

Capitol Network News

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

Daily Edition, Tuesday, October 15, 1996

CANDIDATES, OFFICIALS FOCUS ON EDUCATION

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) In a forum that sometimes sounded like a political debate and at other times resembled a legislative interim study meeting, three candidates for the Fourth District Congressional seat, the state's secretary of education, a university official and a representative of the state's school boards association focused their attention on education issues Monday evening.

Much of the night's discussion was framed by Secretary of Education Floyd Coppedge. Replying to a question concerning school vouchers, Coppedge said the intense debate on the issue illustrates the concerns about the quality of public education.

"Until those concerns are addressed," the state education secretary said, "we are going to continue to have this debate."

Much of that debate Monday was between Republican Congressman J.C. Watts, a proponent of the voucher system, and his challenger, Democrat Ed Crocker, an opponent of the system.

Watts, who said the system was neither a "panacea" nor a "cure-all," said such a

voucher plan, which would provide parents with a specific amount of money that could be used for public or private school, gave parents an opportunity to find the schools which could provide their children the best possible education. Crocker, however, said such a plan would discriminate against poor families who would be unable to make up the difference between the value of the voucher and the cost of their child's education, particularly at private schools.

Libertarian candidate Robert Murphy argued on the one hand for the abolition of government run schools, noting that money to fund them had to be taken from Americans and that students had to be compelled to attend them. On the other hand, Murphy said the implementation of a voucher system would promote parental choice and the development of a free market in education,

two issues he said he supports.

Oklahoma State School Boards Association government relations director Kay Floyd offered the public school system's view of the proposal, saying, "Public education is not afraid of competition."

What public educators fear, she explained, was that a voucher system might limit the opportunities provided to public school students.

"The solution to the problem," she said, "is to fix those schools, and that means starting completely over if that's what it takes."

Much of the evening's discussion focused on candidates Watts and Crocker, with Murphy playing a lesser role. On a handful of funding issues, including Head Start, school lunch and scholarships, Crocker accused his Republican opponent of indis-

See *Education*, page 2

WINDS OF CHANGE BLOW THROUGH DHS, ADVISORS TOLD

By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■(GIT) "The clock started running October 1 for temporary assistance for needy families in Oklahoma,"

George Miller, Director of the Department of Human Services (DHS) told the Advisory Committee on Mental Retar-

dation Services Tuesday. Miller gave a broad outline of the changes in human services since welfare reform became federal law.

"AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) no longer exists in Oklahoma.

"We're at a very demanding period in the history of human services. States are being called on to make decisions we've never made before. There are a lot of changes in Medicaid, changes for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients, we're inundated by problems with child protection services," Miller said, as he outlined the tip of the iceberg that is welfare change in America.

Some of the solutions are being sought, even now, as problems begin to arise. A new

program, Miller said, involves every child worker in the state.

Laptop computers and desktop computers will eliminate clerical workers. We've

eliminated 89 positions in the state office, after 400 were eliminated or transferred. We have to operate more efficiently.

Other changes Miller cited include child support enforcement collection methods to be certified by the federal government, debit cards to be used in place of food stamps and "18,000 AFDC mothers are going to be put to work.

"All these changes extend to people with developmental disabilities," Miller reminded the advocates.

"If you get excited facing difficult challenges, this is the time for you to be happy," Miller added wryly.

"The key to success," he said, "is community relationships. Mandates and requirements are too great for any one agency. It's

See *Change*, page 2

What's Inside

Task Force Review Electric Utility Restructuring	2
Roach Calls for Flight Disclosure, Legislation ..	3
House Subcommittee to Discuss Oklahoma's Beef, Poultry, Swine Industry	3
Corporation Commission Seeks Input on Telephone Services and Competition	4
General Revenue Receipts Show Gains for Month, Quarter	4
Rumor Mill Working Overtime on Mountain Lions	5
Cray Research-Silicon Graphics to Provide World's Most Powerful Supercomputer	5
DOE Signs Agreement with Aluminum Industry	6
Oklahoman Reappointed to Mushroom Council	6
Quality Brings Results	6
Calendar	7

TASK FORCE REVIEWS ELECTRIC UTILITY RESTRUCTURING

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Oklahoma is one of many states currently debating the value of electric utility restructuring, members of the Joint Interim Committee on Electric Utilities Task Force and representatives of such companies were told Tuesday.

