

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

ducer, operator and pipeline for the necessary information with regard to purchases.

Bob Wilkinson, Amoco Production, said, "Due to current Oklahoma Regulations (OTC Section 227b) industry must manually prepare a report for each property that we adjust the taxable value downward. In addition to having to prepare this manual report, industry must also write a cover letter requesting the refund, and attach supporting documentation for the refund." Then the OTC reviews the report and issues a refund check for each property where the taxable value was adjusted downward.

"Other oil and gas states allow for the severance taxpayer to report the claim for refund on the same tax return as their current month tax report," Wilkinson said. "The refund is then deducted against the current month's tax payment. This streamlines the processing and payments for these adjustments as they can be handled automatically by our computer systems."

Wilkinson, on behalf of Amoco Production, made the following recommendations to the Commission:

1. That the state review reporting requirements and make the appropriate legislative and regulatory change.
2. The state should also consider allowing prior period adjustments to be made on a net basis.

Wilkinson said none of these recommendations would result in a reduction of tax dollars paid to the State of Oklahoma, nor would they have any negative cash flow impacts. They would simply require legislative/regulatory changes and some changes to the internal practices of the Oklahoma Tax Commission.

Tony Maston, Oklahoma Tax Commission, said the OTC is fully aware and understands that the industry has changed signifi-

cantly while reporting procedures for the OTC have remained fairly static over the years. "We recognize this is causing an unnecessary burden for the industry," Maston said.

Maston further explained that many of the records that are required by the OTC are dictated by statute. Legislation will be needed to change these policies and requirements.

RELEASE OF AND ENHANCED ACCESSIBILITY TO GAS VALUES

After a brief discussion, the Joint Commission unanimously voted to make gross production tax values public record and through OTC rule making determine how to facilitate efficient public access to that information.

Maston advised some legislation will be needed to implement this recommendation. The Commission moved to present draft legislation to the members at the November meeting.

The next meeting of the Joint Commission on Natural Gas Policy is set for 2 p.m., November 21. The chairman also scheduled the December meeting for 10 a.m., December 17. Materials distributed at the meeting are available on request from GIT.

—LINDA J. MAXEY
STAFF WRITER

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

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

■ (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-

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"The conflict between capitalism and democracy is inherent and continuous; it is often hidden by misleading propaganda and by the outward forms of democracy, such as parliaments, and the sops that the owning classes throw to the other classes to keep them more or less contented."

Jawaharlal Nehru

"Glimpses of World History," 1933