

# Capitol Network News

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

Weekly Edition, Friday, October 18, 1996

## OG&E ANSWERS EDMONDSON'S TESTIMONY

By Gerry Cherry  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Friday, Grant Ringel, corporate spokesman for OG&E, said the company is "surprised at the difference in the reduction Attorney General Drew Edmondson called for and the reduction we filed for."

Originally, OG&E asked the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to approve a reduction for ratepayers of about \$14.2 million per year, beginning in March, 1997. Monday was the deadline for parties wishing to respond to OG&E's request.

Monday, Edmondson responded. He filed testimony with the Corporation Commission, asking for OG&E to reduce rates by \$79.8 million, \$65.6 million more than OG&E's request. "We commend OG&E for coming forward and asking for a rate reduction," Edmondson said, "however, we believe the evidence will support a much greater reduction than the company proposed."

"OG&E believes the numbers we filed were very fair and justified," Ringel said. "Now we're preparing responses to the Attorney General's testimony and the Corporation Commission staff."

Edmondson also recommended the elimination of nearly \$7 million in marketing and

advertising costs, saying, "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."

*"We are a business, not a government agency. There's an important difference. To remain in business, we have to be successful at selling our service."*

Grant Ringel  
OG&E

Ringel replied, "OG&E doesn't spend \$7 million in advertising. It is made up of a number of different things. Marketing activities are an important part of any company's business."

"We are a business," Ringel continued, "not a government agency. There's an im-

portant difference. To remain in business, we have to be successful at selling our service."

"Some people may think marketing and advertising shouldn't be an important part of what their electric company does," Ringel continued, "but we face competition today and will face stronger competition in the future."

"We try to tailor our services to our customers," Ringel said.

Next week, Edmondson anticipates filing "rate design" testimony. Rate reductions will be allocated among the various customer classes as fairly as possible," Edmondson said.

Rate hearings will begin Nov. 22. "OG&E looks forward to the rate case process," Ringel said. "All issues will be resolved."

## OKLAHOMA VOTER ROLLS CONTINUE TO GROW

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Oklahoma's voter registration rolls are continuing to grow, according to information obtained by *Legislative Information Network/Capitol Network News*.

Last Friday, Oct. 11, was the final day for new voters to add their names to the voting rolls, and according to State Election Board officials, they will not know until Nov. 1 exactly how many Oklahomans are registered to vote. According to figures compiled at the beginning of October, however, more than 1.9 million Oklahomans have registered.

Of those registered voters, the state election board's records indicate that there are 1,151,965 registered Democrats; 672,355 Republicans, 112,448 independents; and 68 voters who are registered either as members of the Reform or Libertarian parties.

At the beginning of 1996, some 1.8 million Oklahomans had registered to vote, according to the board's figures.

A total of 39,194 registration transactions were recorded by the election board during

the month of September, the latest month for which figures are available, including:

- ✓ 24,882 new registrations;
- ✓ 8,995 address changes;
- ✓ 96 changes of political affiliation; and
- ✓ 5,221 name changes.

During the same period, 5,156 cancellations were reported, including:

- ✓ 2,968 cancellations by other states or counties;
  - ✓ 39 cancellations by written notice from the voter;
  - ✓ 666 cancellations by the State Health Department's list;
  - ✓ 781 cancellations by the voters' next of kin.
  - ✓ 68 cancellations by felony conviction.
- Some 634 duplication cancellations were also recorded during the period.

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### ★★ Important Date ★★

General Election  
Tuesday, November 5



# OKLAHOMA HIGHER EDUCATION STARTS YEAR-LONG PLANNING INITIATIVE

## From State Regents for Higher Education

■(TULSA) Five strategic questions central to the future of Oklahoma higher education will form the core of a statewide planning initiative which begins October 31 and lasts one year, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education said Friday at a meeting in the Tulsa Community College West Campus.

