gene McFall presenting "The Witty World of Will Rogers." Resources on technical and business data, and federal, state and local programs that provide assistance for inventors will be available.

One assistance program to be highlighted is the Energy-Related Inventions Program (ERIP), a joint venture of the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. ERIP was established in 1974 to nourish the technological creativity that small businesses and independent inventors might bring to bear on the country's energy problems. Since 1975, the ERIP staff has assisted more than 600 inventors. An ERIP assistance package can take many forms, ranging from an evaluation to a full-scale package including grants which currently average about \$80,000.

For more information regarding the National Innovation Workshop, please call Kathy Bowles, Oklahoma Department of Commerce at 1-800-879-6552 or (405) 841-5267.

## Boren, continued from page 2

"I wrote that to ridicule the sexism of men like Jim Inhofe — men who treat women like objects, men who do not believe in equal pay for equal work and men just like Jim Inhofe who would make criminals of women for wanting the right to control their own bodies."

Boren described the book to which Inhofe's commercial referred, *When In Doubt, Mumble*, as a work of satire designed to make people "laugh, think and take action."

"It's been through 11 printings," Boren added. "If I'd known Jim Inhofe was going to bring it up during the campaign I would have had some more printed."

Without being specific, Boren, who vowed he would win the race, said, "Polls all over Oklahoma and the country now show this race to be a dead heat and I haven't even begun my television and radio ads."

Asked by Capitol Network News whether the forthcoming ads would be satirical or straightforward in nature, Boren said, "They will be issue oriented. I want to deal with issues, not with irrelevancies."

## STEPS TAKEN TO ENSURE RURAL INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY FOR EDUCATION

### From US Dept. of Agriculture

■ (WASHINGTON) In order to help America's schools and libraries gain access to the information superhighway, the Clinton Administration on Thursday called for free basic telecommunications connections for every K-12 school and library in the country. This special plan called the E-rate, or education rate, provides a framework for ensuring that access to these services for schools and libraries is affordable and that no area is left

out of the information revolution.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Commerce Department and the Department of Education proposed the plan in a filing to the Federal Communications Commission and the Joint Board of Universal Service.

Earlier this week, Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced \$7.5 million in grants to help rural schools and health care facilities buy end-user equipment to connect hundreds of thousands of rural residents to the information superhighway. The E-rate would ensure that telecommunications transmission charges for schools and libraries in rural areas and throughout the country would be affordable.

The E-rate plan is flexible, market-based, technology neutral, invites competition, protects universal service, and reflects the changing needs of schools and libraries. It is a two-tiered approach that in its first tier proposes a basic package of services be made available to all schools and libraries at no cost to them. Telecommunications ser-

vice providers would be reimbursed from the already existing universal support system. The basic package includes Internet access, sufficient bandwidth to support educational needs, and brings that connection into the school or library. In the second tier, a bidding process would allow schools and libraries to purchase additional services at deeply discounted rates — the ceiling for these bids would be the best commercially available rates in that region or state. Inside wiring, or networking, may be included in this tier. The plan also provides additional discounts for low-income and high-cost areas to have access to these services.

Today's filing was made in response to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the matter of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (CC Docket No. 96-45). Copies of the filing are available via Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/home/home.htm>. or by calling the Rural Utilities Service Office of Public Affairs at (202) 720-1363.

## TWELVE NEW RESEARCH CONSERVATION AREAS ANNOUNCED

### From US Dept. of Agriculture

■ (WASHINGTON) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced on Wednesday the formation of 12 new Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas in 12 states.

The 12 new areas join 277 existing areas and the more than 20,000 volunteers who annually contribute their time and resources to solve the environmental, economic, and social problems facing their communities.

Under this interagency program, USDA provides a coordinator who establishes a full-time office in each RC&D area. The coordinator works closely with local people, volunteers, and RC&D councils to plan, develop, and secure funding for a wide variety of projects.

"The RC&D areas have been extremely successful in achieving a balance between rural economic development and natural resource protection," Glickman said.

RC&D is led by local citizen councils composed of people from the private sector, local organizations, and units of government. Their program activities are initiated and directed by volunteers. Their customers have a major voice in how the program activities are carried out in their respective communities.

The program recognizes the growing awareness on the part of America's national and community leaders that local areas can best control their local economies and destinies, as well as the conservation and wise use of their natural resources.

Last year, Glickman said, RC&D areas helped create 164 new businesses and expanded 298 existing ones — an effort that resulted in 3,200 jobs. At the same time, the areas improved more than 40,000 acres of wildlife habitat, 56,000 acres of lakes, and 2,500 miles of streams.

## WEEKLY UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS DOWN

### From US Dept. of Labor

■ (WASHINGTON) In the week ending Oct. 5, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 319,000, a decrease of 22,000 from the previous week's revised figure of 341,000. The 4-week moving average was 332,250, a decrease of 2,500 from the previous week's revised average of 334,750.

The advance seasonally adjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.2 percent for the week ending Sept. 28, unchanged from the prior week's unrevised rate of 2.2 percent.

The advance number for seasonally adjusted insured unemployment during the week ending Sept. 28 was 2,501,000, an increase of 47,000 from the preceding week's revised level of 2,454,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,462,000, a decrease of 21,500 from the preceding week's revised average of 2,483,500.

### UNADJUSTED DATA

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 288,951 in the week ending Oct. 5, an increase of 27,686 from the previous week. There were 345,311 initial claims in the comparable week in 1995.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending Sept. 28, unchanged from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state

programs totaled 2,003,657, a decrease of 15,679 from the preceding week. A year earlier, the rate was 1.9 percent and the volume was 2,092,237.

Extended benefits were not available in any state during the week ending Sept. 21.

Initial claims for UI benefits by former Federal civilian employees totaled 1,886 in the week ending Sept. 28, a decrease of 179 from the prior week. There were 2,209 initial claims by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 74 from the preceding week.

There were 25,270 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending Sept. 21, a decrease of 1,895 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 22,836, a decrease of 227 from the prior week.

The highest insured unemployment rates in the week ending Sept. 21 were in Puerto Rico (7.0 percent), Alaska (3.4), Rhode Island (3.1), California (3.0), Hawaii (2.6), New Jersey (2.6), Washington (2.6), Oregon (2.4), Pennsylvania (2.4), and Arkansas (2.3).

The largest increases in initial claims for the week ending Sept. 28 were in Tennessee (+1,381), Michigan (+883), Oklahoma (+747), Illinois and Iowa (+697), while the largest decreases were in North Carolina (-4,591), Puerto Rico (-3,574), Georgia (-1,550), Florida (-1,205), and South Carolina (-1,098).

# That's Good for Oklahoma!®

## OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROMOTES INNOVATION

(GIT) One need only look at computer stores' advertisements to see the speed at which technology is developing and becoming a part of American's day-to-day lives. Keeping pace in one's personal and professional life can be a chore.

The same can be said for the state and its economy. Without some efforts to promote technological development, Oklahoma could fall behind other states in the number of technology-based firms doing business from within its borders.

That's where the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST) comes in.

Created in 1987, OCAST is designed to build the infrastructure of expertise and equipment needed to conduct nationally competitive research and development in Oklahoma and to stimulate state-based firms applying and producing technology.

The center has aggressively pursued that charge.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Because of the breadth of technological development and research in the country, one program alone is not enough to satisfy the various needs of the involved businesses. That means the Oklahoma Center for Science and Technology must use a variety of programs and services to meet the companies' needs.

The center's Health Research Program aims to stimulate research and development support in the key area of human health by competitively awarding seed funds to for one to three-year projects investigating the causes, diagnoses, treatment and prevention of human diseases and disabilities. The program also endeavors to facilitate the development of health care products. Awards enable projects to make the progress necessary to obtain additional federal or private financial support.

In the technology field, the Applied Research Program builds research and development infrastructures in key technology areas and encourages Oklahoma firms to apply and produce technology by competitively awarding matching funds to support collaborative research and development with technical merit, commercial promise and the potential to stimulate economic growth.

The University of Oklahoma's Rock Mechanics Research Center, another part of OCAST's efforts, builds research and development infrastructures in a technology area which is key to the oil and gas industry. It also encourages the application of technology by independent Oklahoma producers. The center receives \$300,000 each year from OCAST, the National Science Foundation and a consortium of 20 companies to perform collaborative research and development on oil and gas exploration involving adverse geologic formations.

Building on OCAST's Technology Access Program, the Technology Commercialization Initiative will increase the number, suc-

cess and growth of technology-oriented firms in Oklahoma by giving them access to pre-venture services and seed financing.

The Oklahoma Industrial Extension System encourages Oklahoma manufacturers to apply technology. It is a coordinated network of public and private resources, the purpose of which is to

assist small and medium-sized manufacturers to

gain the ability to compete success-

fully at progressively higher levels of value-added

in the national and international economy. The system is coordinated by a private, non-profit organization, the Oklahoma Alliance of Manufacturing Excellence. Using state, federal and private funds, the Alliance contracts with state and local agencies to deliver modernization services to manufacturers, including assistance with applying technology. OCAST administers state and federal contracts with the Alliance which provides funding for the system.

The Small Business Research Assistance Programs promote Oklahoma firms producing technology by encouraging small Oklahoma businesses to apply for federal Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer grants. The federal grants are designed to promote small business research, development and technology commercialization.

### MEASURING SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

With such a large number of programs aimed at a variety of areas, OCAST has found success in every area. Since its creation nine years ago, OCAST has:

- ✓ Attracted \$3.53 of private and federal money with every \$1 of state appropriations received;
- ✓ Generated a total investment in Oklahoma research, development and technology application of more than \$326 billion;
- ✓ Produced 96 patents and licenses awarded and pending, with a total estimated value of \$1 billion;
- ✓ Helped more than 500 Oklahoma businesses develop and apply new or existing technology;
- ✓ Generated 3,600 publications in refereed journals;
- ✓ Created four research and development centers in areas important to key state industries — integrated design and manufacturing, molecular medicine, rock mechanics and lasers; and
- ✓ Created an Oklahoma Industrial Extension System, linking the state's 300 small and medium-sized manufacturers to modernization resources they need to compete successfully at progressively higher levels of value added in the international market.

### MEASURING SUCCESS BY THE STORIES

There's more to OCAST's success than simply numbers. The stories behind the numbers are perhaps more telling of the center's successful development efforts.

Consider the center's help in redeveloping the state's infrastructure with what some would consider a part of history.

In an effort to address the problem of the state's crumbling infrastructure, where as many as 60 percent of Oklahoma's rural bridges are reported to be in need of immediate replacement at a time when local resources are stretched to the limit, wooden bridges are making a comeback thanks in part to OCAST.

Steve Anderson, Ph.D. and an Oklahoma State University Extension Forester, thinks he has a solution to the rural bridge problem, made possible in large part by a two-year \$172,000 award from OCAST to demonstrate how timber bridges can be used to replace old concrete structures rendered useless by age.

The OCAST award, as required, was matched by support from sources other than state government.

"Thanks to new technology, timber bridges can be constructed that cost 25 to 30 percent less than concrete structures," said Anderson. The wooden bridges have a higher tonnage capacity, are less susceptible to corrosion and can be repaired by county workers with existing equipment.

Researchers used Oklahoma-grown pine, cottonwood and oak trees to produce test timbers for the innovative approach to a unique but widespread problem. Scientific

expertise available from OSU, coupled with the private sector know-how of Timber King, Inc., of Seminole, will produce the low cost answer to the problem.

In a completely different arena, patients across the country and physicians around the world are calling Oklahoma to schedule treatment for a congenital heart defect known as supraventricular tachycardia.

What these people are calling about is a new heart treatment known as radio frequency catheter ablation, and the person they're calling is Dr. Warren Jackman, an Oklahoma physician who developed the new procedure.

The treatment is considered an innovative, safe and reliable method for correcting the defect. One form of arrhythmia (tachycardia) is caused by an extra and unneeded muscle strand in the heart. Acting as a conductor, the extra strand allows electrical impulses generated by the heart to continue irregularly rather than be extinguished as they are in normal heart function. Dr. Jackman uses a radio frequency catheter procedure to locate and ablate (evaporate) a small section of the muscle strand, permanently stopping the unwanted conduction of electrical impulses.

Prior to Dr. Jackman's development, patients normally underwent lifelong and only partially successful drug therapy heart surgery. The catheter treatment corrects the problem while eliminating long hospital

stays, extended recovery periods, risks and significant costs associated with heart surgery. Patients treated by Dr. Jackman and his team are generally released from the hospital 48 hours after the procedure and can immediately return to normal activities. There is virtually no pain during or after the treatment.

Research and initial evaluation procedures undertaken by Dr. Jackman were made possible by a three-year Oklahoma Health Research Program award from OCAST. This \$90,000 investment is now generating approximately \$2 million in procedure fee income per year for Oklahoma Memorial Hospital, 80 percent of which comes from out-of-state patients.

There are many other projects to which the Oklahoma Center for Science and Technology has lent a hand and helped to generate success. In a few short years and through its wide variety of specifically targeted programs, however, the center has produced both numbers and stories of significant success all in the course of pursuing its objective of building the state's infrastructure of expertise and equipment to conduct nationally competitive research and development and to stimulate Oklahoma firms apply and producing technology.

## THAT'S GOOD FOR OKLAHOMA!!

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY

## AWARDS

### RECIPIENTS OF THE 1996 OKLAHOMA QUALITY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Governor Frank Keating last Friday announced that Eaton Corporation of Shawnee and the Bone and Joint Hospital of Oklahoma City are recipients of the 1996 Oklahoma Quality Award. The Governor presented the awards in a special ceremony held in the State Capitol Blue Room.

The Oklahoma Quality Award was given in recognition of each company's leadership and commitment to quality products, services and customer satisfaction.

