

Capitol Network News

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

Daily Edition, Monday, October 14, 1996

WHO PAYS, WHO DOESN'T FOR GOVERNOR'S POLITICAL PLANE TRIPS

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Governor Frank Keating will ask as many as 10 legislative candidates and one political action committee to repay the state for the costs of fundraising trips to which the governor used a state airplane.

According to information prepared by Keating's communications director, Dan Mahoney, the governor has made a handful of trips in a state airplane this year for solely political purposes. In other cases in which the governor's office will seek reimbursement, the state plane was diverted during a state business trip to a political event, Mahoney said.

The governor's office, according to Mahoney, will ask the following candidates for reimbursement:

✓ Rep. Mike O'Neal, R-Enid: En route from a Feb. 2 Tulsa Chamber of Commerce meeting to Oklahoma City, the governor flew to Enid for an O'Neal fund-raiser at an approximate cost of \$40.

✓ Sen. Carol Martin, R-Comanche: Keating flew from Oklahoma City to Duncan for a March 1 fund-raiser at an approximate cost of \$80.55.

✓ Sen. Jerry Smith, R-Tulsa: The governor flew to Tulsa for a May 14 fund-raiser at an approximate cost of \$160.

✓ Senate candidate Sandra McIlnay, R-Stillwater: On the morning of July 24, the governor flew to Woodward for a tour of Mutual of Omaha's claims processing center and Woodward Hospital and Health Center and attended an afternoon cabinet meeting and town hall meeting in Woodward. While en route from Woodward to Oklahoma City, the governor stopped in Stillwater for the fund-raiser. McIlnay will be asked to reimburse for the cost of diverting the Woodward-to-Oklahoma City flight to Stillwater at an approximate cost of \$50.

✓ House candidate Carla Smalts, R-Keyes: Keating flew from Oklahoma City to Fairview to attend an Aug. 21 rural economic summit in Watonga; After the summit, the governor flew from Fairview to Guymon to meet with representatives of the local media and for the Smalts' fund-raiser. Approximate cost of the flight which Smalts will be asked to reimburse was \$160.

✓ House candidate Terry Ingmire, R-Stillwater: Keating flew to Stillwater for a

Sept. 9 Ingmire fund-raiser at an approximate cost of \$80. After the fund-raiser, the governor flew to Kansas City for a 7:30 a.m. meeting of the Southern Growth Policies Board the following morning.

✓ House candidate Chris Smith, R-Canton, Senate candidate Owen Laughlin, R-Woodward, and three or four other unnamed Republican candidates: On Sept. 28, Keating flew to Lawton for a fund-raiser for the Comanche GOP Committee. Later that day, the governor flew to Woodward for a fund-raiser for Laughlin, Smith and other unnamed Republican candidates. The day-long campaign trip cost approximately \$473, which will be divided three or four ways, according to Mahoney.

✓ House candidate Curt Roggow, R-Enid: Keating flew to San Antonio for an Oct. 3 luncheon for the Council of Growing Companies. En route home, the governor visited Enid for a radio interview and fund-raiser for Roggow, who will reimburse the

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A BIG 'WELCOME' TO OKLAHOMA

By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■(GIT) At a cost of more than \$300 per square foot, the Welcome to Oklahoma center on the Cherokee Turnpike (Hwy. 412) near Kansas, Oklahoma may be too expensive, one Tourism and Recreation commissioner said at the Commission's monthly meeting, Monday.

Jonathan Helmerich questioned the prohibitive cost, asking, "Are we being prudent with taxpayers' money?"

As part of a long range plan to provide information in an attractive atmosphere to those driving into the state, information centers are already open along major thoroughfares near Oklahoma's borders—at Sallisaw, Miami and Oklahoma City. Funding for the centers was mandated by general obligation bonds in 1993, including \$2.5 million for the construction of welcome centers, Kathleen

Marks said. She is director of the travel and tourism division and a six-year veteran with the tourism and recreation department.

Walters, OK has a new center under construction adjacent to its former site and Colbert and Thackerville are replacement sites. Miami, Kansas, Catoosa, Colbert and Walters were each funded at \$500,000, Marks said. An additional half-million dollars was added for Catoosa's facility after the 1992 tornado blew the old one away.