According to Matthew Brown, a senior energy policy analyst for the National Conference of State Legislatures, the move to restructure the production and delivery of electricity to consumers comes on the heels of technological advancements that have improved delivery systems and an excess in

production capacity. While those factors, Brown said, should have led to a reduction in prices, they have not, due largely in part to control over the electric utility systems exercised by large companies.

Legislatures, Brown explained, hope to address that problem with restructuring proposals. Such efforts are complex and must take into account a variety of considerations. Three states — California, Rhode Island and New Hampshire — have passed legislation imposing restructuring plans, while other states, such as Washington, Illinois, Michigan and Pennsylvania, have implemented pilot programs to test the effects of restructuring.

It is impossible, Brown said, to provide a specific outline of the ideal restructuring plan. A pilot program in Rhode Island, he explained, was only "slightly representative" of what might occur in other parts of the country. Brown noted, for example, that the Rhode Island program, which led to a 10 to 20 percent reduction in the cost of electricity, involved a voluntary and sophisticated customer base, saw suppliers focus their efforts on gaining experience in a new market

environment and saw some of those suppliers lose money.

Brown compared the Rhode Island experiment to the long distance phone wars, explaining that consumers could choose to have their electricity delivered by one of 31 suppliers. Those suppliers, he added, attempted to entice consumers to choose their company by offering incentives ranging from bird feeders to charitable donations to price guarantees.

The notable finding in that experiment, Brown said, was the determination of so-called strandable costs, the cost of producing electric power which will never be eliminated. That, he said, accounts for nearly 40 percent of the cost of one kilowatt hour of electricity.

Strandable costs, Brown explained further, is the difference between the cost of generating electricity under service agreements and what the market will pay. Nationally, he noted, strandable costs are estimated at from \$16 billion to \$238 billion. That difference, Brown explained, is the result of the way market prices are estimated; the method used to compare market and regulatory prices; the assets and liabilities used in the

See Task Force, page 3

Education, continued from page 1

criminate budget slashing.

"Only in Washington can a cut be called an increase," said Crocker at one point during the night's discussions.

Watts countered that Crocker was distorting the end result of the legislation on which he had voted, saying that many of the examples cited by his opponent had ultimately resulted in increased funding for specific programs.

"What you are doing is intellectually dishonest," Watts said. "You're using inside the Beltway accounting principles to make an increase sound like a cut."

The back-and-forth accusations between the two led Murphy to exclaim at one point, "Listen to this. This is what is wrong with Washington. They're arguing about what's a cut and what's an increase. They can't even agree on the basic numbers."

Change, continued from page 1

going to involve all of us. We need to start moving into alliances and pulling together.

"It's imperative we have advisory committees as we enter into implementing all these changes and meet the needs of the developmentally disabled," Miller told the committee.

To a question from a member of the committee about Medicaid, Miller told of the "catch-22" nature of the new regulation. "If we amend the program to allow people to become self-sufficient, they might not be eligible for Medicaid." A person had to be eligible for Medicaid on July 1, 1996, to be eligible under the new rules.

Discussing the Health Care Association, Miller said the HCA doesn't "have as much discretion as they'd like to because of their mandate. But we'll succeed in making sure their (special groups) needs are met. That's what we're supposed to do and we're going to do it," he added.

Managed care was very much on everyone's mind, and questions about how it would affect special needs individuals in the DHS system were asked. Division Director Jim Nicholson said, "managed care has to be value driven. It can't be driven by someone's definition of medical necessity.

It has to be driven by independence and the quality of life.

"Values have to be reflected in contracts let out to the health management organizations (HMOs)," Nicholson added. "Managed care is a response to problems created by the health care delivery system," he said. "After all, how many specialized burn units do you need in a city of 500,000?"

DHS Director Miller then concluded his remarks on managed care. "Children's Hospital is the crown jewel of the Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Now, the only patients Children's is getting are the ones managed care doesn't want. I don't know how we're going to teach students in their specialties.

"I thought," he added, "managed care meant if people who came under the mandate did not select a provider, one would be selected for them. But that's not the way it is."

Capitol Network News

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

COPYRIGHT© GIT, Inc., 1996. No part of this publication may be reproduced, transmitted, transcribed, stored in a retrieval system or translated into any language in any form by any means without the written permission of GIT, Inc. The data contained herein is obtained from government sources, but it is not warranted as to the accuracy by the publishers.