Eaton Corporation's Shawnee plant is one of the world's foremost manufacturers of hydraulic motors and components. In addition to being a world class example in the use of cellular manufacturing techniques, the Eaton plant and its 380 employees are leading corporate citizens in Shawnee and surrounding communities. In a time of highly competitive challenges, this plant is committed to a process of continually improving that relies on total involvement of all its employees.

The Bone and Joint Hospital in Oklahoma City, a subsidiary of SSM Health Care of Oklahoma, is a 102 bed, not-for-profit hospital with 300 employees, specializing in orthopedic surgery, arthritis care, and comprehensive medial rehabilitation. Bone and Joint Hospital is nationally renowned for excellence in Orthopedics. The hospital is a leader in joint replacement surgery and orthopedic procedures. As a member of one of the most rapidly changing industries in the nation, the Bone and Joint Hospital has embraced the quality movement as a means

of improving processes, and thereby improving outcomes and customer satisfaction.

On February 4, 1997 these companies will be presented at the "Design for Success" conference at the Marriot Hotel in Oklahoma City. For more information contact Mike Strong at 405-815-5295 or write PO Box 26980, Oklahoma City, OK 73126-0980.

—THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
10/07/96

### FALLIN PRESENTS QUALITY OKLAHOMA TEAM AWARDS

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Lt. Governor Mary Fallin presented awards of recognition to state employees selected as Quality Teams, October 9, at a ceremony in the Blue Room at the State Capitol.

The ceremony honored 24 Quality Teams from various state agencies in Oklahoma. October is National Quality Month. October 9 was proclaimed "Quality Oklahoma Team Day '96" in Oklahoma. Teams were recognized by a gubernatorial proclamation for their high degree of professionalism and the valuable public services they provide.

Fallin recognized top teams during the Blue Room ceremony. The State of Oklahoma reports that 197 Quality Teams completed projects resulting in more than \$16 million in total savings, including cost savings, cost avoidance and increased revenue.

—OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR  
10/09/96

## CORRECTIONS

### SUPREME COURT INTERVENES IN PRISON SUIT

■(GIT) The US Supreme Court on Monday intervened in the 24-year-old lawsuit that effectively placed Oklahoma's prison system under federal control.

Acting on an appeal by the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office, the Court told the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to reexamine the lawsuit in the context of a new law aimed at limiting the scope of federal intervention in state prison systems, tossing out a 10th Circuit order requiring the state to submit evidence of its compliance with federal court mandates on prison conditions.

The Attorney General's office appealed to the Supreme Court earlier this year after the circuit court ordered the evidentiary hearings aimed at determining whether the state

was in compliance with its earlier orders.

That issue — whether Oklahoma has ever been found in compliance with the federal court's orders — lies at the heart of the suit. Attorney General Drew Edmondson maintains that the state was found to be in compliance with the federal court's orders in 1983 and that it should be released from the suit. Attorney Louis Bullock, however, argues that the state was never in compliance and that the federal district court found violations of its orders in 1983.

The suit dates back to 1972 when inmate Bobby Battle alleged he was being treated cruelly and unusually at McAlester's Oklahoma State Penitentiary. The case was later expanded to a class action suit and other inmates were added as plaintiffs. In 1974, the federal government intervened and a federal district court ruled that the prison system was violating constitutional protections against cruel and unusual punishment. Three years later, overcrowding was added to the list of constitutional violations and significant changes were mandated by the court, effectively placing it in control of the state prison system.

In the early 1980s, the court took its involvement a step further, ordering the closing of cellhouses at OSP and Oklahoma State Reformatory in Granite. In 1983, the case was finally dismissed.

Earlier this year, Bullock went to federal district court alleging the state was violating the court's orders by housing prisoners in the condemned cellhouses. US District Judge Michael Burrage in Muskogee decided Sept. 26 to move up a hearing on the matter from Dec. 2 to Oct. 15 after Bullock argued that there was an urgent need to get the issue of prisoner safety before the court.

Burrage will also hear arguments Dec. 2 over whether female prisoners at the Mabel Bassett Correctional Center, located in Oklahoma City, can be triple-celled. The Tulsa attorney claims such a move would induce violence among the inmates.

Additionally, the 10th Circuit Court has helped to keep the suit alive, despite rulings from US District Judge Frank Seay, who was ordered removed from the case by the circuit court earlier this year. Seay had ruled that the case should be dismissed and that the federal injunctions should be dissolved. Also helping to keep the suit alive has been

*Continued on next page*

*"While people and their opinions always deserve the greatest respect, the opinions adopted by parties (which are typically instruments of personal advancement and power, with all the chances for intrigue which this implies) are not to be identified with ordinary human opinions: they are ideologies."*

*Sir Karl Popper  
'Popper on Democracy'  
The Economist, april 23, 1988*

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



President Bill Clinton's administration, which filed a brief in August urging the Supreme Court not to hear the case and supporting the 10th Circuit Court in its evidentiary hearing order.

Under the terms of the Prison Litigation and Reform Act passed by Congress earlier this year and signed by President Clinton in April, Oklahoma should be released from the 1972 lawsuit, Assistant Attorney General Guy Hurst argued in a brief submitted to the Supreme Court. The act, which was included in an appropriations bill, requires that federal injunctions be terminated when conditions become constitutional.

The Attorney General's Office maintains that if inmates want to allege instances of maltreatment that they must do so in new lawsuits, rather than relying on the previous case. That, Edmondson argues, means the new suits would be judged under different standards than those applied to the Battle case.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/08/96

## JUDGE CANCELS PRISON HEARING; DECISIONS MAY IMPACT PRISON PLANS

■(GIT) A hearing scheduled for next week to address questions related to the safety of prisoners incarcerated in Department of Corrections facilities was cancelled by a federal judge, Tuesday.

US District Judge Michael Burrage of the Eastern District of Oklahoma, ordered the Oct. 15 hearing struck, after the US Supreme Court issued a ruling Monday ordering the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to reexamine a 24-year-old lawsuit against the state prison system.

The order also affects a hearing set for Dec. 2 concerning triple-celling inmates at the Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in Oklahoma City.

Monday, the US Supreme Court ordered the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals to reexamine its latest ruling related to the suit in the context of a new law aimed at limiting the scope of the federal government's intervention in state prison system. The order tossed out a previous decision of the circuit court which would have required Oklahoma officials to submit evidence of its compliance with federal mandates on prison conditions.

Oklahoma maintains the state was in compliance with federal mandates in 1983

and should be released from the requirements resulting from the lawsuit, while Bullock argues the state has never been in compliance with the orders.

The Supreme Court's decision was hailed by state officials, who hope the decision will put an end to the lawsuit.

"We will now be back before the 10th Circuit, arguing that all of the injunctions and orders in the case should be dissolved, once and for all," said Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson.

When that decision will be reached is not clear, said Edmondson, who said he could not speculate on a time schedule for the circuit court's review of its previous decision. However, he noted, the circuit court has previously expedited hearings related to the case.

Also unclear is what impact the Supreme Court's decision, and ultimately that of the circuit court, will have on state officials' plans to address prison issues during the upcoming legislative session.

Lawmakers from both parties have pledged to address a plethora of prison issues, including funding, overcrowding, the early release of some inmates and sentencing.

"We're checking on it to see what impact it might have," John Cox, Governor Frank Keating's press secretary, said Tuesday.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/09/96

## EDUCATION

### GARRETT SAYS PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE EXISTS

■(GIT) State Superintendent Sandy Garrett said recently many parents and students have the option of school choice each year, with permission of local school districts.

Last school year, Garrett said, 28,453 students received transfers from their home district to another district. More than 175,000 student transfers have been awarded since the 1990-91 school year, Garrett said.

Reasons for transfer range from grades and subjects not being offered to special services or programs needed. Approval must be given by both school district boards, except in certain circumstances.

"Transfers are a local option," Garrett said. "Many school districts routinely grant

transfers, while some districts do not." Changes in legal guardianship of a student may mean a change in the student's school district. Some school districts don't grant transfers because of current class size and space considerations, Garrett said.

"It is important for parents to remember there are always options for their children," Garrett said. "The number of parents who take advantage of these transfers each year indicate a school system that is accessible and responsive."

HB2317 and the task force on school residency are attempting to establish guidelines for deciding where students should go to school. Transfers for students with a change in guardianship, or students who need special help are on the rise, making transfers for other reasons subject to available space, Asst. Superintendent of Sand Springs Schools, Jim Johnson said last week at the task force meeting.

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/07/96

### OKLAHOMA SCHOOL AMONG GRANT RECIPIENTS

■(WASHINGTON) An Oklahoma school will receive part of a \$7.5 million grant to help rural schools and health care facilities launch thousands of rural residents on the information superhighway. The grants will serve 21 states and one U.S. territory.

The Southwest Oklahoma Tele-Education Consortium (SOTEC) in Frederick, OK, was awarded a \$79,000 grant to assist with a proposed interactive television (ITV) network enabling ten schools to expand curriculums, work together and explore new teaching methods in a four county area. The rural communities are expected to benefit from: shared curriculums; local technical and higher educational opportunities; and local access to business conferences and down-linking of business and commerce information.

These grants provide opportunities to 178,000 students in 154 schools and universities to enhance medical care using modern telecommunications facilities at 62 medical sites serving 1.7 million people. Applicants must also supplement these federal funds with either state, local or private money to create a stronger, more community-supported project.

This is the fourth year of this competitive grant program administered by the Ru-

*Continued on next page*

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

ral Utilities Service, an agency of USDA. Since 1993 this program has provided 119 grants totaling \$35 million to rural schools, hospitals and medical clinics in 39 states and one territory.

—US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
10/09/96

## GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

### STATE BOND ADVISOR PREPARES IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

■(GIT) Governor Frank Keating will be asked before the end of the year to consider signing off on a plan to significantly improve state-owned facilities.

That plan, State Bond Advisor Jim Joseph said, is currently being developed and should be ready for the governor's review by Dec. 1.

"We asked all the state agencies in February to submit their lists of needs to us by July," said Joseph. "We have almost all of that information collected and put together and plan to submit it to the governor by Dec. 1."

The plan, Joseph said, will then be put before lawmakers for their consideration. Its first stop will likely be in the Senate's Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee, led by Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa.

"There are a lot of needs the state just simply hasn't met over the years for one reason or another," explained Joseph. "The time is fast approaching, however, where the state has to dedicate resources to fund the repair and maintenance of its facilities."

One of the problems Joseph said that he sees is that some of the facilities are removed from the public, making it harder to generate interest in making the improvements.

One such example is the Department of Corrections, where the general public's contact is extremely limited.

"Setting aside the policy debate over whether to use the state's own facilities, build new prisons or rely on private prisons, the

Department of Corrections has a tremendous number of needs simply because of the age of some of its facilities," said Joseph. "But that's something that is going to be tough to sell the public on."

The same, Joseph said, is true of a number of state agencies and their facilities across the state.

Through the years, Joseph said, two things have exacerbated the problem.

"When money is tight," he explained, "capital improvements are the first thing to be cut. Everyone thinks they can continue 'to get by,' but what happens is that they end up creating a bigger problem the longer they delay addressing the problem."

Another problem, Joseph said, is that unlike other states, Oklahoma has no standing authority to issue debt.

"We have to guarantee any debt with issue with a specific revenue source," he explained, "and that requires legislative action."

Plenty of revenue, Joseph added, is available from the state's cigarette tax, which generates from \$58 million to \$68 million annually. Only \$27.5 million of that money is already dedicated to retiring existing debt, said Joseph, adding that the remainder of the money is funneled into the state's general fund.

"The only solution then," Joseph said, "is to go to the voters and ask for a dedicated tax to fund major maintenance and repair. Hopefully, we can win approval to do that during the next session."

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/07/96

### ROBERTS' CAMPAIGN SCRUTINIZED BY REPUBLICANS

■(GIT) In a news release issued late Monday, Maria Cino, executive director of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) said a complaint will be filed with the Federal Election Commission (FEC) that Darryl Roberts, candidate for the U.S. House of Rep. from District 3, "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.

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 press release 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."

"Once a complaint is filed with the FEC," Roberts said, "it is forbidden to talk about it. They did this several months ago and then never filed a complaint," he added.

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/07/96

### OKLAHOMANS WITH DISABILITIES ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER AND VOTE

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Studies indicate that less than half of eligible U.S. citizens actually vote in elections. As a result, those who do not participate allow those who do to determine the outcome for everyone.

Among Oklahoma voters, more than 625,650, or 19.4 percent, are people with disabilities, according to estimates based on the 1990 United States Census. Although some people with disabilities do vote, many are not represented at the polls.

"Exercising your right to vote is a critical first step in ensuring that disability issues are brought to the attention of state and federal elected officials," said Linda Parker, Department of Rehabilitation Services director.

Those who want to register in time for the general election on Nov. 5 can now register at businesses where they buy car tags and renew drivers' licenses. Citizens must submit voter registration applications 24 days prior to elections — in other words, no later than Oct. 11 for the presidential election.

Election officials are working to eliminate barriers that prevent voters with disabilities from entering polling places. If a voter knows in advance that an assigned polling place is not accessible, the voter may ask the county election board to assign an accessible polling location. If a voter with a disability, other than a visual impairment, discovers barriers to entering a polling location on election day, two precinct officials will bring the precinct registry and ballots outside to the voter.

*Continued on next page*

*"Nowdays, for the sake of the advantage which is to be gained from the public revenues and from office, men want to be always in office."*

Aristotle  
'Politics'  
ca. 325 B.C.

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

Voters can get official absentee application forms from the state or county election boards. The completed absentee ballots must be returned by mail to the election board in the county where the voters live.

Voters who become incapacitated after 5 p.m. on Tuesday preceding an election can get an absentee ballot through special emergency procedures.

—OKLA. DEPT. FOR REHABILITATIVE SERVICES  
10/07/96

## REFORM, LIBERTARIAN PARTIES COMPLAIN ABOUT REGISTRATION PROCESS

■(GIT) State members of the Reform and Libertarian parties complained Tuesday that potential Oklahoma voters were being denied the opportunity to register to vote as members of their parties.

