

Capitol Network News

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

Daily Edition, Wednesday, October 16, 1996

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

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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STUDENT SCORES UP IN MATH, SCIENCE; READING, WRITING SKILLS STABLE

From US Dept. of Education

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics reported that American students generally improved performance in math and science, but remained stable in reading and writing achievement.

In commenting on the Report in Brief: National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 1994 Trends in Academic Progress, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley urged schools and families to work harder to improve reading and writing skills, while expanding on the gains made in math and science.

Department research shows that reading and writing are greatly influenced by what goes on in the home and in after school activities. "Parents can do their part by making sure that children have a vast assortment of reading material and practice writing, and get a library card and use it," Riley added.

Known as the "The Nation's Report Card," NAEP has monitored trends in academic achievement since the 1970s and is the only continuing assessment of a nationally representative sample of U.S. students' academic performance. In science, math, and reading, students were tested at ages nine,

13, and 17. In writing, students in grades 4, 8, and 11 were tested.

The trend report found that the average math and science score for nine year olds was higher than 20 years ago. Thirteen year olds had higher average math scores than in 1973, while their science scores were not significantly different over the time period from 1970 to 1994.

The average science score for 17 year olds in 1992 and 1994 was higher than anytime since 1977, but lower than the 1969 average, while their average math scores in 1992 and 1994 were higher than anytime since 1978, and a little higher than in 1973.

Student performance is reported on a 500-point scale, divided into five levels of achievement (150, 200, 250, 300 and 350).

Among the report's findings:

✓ Compared to 1977 for science and 1978 for math, higher percentages of 9 year olds in 1994 showed an understanding of fundamentals in both subjects (levels 150, 200, and 250). But no significant changes occurred in the percentages of students at age 9 or grade 4 reaching any level of performance on the reading or writing scales.

✓ Almost all 13 year olds reached level 150 in science and math, and gains were

made in the percentages of students at or above levels 200 and 250. Few changes were observed in levels of reading and writing performance.

✓ At age 17, the only change observed in science performance levels was an increase in the percentage of students reaching at least level 300. In math, 17 year olds made gains at levels 250 and 300. No significant change at any performance level was observed in reading. And the percentage of 11th graders at or above level 250 in writing declined between 1984 and 1994.

✓ Thirteen and 17 year old boys continue to outscore girls in science and math, while girls outperform boys in reading and writing.

✓ Despite a narrowing of the gap between the average performance of white and black students in three of the four subjects tested, in 1994, white students had average scores that were higher than those of black students in all four subjects. And the average scores of white students were higher than the average scores of Hispanic students in all subjects.

✓ Students' reports indicated an increased use of technology in the classroom. Between 1984 and 1994, there was a sharp increase in the percentage of students at grades 8 and 11 who used computers to write stories or papers.

✓ There was an increase in the percentage of 9 year olds who reported reading for fun daily, and 9 and 13 year olds were less likely in 1994 than 1982 to watch six or more hours of television each day. Between 1978 and 1994, there was a small increase in the percentage of 17 year olds who reported watching six or more hours of television daily.

The report is available from the National Library of Education by calling 1-800-424-1616, and via the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/NCES/NAEP>.

OSHA'S STRONG ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM CONTINUES IN FY 96

From US Dept. of Labor

■(WASHINGTON) While working hard to build partnerships with business owners who care about their workers' safety and health, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has simultaneously worked to stringently enforce safety standards for those who don't.

In the past fiscal year, the number of OSHA citations for very serious safety violations was up 30 percent. The total of significant and egregious enforcement cases in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1996, (FY '96) was up sharply over the previous year: 165 compared with 125. Significant cases are those with proposed penalties totaling more than \$100,000 and egregious cases are those where multiple willful violations warrant instance-by-instance penalties.