★★ Important Date ★★

General Election
Tuesday, November 5

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.

Task Force, cont. from page 2

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."

Goethe

CORPORATION COMMISSION SEEKS INPUT ON TELEPHONE SERVICES AND COMPETITION

From Okla. Corporation Commission

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission issued two notices of inquiry this week relating to telephone service in Oklahoma. PUD960000305 seeks comments on services offered by local-exchange telephone companies and PUD960000306 seeks to generate ideas and options for local-exchange competition in areas that may not be profitable.

Copies of the notices of inquiry explaining the comment procedure are available at no cost in the office of the Commission Clerk. The notices (PUD960000305 and PUD960000306) will be posted this week on the commission's electronic bulletin board (405-522-2622) and on the Internet at <http://www.occ.state.ok.us>.

For PUD960000305, the Commission is asking for comments on whether local-exchange telephone companies should be required to expedite the offering of advanced-technology custom-calling services such as caller ID, call tracing and automatic callback. These are optional features that customers may buy as additions to basic telephone service.

The notice of inquiry invites comment on what custom-calling features should be offered, whether the Corporation Commission has the authority to require statewide availability of such features, and how telephone companies might recover the cost of new investment required to provide the custom-calling features.

The notice also invites comment on whether requiring uniformity of custom-calling features is in the public interest and what effect such a requirement might have on local-exchange competition.

Comments in response to this notice of inquiry will be accepted through October 22.

A conference to discuss comments received will be held at 9:30 a.m., Oct. 24, in Room 301 of the Jim Thorpe Bldg. Reply comments will be accepted through Nov. 5.

Based on information gathered through this notice of inquiry, the commission will decide whether to consider requiring statewide uniformity of advanced-technology custom-calling services.

BOOSTING LOCAL PHONE COMPETITION

Notice PUD960000306 seeks to generate ideas and identify options to encourage local-exchange telephone competition in areas that competitive service providers may

not consider profitable.

"In areas where telecommunications service providers do not believe sufficient revenues will be generated, competitive local-exchange providers, unless otherwise encouraged, are less likely to offer service, or will offer service only after profitable locations have been supplied," the notice says.

Four companies have been certified by the Corporation Commission as of Oct. 9 to compete for local-exchange customers. All newly certified carriers indicated they intend to compete only in territories served by Southwestern Bell and GTE Southwest, companies serving all of Oklahoma's largest cities.

Suggestions from the public, local gov-

erning bodies and private industry are solicited as to what incentives might attract competitive service to possibly non-profitable areas. Comments on the possibility of providing subsidies are also encouraged.

Comments in response to this notice of inquiry will be accepted through October 25.

A conference to discuss comments received will be held at 10 a.m., Nov. 7, in Room 301 of the Jim Thorpe Bldg. Reply comments will be accepted through Nov. 14.

Based on information gathered through this notice of inquiry, the commission will decide whether to consider changing the rules to encourage local-exchange telephone competition statewide.

GENERAL REVENUE RECEIPTS SHOW GAINS FOR MONTH, QUARTER

From Office of State Finance

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Led by gains in income, sales and gross production taxes, Oklahoma's General Revenue collections exceeded those of the prior year and estimate for both the month of September and the first quarter of the fiscal year, the Office of State Finance reported Tuesday.

Receipts totaled \$352.4 million for the month and \$908.5 million for the first quarter for the period ending September 30.

The three-month first quarter total was up \$67.8 million or 8.1 percent from a year ago and was \$41.7 million or 4.8 percent above the estimate. Under the estimate, the first quarter had been expected to show a gain of 3.1 percent above the prior year.

Receipts from each of the four major taxes topped both the prior year and estimate for the quarter. Income, sales and gross production taxes exceeded both the prior year and estimate for the month. Motor vehicle receipts, representing vehicle sales and licenses, exceeded the prior year but trailed the estimate by 2.4 percent for the month.

The estimate is based on historical collection patterns for the month and year to date as applied to the State Board of Equalization's certified estimate for the 1996 fiscal year.

Of the total General Revenue September receipts of \$352.4 million, \$289.3 million will go for October allocations to state agencies to satisfy appropriations. The remaining \$63.1 million will be carried forward for future months. This plus \$139.8 million in the General Revenue Cash-Flow Reserve Fund will leave a cash-flow balance of \$202.9 million for use as needed in future months.