Low bid on the Kansas, Oklahoma facility along the Cherokee Turnpike was \$640,000, part of which will pave parking lots and provide utilities. The site for the welcome center is farm land, Marks said. All utilities will have to be brought in and all drives and paving will be brand new.

Helmerich questioned the feasibility of building on the site near Kansas, Oklahoma,

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state for \$80, the approximate cost of diverting the return flight to Enid.

The GOP Senate PAC will also be asked to reimburse the state approximately \$200 for a Sept. 24 governor's trip to Ardmore for a fund-raiser. The trip following Keating's trip earlier in the day to Duncan, where he visited two schools and spoke to the Kiwanis club.

In other cases, the governor's office will not ask the following candidates at whose events Keating appeared for reimbursement:

✓ Rep. Mike Thornbrugh, R-Tulsa: On April 25, Keating flew to Tulsa, from which he drove to Owasso to visit National Steak and Poultry for a ribbon cutting, met with the Owasso newspaper and attended a Thornbrugh fund-raiser. The governor remained overnight in Tulsa, staying at his mother-in-law's home, and spoke the following morning to the Oklahoma State Medical Association in Tulsa.

✓ Rep. Flint Breckinridge, R-Tulsa: The governor flew June 4 to Tulsa for a bill signing ceremony, attended a Sovereignty Symposium later in the day and held meetings in the state's Tulsa office. Sandwiched between those events was a fundraising luncheon for Breckinridge. The governor returned to Oklahoma City that afternoon.

✓ House candidate Jon Mullican, R-Tulsa: After attending an Aug. 23 Tourism Department meeting at the Shangri-La resort, holding meetings in the state's Tulsa office and speaking to the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals, the governor attended an Mullican fund-raiser in the afternoon.

✓ House candidate Greg Piatt, R-Ardmore: While in Ardmore on Sept. 12 for a United Way speech, a cabinet meeting, a tour of the Ardmore Higher Education Center and a meeting at Uniroyal, Keating attended a luncheon fund-raiser for Piatt.

✓ Senate candidate Jay Franklin, R-Vinita: Keating flew to Vinita on Sept. 19 for a rural economic summit and visits of the Cinch Plant, Northeast Corrections, Eastern State Hospital, Equi-Trans Aluminum Trailers, Inc. Before leaving the area, the governor attended a fund-raiser for Franklin.

✓ House candidates Shirley Forsythe, R-Tulsa, and Mark Liotta, R-Tulsa: The governor began Oct. 2 in Oklahoma City with an address to the Highway Patrol Association and a meeting with the media. After those events, the governor flew to Tulsa to deliver a keynote speech before the Tulsa Rotary Club, followed by a meeting with the Oklahoma Municipal League and office meetings. That evening, Keating attended

fund-raiser events for Forsythe and Liotta.

✓ Rick Webb, R-Custer City: On Oct. 9, Keating flew to Clinton for a Clinton Chamber of Commerce luncheon and visits to the Clinton Middle School and Arapaho School. Before flying home, the governor attended a fundraising event for Webb.

✓ House candidates Dan Chepkauskus, R-Muskogee, and Phyllis McLemore, R-Muskogee: After flying to Muskogee for an interview with the newspaper, a tour of Griffin Foods and Coburn Optical, the governor attended evening fundraising events for Chepkauskus and McLemore.

✓ Senate candidate James Williamson, R-Tulsa: Keating began the day in Tulsa with a Republican Party breakfast, followed by speeches to the Southern Conference of Bar Associations, the Oklahoma Nurses Association and the Society of Energy Advocates. That evening, Keating attended a fund-raiser for Williamson.

Also not receiving a request for reimbursement will be the Capitol PAC. On May 22, Keating attended a World Trade Conference luncheon in Tulsa and conducted several meetings in his Tulsa office. That evening, he attended a fund-raiser for the political action committee and spent the night at the home of his mother-in-law.

According to Mahoney, the reimbursement requests will not be issued until after the Nov. 5 general election. That, he explained, is because the governor may make additional trips on behalf of the candidates, potentially increasing the amount for which reimbursement will be requested.