"We are shocked and angered that many voters that are attempting to register as a member of the Reform or Libertarian parties are being turned away at the Oklahoma tag agencies, the League of Women voters and the Democratic and Republican headquarters," Reform Party state chairwoman Dale Welch Barlow said in a state capitol press conference on Tuesday. "Potential voters are being told that the Reform and Libertarian parties do not exist under Oklahoma law, which is false. Both parties were recognized as official parties in June, 1996."

Despite the parties' recognition, voter registration cards have not been reprinted. As a result, potential voters see only the names of the Republican and Democratic parties on the form, as well as 'no party,' as options for party registration.

"Is it collusion between the Democratic and Republican parties, or is it a sign that we have a disorganized State Election Board that is terribly inefficient?" she asked. "This situation is a slap in the face to any volunteer that took four months of their lives to get 78,000 voters to sign their petition to get

the Reform Party recognized in the state of Oklahoma."

Barlow said she was unaware of the problem until her office in Tulsa recently began receiving calls from potential voters who had been told they could not declare their membership in the party when registering to vote.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Libertarian Party candidate Agnes Regier, who is one of five candidates seeking the US Senate seat.

Members of both parties went so far as to tape record their conversations with voter registrars, specifically tag agents, as they denied them the opportunity to register as members of those parties.

Barlow and Regier said they would file a letter of complaint with State Election Board chairman Lance Ward regarding the situation. They also said they would ask that the election board fax a list of political parties in which registering voters could declare themselves members. Additionally, both women said their parties would begin voter registration drives of their own in an effort to bring more Reform and Libertarian members onto the rolls.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/08/96

## HOUSE GOP LEADER CALLS FOR OPENING OF SOME ELECTIONS

■(GIT) The ranking Republican in the state House of Representatives proposed Monday partially opening some of Oklahoma's closed primary elections, renewing an idea he has previously advanced without success.

"Every two years, voters somewhere in Oklahoma are disenfranchised by our rigid voting laws," said Rep. Larry Ferguson, R-Cleveland.

Under Oklahoma's closed primary system, Democrats can vote only for Democratic Party candidates, and Republicans can vote only for GOP candidates. State voters can cross party lines only at the invitation of another party or absent such an invitation, in the general election.

As an example of the first instance, Oklahoma's independent voters won the right to participate in a primary in August when the Libertarian Party invited independents to cast their ballots in the race that selected the Libertarian nominee in the US Senate race. According to State Election Board Secretary Lance Ward, the move marked the first time in the state's history

such an invitation had been made.

To eliminate such limits, Ferguson proposes:

✓ That if one political party has two candidates for an office but the other party has no candidate for the post, skipping the primary election and automatically advancing the candidates to the general election, where all voters would be allowed to vote for the candidates; and

✓ That if one political party has more than two candidates for an office and no other political party has a nominee for that office, thinning the field of contenders to two in a traditional closed primary in which only voters of the candidates' party would be allowed to participate and then placing the top two vote-getters names on the general election ballot, where all voters would be allowed to cast ballots.

"Too many times, too many people are locked out of elections that affect them," the House Minority Leader said.

As an example, Ferguson pointed to a recent Pawnee County Sheriff's election in which 2,400 Democrats elected the chief law enforcement officer for the 15,575 residents of the county, which is located in his district. That, he said, deprived the 3,190 Republicans and 370 registered independents in the county of an opportunity to vote for sheriff.

The closed primary system also "distorts voter registration," said Ferguson, explaining that many times a voter will register under the banner of a locally dominant political party instead of the party that voter really prefers, just to be able to vote in races which the voter deems especially important.

"This is not about political advantage," said Ferguson, "since Democrats and Republicans alike would benefit from my plan. It's about fairness to the voters. I think it is time the Democrats did what is morally right and supported this proposal."

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/08/96

## COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE VOTE TO SELL TOBACCO STOCK

■(GIT) Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO) voted to sell \$4.2 million in tobacco stocks Tuesday at the regular meeting. Secretary Rob Johnson recommended to commissioners that the stock be sold by March

*Continued on next page*

*"Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgement; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion."*

Edmund Burke  
speech to the electors of Bristol  
Nov. 3, 1774

# 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-

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*"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

# 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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# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



sions — Limiting cash assistance to five years.

“At the present time,” Miller explained, “there is no national tracking system for welfare recipients. There’s no real way to share up-to-date information across state lines. One thing that’s common among some welfare recipients is that they are a mobile population, so I don’t see how the federal government plans to enforce that provision.”

Miller said he hopes Oklahoma can answer some of its questions about the reform plan before the end of the year. To do that, Miller said, he is calling up an advisory group of 85 people who met last year and produced “Oklahoma Works Together: Block Grant Project Resource Document.”

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/07/96

## CARDS REPLACE FOOD STAMPS IN MARCH

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Paper food stamps will be replaced with plastic debit cards in Oklahoma, next year, State Rep. Bill Case, R-Midwest City, said Friday. In addition, recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) will be able to use their cards to get cash benefits at automatic bank-teller machines rather than having to wait for checks in the mail, Dee Fones, Department of Human Services EBT project manager, added.

Called the Electronics Benefits Transfer (EBT), the program will be introduced first in Oklahoma County in March 1997, and phased in statewide by the end of the year Case said.

With the new program, food-stamp recipients can make food purchases with a plastic, magnetic-stripe “swipe” card similar to an ATM or credit card, instead of paper coupons, Case said. Purchases made with the card will be counted against a user’s food-stamp account electronically.

After its introduction in Oklahoma County next March, the EBT will be implemented in Canadian, Cleveland, Logan and Pottawatomie counties next May. Tulsa and surrounding counties will begin the services in June and south-central counties will start using the cards in July. The rest of Oklahoma will be phased in through the following months until the whole state is using the program by November 1997.

Half of the \$30 million cost of the seven-year EBT contract will be paid by the fed-

eral government. Contractor Lockheed Martin is responsible for providing and maintaining EBT hardware in more than 3,000 retail grocery and convenience stores in Oklahoma and for training clients to use the cards Fones said.

Despite the initial outlay, the system is expected to cut costs and curb fraud in several ways Case said. Fones added that “safeguards are built into the system.”

For example, in the past, food stamps were a hot black-market item. Recipients could sell their food stamps and claim they were lost or stolen to receive a new supply. With the card, a new personal identification number (pin) will be issued if the card is replaced, and the old card will be disabled.

More than 333,000 Oklahomans on public welfare rolls will be affected by the debit card system Fones added.

—HOUSE MEDIA  
10/07/96

## MENTAL ILLNESS INSURANCE PARITY TASK FORCE EXAMINES OTHER STATES

■(GIT) Other states’ laws related to mental illness insurance parity were the focus Thursday of the Task Force on Mental Illness Insurance Coverage.

The task force, chaired by Sen. Angela Monson, D-Tulsa, briefly examined four states’ laws designed to promote parity of coverage between medical/surgical insurance and mental illness insurance. The goal of the task force is to make legislative recommendations designed to bring mental illness insurance coverage on par with other forms of insurance coverage, particularly medical and surgical insurance coverage.

House staffer Claudia Durrell told the panel that the states — Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire and Minnesota — vary in their approaches to the definition of mental illness and the amount of parity required by their laws.

Maine and New Hampshire, Durrell explained, limit their required coverage to only “biologically based mental illnesses,” while Maryland and Minnesota also have provisions related to emotional disorders and substance abuse or chemical dependency.

The costs of the required coverage also varies from state-to-state, the House staffer noted.

In addition, a mental illness parity provision recently enacted by Congress was

addressed. That provision, part of HR3666, prohibits group health insurance plans that already have mental illness components from having financial differentials between that coverage and the other forms of coverage, particularly medical and surgical, included in the plan.

Monson said it is her hope that the next meeting, which will include testimony from representatives of the business community, the psychiatric community and the insurance industry, will help lay the groundwork for the panel’s legislative recommendations. That meeting will be held on the morning of Oct. 31 at a site to be announced.

Two additional meetings are also planned — Nov. 14 and Dec. 16. During the November meeting, Monson said she will ask the panel to put together its final recommendations for legislative action. The Dec. 16 meeting will be dedicated to completing that effort and preparing the recommendations for submission to the legislature by the panel’s legislatively-imposed Jan. 2 deadline.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/10/96

## ADOPTION REFORM COMMITTEE SETS LEGISLATIVE GOALS

■(GIT) In their 12th meeting Thursday, the Adoption Law Reform Committee, appointed by the legislature in 1995, set time constraints for recommendations to the 46th legislature and discussed the impact of public hearings on member opinions.

Public hearings were held in Oklahoma City and Tulsa to enable committee members to hear suggestions from adoptees, adoptive parents and others involved with the adoption process.

The overwhelming opinion expressed at both meetings, Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa said, is adopted adults want access to adoption records held by the state. In some cases, adoption records of many years ago are incomplete, preventing adopted people from gaining knowledge of their own medical and/or social history. In other cases, adopted adults want to make contact with their birth parents.

“An adoptee who does the research on his own and makes contact anyway has no assurance he’ll get any emotional satisfaction from the contact,” Roach said. Testimony of this nature indicated a qualified,

*Continued on next page*

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



confidential intermediary might be helpful, both to the birth parent and the adopted adult.

Other ideas that came out of the public hearings included counseling for birth parents, before and after the adoption takes place; making all adoption records open to the adoptee at age 18 and allowing adoption agencies to have access to Department of Human Services records concerning the child to be adopted.

Aiming at the 46th legislative session, members agreed to call in sub-committee recommendations by Dec. 1. Two more meetings are scheduled, Dec. 12 and Jan. 9, to finalize recommendations into legislative language for chairman Roach and co-chair Sherri Finik, executive director of Adoption Affiliates.

The next meeting is set for 10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 21, in Conference Room 512-A at the State Capitol.

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/10/96

## FOOD STAMP IMMIGRANT RESTRICTIONS DELAYED

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahoma will comply with delays in implementing immigrant participation in the federal food stamp programs, according to an Oklahoma Department of Human Services official.

DHS Director George A. Miller said, "We received word late Friday that the budget agreement, signed by the President September 30, contains a provision delaying implementation of the food stamp immigrant restrictions until April 1, 1997."

In August, 2,068 of the 368,112 persons receiving food stamps in Oklahoma were alien immigrants or one half of one percent. Food stamp payments to all Oklahomans totaled \$25.9 million.

Public Law 104-193 bans legal immigrants from receiving food stamps until they become citizens of the United States.

The agreement exempts any person who was receiving food stamps on August 22 or before, the date the new welfare reform law was enacted, from the new immigrant restrictions until April 1, 1997. Immigrants who are due for food stamp recertification prior to April 1, 1997 will be recertified using the old immigration eligibility rules in place prior to August 22.

States will then have from April 1, 1997 to August 22, 1997, to recertify the eligibility of such immigrants using the new restrictions.

The Presidential agreement does not affect eligibility of immigrant applicants since August 22. New applicants will be subject to the new immigrant restrictions mandated in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, i.e., most immigrants coming to the United States are banned from the food stamp program for a period of five years.

—OKLA. DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES  
10/10/96

## MILITARY & VETERANS

### OKLAHOMA VETERANS COMMISSION DECLARES EMERGENCY

■(GIT) In a special meeting Thursday, the Oklahoma Veterans Commission declared an emergency to replace flooring at the Oklahoma Veterans Center in Norman.

Due to an excess of moisture in the foundation, 14,000 sq. ft. of flooring will have to be sealed in order for it to be tiled. Tests conducted by the Construction and Properties Division of the Department of Central Services show that it could take at least six to twelve weeks for the foundation to dry enough to lay flooring, if it dries at all.

According to Richard Heuckendorf of CPD, the general contractor on the project will not be used to seal the floor, instead Central Services will contract the work themselves in order to save time and money. Seal-Flex Inc., a California based company will provide the sealant. Because there is no flooring contractor in the state of Oklahoma licensed to use this, Alpha Omega Flooring of Plano, Texas will be used.

The cost of the sealant will be approximately \$1.90 per sq. ft. and comes with a five year warranty. The new tile will cost about \$5.00 per sq. ft. for a total estimated cost for both sealant and tile of about \$75,000 to \$100,000. This cost is to be withheld from a \$1.2 million retainer put up by the general contractor.

—DUSTIN PYEATT  
10/08/96

*"A right is worth fighting for only when it can be put into operation."*

Woodrow Wilson

speech in Chattanooga, Tennessee

Aug. 31, 1910

## OIL & GAS

### OKLAHOMA PIPELINE REMAINS CLOSED

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA) ordered a hazardous liquid pipeline between Medford, Oklahoma, and Mont Belvieu, Texas remain closed Wednesday pending review of additional actions directed by the department.

In addition to directing that the line remain out of service, RSPA ordered Koch Pipeline to identify and repair corroded areas and initiate a public education program for residents and public officials along the right-of-way. These actions will continue to ensure the safety of the public living near the pipeline.

—US DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
10/09/96

## REVENUE & TAXATION

### RV OWNERS TAGGING VEHICLES OUT OF STATE

■(GIT) Interim study 96-58, an examination of registration fees on recreational vehicles (RV), was on the agenda of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee Tuesday.

Rep. Fred Perry, R-Tulsa, speaking for a change in the cost of registering RVs and travel trailers, reminded committee members of the federal government's luxury boat tax several years ago. After the luxury tax was implemented, the boat industry shut down, Perry said, and people were thrown out of jobs.

"By tripling the tax on RVs," Perry said, we've actually brought a decrease in the number of vehicles tagged in Oklahoma. People drive out of state to tag their vehicles," he added.

"My interest is in seeing more RVs tagged in this state. We're all interested in more revenue for the state," Perry said, before introducing Manuel Jackson, retired Xerox employee and current RV owner.