General Revenue Fund receipts histori-

cally exceed allocation requirements in September, when collections are bolstered by quarterly filing of individual and corporate income tax estimates. Collections normally fall below monthly needs in October and November, requiring draws on cash-flow funds before rebounding in December and January.

The Finance Office listed the following comparisons between current revenue, the prior year figures and estimates for the four major General Revenue Fund sources:

- **Income Tax** — This source produced \$180.1 million in September and \$390.3 million for the first three months. The September total was up \$12.9 million or 7.7 percent from a year ago and was \$9.0 million or 5.3 percent above the estimate. Receipts for the first quarter were up \$29.2 million or 8.1 percent from a year ago and were \$18.7 million or 5.0 percent above the estimate. In other first quarter comparisons with a year ago, income tax withholding receipts were up 8.0 percent, and estimated payments from individuals gained 11.4 percent, while estimated payments from corporations showed a decrease of 21.8 percent.

For the first quarter, individual income tax net receipts produced \$352.7 million, which was \$29.2 million or 9.0 percent above a year ago and \$17.1 million or 5.1 percent above the estimate. Corporate receipts yielded \$37.6 million the first three months, which was unchanged from a year ago and \$1.6 million or 4.6 percent above the estimate. Individual refunds showed a decrease of 9.0 percent and corporate refunds a decline of 35 percent when compared

See *General Revenue*, page 5

RUMOR MILL WORKING OVERTIME ON MOUNTAIN LIONS

From Okla. Dept. of Wildlife

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Every year rumors that the Wildlife Department is stocking mountain lions circulate through coffee shops and cafes in rural Oklahoma. That is simply not true, according to Department officials.

"We have never stocked mountain lions anywhere in Oklahoma, not even a single cat," said Greg Duffy, director of the Department. "The latest rumors of mountain lion stocking have been coming from the west-central part of the state. State Senator Bruce Price from Hinton has received a number of calls on the subject and recently contacted us for more information. That tells me there probably are a lot of people talking about mountain lion stocking."

Duffy said that mountain lion sightings have been reported in many parts of the state, with most coming from far western Oklahoma.

"Oklahoma doesn't contain very much

suitable mountain lion habitat," he said. "Undoubtedly, a few wild cats travel into the state from neighboring Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. More often than not, however, people who see mountain lions are seeing animals which were once pets."

Private individuals can obtain permits to keep mountain lions as pets, a practice Wildlife Department personnel discourage.

Some of these cats end up in rural Oklahoma when their owners illegally release them in the country. Often the cats prove to be too expensive to care for, or are too dangerous to keep.

"There may be a few mountain lions out there, but they weren't put there by the Wildlife Department," Duffy said.

Mountain lions, which are protected by state law, may not be hunted or killed. Anyone with concerns about mountain lions should contact their county game warden or game biologist.

General Revenue, continued from page 4

with the first quarter a year ago.

• **Sales tax** — Sales taxes yielded \$89.8 million to General Revenue in September and \$271.4 million for the first three months. The September figure was up \$4.5 million or 5.3 percent from the prior year and exceeded the estimate by \$2.0 million or 2.3 percent. The year-to-date total was up \$14.9 million or 5.8 percent from a year ago and was \$7.4 million or 2.8 percent above the estimate. September sales tax receipts topped those of the same month a year ago for the 40th consecutive month.

• **Gross production tax** — This tax on oil and gas, reflecting higher prices, produced \$14.5 million for September and \$43.4 million for the first three months. The monthly total was up \$3.7 million or 34.2 percent from a year ago and was \$4.2 million or 40.5 percent above the estimate. The first quarter figure was up \$8.8 million or 25.5 percent from a year ago and was \$10.9 million or 33.7 percent above the estimate.

For the quarter, oil taxes yielded \$24.7 million and gas taxes \$18.8 million. The oil revenue was up \$3.5 million or 16.3 percent from a year ago and was \$6.1 million or 32.5 percent above the estimate. Gas revenue was up \$5.4 million or 40.2 percent from a year ago and was \$4.9 million or 35.3 percent above the estimate.