★★ Important Date ★★

**General Election
Tuesday, November 5**

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A division of
GIT, Inc.
P.O. Box 61206
Oklahoma City, OK 73146-1206
Office (405) 528-2546
Fax (405) 521-9807
Net: gitinc@ionet.net
Web: <http://www.exoweb.com/git>

Darwin P. Maxey, Publisher
Mary Millen, Editor

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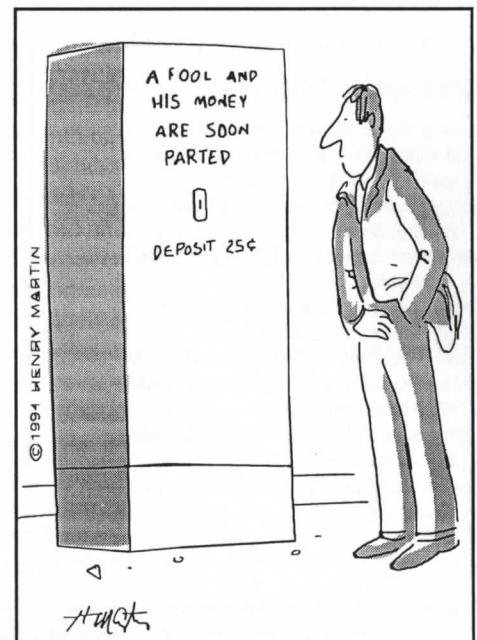
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asking, "Do we need to build it at all on that one highway?" Driving up the cost is the absence of water anywhere near the site. The bid price includes a lift station to pump water over the turnpike to the site, plus piping over the highway.

There was no disagreement among commissioners that Oklahoma needs first-class welcome centers. They mentioned the Texas center, just south of the Red River on I-35, compared to Oklahoma's small facility just north of the River. Commissioners requested a copy of the bid and breakout of all costs.

The prototype center from which the others will be modeled is open at NE 122nd and I-35 in Oklahoma City, with antlered chandeliers and extensive use of marble.

Bids on the welcome centers are awarded by either the Oklahoma Department of Transportation or the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority, depending on whether the center will be near a highway or turnpike. Sites for the welcome centers are chosen by the legislature, based, Marks said, on the policy of providing information at the borders of the state and major metropolitan areas.



DOING VERY WELL WITH VERY LITTLE

By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■ (GIT) With a tiny yearly budget of \$129,000, the film commission of the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation is bringing dollars into the state far in excess of its funding. The legislature's appropriation to the film commission covers three salaries, space rental, trade shows to advertise Oklahoma as a film location and "pens and postage," as Film Commission Director Robert Davis said. The movie *Twister* garnered more than \$11 million for Oklahoma, but Davis said smaller projects and more of them would help just as much as one big film. "The movie industry brings dollars in and does not take anything out," Davis said, noting more than \$3 million was paid to local carpenters, electricians, etc. who worked on *Twister* — money that stays in Oklahoma.

At the monthly Tourism and Recreation Commission meeting in Oklahoma City Monday, Davis listed projects already filmed here and some we may see in the coming months.

After a quick tour of Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Guthrie and Norman by Spelling Productions three weeks ago, Davis got the word this week that a writer has been assigned to craft a series along the lines of *Dynasty*, *Dallas* and the movie *Giant*. The film commission's budget didn't include helicopter use for the movie moguls, or motel rooms, or meals; but private industry bridged the gap, donating helicopters and time, motels and meals for the visiting team. "We had four problems that kept Spelling and others out of Oklahoma," Davis said. "We have addressed these problems, and that's why Spelling came here." The problems solved were:

- A sales tax rebate goes directly to the film producers.

- Equipment rental is handled by the film commission. "When the production company needs any item, they tell the film commission and we get it there," Davis said. Previously, film crews had to rent equipment in Dallas.

- Right to work and crews are no longer problems, after cooperation from the International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE). Local 112 of the union agreed to provide workers for films from union rosters. If the union can't fill the jobs needed Davis said, the production company can hire workers from outside who do not have to join the union to work on the movie.

Other filming in Oklahoma included:

- More than \$1.5 million has been spent

to film national commercials in Oklahoma this year.

- A portion of a Dick Clark special was taped on the Tallgrass Prairie near Pawhuska.

- HBO filmed a documentary on children and religion at Stroud.

- The Marland Mansion in Ponca City was filmed for a segment of the A&E channel's *American Castles* series.

Coming up, two Oklahoma independent film companies have contracts and funding to make and release *Faded Love*, a movie indirectly about Patsy Cline, with a \$1.5 million budget and *Night Race*, with a \$2 million budget. A remake of the Broadway hit, *Oklahoma* as a miniseries is planned for this

winter. Filming should begin in February and continue through July or August Davis said. Next spring, *The Bill Pickett Story* will begin filming.

