

## SENATE BUDGET LEADER LAUDS ECONOMIC GROWTH, LATEST REVENUE REPORT

From Senate Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The latest revenue report from the Office of State Finance is further evidence that Oklahoma's economy is growing and state economic policies are working, according to a Senate budget leader.

"Just when it seems like we've peaked, our economic numbers get better," said Senator Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "The latest numbers indicate that we're doing a lot of things on the economic development front."

Senator Haney was referring to the September revenue collection report issued by the Office of State Finance Tuesday.

According to the report, tax collections increased by \$27.7 million in September, an 8.5 percent increase from the same period last year. The tax collection total for the first quarter of this fiscal year is up by \$67.8 million or 8.1 percent higher than the same period last year.

More importantly, tax collections are outperforming projections with the current total 4.1 percent higher than the state estimate.

"When tax collections are up, it indicates the economy is growing," said Senator Haney. "The latest numbers not only reflect growth, they show that we're growing faster than state economists predicted we would. That's great news for both the public and private sectors."

Senator Haney is hoping other state leaders will recognize the good news and use it to promote the state.

"I hope Governor Keating takes a good look at the latest report and recognizes all the positive things that have been happening in Oklahoma."

"Good economic news like this can be a great business recruitment tool. The Governor needs to spend more time talking our state up instead of running it down."

**Airplane Usage, cont. from page 1**  
break issue. Those kinds of things don't have any substance to them, but that constant give and take and the gnawing back and forth is part of how our system works.

"I've never had a reason to think Governor Keating was anything but an honest man, albeit a misguided honest man," added Wilkerson, who went on to criticize the governor for "always talking about what's wrong with Oklahoma."

Cox also stressed that state law mandates that the governor be provided transportation and security by the Department of Public Safety. That department, Cox said in response to questions, is responsible for determining how the governor gets to and from any public event and would be the one affected by any new measures adopted by the legislature.

"Whether the governor is traveling in-state or out-of-state," Cox explained, "his schedule is coordinated through the Department of Public Safety's security detachment. They determine what will be the most effective and efficient method of travel. They determine how to get the governor where he's going, whether it's on the ground or in the air."

*"A great writer is, so to speak, a second government in his country. And for that reason no regime has ever loved great writers, only minor ones."*

*Alexander Solzhenitsyn  
'The First Circle,' 1964*

**Gingrich, continued from page 1**

revelations have led Republicans, including Gingrich, to call for a federal investigation into Clinton's ties to the wealthy family.

During his appearance Wednesday, Gingrich pointed to loans from the Import/Export Bank and Department of Commerce appointments as examples of what he called a "network of favoritism" that existed between Clinton's White House and the wealthy family.

Gingrich said a close examination of the relationship reveals "pay off after pay off" and accused the president and the Democratic Party of attempting "to buy the election."

In town for a \$250 per plate GOP fundraiser, Gingrich dedicated the bulk of his comments to promoting the efforts of the Republican Party.

Holding up a copy of two mock checks — one made out to the Internal Revenue Service and the other made out for an American family — Gingrich endorsed Dole's 15 percent tax cut proposal, saying it would put \$1,261 more dollars in the pocket of a family of four with a \$30,000 income.

"We can pay our families more or we can pay Washington more," he said.

And then there was the matter of the ice bucket.

Gingrich used the bucket, in which ice was once delivered to House members' offices twice daily, to illustrate Republican efforts to cut what he called needless spending. In the case of the bucket, Gingrich said Republicans were able to cut \$500,000 for the congressional budget by eliminating the daily deliveries.

House of Representatives ice delivery involved 14 full-time employees, the Speaker explained, and 82 years after the invention of the refrigerator, the buckets were easy to find: "They would be sitting by members' refrigerators, melting."

Gingrich jokingly said the sudden move to end the practice may have contributed to his branding as an extremist.

"We didn't form a study committee to look into it, and we didn't phase it out. We put a stop to it cold turkey," he said.

That, he said, was the beginning of a bigger story in which budget savings were earned by eliminating the House's \$137,000 barber shop, \$18,000 shoe shine stand and \$450,000 post office operations.

The actions, Gingrich said, illustrated the idea that programs existed which could be cut without causing adverse impact on important government services.

★★Important Date★★

General Election  
Tuesday, November 5

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