• **Motor Vehicle Tax** — This source, based on motor vehicle sales and licenses, produced \$19.8 million in September and

\$64.7 for the first three months. The September total was \$0.7 million or 3.4 percent above a year ago but was \$0.5 million or 2.4 percent below the estimate. For the quarter, motor vehicle revenue was \$4.5 million or 7.5 percent above a year ago and \$3.5 million or 5.8 percent above the estimate.

• **Other** — Other revenue, which includes a wide range of sources such as cigarettes, liquor, franchise, insurance and estate taxes, interest and investments, produced \$48.1 million in September and \$138.6 million for the three months. The September total was up \$5.9 million or 14.1 percent from the prior year but was \$0.7 million or 1.4 percent below the estimate. For the year to date, other revenue was up \$10.3 million or 8.0 percent and was \$1.1 million or 0.8 percent above the estimate.

Earnings by the State Treasury yielded \$8.4 million for the month and \$23.0 for the first quarter. September receipts exceeded those of a year ago by \$3.3 million or 63.6 percent and were \$1.2 million or 16.2 percent above the estimate. The first quarter total was \$5.6 million or 32.1 percent above the prior year and \$4.4 million or 23.4 percent above the estimate.

"There are no facts, only interpretations."

Friedrich Nietzsche

CRAY RESEARCH-SILICON GRAPHICS TO PROVIDE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL SUPERCOMPUTER

From US Dept. of Energy

■(WASHINGTON) The Clinton Administration last week announced that Cray Research, the supercomputing subsidiary of Silicon Graphics, Inc., will provide the world's most powerful supercomputer to Los Alamos National Laboratory. The \$110.5 million Department of Energy (DOE) award is part of a program to develop a reliable substitute for underground nuclear testing.

The multi-year collaboration with Los Alamos, funded through DOE's Accelerated Strategic Computing Initiative (ASCI), requires that the final Cray Research-Silicon Graphics system provide an aggregate peak performance of more than three teraflops or three trillion calculations per second. A second system providing an additional teraflop of computing power will be added at the Los Alamos Advanced Computing Laboratory. When integrated, the combined peak performance of the two systems will be more than four teraflops—the fastest system in world.

"The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is a giant step toward a safer, more peaceful world. We also need to ensure the safety and reliability of a reduced U.S. nuclear stockpile," said President Clinton. "This agreement will provide the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico with the world's most powerful super-computer—a computer that will provide a reliable substitute to the underground testing we have worked so hard to ban."

Robert H. Ewald, President of Cray Research and Senior Vice President of Silicon Graphics, said, "The Cray Research-Silicon Graphics team is proud to be selected for this important work, which is vital to America's national security interests and a milestone in high-performance computing. Without a doubt, this award propels our technology to the leading position in the supercomputing industry. We are confident that the synergies of the combined Cray Research and Silicon Graphics companies will set the tone for cultivation of all leading-edge supercomputing technologies of the future."

See Supercomputer, page 6

DOE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ALUMINUM INDUSTRY

From US Dept. of Energy

■(WASHINGTON) Government and industry have taken another joint step in enhancing U.S. competitiveness and protecting the environment. The Department of Energy (DOE) and the aluminum industry last week launched a collaboration to pursue technologies that improve energy efficiency and production processes. Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary and David N. Parker, president of The Aluminum Association Inc., penned an agreement in Washington, DC, to identify areas for joint research, development and technology demonstrations.

Aluminum is a critical product for many vital U.S. markets. The industry employs more than 130,000 people and produces more than 20 billion pounds of ingot and fabricated mill products, seven million of which is secondary recycled metal. Aluminum industry customers include the transportation, food and beverage packaging, building and construction, and electrification industries.

Through this compact, DOE and the aluminum industry will collaborate to identify and evaluate new technologies that address needs such as:

- Developing new ways to improve the efficiency of aluminum production/recycling;
- Improving health, safety and environ-

mental conditions associated with all aluminum production operations; and

- Developing new sensors and controls to enhance the aluminum industry's competitiveness.

Aluminum is an essential ingredient for products that modern society requires and developing nations demand. Realizing the goals set forth in the aluminum industry's vision will contribute significantly to the development of socially useful, ecologically sustainable and economically viable aluminum products and manufacturing processes worldwide.