The nine-member higher education board also said it would announce the names of about 30 Oklahomans who will serve on a Citizens Advisory Commission to the State Regents as part of the planning process. Names of the advisory committee will be announced and work on the committee will begin October 31, at a meeting with Barry Munitz, Chancellor of the California State University System.

The commission's work will focus on five questions:

- **Quality:** How can standards and incentives be developed to further improve student preparation? How can Oklahoma's public higher education institutions assure they are educating students qualified to participate in the rapidly changing work, civic and cultural environments of the 21st Century?

- **Access:** How can the higher education system maintain and improve access for qualified students in an era of limited growth in state funding, constrained family budgets and changing geographic population distribution?

- **Efficiency:** What initiatives — including incentives for creative management — should be considered to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the state system and its institutions?

- **Accountability:** What are the mutually developed and accepted goals of the various components of the system and what measures can be used to chart progress toward goals? Where are there gaps between goals and current levels of achievement?

- **Funding:** How can Oklahomans ensure their colleges and universities receive adequate funding from various sources to efficiently provide quality educational services? How can higher education ensure students pay an equitable share of their college costs, while also ensuring higher education remains affordable and accessible to all qualified students.

At the meeting, State Regents' Chairman Anne H. Morgan said the Regents were seeking citizen input in the creation of a long-range plan to guide the decisions and policies of the State Regents, Oklahoma college and university governing boards and the state's colleges and universities over the next several decades.

Morgan stressed the Regents' goal is to achieve an on-going and fluid planning process to serve Oklahoma's higher education system for many years. "What I want to make very clear about this planning-for-the-future effort is that it is not a one-shot approach and that any recommendation or resulting action will not be eternally etched into stone," she said.

Morgan also noted the board wants to see the higher education system operate with maximum flexibility in order to change rapidly to meet student needs.

"That means we must remove rules and impediments and allow institutions to operate creatively and to respond effectively with minimal restrictions," she told fellow board

members. "Our biggest challenge (as Regents) will be to set expectations and then get out of the way," she noted.

"Our message to the citizen group will be to think creatively as they look at issues and possible solutions and not be bound by previous Regents' actions or policies," she continued. "That's very hard for us as State Regents to say because we have an eight-year investment in our current agenda.

But we certainly don't want to be part of the problem, and we will need to be vigilant that our investment does not prejudice us in working with the citizens' group or in acting on their recommendation," Morgan said.

Chancellor Hans Brisch noted the State Regents' mission is to ensure that Oklahoma has a world class higher education system that prepares students to compete. "We want Oklahoma to be known for the quality of our students and for their performance in the academic arena and the world of work," he said.

State Regent Bill W. Burgess of Lawton was named chairman of the Citizens' Advisory Commission, replacing Gene Rainbolt, who resigned due to business and civic commitments. Staff director will be Dr. Larkin Warner, Oklahoma State University professor of economics.

"Higher education touches the lives of every citizen in this state," Brisch said. This plan will be Oklahoma's blueprint for improving the quality of life through the power of education."

All meetings of the Citizens' Advisory Committee are open to the public. Copies of the State Regents' charge to the Citizens' Advisory Commission, including the five strategic questions, may be obtained by calling the State Regents' offices at 405-524-9180.

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## POLLUTION PREVENTION GRANTS AWARDED

### From Environmental Protection Agency

■(WASHINGTON) EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, along with 10 EPA regional offices, has awarded a total of \$6.8 million in pollution prevention grants for fiscal year 1996. Sixty-five state and tribal groups received \$4.9 million under the Pollution Prevention Incentive for States grant program to reduce or eliminate pollution in our air, land and water.

Since 1989, EPA has awarded \$40 million to support state and tribal pollution prevention efforts. Grant recipients are required to match the federal funds by at least 50 percent in dollars, in-kind goods and services or third-party contributions.