Davis said he and Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin were guests of Dreamworks in California recently. "After much practice," Davis said, "last year we honed our little dog and pony show. I lead off," he said, "and then say 'Lt. Gov., what about . . . ?' then I bow out and Mary takes over. She's right at home with the heavy hitters," Davis added.

Hoping for a bigger appropriation from the legislature next year, Davis is planning to take the state's advantages as a location site on the road, advertising at trade shows.

AG ASKS FOR OG&E'S RATES TO BE CUT BY \$79.8 MILLION

From Office of Attorney General

■ (OKLAHOMA CITY) Attorney General Drew Edmondson filed testimony on behalf of Oklahoma ratepayers Monday asking that OG&E's rates be cut by \$79.8 million per year.

OG&E asked the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to reduce its rates by approximately \$14.2 million per year beginning March 1, 1997. Monday was the deadline for parties wishing to file responses to OG&E's request.

"We commend OG&E for coming forward and asking for a rate reduction," Edmondson said. "However, we believe that the evidence will support a much greater rate reduction than the company proposed. Our responsibility is to make sure Oklahoma ratepayers are paying the lowest possible rate for electrical service. Our filing is based on the maximum rate reduction we feel can be supported by the evidence, while still allowing OG&E a fair rate of return."

The attorney general's testimony was prepared by a group of expert consultants who have been analyzing OG&E's application since August.

"Our consultants have conducted a very thorough examination of the company's filing and have discovered a number of additional adjustments that need to be made," Edmondson said. "These include adjustments to OG&E's anticipated revenue and expense levels, as well as to its Oklahoma jurisdictional rate base. These combined adjustments would result in a \$79.8 million reduction for OG&E's customers," Edmondson said.

Among the recommended adjustments to OG&E's filing is a \$46.8 million reduction in Oklahoma's rate base to recognize the

value of cash working capital supplied to the company through the payment of monthly utility bills.

"Our recommendation on this issue is consistent with the most recent commission orders on this issue," Edmondson said.

The attorney general's testimony also recommends a reduction in the amount of compensation OG&E is allowed to pay to Enogex, its wholly-owned subsidiary, for fuel related costs. OG&E is requesting the equivalent of \$0.813 per MCF for natural gas transported by Enogex, while Enogex transports gas for other shoppers and its own affiliate at rates of \$0.16-0.17 per MCF.

"While there are clearly some significant differences between the two types of transportation services, we don't believe that the degree of disparity is justified by the company in its filing," Edmondson said.

The attorney general recommends that OG&E's compensation to Enogex be set at lower level on an interim basis, subject to refund, until the commission completes its examination of the issue.

Edmondson also recommends the elimination of nearly \$7 million in marketing and advertising costs. These costs are aimed primarily at competing with natural gas utilities for a finite amount of customer load.

"The Corporation Commission accepted a similar recommendation in a recent Oklahoma Natural Gas rate case," Edmondson said. "We're just trying to be consistent. We don't believe it is in the best interest of ratepayers of either electric or gas utilities to fund this sort of competition for the same customers."

Edmondson indicated it is too early to
See Rate Cut, page 4

ADOPTION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED DURING CEREMONY OCT. 24

From House Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The co-chairs of the Legislature's Adoption Law Reform Committee, three "created families" and a professional in the field of adoption services will be honored later this month.

The honorees will be recognized during the third annual "Celebration of Created Families." The banquet is scheduled Oct. 24, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Marriott Hotel, as a prelude to observance of National Adoption Awareness Month nationwide in November.

The celebration will be sponsored by Mercy Health Center and St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City, with assistance from Associated Catholic Charities and the Oklahoma Adoption Coalition.

Legislative awards will be presented to state Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, and Sherri Finik, executive director of Adoption Affiliates.

Roach, an adoptive parent, was the principle author of House Bill 2975, the Oklahoma Adoption Act which passed the Legislature and was signed into law this year. Finik, who has been involved in political and community advocacy for women's and children's issues for several years, also played a key role in passage of the legislation.

"Created Family Awards" will be presented to adoptive parents Glenda and Sam Ssali of Tulsa, Chris and Caressa Mason of Broken Arrow, and Dr. and Mrs. J. Mark Knox of Edmond.

