

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

raiser for Roggow, who will reimburse the state for \$80.

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.

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 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.

✓ 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 a 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: On Oct. 2 the governor flew to Tulsa to deliver a key-

note 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.

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.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/14/96

ROACH CALLS FOR FLIGHT DISCLOSURE, LEGISLATION

■(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 trans-

portation 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.

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.

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

Continued on next page

"Farming looks mighty easy when your plow is a pencil, and you're a thousand miles from the corn field."

*Dwight D. Eisenhower
speech in Peoria, Illinois
Sept. 25, 1956*