As part of the Environmental Justice through Pollution Prevention (EJP2) grant program, 11 non-profit organizations and tribes — one from each of EPA's 10 regions and one national awardee — received a total of \$1.9 million for pollution prevention projects. The 11 organizations were selected from over 200 national applications.

Fiscal year 1996 was the second year for the EJP2 program, which aims to empower communities to find pollution prevention solutions to environmental problems. For more information, contact Lena Ferris at 202-260-2237 or Chen Wen at 202-260-4109.



## CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FROM THE GROUND UP

By Gerry Cherry  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) After years of working with individual farmers and ranchers in Oklahoma and throughout the Great Plains, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture realizes that conservation programs are no better than the local landowners who utilize them.

In the 1950s, the Great Plains Conservation Program signed up farmers and ranchers in western Oklahoma who wanted to save their soil from erosion. This and other highly successful programs resulted in more than one million erosion-prone acres being returned to grassland.

Now, a new USDA program, called EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), is hoping to continue to keep Oklahoma land from blowing south or north, as well as working to restore water quality in other parts of the state.

Nine high-priority areas in Oklahoma have been targeted for restoration, according to Dwain Phillips, public affairs specialist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) formerly the Soil Conservation Service.

Each of the nine areas involves multiple counties and individual holdings. Plans for conservation were drawn up at the local

level, by the farmers and ranchers wanting to put long-range conservation programs into effect on their lands.

Funding will be shared, nationwide, among more than 600 target areas, Phillips said, and Oklahomans will divvy up the state's share among the nine areas.

Of the high-priority areas, the high plains area in Oklahoma's panhandle was rated number one, and a water quality conservation program in eastern Oklahoma was second on the list.

"We have conservation needs statewide," Phillips said, "problems with aquifers going down and irrigation. We're always working on wind erosion," he added.

Only 18 Oklahoma counties did not fall into one of the nine priority areas, but 25 percent of the funds can be spent outside a priority area, Phillips said. The NRCS will administer the funds, which will be set back for individual use over the five to ten year term of the contract. "The whole concept is to work with individuals to solve conservation problems over a long period," Phillips said.

Identifying the nine high-priority areas was a long process, Phillips said. A team of 40-50 specialists came up with priority areas, then the team went to individuals in the areas to see if they were interested in a long term conservation program.

*"The whole concept is to work with individuals to solve conservation problems over a long period."*

Dwain Phillips  
USDA Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

Nationally, the program is funded at \$200 million per year through the year 2002. Next week, a group will meet to examine the 600 U.S. applications and decide which are most important.

Oklahoma farmers and ranchers wait on the word. "We always have more applications for contracts than we can fund," Phillips said.

## WOMEN MILITARY VETERANS NOT RESPONDING

From Okla. Division of Veterans Affairs

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) As of this week, only 1,000 women military veterans have responded to the call from the Oklahoma Division of Veterans Affairs to find and honor Oklahoma's women veterans.

*"Whether you served many years ago or are serving today, your military history deserves a place in this national memorial."*

The Women in Military Service for American Memorial Foundation, Inc. broke ground at Arlington National Cemetery, June 22, 1995. The memorial honors the two million women who served in our nation's defense, beginning with the American Revolution and continuing through today.

Construction continues, and plans call for the dedication on October 18, 1997. The drive to locate and register women veterans and active duty servicewomen intensifies.

The registration drive is to document the stories of military women and their deeds, sacrifices and service. Each registration includes the photo, military history and personal memories of a servicewoman. The stories will be displayed through the memorial's computerized database, accessible to the public.

There are approximately 14,400 women veterans in Oklahoma, according to the Veterans Affairs Division. Director Richard Heuckendorf said, "we urge women from across the state and nation to help in this effort to document women's history in the military."

"Whether you served many years ago or are serving today, your military history deserves a place in this national memorial."

Any woman who served in the military, or anyone who knows a woman veteran is urged to respond so the veteran can be registered. Call 1-800-4-SALUTE (472-5883) or write The Women's Memorial, Dept. 560, Washington, DC 20042-0560.

## DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF AVIATION RESEARCH NAMED

From Federal Aviation Administration

■(WASHINGTON) Dr. George Donohue, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) associate administrator for research and acquisitions, on Thursday announced that Dr. Jan Brecht-Clark will become deputy director of the FAA's office of aviation research.

Brecht-Clark joined the FAA almost 6 years ago. Her most recent position was technical assistant to the director of aviation research. She also has served as technical assistant to the deputy administrator, headquarters liaison for the Civil Aeromedical Institute and special assistant to the federal air surgeon.

In addition to her new job, Brecht-Clark will continue to serve as acting chief scientist for human factors. In this position, she directs the FAA's applied scientific and technological human factors research efforts.

"Jan brings to the office of aviation research more than 20 years experience with industry, and local, state and Federal government in human factors research, performance analysis, performance prediction, training and development and training system design," said Donohue. "Her diverse scientific and managerial background makes her a tremendous addition to further the progress of the FAA's continuing efforts in aviation research."

The office of aviation research manages, directs and coordinates the FAA's research and development (R&D) program. The director and deputy director establish the FAA's R&D policy and serve as the agency's R&D liaison with the aviation community.



## GRANTS AWARDED TO PROMOTE THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

### From US Dept. of Justice

■(WASHINGTON) Organizations in ten states across the country were awarded \$450,000 in grants to help teach local businesses and governments about how to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Justice Department announced this week.

The grants will be given to state-based organizations who will reach out to businesses through regularly scheduled meetings and by conducting statewide conferences on the ADA for state and local government officials. The Department funded similar projects in 16 states in 1995.

"These grants will bring information about the ADA directly to local businesses and governments," said Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights Deval L. Patrick. "Access to information about cost-effective, practical ADA solutions is key to complying with the ADA."

Organizations in Arkansas, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Wisconsin will conduct statewide projects to educate small businesses both about the variety of ADA resources available locally, regionally, and from the federal government, as well as the basic requirements of title III of the ADA. Title III requires public accommodations and commercial facilities to make their facilities and services accessible to persons with disabilities. The groups will also speak at local Chambers of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, Restaurant Associations, and other organizations.

This week's small business education grants were awarded to:

- ADA Roundtable, Little Rock, Arkansas
- Easter Seal Society of Wisconsin, In., Madison, Wisconsin;
- Idaho Task Force on the ADA, Boise, Idaho;
- Independent Living Resource Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Kennedy Krieger Institute, Baltimore, Maryland;
- Minnesota State Steering Committee with the Great Lakes Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Four additional organizations received funding to conduct statewide ADA information-sharing conferences for local and State government officials in the states of Iowa, Mississippi, Utah, and Washington. The conferences will educate government officials

about the requirements of title II of the law and the resources available on the ADA. Title II applies to all activities, programs and services of state and local governments.

These statewide information-sharing grants were awarded to:

- Coalition for Citizens with Disabilities, Jackson, Mississippi;
- Easter Seal Society of Utah, Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah;

- Iowa State Association of Counties, Des Moines, Iowa;

- Washington Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, Seattle, Washington.

Through previous grants, the Department has funded the development of materials aimed at specific types of businesses and state and local government officials. A collection of these and other ADA materials are now available in 15,000 local public libraries.

## MILLIONS OF WORKERS AFFECTED BY CHANGES IN HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

### From US Dept. of Labor

■(WASHINGTON) Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich said earlier this week that more than one million workers whose health care benefits will be protected if they lose their jobs must be notified by Nov. 1 of their new rights by their current or former employers.

Reich said the new health care benefits, provided by congressional passage of the Kennedy-Kassebaum health bill, would allow more children to be covered, allow for extra care for the disabled, and allow people the fullest health care options available to them.

"When you're out of work, you have your hands full looking for a new job. Workers shouldn't have to worry about the limitations of their health care coverage. These measures are an important step in giving hard-working Americans some peace of mind," said Reich.