OKLAHOMAN REAPPOINTED TO THE MUSHROOM COUNCIL

From US Dept. of Agriculture

■(WASHINGTON) Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman appointed three mushroom producers to the Mushroom Council, which administers the national mushroom promotion and research program.

Virgil H. Jurgensmeyer of Miami, OK, Region 4, was reappointed. Newly appointed are Edward A. Leo, Kennett Square, PA, Region 2; and William K. Street, Tacoma, WA, Region 4.

The regions reflect the four U.S. production areas. The three appointees will serve 3-year terms beginning Jan. 1, 1997.

Authorized under the Mushroom Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act of 1990, the council administers a national promotion, research, and consumer information program to maintain and expand markets for fresh mushrooms.

Assessments paid by producers or importers of an average of more than 500,000 pounds of mushrooms per year fund the program, and USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors it.

QUALITY BRINGS RESULTS

From US Dept. of Energy

■(WASHINGTON) Sixteen Department of Energy (DOE) organizations and teams from throughout the diverse Energy Department complex are the 1996 recipients of the Energy Quality Awards, and 22 additional teams were selected by Vice President Al Gore to receive the coveted Hammer Award. These awards recognize recipients for improving government performance through enhanced customer service, streamlining operations and cutting costs.

The Energy Quality Award is awarded to DOE organizations that strive for demonstrated customer satisfaction and improved productivity. The program is in its second year of operation.

"Almost 25% of the DOE work force was represented in applications for this year's awards," said Nancy K. Weidenfeller, Director of DOE's Office of Quality Management. "Each of the participants has significantly improved DOE's business processes to deliver better services to the American taxpayers—our primary customers."

The 1996 awards ceremony is the second annual presentation of awards to DOE federal and contractor employee organizations, which focused on leadership, information and analysis, strategic planning, human resources development and management, process management, business results, and customer focus and satisfaction.

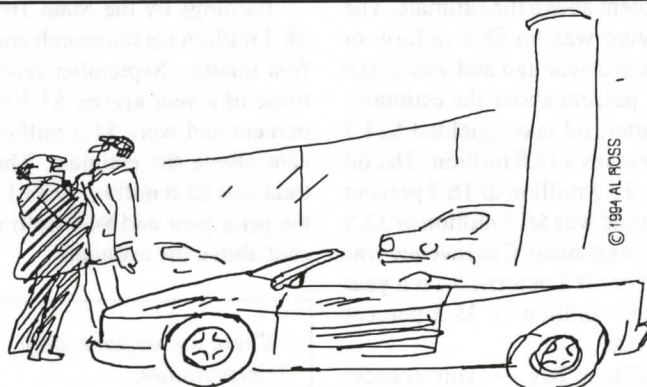
National Quality Month recognizes the significance of continuous quality improvement. By participating, the Department is joining thousands of people in the public and private sectors in sharing and actively promoting commitment to customer satisfaction.

Supercomputer, cont. from page 5

Los Alamos Director Sig Hecker said, "Los Alamos is proud to continue its long tradition of helping to define the leading edge of high-performance computing by our major role in the ASCI program. By demonstrating that these computational advances can support a complex technology like nuclear weapons, ASCI can have a similar, crucial impact on simulations of the industrial processes, global climate, biotechnology and many other fields of science."

The system will combine commercial off-the-shelf components, including MIPS' microprocessors, with innovative technologies from Cray Research and Silicon Graphics' Scalable Systems Group. It will accelerate the current trend in the computing market toward clusters of shared-memory programming servers.

The Cray Research-Silicon Graphics contract requires an initial delivery system with 256 processors to be installed at Los Alamos by December 1996 and the final system with 3,072 processors, by December 1998.



"And I say you can afford it! The economy needs it."

Calendar of Meetings & Events

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

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

Calendar of Meetings & Events

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

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

Calendar of Meetings & Events

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

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

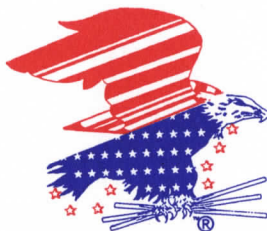
9:00 **Police Pension & Retirement Board**
1001 NW 63rd Street, Suite 305, Oklahoma City



"Jones, if you're holding those charts upside down, you deserve a big bonus. But, if you're holding them right side up, your resume better be up to date."

INFORMATION is POWER

YOU CAN HAVE BOTH ... NOW!



Capitol Network News

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>