Jackson has become the "expert" in RV registration, Oklahoma Tax Commission Chairman Bob Anderson said, through active lobbying of legislators and committees for several years to get the price of RV tags lowered, so Oklahomans won't tag their vehicles in Kansas or Texas.

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# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



"I'll be right up front with you," Jackson began. "I've moved my RV registration to Texas, so this is not a personal thing with me anymore."

"I thought you did RV owners a disservice raising the tags 150 percent; but it was really a disservice to Oklahoma," Jackson said.

Presenting statistics compiled from the National RV Owner's Association and the Oklahoma Tax Commission, Jackson showed committee members the national growth of RV ownership and the stagnation of RV registrations in Oklahoma.

Jackson illustrated his statistics with a real-life scenario, based on current registration fees in Oklahoma and Oregon. A 1994 Monaco Dynasty was purchased new in 1994 with a list price of \$202,000. In Oklahoma, the one and 1/4 percent registration rate would have been \$2,525. Adding the excise tax of 3 and 1/4 percent cost \$6,565. An \$11 title fee brings the total to \$9,101 in taxes added to the cost of purchasing the vehicle in Oklahoma.

In Oregon, on the other hand, fees are based on weight and vehicle length. A two-year registration on the above vehicle would be \$201.50 plus a title fee of \$10.00 and a plate fee of \$32.50.

Jackson also noted that Oklahoma charges \$150 maximum to register a boat, of any size or price.

Committee Member Rep. James Hager, D-Pawhuska, asked if a proposal is being kicked around and Committee Chairman Harold Cotner, D-Altus, suggested revamping the excise tax law. But, Cotner reminded members, changes in the excise tax law would mean changes in the state's revenue stream. "It's not that easy to solve," Cotner said. We have to consult with the tax commission on this thing."

*"The business of government is not directly to make the people rich, but to protect them in making themselves rich; and a government which attempts more than this is precisely the government which is likely to perform less. Governments do not and cannot support the people."*

*Lord Macaulay  
speech on parliamentary reform  
March 2, 1831*

The next meeting will be a closed session, between election day, Nov. 5 and swearing-in, 15 days later. Cotner is retiring after this session, and said he would use the closed meeting to tell his peers goodbye.

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/08/96

## TAX EXEMPTION FOR BOYS HOME STUDIED

■(GIT) Goodland Boys Home near Hugo houses and educates troubled boys under the aegis of the Presbyterian Church. The home receives cash donations from the ministry and individual congregations. At this time, Goodland is not tax exempt, except for the purchase of food and clothing purchased for the boys. Rep. Randall Erwin, D-Nashoba, wants to classify Goodland with the Baptist Children's Home, which is completely tax exempt.

Rep. Howard Cotner, D-Altus, chaired the meeting of the House Revenue and Taxation Committee Tuesday. The committee is currently working on Interim Study 96-23, the question of whether Goodland Boys Home should be tax exempt.

A bill authored by Rep. Erwin last session, to exempt the home from taxes, went nowhere. Erwin is trying to get legislation written and pre-filed before this year's session.

The boys homes save taxpayers a great deal of money, Erwin said. "If these boys weren't in these homes, we'd be taking care of them at taxpayers' expense," Erwin noted, and added, "I'm looking for guidance from this committee."

Cotner said "there's no question its a good issue. Consult with the tax commission and prefile legislation," he told Erwin. "We'll be glad to work with you."

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/08/96

## TREASURER'S INVESTMENT EARNINGS TOP QUARTERLY ESTIMATE

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) State Treasurer Robert Butkin's investment of state funds generated \$4.3 million more than originally expected for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 1997. Butkin released a report Thursday showing interest earnings on state investments for the first quarter topped original estimates by more than 23 percent.

The report shows total interest earnings for the first quarter of the fiscal year were

nearly \$23 million. This was \$4.3 million — or 23.1 percent — above original estimates. Interest earnings are derived from the investment of state funds. The Treasurer managed the investment of more than \$1.7 billion during the first quarter of the fiscal year.

"Interest earnings by the treasury are the sixth largest source of revenues to fund state government, and by far represents the largest source of non-tax revenues," said Butkin.

Butkin said a number of factors affecting interest earnings are not directly controlled by the treasurer. "Even so, we have been able to capitalize on market development to maximize our earnings," he said. This year's first quarter figures also include \$3 million in interest on securities due on the last day of fiscal year 1996.

Among the items over which the treasurer has no direct influence is the amount of money available for investment at any given time. "The size of the investable base is a result of how fast money flows in and out of state government and is affected by revenue collections and the spending patterns of the various state agencies," he said.

The investable base was 14.9 percent above the estimate, while earnings exceeded the estimate by 23.1 percent. The higher percentage for interest earnings above the estimate "demonstrates how well the state's investments are being managed," Butkin said. "Our first consideration is always the safety of each investment. We then make sure the money can be quickly turned into cash, and finally we consider the yield or rate of return."

Interest earnings in the first quarter of fiscal year 1997 were also 31.4% higher than earnings from the first quarter of fiscal year 1996. The Treasurer earned \$5.5 million more than the first quarter a year ago.

—OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER  
10/10/96

## SPORTS

### OKLAHOMA, TEXAS GOVERNORS PUT BARBECUE ON THE LINE

■(GIT) Plates of barbecue will be on the line when the Oklahoma Sooners meet the Texas Longhorns Saturday in the annual OU-Texas football game in Dallas.

The governor whose team loses, Gover-

*Continued on next page*

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

nor Frank Keating explained Thursday, will purchase and serve what he and Texas Governor George W. Bush are calling "border barbecue" for the winner. If Texas loses, Bush will serve his dinner to Keating, his wife and others in Altus. Should Oklahoma lose, Keating will feed Bush, his wife and others in Childress, Texas.

"I am looking forward to Governor Bush coming to Altus, donning his apron and preparing the best barbecue dinner his money can buy after the Sooners beat the Longhorns," said a confident Keating, who predicted the Sooners would win by three points.

In response, Bush said, "While the Longhorns are preparing to burn the Sooners, I hope that my friend Governor Keating is taking cooking lessons. I can't wait to celebrate a Texas victory over Oklahoma with a great barbecue dinner in Childress, Texas. I just hope that Frank Keating is as good a cook as he is a governor."

In defense of the Sooners, who are off to an 0-4 start, Keating said, "The annual OU-Texas game is such a classic rivalry that it's very hard to predict the outcome. Past history says that there are always surprises in this game. I have confidence in Coach John Blake and his team. The Big Red will roll into the Cotton Bowl ready to win, and I'll be there cheering them on."

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/10/96

## TOURISM & RECREATION

### OKLAHOMA CITY TRAILS MASTER PLAN WORKSHOPS HELD

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Someday Oklahoma City residents might be able to walk, skate or bike from Lake Hefner to the Zoo and a host of other locations using a network of urban trails — wide super-sidewalks built away from auto routes. Citizens interested in seeing a network of greenway trails developed were invited to attend a planning workshop to discuss possible routes to be included in the OKC Trails Master Plan.

The workshops were held Tuesday in north Oklahoma City and Wednesday in south Oklahoma City.

Some funding for actual construction of the trail system is already in place, including \$1 million for the Lake Hefner area and \$1.2 million in 1995 General Obligation

Bond money for development along South Grand Boulevard. The MAPS project includes funding for riverfront trails from Meridian to Eastern Avenue and along the canal linking the North Canadian River with Bricktown.

Besides providing new recreational outlets for residents, the proposed trail network would allow more people to walk to work or school and provide new ways for tourists and other visitors to reach City attractions, says Planning Department Director Garner Stoll.

—OKLA. CITY PUBLIC INFORMATION  
OFFICE  
10/07/96

## WILDLIFE

### QUAIL SEASON DATES TO CHANGE NEXT YEAR

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Beginning with the 1997-98 hunting season, Oklahoma's quail season will start on the first Saturday in November and end on January 31.

The decision to change the season from the traditional Nov. 20 to Feb. 15 dates was made at the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission's October meeting in Oklahoma City. The Wildlife Conservation Commission is the governing body of the Wildlife Department.

The recommendation to change the season dates was made by Richard Hatcher, chief of the Department's Game Division.

"The biological information we have sug-

gests that adjusting the season dates will allow additional harvest opportunities of surplus birds earlier in the fall while protecting broodstock during the stressful late-winter period," Hatcher said. "We proposed changing the dates earlier this year and received input from hunters at public hearings held in September. The public overwhelmingly supported the change at those hearings."

Quail season dates were not the only hunting regulation changes approved at the meeting. Regulations governing the use of certain wildlife management areas and goose, furbearer and archery hunting changes also were approved.

Specifically, the 1997-98 bobcat season was extended to run from Dec. 1 through Feb. 28. The daily bag limit was removed and the season limit was changed from eight to twenty. Bobcat tagging requirements were also changed to allow the use of private tagging stations and to allow those stations to charge a 75 cent per tag fee.

Three turkey hunting regulation changes also were approved. The 1998 spring turkey bag limit in Seminole County was reduced from two toms to one tom, the fall firearms turkey bag limit in Pawnee County was changed from one bird of either sex to one tom and the remainder of Garfield County (south of Highway 412) was opened to fall firearms turkey hunting. The bag limit for fall firearms turkey hunting in Garfield County is one tom.

—OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE  
10/08/96



# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



## AGRICULTURE

### STATES TO RECEIVE MORE THAN \$185 MILLION IN INTERIM NATIONAL FOREST PAYMENTS

■(WASHINGTON) Forty-one states and Puerto Rico will share interim payments totaling more than \$185 million as their portion of national forest receipts collected in fiscal year 1996, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced Wednesday. Oklahoma's interim payment will be \$561,000, with an estimated total payment of \$748,000.

The interim payment represents 75 percent of the estimated total each state will receive as its share of funds collected during the year from the sale and use of a variety of national forest products and services. USDA pays any additional funds it owes the states in December, after determining the actual receipts for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1996.

By law, the Forest Service pays 25 percent of the revenues it collects from timber sales, grazing, recreation, minerals, and land uses to states in which national forest lands are located. The funds are used for schools and roads. Last year, the states received total payments of more than \$273 million.

—US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
10/10/96

## BUSINESS & LABOR

### WORKPLACE HAZARDS AND HEALTH EVALUATED

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Energy (DOE) took a major step forward in its program to evaluate the health of former workers in the nuclear weapons complex and look for links to potential exposures to hazardous substances during their work.

Last week, the department awarded cooperative agreements totaling \$2.8 million to six teams of health and labor specialists in Colorado, Ohio, the District of Columbia, Nevada, New York, California, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Washington. Investigators will identify specific groups of former DOE workers who may be at risk for disease based on past DOE workplace exposure to radioactive or hazardous substances such as asbestos, chemicals and beryllium. Over the next year, these groups will conduct "needs assessments" and recommend whether DOE should fund programs

to monitor the health of the former workers. The program was developed in accordance with the Defense Authorization Act of 1993.

Two pilot projects currently monitor former workers exposed to hazards where health risks are well-known (beryllium and high lifetime doses of ionizing radiation). The new program could expand medical monitoring to other at-risk groups of former workers and others exposed to beryllium and radiation.

Investigators will also recommend whether to move into a second phase that would culminate in medical screening of targeted populations of former workers based on exposure history and the availability of acceptable screening tests. The teams administering these projects will coordinate referrals and follow-up treatment, as well as workers compensation and other existing insurance and benefits programs.

Additional information on each project is available by calling 202-586-6993.

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
10/07/96

### OSHA AWARDS GRANTS TO IMPROVE WORKPLACE SAFETY

■(WASHINGTON) Extended training grants for 26 nonprofit groups to help employers and employees reduce workplace injuries and illnesses, were announced by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recently.

The grants were initially awarded in fiscal years 1994 and 1995. Because of delayed appropriations this fiscal year, OSHA decided to extend existing grants for an additional year rather than conduct an open competition for new grantees.

Grantees of the \$2,372,000 will develop educational materials and provide training on construction safety and health, ergonomics, lockout/tagout, logging safety, prevention of lifting injuries in medical care facilities, process safety management of highly hazardous chemicals, and safety and health programs for small business.

—US DEPT. OF LABOR  
10/07/96

*"States do not prosper through ideology."*

*Napoleon I  
letter to M. Cambaceres  
April 24, 1805*

### PENSION PAYBACK PROGRAM RECOUPS MORE THAN \$4.8 MILLION

■(WASHINGTON) Almost \$5 million in delinquent contributions have now been restored to the pension plans of 16,800 workers as a result of the U.S. Labor Department's Pension Payback Program.

The department last week announced the paybacks following a six-month period when it allowed employers as part of its payback program to restore the 401(k) pension funds. Altogether, 170 employers responded, restoring \$4.8 million in delinquent contributions ranging from \$43 to \$200,000.

"We are pleased with the results," said Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich. "Not only did this voluntary compliance effort recoup money for American workers, it freed up federal investigators to work on more serious pension violations."

Eligible employers who participated in the pension payback program could avoid civil and criminal sanctions, including civil injunctions, criminal prosecutions or criminal fines, excise taxes and civil money penalties.

They were required to provide the Labor Department with written evidence that funds actually had been restored and to notify their participants of the restorations within 90 days. Meanwhile, department investigators are continuing to examine the notifications to verify that the contributions were, in fact, made to the plans and that all conditions of the program were met.

Employers who engaged in the most egregious conduct were not allowed to take advantage of the program. Participation also was not available to persons who failed to make timely deposits of participant contributions after April 5, 1996, or had unpaid participant contributions exceeding the aggregate amount of participant contributions received or withheld from employee wages in calendar year 1995.

—US DEPT. OF LABOR  
10/08/96

### ILLEGALLY MADE GOODS TRACED TO SEARS, MACY'S WEST, HUB AND GUESS

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich put on notice some of the nation's major retailers, distributors and manufacturers. Reich cited Sears, Roebuck and Co., Macy's West, Hub Distributing, Continued on next page

# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Inc., and Guess, Inc. as having received merchandise made in sweatshops. The companies received apparel goods manufactured by Chums Casual (a/k/a Steven K. Corporation) of Los Angeles, Calif.