The Ssalis have adopted seven children, making theirs a multi-cultural family (Asian, African-American and Caucasian). The Ma-

sons had a biological daughter of their own, then adopted five more children. The Knoxes have adopted four children, and both teach a course to physicians stressing adoption as an alternative to abortion or single parenting.

Nominated for the Hilde Lillegaard Service Award are Julia Reed, director of Family Support Services for Catholic Charities, and Finik, who has worked with Adoption Affiliates for more than 17 years.

Adoption Affiliates is a women's reproductive health facility and licensed adoption agency. Associated Catholic Charities, which was created in 1912, is a non-profit social service organization that focuses on maternity issues such as adoption and teen parenting, and operates a maternity home for teen-age mothers.

The winner of the Hilde Lillegaard Service Award will be announced during the banquet.

Keynote speaker for the event will be Evonne Winhaus, an author, licensed counselor and clinical social worker who is nationally recognized for her expertise in the field of parenting.

GINGRICH SETS OKLAHOMA CITY FUND-RAISING STOP

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Speaker of the US House of Representatives Newt Gingrich will be in Oklahoma City on Wednesday during a multi-state fundraising and endorsement trip.

According to Genevive Kopel, from the speaker's political liaison office, Gingrich will visit Oklahoma City for a Republican National Committee fund-raiser. Because the event will be private, rather than public, Kopel would not reveal where or when the event will be held or what candidates might specifically benefit from the event.

Similar events, Kopel noted, are planned later that day in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Columbia, South Carolina.

The Oklahoma and Carolinas appearances will conclude a nearly week-long series of events for Gingrich, which included fund-raisers and other events in Georgia, Colorado, Utah and Texas. The speaker will return to Washington, DC, on Thursday.

During his Oklahoma City stop, the speaker will meet with members of the press during an 8:15 a.m. press conference. Gingrich will be joined at the press conference by Governor Frank Keating.

ROMINGER ANNOUNCES USDA'S SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

From US Dept. of Agriculture

■(PELZER, SC) Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger last Friday announced a policy directive expressing USDA's commitment to sustainable development which includes sustainable agriculture, forestry, and rural communities. Rominger made the announcement while visiting a dairy farm that demonstrates sustainable production methods.

"USDA is committed to working toward the economic, environmental, and social sustainability of diverse food, fiber, agriculture, forest, and range systems," Rominger said. "In a Secretary's Memorandum on Sustainable Development issued recently, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman articulated the need to balance the goals of production and profitability, stewardship of the natural resource base and ecological systems, and viability of rural communities."

Rominger's remarks were made at a pre-Farm Aid event at Trantham Dairy that featured a rotational grazing tour for farmers and Clemson University Extension agents.

The goal of sustainable agriculture is to increase economic profitability, enhance environmental stewardship, and improve the quality of life on farms and in rural areas. The policy directive is in response to the President's Council on Sustainable Development and a USDA working group's recommendations on ways the Department could better incorporate sustainability into its missions and programs.

Through this Memorandum, Glickman will establish a USDA Council on Sustainable Development for the coordination and integration of policies, programs, activities, and education on this issue throughout the Department. Adela Backiel, director of Sustainable Development, will chair the Council, consisting of representatives from various USDA agencies.

"I'm very optimistic about how the Council on Sustainable Development can encourage the breadth of USDA agencies to meet the needs of all of USDA's customers and work together to implement the recommendations of the President's Council on Sustainable Development," Backiel said.

Rate Cut, continued from page 3

tell how the recommended rate reductions would be distributed among the various OG&E customer classes. Edmondson anticipates filing this so-called "rate design" testimony next week.

"The recommended rate reductions will be allocated among the various customer classes as fairly as possible," Edmondson said. However, he cautioned that any such rate design must recognize the differing costs of serving the different classes, as well as the difference in competitive alternatives among classes.

The current scheduling order in the case calls for the hearing to be held Nov. 22 through Dec. 13, with an order to be issued by the end of the year.

NEW VOLUNTARY PROGRAM TO PROTECT SOIL AND WATER ANNOUNCED

From US Dept. of Agriculture

■(WASHINGTON) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman last Friday announced proposed rules for a new conservation program to both assist farmers and ranchers and to streamline USDA's conservation services.