Changes in the law don't take effect until Jan. 1, but all extended benefits will be applied retroactively. If an employee is laid off or loses a job in the next few months he should know the fullest extent to which his

health care needs will be met.

The changes to COBRA would allow employees to expand their benefits to include the child of an employee who may be born or adopted during the period of COBRA coverage.

An additional change extends COBRA coverage from 18 months to 29 months for those employees who are determined to be disabled either at the time they qualify for COBRA or during the first 60 days after they qualify for COBRA.

A final amendment limits exclusions for pre-existing conditions. In the past if an employee with a pre-existing condition found another health care provider, that provided some but not all coverage, then the COBRA employer could terminate the employee's COBRA continuation coverage. Under the new law it will be harder for employers to make these exclusions.

The Technical Bulletin on changes to COBRA under HIPAA is available on the Internet at: <http://www.dol.gov/pwba/public/programs/ori/techrel/cobra.htm>.

## WEEKEND BLUES



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# That's Good for Oklahoma!®

## OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION PROMOTES EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMY

(GIT) It doesn't take a politician or a trained economist to recognize the link between employment and a healthy, vibrant economy. The equation is simple: The more people employed, the more robust the economy.

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) strives to provide employment security and in so doing promote the economic well-being of the state of Oklahoma. Every effort is made to establish a functional, statewide labor exchange to accommodate the needs of Oklahoma employers and residents. Through OESC local offices, the needs of employers and job-seeking individuals are facilitated by matching qualified workers with an employer's specific employment needs.

OESC avidly supports Oklahoma's employer community and is cognizant of their needs. Oklahoma Employer Advisory Councils have been established across the state to listen to the needs and concerns of employers. The councils play an active role in the community as vital information is disseminated to employers and feedback is gathered so that the delivery of service will continue to improve.

OESC offers many services to Oklahoma job-seekers and residents including referral to suitable employment opportunities, job training assistance to economically disadvantaged individuals and those dislocated due to business closings and layoffs and assessment of an individual's needs and referral to supportive agencies and programs.

### HOW IT'S DONE

The Oklahoma Employment Security is made up of four major divisions: Employment Service, Economic Research and Analysis, Job Training Partnership act and Unemployment Insurance.

The Economic Research and Analysis Division is responsible for collecting, analyzing and disseminating a wide array of socioeconomic data. The Division maintains the Bureau of Labor Statistic (BLS) programs such as Current Employment Statistics (CES), Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) and Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). In addition to these programs, this Division also maintains a number of other Labor Market Information (LMI) programs such as the Occupational Wage Survey Reports, Occupational Projections and the Oklahoma Labor Market

Review. These products and services are requested by a diverse group of customers who need or desire to track the economic health of the state of Oklahoma and its local areas.

The Job Training Partnership Division is primarily responsible for administering the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) of 1982.

JTPA is a federally funded program designed to provide employment and training services to individuals who, for various reasons, have been unable to obtain meaningful employment. This division is responsible for maintaining programs to prepare youth and unskilled adults for entry into the labor force. The program also provides job training opportunities to economically disadvantaged individuals and those dislocated due to business closings and layoffs.

The Employment Service Division maintains a statewide labor exchange between employers and job-seeking individuals as established by the Wagner-Peyser Act of 1933. Assistance may be provided to individuals in the form of referral to jobs, training assistance, referral to supportive services, or job development. A Veterans Division provides service to Oklahoma veterans through

Veterans Representatives located in the local office and outstationed at key service delivery points across the state. An employer's labor needs are met and satisfied through the selection and referral of qualified workers.