A Labor Department investigation of Chums revealed that its cutters, sewers and trimmers were paid \$170 for working 50 to 55 hours a week. The hourly wage averaged as low as \$3.10 in some cases. The firm paid \$80,000 in back wages to 72 workers and was assessed \$12,240 in fines for repeat violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act. After the department cited and fined Chums, the company hired an outside firm to monitor its own cutting and sewing practices and ensure FLSA compliance.

Labor Department officials contacted Sears, Macy's West (a division of Federated Stores, Inc.), Hub Distributing and Guess over a three-week period in late September following the manufacturer's submission of additional sales records forced by a Department of Labor subpoena. The records helped the Labor Department trace the merchandise to these retailers so that the labor department could inform them of the investigation of Chums.

Previously, on May 20, the department announced that J.C. Penney, Macy's East and Specialty Retailers, Inc., had also received illegally made goods from Chums.

Reich also noted that one of the retailers, Guess, Inc. is included among the department's "Trendsetters"—a list of retailers and manufacturers who have pledged to go above and beyond the law to insure that their merchandise is not made in sweatshops. Reich stated that, "Guess has provided the department with a copy of its monitoring program and we are reviewing their efforts. After a thorough review, we will make a decision on whether Guess will remain on the Trendsetter list."

—US DEPT. OF LABOR  
10/08/96

*"Chaos and ineptitude are anti-human; but so too is a superlatively efficient government equipped with all the products of a highly developed technology."*

Aldous Huxley  
'Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow'  
1956

## GRANTS TO PROMOTE WOMEN IN NONTRADITIONAL OCCUPATIONS

■(WASHINGTON) Women seeking to enter and move up in apprenticeship and non-traditional occupations will benefit directly from \$610,000 in technical assistance grants announced Tuesday by Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich.

The funds come through the Women in Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Occupations (WANTO) Act. Under the initiative, four community based organizations are receiving grants both to provide on-site technical assistance to employers and labor unions to help develop strategies to increase the employment of women in apprenticeship and nontraditional occupations; and to develop an ongoing off-site technical assistance through computer-based telecommunication service and network, including a 1-800 dial-up system.

The grantees are: (1) Chicago Women in Trades, Chicago; (2) Wider Opportunities for Women, Washington, DC; (3) Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles, Long Beach, Calif.; and (4) YWCA's Women in Trades, Memphis Tenn.

—US DEPT. OF LABOR  
10/10/96

## CRIME & JUDICIARY

### CORPORATION PAYS \$13 MILLION TO SETTLE FALSE CLAIMS ACT ALLEGATIONS

■(WASHINGTON) The Chicago-based FMC Corp. will pay the United States \$13 million to settle claims it falsely inflated the cost of military contracts to produce the Bradley Fighting Vehicle and the M113 tank, the Department of Justice announced Tuesday.

Assistant Attorney General Frank W. Hunger of the Civil Division and U.S. Attorney Michael J. Yamaguchi of San Francisco said the settlement resolves allegations in a complaint filed by Robert F. Neargarder, a former manager at FMC's Ground Systems Division (GSD) in San Jose, California, under the quiet provisions of the False Claims Act.

In his complaint, Neargarder alleged GSD, in various documents submitted to the Department of the Army, falsely inflated the amount it intended to spend on independent research and development (IR&D) and bid and proposal (B&P) projects during 1991 and 1992. The complaint further alleged that the Army, in relying on those false state-

ments, agreed to reimburse GSD for a higher amount of IR&D and B&P expenditures than it would have if the Army had known GSD's true spending plans.

A portion of FMC's inflated IR&D and B&P costs were included in the prices of its contracts for the Bradley Vehicle and tanks.

—US DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
10/09/96

## ENERGY

### DOE PLANS TO SELL ELK HILLS OIL FIELD IN SEGMENTS

■(WASHINGTON) Taking the next step in one of the largest U.S. government divestitures ever, Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary on Tuesday announced the Department of Energy's (DOE) strategy to sell the government's portion of the Elk Hills Naval Petroleum Reserve. Rather than marketing the field as a single asset, DOE will offer it in segments. Bids will be solicited for an "operating working interest," where the buyer will become the field's operator, and for multiple, "non-operating working interests," where purchasers will bid for smaller interests in the field.

The Elk Hills field, near Bakersfield, CA, is the 11th largest oil field and 10th largest operating gas field in the lower 48 states.

DOE also announced that it will begin outlining the key components of the strategy for prospective bidders at two public meetings next week, in Houston, TX, and Bakersfield, CA. The Houston meeting will be Oct. 15 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Houston. The Bakersfield meeting will be on Oct. 16 at the Red Lion Inn. Both meetings will begin at 2 p.m.

DOE plans to offer an "operatorship interest" made up of a significant portion of the government's approximate 78 percent share of the field. Currently, ownership of the field is divided between DOE and Chevron USA Production Company, and the field is operated on a unitized basis. The buyer of the "operatorship interest" would take over operations of the field.

In addition, DOE will offer undivided, non-operating working interests to allow smaller companies, alone or in consortia, the opportunity to obtain interests in the field. DOE might also consider selling some of the field's surface facilities separately to attract

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# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



companies that specialize in natural gas processing or power generation.

Congress set a deadline of February 1998 to sell the field if sufficiently high bids are received. DOE has said it would sell its share of Elk Hills field only if it receives bids that are higher than the value of the asset to the government.

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
10/10/96

## PRAIRIE GRASS TO YIELD NEW POWER

■(WASHINGTON) Merging Iowa's agricultural potential with long-term energy needs is the underpinning for a new, cost-shared cooperative research and development pact between Chariton Valley Research, Conservation and Development (RC&D) in Southern Iowa, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The new public/private partnership — worth an estimated \$20 million over a four-year period, including a 47 percent federal investment — will grow switchgrass on 30,000 to 40,000 acres of underutilized, marginal cropland.

Currently, switchgrass is used primarily to reduce soil erosion. In this program, switchgrass will also be grown as an "energy crop" and used to generate 35 megawatts of electrical power — enough to light some 40,000 homes — by mixing it with coal at existing power plants.

Five hundred local farmers and landowners will be paired in the Chariton Valley RC&D partnership with the combined research and investment power of 14 organizations representing a broad cross section of business, community, public utility and governmental interests.

The partners have received authorization from USDA for a 4,000-acre demonstration project supporting the development of energy crops as the Conservation Reserve Program is phased out. If successful, the project will help farmers and landowners to harvest

new and sustainable income as a lasting alternative to traditional federal farm subsidies. In addition, the increased use of home-grown renewable energy will keep more energy dollars in Iowa, having the net effect of even greater economic benefits.

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
10/10/96

## ENVIRONMENT

### EPA ISSUES FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE ON FACILITY IDENTIFICATION INITIATIVE

■(WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency is issuing a Federal Register Notice to the public soliciting comments on the Agency's Facility Identification Initiative. The goal of the program is to streamline the collection of identifying information from facilities subject to federal environmental reporting requirements and provide the public with easier access to this data.

The initiative would for the first time provide the public with a single identification for industrial facilities that report environmental information to federal and state governments.

The notice, to appear in the Federal Register the week of Oct. 7, contains a detailed discussion of the issues and poses a number of questions for public comment. For more information, call Diane Sheridan at 202-260-3435 or e-mail:

sheridan.diane@epamail.epa.gov.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
10/07/96

### EPA RETAINS NITROGEN DIOXIDE STANDARD

■(WASHINGTON) Based on the latest scientific evidence, revisions to the national existing ambient (atmospheric) air quality standards (NAAQS) for nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) are not appropriate at this time, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced Friday.

The Agency concluded that current standards — .053 parts per million, measured as an annual average — are adequate to protect public health and the environment from the direct effects of nitrogen dioxide. NO<sub>2</sub> belongs to a family of highly reactive gases that form when fuel is burned at high temperatures and are emitted primarily from motor vehicle exhaust and power plants.

Although no areas of the country have violated the NO<sub>2</sub> standards for the past three

years, EPA remains concerned about emissions of this gas, which can contribute to other environmental problems, such as ground-level ozone (smog) and acid rain.

To combat these emissions, EPA has:

- Introduced tighter tailpipe emission standards for 1994-96 cars (and is currently developing regulations in partnership with California and heavy-duty engine manufacturers to cut emissions from buses and trucks).

- Required stringent controls on large NO<sub>2</sub> sources, such as power plants, in areas failing to meet smog standards.

- Finalized acid rain rules for coal-fired utility boilers that will slash NO<sub>2</sub> emissions 1.2 million tons annually by the year 2000.

In addition, the Ozone Transport Commission (made up of 11 northeastern states and Washington, DC) signed a memorandum of understanding in 1994 to reduce NO<sub>2</sub> emission levels up to 75 percent by the year 2003.

For further technical information on the decision, contact Chebryll Edwards of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at 919-541-5428.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
10/08/96

### ANOTHER CITY ADDED TO THE CLEAN CITIES PROGRAM

■(WASHINGTON) Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary last week welcomed the Hampton Roads area as the 49th member of the Clean Cities program. The Hampton Roads Clean Cities coalition which includes such cities as Norfolk, Hampton, Newport News, and Virginia Beach among its 29 area stakeholders, becomes the first Virginia-based coalition to join the voluntary Clean Cities Program.

Clean Cities is designed to promote the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles (AFV), alleviate air pollution in major U.S. cities, reduce dependence on imported oil, and stimulate local economic activity. Introduced in September 1993, Clean Cities creates locally based public/private sector partnerships to advance the use of alternative fuels through local investment and infrastructure development.

Other DOE Clean Cities include Central Oklahoma; Atlanta; Denver; Philadelphia; Wilmington, DE; Las Vegas; Washington, DC; Boston; Austin; Florida Gold Coast; Chicago; Albuquerque; Wisconsin (SE area);

*Continued on next page*

*"Wealth is the means, and people are the ends. All our material riches will avail us little if we do not use them to expand the opportunities of our people."*

John F. Kennedy  
State of the Union message  
Jan. 11, 1962

# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Colorado Springs; Long Beach; Lancaster, CA; Salt Lake City; White Plains; Baltimore; Louisville; Rogue Valley; West Virginia; Sacramento, Oakland; San Joaquin Valley; San Francisco; South Bay (San Jose); Western New York; Portland, OR; St. Louis; Norwalk; Waterbury; Norwich; New London; Peoria; SW Kansas; Central New York; Dallas-Fort Worth; Honolulu; Missoula, MT; New Haven; Central Arkansas; Paso del Norte; Pittsburgh; Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG); Los Angeles; Coachella Valley, CA; and Weld/Larimer/Rocky Mountain National Park.

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
10/10/96

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

### WELFARE REFORM HIGHLIGHTS

■(GIT) President Bill Clinton signed the so-called Welfare Reform Bill, also known as The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, on Aug. 22. The bill contains strong work requirements, a performance bonus to reward states for moving welfare recipients into jobs, state maintenance requirements and support for families moving from welfare to work.

Following are some highlights of the 300-plus page act.

#### A Transition From Welfare To Work

✓ Work requirements: Welfare recipients must work after two years of public assistance, with few exceptions.

✓ Transition support: The new law provides \$14 billion in child care funding to help more mothers move into jobs.

✓ A five-year limit: Families who have received assistance for five consecutive years will be ineligible for cash aid under the new law. States can impose a lower time limit if they desire.

✓ Maintenance requirements: States must maintain their own welfare spending at least 80 percent of FY 1994's levels. States must also maintain spending at 100 percent of FY 1994 levels to access a \$2 billion contingency fund designed to assist states affected by high population growth or economic downturn. In addition, states have to main the greater of FY 1994 or FY 1995 spending on child care to access additional child care funds beyond their current allotment.

✓ Job subsidies: The law allows states to create jobs by taking money now used for

welfare checks and use it to create community service jobs or to provide income subsidies or hiring incentives for potential employers.

✓ Performance bonuses: Through FY 2003, \$1 billion will be available for performance bonuses to reward states for moving welfare recipients into jobs.

✓ State flexibility: States which receive approval for welfare reform waivers before July 1, 1997, have the option of creating their own cash assistance program under some or all of the waiver programs.

✓ Employability plans: States must make an initial assessment of recipients' work skills.

#### Promoting Responsibility

##### Child Support Enforcement

✓ National new hire reporting system: The law establishes a Federal Case Registry and National Directory of New Hires to track delinquent parents across state lines. The law also requires that employers report all new hires to state agencies for transmittal to the directory.

✓ Paternity establishment: The legal process for establishing paternity is streamlined under the terms of the new law.

✓ Uniform interstate child support laws: The new law provides for uniform rules, procedures and forms for interstate cases.

✓ Computerized statewide collections: States are required to establish central registries of child support orders and centralized collection and disbursement units.

✓ New penalties: Under the new law, states can implement tough child support enforcement techniques.

✓ "Families First": Under the so-called Families First policy, families no longer receiving assistance will have priority in the distribution of child support arrears.

✓ Access and visitation programs: In an effort to increase noncustodial parents' involvement in their children's lives, the new law includes grants to help states establish programs that support and facilitate noncustodial parents' visitation with and access to their children.

##### Teen Parent Provisions

✓ Live at home, stay in school: Under the new law, unmarried minor parents will be required to live with a responsible adult or in an adult-supervised setting and to participate in educational and training activities in order to receive assistance.

✓ Teen pregnancy prevention: Beginning

in FY 1998, \$50 billion annually in mandatory funds will be added to the appropriations of the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant for abstinence education. Additionally, the Secretary of Health and Human Services will establish and implement a strategy to prevent non-marital teen births and to assure that at least 25 percent of communities have teen pregnancy prevention programs.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/07/96

### HEALTH RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED TO SIX UNIVERSITIES

■(WASHINGTON) The Health Care Financing Administration last week announced it has awarded six universities federal grants totaling \$663,148 to encourage health services research.