"The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers technical, financial, and educational assistance to protect and improve soil, water, and related natural resources. USDA is seeking public comment on these rules before finalizing the program. A series of public meetings will be held October 11-21 in all 50 states and Guam to discuss the EQIP program, changes to the

Conservation Reserve Program and other conservation programs. EQIP is available for public comment through November 25.

"From the outset, USDA has sought public input to ensure we craft the most flexible and successful conservation program to meet the needs of communities across the country," said Glickman. "I want to encourage farmers and ranchers, conservation districts, interested groups and anyone concerned about the protection of natural resources to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed rules. We want to ensure we begin with the best program possible that benefits everyone."

EQIP continues USDA's commitment to streamlining and improving its conservation services. Four conservation programs have been combined in EQIP: the Agricultural Conservation Program, Water Quality Incentives Program, Great Plains Conservation Program, and the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program.

In accordance with the 1996 Farm Bill, USDA may provide cost share assistance for up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices on family-sized farms and

ranches, such as grassed waterways, filter strips, manure management facilities, capping abandoned wells and wildlife habitat enhancement. Large confined livestock operations are not eligible for cost-share assistance to build animal waste management facilities. Incentive payments can be up to 100 percent of the producer's cost, for up to three years, for such land management practices as nutrient, manure, irrigation water, wildlife and integrated pest management. Total cost-share and incentive payments are limited to \$10,000 per person per year and \$50,000 for the length of a contract.

Greater emphasis will be given to areas where state or local governments can share in the cost of projects and where conservation improvements will help meet water quality and other environmental objectives.

Eligibility for EQIP is limited to persons who are engaged in livestock or agricultural production. Under the proposed rule, EQIP offers five- to 10-year contracts that provide incentive payments and cost-sharing for conservation practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources.

BORROWERS REALIZE GOALS THROUGH LOANS

From US Dept. of Education

■(WASHINGTON) When Temple University students David Germroth and wife Rebecca Hudson earned graduate degrees in political science, they realized a dream, with a \$70,000 price tag. Even with two incomes from professional careers, their \$1,200 monthly student loan payments kept them ineligible to buy a home.

Thanks to the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, David and Rebecca have reduced monthly loan payments by using a repayment option based on what they can afford. They are taking longer to repay their loans, with annual adjustments to payments based on income rise or fall.

The standard repayment plan calls for borrowers to pay a fixed amount each month — at least \$50 — for up to 10 years.

Under the extended plan, loans may be repaid over 12 to 30 years rather than the standard 10 year fixed amount.

With the graduated plan, payments are lower at first and increase every two years over a period from 12 to 30 years.

Direct lending is the process whereby the federal government makes loans directly to students through schools, bypassing more than 7,000 private lending institutions and 36 guaranty agencies.

This is the third year of the direct loan program. Approximately 1.7 million borrowers finance college through direct loans at more than 1,600 schools in the U.S.

Students interested in obtaining more information about direct loans and other federal financial aid for college should contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).

INITIATIVES TO ASSIST THE NATION'S DISABLED WORKFORCE

From US Dept. of Labor

■(WASHINGTON) Last week, Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich announced plans to turn the nation's One-Stop career centers into model facilities for providing access to millions of disabled Americans who are seeking work.

"This nation depends upon all of its workers and it is important that we make the workplace more accessible to everyone, including people with disabilities," said Reich. "By increasing the accessibility of the nation's existing and future One-Stop career centers we can better insure inclusion for all workers," said Reich.

Reich made the announcements at the dedication ceremony of Gallaudet University's Kellogg Conference Center, a state of the art technological resource offering continuing education and career planning for the deaf community.

The Labor Department initiatives to increase employment access for people with disabilities involve not only developing technical assistance on disability issues for states operating One-Stop career centers but also addresses plans for the Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics to conduct further study,

jointly with the Census Bureau, on the employment experience of Americans with disabilities.

In efforts to increase accessibility for people with disabilities seeking assistance at One-Stop career centers across the country, the Department has identified funds to help states with technical assistance on disability issues. Models for improved access to one-stop centers will be developed with nearly \$300,000 in funding.

Of the 29 million Americans of working age (21-64) with disabilities, only 52.3 percent are employed, according to Census Bureau data. A 1994 Harris Poll found that 79 percent of individuals with disabilities, who are not working, want to work.

"Anybody who has ever lived . . . under a dictatorship which cannot be removed without bloodshed will know that a democracy, imperfect though it is, is worth fighting for and, I believe, worth dying for."

