



# Capitol Network News

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## GOVERNOR BACKS LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES FOR STATE AIRPLANE USAGE

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Governor Frank Keating is willing to back guidelines enacted by the legislature aimed at outlining how the executive office can use state-owned aircraft, a spokesman for the governor said Wednesday.

"Governor Keating does not have a problem with that," Press Secretary John Cox said when asked by *Capitol Network News* whether the governor would be willing to back legislation outlining the use of state government aircraft. "The governor would welcome any legislator, Republican or Democrat, to file legislation that outlines or provides guidelines for the use of the plane. He certainly does not have a problem with that."

Asked whether Keating would sign such a bill if passed by the legislature, Cox stopped short, saying it would depend on the limitations imposed by the legislation.

"But that's his position on any piece of legislation. He's not going to sign it without reading it," Cox explained. "Even if it were a right-to-work bill, he wouldn't tell you today that he would sign it without having seen it."

Cox's comments follow nearly a week of criticism of the governor's use of a state airplane to attend some partisan political fund-raisers. Renewing an argument made by Dan Mahoney, Keating's communications director, Cox called the criticism political in na-

ture, noting that the governor's chief critic, Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, became concerned about the issue only after the Keating attended a fund-raiser for Roach's opponent.

The same, Cox said, holds true for Rep. Ron Kirby, D-Lawton, who joined in the criticism on Wednesday.

"Using that \$3 million airplane to campaign for GOP candidates, while accompanied by Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers, is an abuse of power and a waste of tax dollars," said Kirby.

On Sept. 28, Keating flew from Oklahoma City to Lawton for a fund-raiser for the Comanche GOP Committee, which, in conjunction with GOP groups in neighboring counties, is fielding candidates against Kirby, as well as House Majority Leader Loyd Benson, D-Frederick and Rep. Abe Deutschendorf, D-Lawton. Following that event, Keating was driven to Fletcher where

he attended an event for Chris Smith, the Republican candidate attempting to oust Rep. Jim Glover, D-Elgin. The governor then flew to Woodward for another Republican candidate's event.

According to Mahoney, the governor's office will ask the candidates' campaign committees and the county GOP group to reimburse the state for the \$473 fuel cost for the flights.

Cox and Mahoney's view of the criticism was joined earlier in the week a lawmaker from the other side of the aisle, Sen. Dick Wilkerson, D-Atwood.

"When the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem attack the governor for his airplane costs, it's a flim flam," Wilkerson told the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ada on Monday. "They know it, the governor knows it and you know it. That's not a make-or-

*See Airplane Usage, page 2*

## GINGRICH TOUTS "JUDGMENT," NOT CHARACTER ISSUES

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole should focus his and the public's attention on what Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich said were issues of judgment, not character, in the final three weeks before the general election.

Speaking to reporters some 12 hours before Dole and President Bill Clinton were scheduled to meet in San Diego for their second presidential debate, Gingrich accused Clinton of "trying to buy the election" and of errors of judgment in public policy issues.

Asked what he hoped Dole would do during the debate, Gingrich said, "I hope Bob Dole calmly tells the truth to the American people."

That truth, Gingrich said, shows that Clinton does not have the judgment to be president.

"If judgment is not an issue, why do we even bother to have an election?" the House Speaker asked.

Specifically, Gingrich pointed to Clinton's

role in the war on drugs as an example of what he called poor judgment, noting that the president's administration had cut funding to the effort and that recently released statistics have shown an increase in drug use among young people over the past four years. Gingrich also mentioned reports that as many as one-fourth of Clinton's White House workers had used drugs while an adult, some as late as inauguration day.

The House Speaker also pointed to the former Arkansas governor's pledge to cut taxes, which he said later resulted in tax increases.

Gingrich's leveled his strongest criticism at recent revelations concerning contributions by an Indonesian banking family and their associates to Clinton's reelection campaign.

Indonesian billionaire Mochtar Riady, his family members and the US subsidiaries and executives of the family's company, the Lippo Group, have contributed more than \$475,000 to the Democratic Party since 1991, according to published reports. The

*See Gingrich, page 2*

### What's Inside

Senate Budget Leader Lauds Economic Growth .....	2
Student Scores Up in Math, Science; Reading, Writing Skills Stable .....	3
OSHA's Strong Enforcement Program Continues in FY 96 .....	3
Hammer Award Goes to Kansas City Civil Rights Office .....	4
Utilities Lauded for Measures Cutting Acid Rain, Global Warming Emissions .....	4
FCC Chairman Urges Open Competition and Choice in China .....	4
Calendar .....	5