The grants for fiscal year 1996 range from about \$84,000 to \$160,000. They are part of the 1996 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) grants program, which focuses on HCFA's research and demonstration projects related to health care service delivery and financing issues in the African-American community.

The grants were awarded to Alcorn State University, Lorman, MS; Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL; Howard University, Washington, DC; Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD; Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN; and the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, MD.

The grants program is designed to:

- Encourage new health services researchers to pursue research issues which impact the Medicare and Medicaid programs;
- Assist HBCUs by supporting outside research in the health services area;
- Increase the pool of African-American researchers available to carry out HCFA's research, demonstration and evaluation programs.

—US DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
10/07/96

### REPORT SHOWS GAINS IN NATION'S HEALTH

■(WASHINGTON) Last Friday, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala released annual preliminary vital statistics findings for 1995, showing broad gains in national health indicators.

*Continued on next page*

# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



According to the report, the U.S. last year achieved:

- an historic low infant mortality rate;
- continued increase in the number of women obtaining early pre-natal care;
- the first decline in the birth rate for unmarried women in almost 20 years;
- continued decline in the teen birth rate;
- a dramatic decline in homicide rates;
- a leveling in the HIV/AIDS death rate, for the first time since the epidemic took hold;
- continued increase in life expectancy.

The report, "Births and Deaths for 1995," prepared by the National Center for Health Statistics, part of HHS' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, contains the latest preliminary U.S. natality and mortality statistics.

The report is available from the National Center for Health Statistics, 6525 Belcrest Rd., Hyattsville, Md. 20782 or by e-mail at paoquery@nch10a.em.cdc.gov.

—US DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
10/07/96

## JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WON'T CHALLENGE HEALTH CARE NETWORKS

■(GIT) A group of Cincinnati orthopedic surgeons will form a contract network with health benefit plans to provide plan members with orthopedic services, the Justice Department announced last week.

Cincinnati Regional Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Associates will be a non-exclusive physician network joint venture that negotiates and contracts directly with managed care plans and other third party payers.

The network will be comprised of 56 of the 158 orthopedic surgeons in the greater Cincinnati metropolitan area, including 28 counties in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. This 35 percent market share is slightly more than the antitrust safety zone of 30 percent for non-exclusive networks established in Statement 8 of the 1996 Statements of Antitrust Enforcement Policy in Health Care, issued recently by the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission. However, Assistant Attorney General Anne K. Bingaman of the Antitrust Division said that the Department will not challenge the network's plans because they do not raise substantial antitrust concerns.

In a related decision, the Justice Department's Antitrust Division also announced it will allow three health care providers in Mississippi to form a nonexclusive network to contract with managed care plans to provide statewide home health care coverage. The group, to be called Home Care Alliance, Inc., will contract using a messenger model, a method of contracting which is designed to avoid price agreements among competitors.

Although the three proposed members of the network are not competitors, the messenger to be employed by the network will not share a member-provider's contract information with the other member-providers.

According to Bingaman, the three initial members nor the addition of more members in the future should harm competition, since the Alliance will contract through a messenger. Networks using properly designed and implemented messenger arrangements rarely present substantial antitrust concerns.

—DUSTIN PYEATT  
10/09/96

## REDUCTION IN SIDS DEATHS HELPS BRING LOW INFANT MORTALITY

■(WASHINGTON) Saying that more than 50 percent of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) mortality may be preventable if babies are placed to sleep on their sides or backs, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala on Wednesday announced that deaths due to SIDS fell 30 percent between 1992 and 1995. She said the reduction in SIDS deaths has contributed significantly to an historic low infant mortality rate in the United States.

Secretary Shalala credited the public-private 'Back to Sleep' campaign with bringing about the improvement in SIDS mortality, and she said all parents need to hear the message: "Babies should be placed to sleep on their sides or on their backs, but not on their stomachs."

Shalala announced that SIDS deaths declined from 4,891 in 1992 to 3,279 in 1995, according to preliminary HHS data. This includes a 12 percent drop in 1994 and an 18.5

percent drop in 1995, the largest annual declines ever observed in the U.S. and the only large declines observed in two consecutive years. Further, SIDS has dropped from 2nd to 3rd leading cause of infant mortality, behind both low birth weight and congenital anomalies.

—US DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
10/10/96

## MILITARY & VETERANS

### \$182 MILLION APPROPRIATED FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICE

■(WASHINGTON) Veterans reentering the civilian labor force will continue to receive job search, counseling, training, and placement services with programs and services funded through the U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS).

Congress appropriated \$182 million for VETS in fiscal year 1997, an increase of almost \$12 million over last fiscal year, to carry out its programs of helping veterans into good jobs in the civilian economy.

Funding for two programs that pay for veterans' service representatives in the state employment service systems — the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) and the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) program — totaled just over \$157 million. This will provide job search, counseling, skill assessment, placement, and follow-up services for 340,000 veterans.

Funding under the Jobs Training Partnership Act (JTPA) equals last year's appropriation of \$7.3 million. This money, primarily awarded to states and non-profit organizations on the basis of competitive grants, will provide training to targeted groups of veterans and help more than 2,300 of them into unsubsidized jobs in the private sector.

VETS will be able to fund all of its authorized staff positions and continue to support the Transition Assistance Program (TAP). TAP provides three-day workshops which will help separating service members and their spouses quickly reintegrate into the civilian economy with a minimum of time lost to unemployment.

In addition, the National Veterans' Training Institute is funded for \$2 million which

*Continued on next page*

*"Hungry men have no respect for law, authority or human life."*

Marcus Moziah Garvey  
'Philosophy and Opinions'  
1923

# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



will enable it to continue to provide skills training for DVOPs and LVERs and other front-line staff directly providing services to veterans.

—US DEPT. OF LABOR  
10/08/96

## RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

### DOLLARS DEDICATED TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY, CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

■(WASHINGTON) More than \$15 million was awarded by the Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Science Foundation in Environmental Technology Partnership (ETP) grants to universities, private industry, and DOE laboratories last week. The \$15.4 million is to conduct research leading to environmentally sound and energy efficient industrial processes.

Fifty awards for Fiscal 1996 will probe the edges of science in a number of ways, including:

- Research conducted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN, will increase the productivity of forests by optimizing nutrient and water content of soils, focusing on coastal plain soils of the southeast and infertile soils in the northeast.

- Los Alamos National Laboratory, NM, will research operations in blast furnace plants to lower emissions by reducing gas consumption. Industry carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions could be cut by 564,500 tons per year.

- Ohio State University will research the influence of casting thickness and surface coating on the mechanical properties of die cast magnesium alloys, a potential project for energy conservation by improving the selection and usage of die-cast magnesium-based alloys for structural applications, such as automobiles.

Designing cleaner technologies is at the

heart of research and development efforts to shift from waste management and remediation to pollution prevention over the next five to 10 years.

The list of awards by institution and project title is available from DOE's Public Inquiries Branch, Washington, DC 20585, phone: 202/586-5575.

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
10/07/96

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### TELEMEDICINE PROJECTS ADVANCED

■(WASHINGTON) Saying that "telemedicine offers us some of our best and most cost-effective opportunities for improving quality and access to health care," U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala on Monday announced a range of new activities to support telemedicine development. The new actions include:

- Funding for 19 telemedicine projects, affecting rural, inner-city and suburban areas, totaling \$42 million

- A demonstration project enabling Medicare to pay for health care services delivered via telemedicine

Telemedicine involves health care applications of telecommunications technologies, including television and the Internet. This can include providing medical care to patients at a distance: for example the use of live video to examine patients in remote locations or cable TV to provide in-home service for homebound patients. It also includes electronic transmission of patient records and X-rays; expert consultations; and education for health professionals, including those in rural and medically underserved communities.

The 19 multi-year telemedicine projects, located in 13 states and the District of Columbia, are funded by the National Library of Medicine, a part of HHS' National Institutes of Health.

In addition, Secretary Shalala announced that HHS' Health Care Financing Administration is initiating a three-year experiment in which Medicare will pay for telemedicine services at 57 Medicare-certified facilities. The demonstration focuses on medical consultations, in which a primary care provider with a Medicare patient at a remote site consults with a medical specialist located at a

medical center facility. The demonstration concentrates on rural areas where Medicare patients may not have access to nearby medical specialists.

"We want to use telemedicine to make high quality, specialist care more accessible at lower cost," Secretary Shalala said. "As the nation's largest health insurer, Medicare can help pave the way toward efficient use of these new technologies."

Telemedicine may reduce some transfers of patients from smaller health facilities to medical centers. Currently, Medicare and many other third-party insurers only cover "face to face" medical encounters.

—US DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
10/08/96

### USDA REENGINEERING TEAM WINS TECHNOLOGY AWARD

■(WASHINGTON) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman on Monday announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's government purchase card reengineering and implementation team received an award from the Industry Advisory Council for Government Information Technology Services at the group's annual conference in Richmond, Virginia.

Government purchase cards are commercial credit cards used to purchase a wide range of goods and services. Using a state-of-the-art on-line account reconciliation process developed by USDA's National Finance Center, the new purchase card management system will eliminate the processing of monthly paper statements and invoices for nearly 11,000 current cardholders, allow one payment for USDA, and provide comprehensive management information for program oversight.

Once implemented department-wide, USDA's new purchase card processes and systems are expected to achieve up to \$46 million in administrative efficiencies and cost avoidances by the year 2000. In addition, the team worked with the General Services Administration to allow card holders to write checks for government purchases against the purchase card accounts, a first in the government. This feature is especially useful for employees, such as fire fighters, who are working in remote areas where establishments may not take credit cards.

—US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
10/08/96

*"Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison . . . the only house in a slave State in which a free man can abide with honor."*

Henry David Thoreau  
'Civil Disobedience'  
1849

# 1996 Interim Studies - House

## **Interim Study 96H-01, Ad Valorem Tax Reform, Don Weese**

Intent of this study is to look at possible means for providing for both constitutional and statutory repeal of ad valorem taxes not related to any bonded indebtedness and replacing any lost revenue through another source (i.e. an income tax surcharge or local sales tax); Revenue and Taxation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-02, Workers Comp Insurance, Terry Matlock**

Classification by hazard and job description and title; Insurance Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-03, Zoning Ordinances — Manufactured Homes, Jerry W. Hefner**

Prohibiting cities, counties, and political subdivisions from enacting or enforcing zoning ordinances excluding mobile homes; County and Municipal Government Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-04, Motor Vehicle Registration Avoidance, Shelby Satterfield**

I would like to request a Joint Interim Study in conjunction with Sen. Lewis Long on the issue of motor vehicle registration avoidance. Several categories of avoidance can be identified: 1. A vehicle owner may register in a neighboring state where registration fees are lower; 2. A person may simply overlook their deadline and thus be "in arrears" rather than deliberately avoiding registration; 3. A vehicle owner may constitute the always present "hard core" avoider who, for one or more reasons, avoids deliberately and indefinitely. For whatever reason, this person knowingly accepts the risks associated with this avoidance. With an average passenger vehicle registration fee approaching \$100, Oklahoma's relatively high yearly fee means that even a small percentage of avoiding motorists creates a severe economic loss. Since Oklahoma has not conducted a complete reissuance since 1980, some estimate vehicle registration evasion to be anywhere from 5% to 10%. Using these figures, Oklahoma could be losing upwards of \$40 million annually; House Committee on Public Safety, in conjunction with the Senate.

## **Interim Study 96H-05, Economics of Oklahoma Agriculture, M.C. Leist**

Agriculture in Oklahoma in the mid 1990s has reached a negative economic condition unequaled within the last fifty years. Unseasonable freezes, extreme drought coupled with extremely low cattle prices have caused many facets of agriculture to experience this financial crisis. In the past the State House of Representatives has been responsive to the needs of agriculture primarily in the areas of property rights, tax exemptions, and favorable operating latitudes. The Ag Link Program, Beginning Farmer Program and the Ag Mediation Program are precursors of the increased state government direct assistance to the ag sector. Value added has become important as evidenced by the state commitment to the Food Processing Center, Made in Oklahoma program and cooperative development program. Recent developments in ag necessitate an analysis of the direct economics of agriculture. This analysis will con-

sist of three basic factors: 1. The current conditions of agricultural support (by topical area); 2. Change factors in ag both internal and external; and 3. State policy responses; Agriculture Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-06, Weather Modification, Elmer L. Maddux**

To study, as an on-going program, cloud reseeding and hail suppression. Research the possibility of matching funds from county government; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-07, Transfer of Forestry Division, Mike Mass**

Study the feasibility of transferring the Forestry Division from the State Department of Agriculture; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

## **Interim Study 96H-08, Rural Water Training, Mike Mass**

Monitor and evaluate rural water system program administered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; House Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources.

## **Interim Study 96H-09, International Bluegrass Festival, Joe J. Hutchison**

Meet with Guthrie Chamber of Commerce, TNN, Gaylord Productions, Lazy E and meetings with private corporations as sponsorship. Attend International Bluegrass Music Awards and workshops in Owensboro, Ky., September 25, 1996, through September 28, 1996; Tourism and Recreation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-10, Disability Fishing License, James H. Dunegan**

Interim study to study fish license, specifically in the disability category; Wildlife Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-11, Sex Offender Registration, Jack Bonny**

Examine recent federal legislation regarding sex offender registration and the impact of community notification requirements on current state law; Criminal Justice Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-12, Business Issues, Jack Bonny**

The purpose of the study proposal is to review and assess the economic impact that research and development, telecommunications and technological advancements have on Oklahoma businesses and how this type of activity can be enhanced; Development Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-13, Worker's Comp, Bill Settle**

Specific revisions regarding injuries; policies of the State Insurance Fund; and review the nominating process of appointing workers' comp judges; Judiciary Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-14, Oklahoma Indigent Defense Fund, Dwayne Steidley and Jerry L. Smith**

Comprehensive joint study of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System which includes study of the funding of the system; Assigned to the House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement in conjunction with the Senate.