Sir Karl Popper
'Popper on Democracy'
The Economist
April 23, 1988

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SUPPORTS EXPANDED USE OF NEVADA TEST SITE

From US Dept. of Energy

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary last week announced completion of an analysis of the environmental impacts of current and future activities at the 1,350-square-mile Nevada Test Site and off-site locations in the state of Nevada. Prepared over a 23-month period that included broad public participation, the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) identifies the Department's preferred alternative: expanded use of the test site for a variety of civilian and defense activities. The Department received extensive comments on the draft EIS from the state of Nevada, relevant federal agencies and other stakeholders, and those comments are addressed in the final document.

In issuing the EIS, Secretary O'Leary said, "The Nevada Test Site is a unique and valuable resource. We are proud of its important contribution to U.S. national security over five decades. This comprehensive, sitewide environmental impact statement will guide use of the site well into the next century."

The preferred alternative (i.e., expanded use) represents a continuation of current Nevada Test Site activities as well as a diversification and expansion of defense and non-defense operations. Under this preferred alternative, defense activities would include science-based stockpile stewardship experiments and operations to maintain the safety and reliability of the nuclear stockpile, including subcritical experiments consistent with the recently endorsed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. No immediate impact to employment is expected. Other environmental studies are underway for other DOE sites and projects, and if their outcomes result in new projects being moved to the Nevada Test Site, more jobs could be created there.

Non-defense uses include

- A Solar Enterprise Zone — Facilities could include a photovoltaic (PV) power tower or parabolic dish systems, capable of generating as much as 1,000 megawatts of electricity.
- A Spill Test Facility — An important tool used for the simulation and analysis of "accidental release" of toxic, hazardous chemicals, the facility would also be the ideal venue for training in emergency response to commercial chemical and gaseous spills.
- An Environmental Management and Technology Development Program — a research and development program to create

new technologies for landfill stabilization, mixed waste characterization and other processes. The project's aim would be to unite the top talents of DOE with the international scientific community in an effort to speed the progress of environmental clean up and restoration of the nuclear weapons sites.

- A National Environmental Research Park — research into ecosystem preservation, including habitat reclamation, hydrogeologic systems, and remediation.

In the area of waste management, the site would strive for continuous improvement through the development and use of cutting-edge, environmentally friendly technologies and more efficient processes.

The preferred option also has activities including educational tours that would allow the public to see firsthand some of the history and impacts of past nuclear testing.

In order to optimize the test site's capabilities, other public agencies and private

industries would be able to conduct compatible research at the Nevada Test Site. The sharing of intellectual and physical resources would create an ideal atmosphere for discovery and innovative science. This model research and development cooperative would serve the public interest by bridging defense and civilian interests in an economically sustainable and environmentally sound manner.

Copies of the Nevada Test Site (NTS) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) which was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is being distributed to interested parties. Copies of the summary, or the entire EIS, are available by writing to the Public Affairs and Information Office, U.S. Department of Energy, Nevada Operations Office, PO Box 98518, Las Vegas, NV 89193-8518 or by calling the NTS/EIS Hotline at 1-800/405-1140 or 702/295-4652.

LABOR SECRETARY UNVEILS WORKPLACE FIRE SAFETY TIPS

From US Dept. of Labor

■(WASHINGTON) Fire safety becomes everyone's job at a worksite, Secretary of Labor Robert B. Reich said this week, as he unveiled a list of workplace fire safety tips in observation of National Fire Prevention Week. Workplace fires and explosions kill 200 and injure more than 5,000 workers each year. In 1995, more than 75,000 workplace fires cost businesses more than \$2.3 billion.

"Fires wreak havoc among workers and their families and destroy thousands of businesses each year, putting people out of work and severely impacting their livelihoods," Reich said. "The human and financial toll underscores the serious nature of workplace fires."

"There is a long and tragic history of workplace fires in this country," Reich said. "One of the most notable was the 1911 fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City, in which nearly 150 women and young girls died because of locked fire exits and inadequate fire extinguishing systems. That tragedy helped put basic workplace safety and health considerations on the national agenda."

Reich urged employers to survey their workplaces to determine whether they have adequate readily accessible fire exits, fire alarm systems, the proper number and types of fire extinguishers, proper and rehearsed fire evacuation plans.