There were six egregious cases in FY '96 compared with 17 in FY '95. The FY '96 egregious cases involved:

✓ DeCoster Egg Farms, of Turner, Maine, \$3.6 million in proposed penalties, for numerous willful violations, including

unguarded machinery and violations of housing requirements for migrant workers;

✓ Lisbon Contractors, Inc., of Danboro, Pa., \$210,900 in proposed penalties, mainly for violations of the trenching standard;

✓ Richter's Bakery of San Antonio, Inc., of San Antonio, Texas, \$1,040,000 in proposed penalties, mainly for willful violations of standards for confined space entry, lockout/tagout of equipment and hazard communication;

✓ J.M. Cashman, Inc., of Quincy, Mass., \$770,000 in proposed penalties, for failing to provide fall protection for employees at a Boston, Mass., construction worksite, and failing to ensure that a subcontractor, Saugus Construction Co., of Georgetown, Mass., provided fall protection for its employees (a worker was killed in a fall at the site);

✓ Saugus Construction Co., of Georgetown, Mass., \$448,000 in proposed penalties, for failing to provide fall protection for its employees at the Boston site; and

✓ AK Steel Corp., of Middletown, Ohio, \$1,015,000, for violations of the lockout/tagout standard.

"The more I observed Washington, the more frequently I visited it, and the more people I interviewed there, the more I understood how prophetic L'Enfant was when he laid it out as a city that goes around in circles."

*John Mason Brown
'Through These Men'
1956*

HAMMER AWARD GOES TO KANSAS CITY CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICE

From US Dept. of Education

■(KANSAS CITY) Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award, recognizing outstanding examples of reinventing government, was presented Wednesday to the U.S. Education Department's Office for Civil Rights in Kansas City.

The award honored the Kansas City office for developing a faster, friendlier approach to civil rights compliance reviews in its region, which includes Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska and Missouri.

The Hammer Award was named in recognition of the infamous \$400 government hammers of years past. The plaque consists of a \$6 hammer, a ribbon and card from Gore — all in an aluminum frame.

FCC CHAIRMAN URGES OPEN COMPETITION AND CHOICE IN CHINA

From Federal Communications Commission

■(BEIJING) Federal Communication Commission Chairman Reed Hundt urged China's leaders to further "the goal of open competition and choice in telecommunications," recently. Hundt's remarks were in a speech to the Center for Information Infrastructure and Economic Development in Beijing, China.

Hundt said that through telecommunications advances "China can discover a way to bring to all the benefits of education." He added that satellite technology "holds tremendous promise for a country as large and geographically diverse as China [by] bringing information and education to any corner of China without the need for the very expensive installation of wireline networks.

"A number of new mobile satellite systems are cooperating with Chinese partners to bring mobile satellite service to China. For these systems to succeed and for China to benefit from their promise, the key will be — as with other sectors in telecommunications — to allow for competition, to allow multiple operators to compete and strive and allow consumers to choose the best. I also hope China will explore the possibility of authorizing multiple, competing broadcasters. Countries that have followed this advice have been pleased with the results. Independent television stations, and the competition between them and between state-owned entities, have generated many new jobs and first-rate local programming."

What prompted the Kansas City honor was the office's new "Profile, Assessment and Resolution" approach to compliance reviews. It replaced a lengthier, sometimes more confrontational process.

Under the new program, the civil rights office shares its expertise with that of state and local school officials, parents, and other community members to reach effective solutions to high priority civil rights issues. Traditional compliance reviews could sometimes

UTILITIES LAUDED FOR MEASURES CUTTING ACID RAIN, GLOBAL WARMING EMISSIONS

From Environmental Protection Agency

■(WASHINGTON) In an action reflecting EPA's market-based, cost-efficient approach to Clean Air Act implementation, the Agency Tuesday announced the awarding of 5,687 acid rain bonus allowances to five electric power utilities for undertaking energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. This is the sixth group of awards given under the Conservation and Renewable Energy Reserve program established by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Energy efficiency leads to less power generation demand, which in turn leads to emission reductions in sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), toxics and particulates, as well as the reduction of water contaminants and solid waste. Electric power plants are the biggest United States source of SO₂, NO₂ and carbon dioxide. The energy efficiency and renewable energy measures will lead to a one-time CO₂ reduction of approximately 2.15 million tons.

The five awardees and number of allowances received are: Pacific Gas & Electric, Calif., 3814 allowances received (the biggest single award to date); San Diego Gas & Electric, Calif., 1027 allowances; Sierra Pacific Power, Nev., 666 allowances; ESI Energy, Fla., 143 allowances; and Wisconsin Public Power, 37 allowances. Under the Acid Rain requirements, an electric utility must hold one allowance for every ton of SO₂ emitted. EPA allocates a limited number of allowances to utilities to ensure that emissions will be cut in half by the year 2010 — to less than 9 million tons annually nationwide.