## **Interim Study 96H-15, Tax Incremental Financing, Ray Vaughn**

Tax incremental financing techniques for use in economic development, tourism and recreation projects; Economic Development Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-16, ODOT Infrastructure Bank, Ray Vaughn**

Use of funds deposited in the Infrastructure Bank of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-17, Public Utility Property Taxes, Jack Begley**

Defining public utility central and local assessment for public utility property taxation; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education.

## **Interim Study 96H-18, Oklahoma Wineries and Vineyards, Tommy Thomas and Mike Mass**

Oklahoma laws as they relate to vineyards and small in-state wineries; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

## **Interim Study 96H-19, Medicaid and Welfare Reform, Tommy Thomas and Mike Mass**

Federal reform of Medicaid and Welfare programs; Human Services Committee and the Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Human Services.

## **Interim Study 96H-20, Revenue and Taxation, Dan Webb**

Review and formulate a more equitable state tax system for state taxes, including a review of a flat or single tax rate; Revenue and Taxation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-21, Administrative Rules, Charles Gray and Dan Webb**

To review and study the administrative rule making process and procedure of any state agency, board or commission; House Committee on Administrative Rule Review.

## **Interim Study 96H-22, DOC and Department of Mental Health, Joe Eddins**

A comprehensive study of the Department of Corrections and Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services emphasizing the cost effectiveness of treatment as it pertains to those individuals who are under the care and custody of the Department of Corrections. The study will address two areas of concern: the cost effectiveness of treatment of those individuals who are confined in correctional facilities as incarcerated felons and those individuals who are under the direct supervision of the Department of Corrections in the community that are supervised by Probation and

# 1996 Interim Studies - House

Parole. The study will also include, but not be limited to, current treatment programs that are operated by the Department of Corrections and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, to include operating budgets, staffing patterns, client-staff ratios, treatment modalities and the effectiveness of programs to include improvement of negative behaviors and/or impact on recidivism; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-23, Full Tax Exemption for Goodland Boys Home, Randall L. Erwin.**

Research DHS contract policies for children's homes. Feasibility of amending tax exemption for Goodland Boys Home to 100%; Revenue and Taxation Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-24, Court Costs Collection, Ray Vaughn**

Methods of collecting outstanding court costs and fees; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement.

**Interim Study 96H-25, National Veterans Cemetery Site, Ron M. Kirby and Sam Helton**

After pursuing legislation to create a state veterans cemetery, it has been documented that the proposed site should be a national veterans cemetery site. This will facilitate expenditures, possibly by the state, involving improvements to the actual site, entrances to and exits off of Interstate 44 or H.E. Bailey turnpike, and possible improvements to State Highway 277. All of this is contained in the National Environmental Impact Studies for the cemetery site provided by the Veterans Administration; House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

**Interim Study 96H-26, Review Capital Needs of OETA, Betty Boyd**

Due to age of equipment and scope of statewide services, request a review of Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) agency capital needs to address future quality transmission. Would request this study be assigned to the A&B Education Subcommittee; and **Interim Study 96H-60, OETA, James E. Hamilton.** Request a joint House and Interim Study Committee to study the operational and capital needs of OETA; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education in conjunction with the Senate.

**Interim Study 96H-27, Final Disposition of Hissom, Russ Roach**

Joint Interim Study on the final disposition of Hissom; Assigned to a special joint committee whose members will include Roach as House chairman, along with Reps. Larry Ferguson, James Hager, Bill Mitchell, Shelby Satterfield, Mark Seikel, Bill Settle, Dwayne Steidley, Tommy Thomas and Mike Thornbrugh.

**Interim Study 96H-28, Managed Care, Tommy Thomas, Randall Erwin**

To discuss implementation of managed care in the rural portions of Oklahoma; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Human Services.

**Interim Study 96H-29, Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Randy Beutler, Terry Matlock**

The purpose of this study is to discuss and review the rules promulgated by the Department of Agriculture on Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). This proposal would be the subject of a joint study by the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate interim study to be chaired by Sen. Lewis Long; Joint study of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

**Interim Study 96H-30, Early Childhood, Joe Eddins**

Study the needs and programs available for low income children age 3 through 6, with special emphasis on 3 and 4 year old children in Head Start, 4 & 5 year old children in public schools, and 6 year old children in transition first grade. How Title I money is used for these in extended day or full day programs; Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-31, CASA, Randall Erwin**

To research all aspects of CASA including needs, merits, and possible funding; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-32, Study of Community Action Agencies, Randall Erwin**

Study the feasibility of the agencies merging with the State Insurance Department. Research on the impact of joint state retirement and insurance benefits; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

**Interim Study 96H-33, Federal Discharge Permits and Concentrated Animal Feed Yard Operations, Elmer Maddux**

Examination of requirements for state assumption of federal N.P.D.E.S. program for agricultural jurisdictional areas (State Department of Agriculture) and concentrated animal feeding operations; House Agriculture Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-34, Ad Valorem, James Hager**

Examine issues related to revision of the ad valorem funding system for schools and governmental entities; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education; Agriculture Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-35, Education - Residency, James Hager**

Study issues relating to student residency for school purposes; Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-36, Education - Common Education, James Hager**

Study current issues relating to Oklahoma common education system including issues related to curriculum; Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-37, Education - Vo-Tech, James Hager**

Study current issues relating to Oklahoma's vocational-technical education system; Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-38, Education - Higher Education, James Hager**

Study current issues relating to Oklahoma's Higher Education System; Education Committee

**Interim Study 96H-39, Health Insurance Issues, Betty Boyd**

A study to determine what new medical procedures and/or equipment should be included in health insurance coverage and attendant fiscal impact; House Committee on Insurance.

**Interim Study 96H-40, Implementation of HCR1108, Abe Deutschendorf**

As a follow-up to the passage of HCR1108, study will review reports requested from each state agency. HCR1108 directed each agency to submit a report/plan identifying millennium computer conversion problems brought into place by the year 2000. This study will begin in November after the agencies have submitted their reports. Hopefully this early study can help the state to save a great deal of money; and **Interim Study 96H-59, Millennium 2000 Problem, Fred Perry.** Exploration aspects of problem acknowledged by HCR1108; House Committee on Science and Technology.

**Interim Study 96H-41, Reading Programs in Oklahoma, Abe Deutschendorf, Jack Begley**

Study the successful reading programs in Oklahoma. This study proposal includes site visits to schools with outstanding reading programs successes. In addition a study of Reading Remediation Programs of exemplary success. This study will shed some light on some little known new insight to the age old question, "How best does a child learn Read;" Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-42, Family Centered and Community Designed Services, Sean Voskuhl**

Determine appropriate methods for coordinated delivery of family and early childhood development services; House Committee on Children, Youth and Family Services.

**Interim Study 96H-43, Ostrich and Emu Processing Facilities, Bob Ed Culver**

Study the creating and financing of ostrich meat processing and tanning facilities and of emu meat processing and oil extraction facilities. Review the experience of such facilities in the surrounding states; Agriculture Committee

**Interim Study 96H-44, Review or Joint Rules, Dwayne Steidley, Don Kinnamon**

Requesting a joint special committee to review procedures in the joint rules which relate to deadlines and other matters that impact the flow of legislation between the two houses; Assigned to a special joint committee whose House members are Benson, Adair, Askins, Bastin, Begley, Hamilton, Hilliard, Rice Thomas, Toure, Kinnamon and Steidley.

# 1996 Interim Studies - House

## **Interim Study 96H-45, Chiropractic Services, Charles Gray**

Review issues relating to chiropractic services including: (1) any willing provider laws; (2) prescription authority; (3) minor surgery; (4) other relevant concerns; Public Health Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-46, Local Control of Community Services, Sean Voskuhl**

Review of the issues included in HB2231; Youth and Family Services Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-47, Revision of Title 43A, Mental Health Code, Joe Eddins**

Continuation of the 1995 study, to complete the revision and updating of the title; Mental Health Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-48, Predatory Sex Offender, Bill Paulk**

Study to review Predatory Sex Offender laws (per HB2617); Criminal Justice Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-49, Truth in Sentencing, Bill Paulk**

Truth in Sentencing (as per final draft by Rep. Steidley) and **Interim Study 96H-64, Truth in Sentencing / Community Corrections, Dwayne Steidley**

A Special Joint study to evaluate the community corrections recommendations provided in SB1200 and truth in sentencing proposals in HB1138. Purpose is to propose a new bill for 1997 session; Assigned to a special committee comprised of Steidley, Paulk and Reps. Jari Askins, Flint Breckenridge, Bob Ed Culver, Danny Hilliard, Larry Rice, Bill Settle and Opio Toure.

## **Interim Study 96H-50, Motor Vehicles and Insurance, Jack Bonny**

Review insurance and financial responsibility requirements for motor vehicles; Public Safety Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-51, Resource Centers, Mark Seikel**

Study on the status and impact of downsizing on Northern Resource Center and Greer Center Facility at Enid and Southern Resource Center of Pauls Valley; Human Services Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-52, Ritualistic Child Abuse, Mark Seikel**

Study to review prohibiting Ritualistic Child Abuse with DHS, Youth & Family and Criminal Justice; Human Services Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-53, Corporation Commission Jurisdiction in Guymon-Hugoton Field, Larry Rice**

To review the relevancy of the Guymon-Hugoton field rules to current field conditions. Topics to be addressed include infill drilling and proration limits; Assigned to the Commission on Natural Gas Policy.

## **Interim Study 96H-54, Public Trusts and Tax Exempt Financing, Robert Weaver**

Interim study to discuss the disclosure and accountability requirements surrounding Public Trusts and tax exempt financing; Banking and Finance Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-55, Inmate Trust Accounts, Robert Weaver**

Interim study to discuss the feasibility of exploring funding options for the victims of crime in Oklahoma. The study should address inmate trust accounts and other funding options; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement.

## **Interim Study 96H-56, Jet Ski and Boating Legislation, Robert Weaver**

Interim study pursuant to HCR1110 regarding jet ski and boating legislation, requesting coordination with specified state agencies and proposing legislation; Public Safety Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-57, OK Indian Affairs Commission Funding, Robert Weaver**

Interim study to discuss the feasibility of various Indian tribes in the State of Oklahoma contributing to the funding of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

## **Interim Study 96H-58, Recreational Vehicle Tags, Fred Perry**

Study to discuss recreational vehicle tag costs and taxes; Revenue and Taxation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-59, Millennium 2000 Problem, Fred Perry**

Combined with Interim Study 96H-40.

## **Interim Study 96H-60, OETA, James E. Hamilton**

Combined with Interim Study 96H-26.

## **Interim Study 96H-61, Feasibility of constructing a State Office Building, James E. Hamilton**

Identify space being rented in Oklahoma City area by state agencies or Higher Education, determine the amount of annual lease and rent payments being made for such space and investigate the possibility of building one or two new buildings in the Capitol Complex and use rent money for pay out of bond issue; Appropriations and Budget.

## **Interim Study 96H-62, Sole Source Contract Procedures, James E. Hamilton**

To review Sole Source contract procedures involving state agencies and higher education, and to review the Fuelman contract now being administered through the Department of Central Services; Appropriations and Budget.

## **Interim Study 96H-63, State Banking Regulatory Fees, Abe Deutschendorf, Bob Weaver**

A comparative view of charges assessed to the credit unions and banks as it relates to the State Banking regulatory fees; Banking and Finance Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-64, Truth in Sentencing / Community Corrections, Dwayne Steidley**

Combined with Interim Study 96H-49.

## **Interim Study 96H-65, Workers' Comp, Chris Hastings**

Evaluate the performance of the recent works' comp reform (special session 1994) in relation to its impact on insurance rates and safety programs and results. Look at further reforms in workers' comp to reduce rates; lower risks; and increase safety; Assigned to a special committee comprised of Rep Don Kinnamon, chairman; House Majority Leader Loyd Benson, House Majority Leader Larry Ferguson, Rep. Don McCorkell and Rep Bill Settle.

## **Interim Study 96H-66, Rules of Conduct, Chris Hastings**

Set-up bipartisan committee to outline and create Rules of Conduct on House floor by members / staff / guests; House Committee on Rules.

## **Interim Study 96H-67, OK Housing Finance Agency, Chris Hastings**

Review whether the Oklahoma House Finance Agency (OHFA) is acting in compliance in monitoring and enforcing the rules under the IRS Code under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program; Appropriations and Budget.

## **Interim Study 96H-68, State Insurance Fund, Chris Hastings**

Explore the possibility of privatizing the State Insurance Fund; Assigned to a special committee consisting of Kinnamon as chairman, Benson, Hastings, McCorkell, Settle and Reps. Howard Cotner and Fred Morgan.

## **Interim Study 96H-69, Funding for Aids Research, Don Ross**

Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

## **Interim Study 96H-70, Impact of Prevention and/or Intervention Programs, Don Ross**

The impact of prevention and/or intervention as they relate to Oklahoma's delinquency and youth gang intervention and deterrence grant program; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

# 1996 Interim Studies - Senate

## **Interim Study 96S-004, Motor Vehicle Registration Avoidance**

Special Joint Interim Committee, Co-Chair, Sen. Lewis Long. Senate Members: Sens. Mike Fair, Keith Leftwich, Angela Monson, Ben Robinson, Mark Snyder and Dick Wilkerson.

## **Interim Study 96S-006, Weather Modification**

Special Joint Interim Committee, Co-Chair Sen. Paul Muegge. Senate Members: Senate Agriculture Committee.

## **Interim Study 96S-007, Department of Agriculture, Transfer of Forestry Division**

Special Joint Interim Committee, Co-Chair Sen. Rick Littlefield. Senate Members: Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources & Regulatory Services.