Under Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, em-

ployees have the right to complain to OSHA about fire hazards in their workplaces. If employees request it, OSHA will keep their identities confidential to avoid the possibility of reprisals by their employers.

Fire safety tips:

- Eliminate Fire Hazards: Keep workspaces free of waste paper and other combustibles, replace damaged electrical cords and avoiding overloaded circuits.
- Prepare for Emergencies: Make sure all smoke detectors work, knowing who to call in an emergency and participating in fire drills.
- Report Fires and Emergencies Promptly: Sounding the fire alarm and calling the fire department.
- Evacuate Safely: Leaving the area quickly in an emergency, using stairs instead of the elevator, and helping your coworkers.

A single free copy of an OSHA Program Highlight on Workplace Fire Safety and a copy of OSHA Booklet 3088, "How to Prepare for Workplace Emergencies," may be obtained by sending a self-addressed label to the U.S. Department of Labor, OSHA/OSHA Publications, PO Box 37535, Washington DC 20013-7535. Telephone 202/219-4667, fax 202/219-9266.

"Statistics are no substitute for judgement."

Henry Clay

Calendar of Meetings & Events

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

1:30 Oklahoma Tax Commission

2501 Lincoln Blvd, Fifth Floor, Oklahoma City

Wednesday, October 16, 1996

9:00 Police Pension and Retirement Board

1001 NW 63rd, Suite 305, Oklahoma City

Oklahoma Wheat Commission

Wheat Commission Board Room, 800 NE 63, Oklahoma City

10:00 Adult Day Care Task Force--DHS

312 NE 28th, Oklahoma City

Oklahoma State Banking Board

Oklahoma State Banking Dept. Conference Rm., 4545 N. Lincoln, Suite 664, 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

10:30 Task Force on the Prevention of Genetic Discrimination

Northwest Conference Room - Dean's Administrative Offices, Univ. of Oklahoma Medical School at Tulsa,
5310 East 31st Street, Suite 200, Tulsa

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 - 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

- 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

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

Calendar of Meetings & Events

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

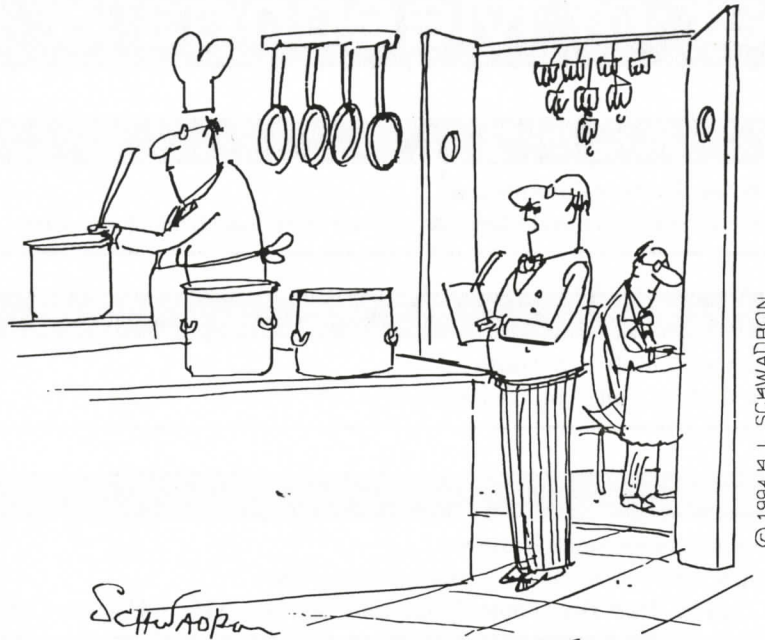
11:00 **Transportation Commission**
Okla. Dept. of Transportation, 200 NE 21, Commission Room, Oklahoma City

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

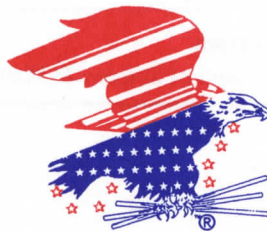
4:00 **Commission for Teacher Preparation**
Reading Room of Oklahoma School of Science & Math, 1141 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City



"Governor Bush, Governor Keating says his guests need more beef, so get cookin'."

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P.O. Box 61206 • Oklahoma City, OK 73146-1206

Office: 405-528-2546 • Fax: 405-521-9807

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