

## ROACH CALLS FOR FLIGHT DISCLOSURE, LEGISLATION

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) A Tulsa lawmaker announced Tuesday that he wants to bill the governor for what he calls "questionable trips" in the executive office's airplane and to introduce legislation to establish guidelines for the aircraft's use.

In a Monday letter to Governor Frank Keating, Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, asked the governor to "provide a list of your out-of-office appointments and a list of those individuals or groups with which you met with on the days state financed aircraft transportation was used" and for additional information "about the purpose of aircraft trips that appear to involve your family members and for which no state officials are listed as traveling on the aircraft."

"I have asked staff to utilize the above information in order to prepare a list for the proper reimbursement of these questionable trips," wrote Roach, an outspoken critic of state agencies' use of airplanes and air travel.

The governor admitted last week that he sometimes uses a state-owned airplane for transportation to partisan political events. In instances where the political event was the sole purpose of the flight or those instances that required that a state business flight be diverted, Keating and his staff indicated that the candidates' campaigns involved will be asked to reimburse the state. In those cases where a political event was sandwiched between state business, Keating said no reimbursement would be sought.

Since taking office in January, 1995, the governor's office has been charged for the use of a state owned or leased aircraft 151 times, including 66 flights in 1995 and 85 flights so far this year, according to records of the Department of Public Safety.

Dan Mahoney, communications director for the governor, said Friday that no requests for reimbursement will be sought for 1995 flights. That's because, he said, the absence of a state-owned plane made it virtually impossible for the governor to attend political events unless the events were scheduled at a time when he would be in a specific area.

The governor's office will ask up to 10 candidates and one political action committee to reimburse the state for 11 flights taken since the start of this year, Mahoney also said Friday. The reimbursement amounts to be requested, however, are only for fuel costs and do not take into consideration other costs, such as the pilot's salary, other opera-

tional costs of the aircraft or an amortized amount of the lease-purchase price. In an additional dozen instances, no reimbursement will be sought, Mahoney said, because the political events were scheduled on days when the governor was attending to state business in the area.

According to the DPS flight logs, the governor was not aboard 11 of the 151 flights charged to his office since his inauguration, although other members of the First Family were. One such flight — from Burlington, Vermont, to Willard, Ohio, and back to Burlington on July 31, 1995 — cost the state \$1,680 aboard a leased aircraft.

In defense of his use of the airplane, the governor and his communications director have pointed to a state statute which requires the Department of Public Safety to provide transportation and security for the governor and his family.

That, Roach said in his letter to the governor, is something he would like to see changed.

"... please be advised that I intend to formulate guidelines and procedures for the use of state aircraft for consideration during the next legislative session."

John Cox, Keating's press secretary, called the letter and Roach's recent criticism "purely political."

"He didn't start this until after the governor appeared at a fund-raiser for his opponent," said Cox, who called Roach's challenger a strong contender for the seat. "This is a political maneuver on his part to make an issue out of something."

The governor's legal counsel, Cox added, will respond to Roach's request.

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calculations; and the time period used to establish revenue losses.

Determining strandable costs, Brown emphasized, is a key issue in the writing of electric utility restructuring legislation. In states which have implemented such legislation, Brown explained, special emphasis was placed on determining and specifically limiting those costs to expenses accrued in the production of electric power.

Ultimately, Brown indicated, the delivery of electric power may one day resemble the delivery of long distance phone service, where one entity owns the lines and others lease the use of those lines. Such a time, he added, is sometime away.

"We'll handle this just like we do every other request we receive from a member of the legislature," he explained. "It will be turned over to the governor's legal counsel and handled appropriately from there."

Roach asked that the additional information be provided to the House fiscal director by Oct. 16.

## HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE TO DISCUSS OKLAHOMA'S BEEF, POULTRY, SWINE INDUSTRY

From House Media

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Issues that affect beef, poultry and swine producers in rural Oklahoma will be examined this month by state lawmakers.

The House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources will launch the study during a meeting Oct. 24 at Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton. The hearing will be held in the Ballroom on the second floor of the EOSC Student Union, and will start at 10 a.m.

The session will be directed by state Rep. Mike Mass, D-Hartshorne, chairman of the subcommittee, and is to include a presentation by state Agriculture Secretary Dennis Howard.

Other members of the panel are Rep. M.C. Leist, D-Morris, vice chairman; Rep. Randall Erwin, D-Nashoba; and Rep. Elmer Maddux, R-Mooreland. Leist is chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and Maddux is the vice chairman.

The House subcommittee will review legislative and state initiatives affecting the economic status of Oklahoma livestock producers, Mass said.

Records of the state Agriculture Department indicate that livestock inventories in Oklahoma on Jan. 1 included 5.6 million head of cattle and 5.14 million farm chickens. It also included a million hogs and pigs, a 69 percent increase from the preceding year due to the growth of commercial swine farming in Oklahoma.

The Agriculture Department estimates Oklahoma has 72,000 farms comprising 34 million acres.

*"Daring ideas are like chessmen moved forward. They may be beaten, but they may start a winning game."*

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