## **Interim Study 96S-014, Oklahoma Indigent Defense System**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co Chair Sen. Jerry Smith. Senate Members: Sens. Cal Hobson, Billy Mickle and Herb Rozell.

## **Interim Study 96S-027, Possible Uses and Sales Opportunities for Hissom Center**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Lewis Long. Senate Members: Sens. Larry Dickerson, Mike Fair, Jerry Smith and Penny Williams.

## **Interim Study 96S-029, State Department of Agriculture Rules on Testing for Equine Infectious Anemia**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Lewis Long. Senate Members: Sens. Dick Wilkerson and Paul Muegge.

## **Interim Study 96S-042, Family Centered and Community Designed Services**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Penny Williams. Senate Members: Sens. Ben Brown, Larry Dickerson, Ted Fisher, Angela Monson and Ged Wright. Non-legislative Members: Ken Lackey, Human Services Cabinet Secretary (ex officio); Tom Kemper, Director, OCCY (ex officio); Bill Doenges, Co-Chair, Children's Task Force; Ann Johnstone, Co-Chair, Children's Task Force; Dan Arthrell, Coordinator, Children First; Sharon Terry, Director, Tulsa Youth Services; Anne Roberts, Executive Director, Oklahoma Child Advocate; Karen Rhoads; Sandy Ingraham; Cindy Seay, NE Oklahoma Regional Advisory Board for Children with Special Needs; Barbara Parker; Pat Chambliss; Judge D. Post; Dave King, Executive Director, Wings of Freedom Women's Facility of the Correctional Counseling Institute; and Phil Rhoades.

## **Interim Study 96S-064, Truth in Sentencing**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Larry Dickerson. Senate Members: Sens. Cal Hobson, Herb Rozell and Ged Wright.

## **Interim Study 96S-101, Agriculture Product Processing**

Assigned to Senate Agriculture Committee, Sen. Paul Muegge, Chairman.

## **Interim Study 96S-102, Tourism Infrastructure** Assigned to Appropriation Subcommittee on Natural Resources & Regulatory Services, Sen. Rick Littlefield, Chairman.

## **Interim Study 96S-103, Law Enforcement Policy Study**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Sen. Sam Helton, Chairman. Senate Members: Sens. Dick Wilkerson and Keith Leftwich. Non-legislative Members: Bob Ricks, Commissioner of DPS; Malcolm Atwood, Dir. of BNDD; DeWade Langley, Dir. of OSBI; Captain Steve Cain, Norman PD; Kenny Stradley, Comanche Co. Sheriff; Asst. Chief Ron Ward, Lawton PD; Lt. Melvin Murdock, Lawton PD; Chief Sam Gonzolas, OKC Chief of Police; Chief Ron Palmer, Tulsa Chief of Police; Dep. Chief Lawrence Johnson, OKC PD.

## **Interim Study 96S-104, Daytime Use of Auto Headlights**

Senate General Government Committee plus Senator Mark Snyder. Chair Sen. Trish Weedn.

## **Interim Study 96S-105, English as Official Language**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Sen. Ben Brown, Chairman. Senate Members: Sens. Bernest Cain, Brooks Douglass, Howard Hendrick, Carol Martin and Ben Robinson.

## **Interim Study 96S-106, Interest Rates on Small Loans**

Senate Deregulation Committee. Sen. Herb Rozell, Chairman.

## **Interim Study 96S-107, Motor Carrier Registration and Enforcement**

Senate Transportation Committee. Sen. Gene Stipe, Chairman.

## **Interim Study 96S-108, Oklahoma Parents as Teachers Oversight Committee**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Sen. Penny Williams, Chairman. Senate Members: Sens. Howard Hendrick, Maxine Horner, Ed Long and Trish Weedn.

## **Interim Study 96S-110, Turnpikes**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Chairman Sen. Keith Leftwich. Senate Members: Sens. Bill Gustafson, Brad Henry, Dave Herbert, Cal Hobson, Bruce Price and Mark Snyder.

## **Interim Study 96S-111, Capitol Funding Needs**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Chairman Sen. Enoch Kelly Haney. Senate Members: Sens. Ben Brown, Larry Dickerson, Charles Ford, Howard Hendrick, Cal Hobson, Rick Littlefield, Billy Mickle, Ben Robinson, Jerry Smith and Don Williams.

# State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
670		302	SB 651	Legislature 7-14-94	This measure amends Section 18 of Article 2 of the State Constitution. It changes the procedure for calculating the number of persons who must sign a petition to call for a grand jury. It increases the minimum and maximum number required. It directs the Legislature to enact laws to prevent abuse.	Set For Nov. 5, 1996
671		303	HJR 1010	Legislature 5-18-95	This measure amends Section 26 of Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It would let school districts make contracts with school superintendents for more than one year, but not to exceed three years.	Set for Nov. 5, 1996
672	363			"BOOST" Better Opportunities for Oklahoma Students and Taxpayers 6-30-95	<p>This measure adds a new Article to the Oklahoma Constitution. The new Article deals with gambling. The new Article legalizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Slot machines and roulette,</li> <li>b. Craps, keno and video gambling</li> <li>c. All gambling played with cards, dice, mechanical devices or computers, and</li> <li>d. Other forms of gambling.</li> </ul> <p>For the first five years there could only be four non-Indian gambling facilities. Those facilities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remington Park Racetrack</li> <li>2. Blue Ribbon Downs Racetrack</li> <li>3. A facility in Tulsa, and</li> <li>4. A facility in Love County.</li> </ul> <p>An appointed Commission would regulate and license this gambling. After five years, other gambling facilities could be licensed. There could not be more than one facility in any county. Gambling facilities would have to meet minimum standards.</p> <p>The measure opens the door for Indian tribes to engage in the new forms of gambling. State limits and standards would have limited or no effect on Indian gambling. The State could not tax Indian gambling.</p> <p>The measure makes gambling debts legal and enforceable.</p> <p>State taxes on the new gambling would fund the Commission, and help education prisons. Some tax funds would go to local governments where State licensed gambling is conducted.</p>	Pending in Supreme Court Appeals and Protest filed

# State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
673	364			Joe Windes 9-29-95	<p>This measure amends the State Constitution. The amendment instructs State legislators. The amendment instructs legislators to request a National Constitutional Convention. The Convention would occur if thirty-four states request it. There has never been such a Convention. There are many unanswered questions about such a Convention's limits, membership and powers.</p> <p>The Convention's purpose is the setting of congressional term limits. This would be by proposing an Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Amendment would become law if thirty-eight states approved it.</p> <p>The suggested term limits would limit members of the United States House Representatives to three terms of office. Each House term is a two-year term. The suggested term limits would limit a United States Senator to two terms of office. Each Senate term is a six-year term.</p> <p>A notice would tell voters when a legislator failed to request a Convention. This notice would be on election ballots. The notice would be next to a legislator's name. The ballot notice would appear when an incumbent legislator sought a legislative office.</p>	Pending in Supreme Court Appeals and Protest filed
674		304	SJR 24	Legislature 4/25/96	<p>This measure adds a new section to the State Constitution. The measure deals with the rights of victims of crime. The measure seeks to protect victims' rights that exist under court decisions. It also seeks to insure that victims are treated with respect and dignity in the criminal justice process.</p> <p>To achieve these goals, crime victims and their families would have certain rights, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The right to know the status of the prosecution and investigation.</li> <li>2. The right to know the location of the defendant from arrest through the serving of a sentence.</li> <li>3. The right to be present at proceedings where the defendant has a right to be present.</li> <li>4. The right to be informed when a defendant escapes or is released.</li> <li>5. The right to be heard at sentencing and parole hearings.</li> </ol> <p>The exact nature of these and other rights and the procedures giving them effect would be set up by the Legislature or by the people through initiative or referendum. The Legis-</p>	Set for Nov. 5, 1996

# State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
					<p>lature or the people would also prescribe those responsible for following the established procedures.</p> <p>Either the Legislature or the people could extend any victims' rights to youthful offender proceedings.</p>	
675		305	HB 2198	Legislature 5/24/96	<p>This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It amends Section 8 of Article 10. It changes the way property is assessed for tax purposes. It would modify the percentage used to assess property. This measure would limit the percentage of fair cash value at which property may be assessed. The percentage for land would not be more than 13.5% nor less than 11%. The percentage for personal property would not be more than 15% nor less than 10%. The people may vote to increase the percentage. These limits would apply only to locally assessed property. These limits would not apply to all property. Property assessed by the State Board of Equalization would use a different percentage. The percentage used by the State Board to make assessments would be the percentage used on January 1, 1996.</p>	Set for Nov. 5, 1996
676		306	HB 2198	Legislature 05/24/96	<p>This measure amends Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It adds a new Section 8B. This measure would limit the fair cash value of real property for property tax purposes. The fair cash value would not increase by more than 5% in any taxable year. This limit would only apply to real property which is assessed by a county assessor. If the property is transferred, changed, or conveyed, the limitation would not apply for that year. The limitation does not apply if improvements have been made to the property, the increased value to the property will be assessed for that year. Any county which is not in compliance with laws or regulations governing valuation of property would not be allowed to apply the 5% limitation. This measure does not apply to personal property. This measure does not apply to property valued or assessed by the State Board of Equalization. The legislature would be allowed to enact laws to implement this section. This measure would take effect on January 1, 1997.</p>	Set for Nov. 5, 1996

# State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
677		307	HB 2198	Legislature 05/24/96	<p>This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. This measure would add a new section to Article 10 to be designated Section 8C. It would limit the fair cash value on a homestead for property tax purposes. The homestead must be owned by a person who is 65 years of age or older, with gross household income of \$25,000.00 or less. The fair cash value would not exceed the value of the homestead the first year the individual reached the age of 65 years and had a gross household income of \$25,000.00 or less. Improvements to the property would be added to the assessed value of the property. This measure would become effective on January 1, 1997. If the individual ceases to own and occupy the property, the fair cash value would be assessed as all other real property. If the gross household income exceeds \$25,000.00, the fair cash value will be determined as all other real property according to law.</p>	Set for Nov. 5, 1996

# Calendar of Meetings & Events

## Monday, October 14, 1996

- 9:00**                    **Tourism & Recreation Commission**  
Clarion Hotel, Senate Room, 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City
- 
- 10:00 - 2:00**        **House of Representatives Economic Development Committee**  
Interim Study 96-12, 2nd meeting. Cameron University, Admin. Bldg. Room 200, 2800 W. Gore, Lawton
- 
- 2:00**                    **Older Oklahomans Task Force**  
312 NE 28th, Oklahoma City
- 
- 7:30**                    **Senate Interim Study 96s-110 — Turnpikes**  
Canadian Valley Vo-Tech, Helen Ward Seminar Center, 1401 W. Michigan Ave., Chickasha, OK

## Tuesday, October 15, 1996

- 10:00**                    **Joint Interim Committee on Electric Utility Task Force**  
Created by SJR 37  
State Capitol, Senate Chamber
- 
- Advisory Committee on Mental Retardation Services —DHS**  
Room 284, Lincoln Plaza, 4545 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City

## Wednesday, October 16, 1996

- 9:00**                    **Police Pension and Retirement Board**  
1001 NW 63rd, Suite 305, Oklahoma City
- 
- 10:00**                    **Adult Day Care Task Force--DHS**  
312 NE 28th, Oklahoma City
- 
- Senate Committee on Small Business**  
Public hearing on small business issues and concerns  
Southwestern Oklahoma State University Conference Center. Red Bud Hall,  
Corner 7th Street and Davis Road, Weatherford, OK

# Calendar of Meetings & Events

## Thursday, October 17, 1996

**9:00**                      **Horse Racing Commission**  
Shepherd Mall Activity Center, 2426 Plaza Prom, Oklahoma City

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**Commission on Children & Youth**  
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City

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**1:00**                      **Jail Task Force — Interim Study SJR 34**  
State Capitol, Room 419-C

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**1:30 - 5:00**            **Managed Care Task Force - Senate**  
Regulation on Managed Care Entities  
**5:00 - 6:30**            Public Hearing on Managed Care  
State Capitol, Senate Chamber

## Thursday, October 24, 1996

**10:00**                      **Senate Energy Administration Reform Task Force**  
Created by SB 911  
State Capitol, Senate Chamber

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**House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources**  
Economic development of the beef, poultry and swine industry in rural Oklahoma  
Eastern Oklahoma State College, Student Union Ballroom, Second Floor, 1301 West Main, Wilburton

## Monday, October 28, 1996

**10:00**                      **Rehabilitation Services Commission**  
3535 NW 58 Street, Second Floor Large Conference Room, Oklahoma City

## Tuesday, October 29, 1996

**10:00**                      **Commission on Children & Youth**  
4545 N. Lincoln, Suite 114, Oklahoma City

## Wednesday, October 30, 1996

**10:00**                      **Senate Committee on Small Business**  
Public hearing on small business issues and concerns  
Metro Tech Vo-Tech, Big Dipper Room, 1900 Springlake Dr., Oklahoma City

## Friday, November 1, 1996

**9:00**                      **Oklahoma Fire Marshal Commission**  
Oklahoma City Fire Training Center, 850 N. Portland, Classroom C, Oklahoma City

# Calendar of Meetings & Events

## Monday, November 4, 1996

**11:00**                      **Transportation Commission**  
Okla. Dept. of Transportation, 200 NE 21, Commission Room, Oklahoma City

## Thursday, November 7, 1996

**8:00**                      **Asset Forfeiture Seminar for CLEET Certified Local, State & Federal Law Enforcement**  
Oklahoma City Police Training Center, 800 N. Portland, Oklahoma City

**10:00**                      **Senate Committee on Small Business**  
Public hearing on small business issues and concerns  
High Plains Institute of Technology, Seminar A Room, 3921 34th St., Woodward

**4:00**                      **Commission for Teacher Preparation**  
Reading Room of Oklahoma School of Science & Math, 1141 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City

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