For further technical information on the awards, contact Melanie Dean at 202-233-9189 or the Acid Rain Hotline at 202-233-9620.

take months. Now, they are usually resolved with school officials in 30 to 45 days.

The partnership approach has also resulted in far fewer staff resources being expended. Among the program's new features:

- meetings with state and local school officials and the public;
- clear communication, providing everyone with simple statements of the legal issues under consideration;
- assisting school officials in conducting assessments of their policies and practices;
- providing school officials with immediate feedback;
- looking for answers, not problems, by working with school officials to resolve any identified civil rights concerns; and,
- offering follow up technical assistance.

Like all civil rights regional enforcement offices, Kansas City's staff of 50 investigators, attorneys and others ensure that schools comply with civil rights laws.

The statutes prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability and age in institutions that receive federal money.

Almost 600 Hammer Awards have been presented to federal, state and local employees working to build a better government. The awards are made to teams — not individuals — who have made significant contributions in support of President Clinton's National Performance Review. Its guiding principles are to put customers first, cut red tape, empower employees and get "back to the basics."

Nominations for the awards originate from numerous sources, including departments and agencies submitting their own success stories, as well as from state and local governments and private enterprises.

"The Assembly has witnessed over the last few weeks how historical truth is established; once an allegation has been repeated a few times, it is no longer an allegation, it is an established fact, even if no evidence has been brought out in order to support it."

*Dag Hammarskjöld
on attacks by Soviet Premier
Nikita S. Khrushchev in the U.N.
General Assembly
The New York Times
Oct. 4, 1960*

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Thursday, October 17, 1996

- 9:00** **Horse Racing Commission**
Shepherd Mall Activity Center, 2426 Plaza Prom, Oklahoma City
-
- Commission on Children & Youth**
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City
-
- 1:00** **Jail Task Force — Interim Study SJR 34**
State Capitol, Room 419-C
-
- 1:30** **Oklahoma Tax Commission**
2501 Lincoln Blvd., Fifth Floor, Oklahoma City
-
- 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
-
- 2:00** **Joint Commission on Natural Gas Policy**
State Capitol, Room 432-A
-
- 2:30** **House Interim Study 96H-15, Tax Incremental Financing Techniques for Use in Economic Development, Tourism and Recreation Projects**
Omniplex Museum, 2100 NE 52 Street, Oklahoma City
Weather Station Room - Adjacent to Administrative Offices, Main Floor

Friday, October 18, 1996

- 8:00** **State Regents for Higher Education**
Information Commerce Bldg., Room 232, Tulsa Community College, West Campus
7505 W. 41st, Tulsa
Regular meeting and public hearing
-
- 10:00** **Alcoholic Beverage Laws Enforcement Commission**
Lincoln Plaza Office Center, Suite 270, 4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City

Tuesday, October 22, 1996

- 8:00** **Oklahoma Center for Advancement of Science & Technology Applied Research Committee**
301 NW 63, Suite 110, Oklahoma City

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Thursday, October 24, 1996

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

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

Friday, October 25, 1996

8:15 **Capitol-Medical Center Improvement and Zoning Commission**
Conference Room, 50 NE 23, Oklahoma City

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

Monday, November 4, 1996

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

Calendar of Meetings & Events

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

Friday, November 8, 1996

- 10:00** **War Veterans Commission**
Conference Room, Oklahoma Veterans Center, Sulphur, OK

Tuesday, November 12, 1996

- 9:00** **Commissioners of the Land**
State Capitol, Governor's Large Conference Room

Wednesday, November 13, 1996

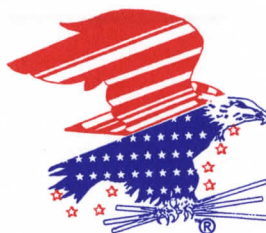
- 1:30** **Senate Committee on Small Business**
Public hearing on small business issues and concerns
OSU Extension Center, Conference Room, 316 E. Oxford, Enid, OK

Wednesday, November 20, 1996

- 9:00** **Police Pension & Retirement Board**
1001 NW 63rd Street, Suite 305, Oklahoma City
-
- 10:00** **Adult Day Care Task Force--DHS**
312 NE 28th, Oklahoma City



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