OESC maintains the Unemployment Insurance Program to pay unemployment benefits to qualified unemployed wage earners. OESC makes rigorous efforts to locate suitable employment opportunities and/or provide reemployment assistance so those individuals receiving unemployment benefits may reenter the workforce as quickly as possible. The Unemployment Insurance Division maintains the Unemployment Insurance program which was established through the Social Security Act of 1935. Unemployment benefits are paid as a weekly sum to qualified unemployed wage earners covered under the law. Funds for payment of these benefits are provided through a state tax paid by employers. Administrative funding for the program is provided through the federal FUTA taxes paid by employers for that purpose.

### OKLAHOMA ONE STOP CAREER CENTERS

The One Stop Technical Committees were formed to help the state plan for the new One Stop service delivery system. The LMI Technical Committee is chaired by Auther Jordan, Director of Eco-





conomic Research and Analysis for the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission. The Committee is made up of approximately 15 regular members representing a variety of education, employment and training partners.

The Committee has developed the following goal statement:

To develop a universal Labor Market Information system to meet the needs of any customer that may access information through the One stop Career Centers. The information needs to be high quality, usable and reliable as well as flexible to meet the various needs of the customers. Any product or service developed needs to be designed in a user-friendly format.

The volunteer members of the Committee have identified the following LMI products as being essential in a One Stop Career Center:

- Occupational Wage Data;
- Education/Training Data;
- Occupational Projections;
- Job Bank Data;
- Employer Database;
- Career Information;
- Resource Directory of Service Providers;
- America's Job Bank;
- Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- Consumer Report on Education and Training Services Quality;
- Underemployment Model;
- Talent Bank; and
- Licensed Occupations Data

With the exception of the Consumer Report and Underemployment Model, the various products are currently being produced by OESC and others in some form. The Committee is attempting to identify user friendly formats and necessary improvements to the data. The Committee is using the following principles in this effort:

- Information should be as local as possible;
- Information should have consistent coding of occupations/industries;
- Customers should have staff assistance if necessary to access the information; and
- Customers should be able to query the information to produce customized LMI.

The primary concern of the Committee at this time is employer involvement. They wish to ensure that the information is of value to employers and those wanting to track the economic health of Oklahoma and its local areas, as well as job seekers. Ideas are to use the Internet and Employer Advisory Councils to survey this audience in the future.

## OESC ON THE INTERNET

The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission now has their home page on the Worldwide Web. The address is <http://www.oesc.state.ok.us>

The primary purpose of the Web site is to provide agency-wide information, including labor market information, for those customers not wishing to contact or visit our agency. At this time there is labor force data and general information and the site is electronically linked to America's Job Bank, the US Department of Labor funded Training Technology Resource Center, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and various state agencies such as the Department of Commerce.

The TTTC is a particularly valuable web site as it includes information on the federal One Stop initiative, proposed federal legislation, and various One Stop products and services already developed.

Current plans are to include Oklahoma's Job Bank and a talent bank for job seekers to list their resumes that can then be searched by employers. Eventually all labor market information will be included.

## EMPLOYER INVOLVEMENT

Both the One Stop Technical Committees and participants at local workshops have expressed concern over how best to involve employers in planning One Stop Career Centers. The most obvious place to look for interested employers would be OESC Employer Advisory Council members, JTPA Private Industry Council members, and the local chamber of commerce.

It is also interesting to note, OESC officials note, that in federally sponsored employer focus groups, employers consistently send two messages. The first is that they are looking for the proper attitude on the part of job seekers as much as they are looking for aptitude. This may have implications on preparation of job seekers. The second is that they do not want various governmental entities calling on them, each focused on only their program. They want a government representative to ask them what they need and then figure out how to get it without explaining all of the bureaucratic problems involved. It is important to keep these thoughts in mind while planning to build the One Stop Career Center system in Oklahoma.

Both job seekers and employers want choices in how they access information and services and they want the services integrated so they don't have to worry about how to figure it all out; they want to feel like valued customers, not clients.

While it is simple to identify the equation to an improved economy, the factors to be added together are more difficult to discern. That is the job of the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission.

By combining its existing programs with the latest directive and encouragement from the federal government and the latest in technological advances, the OESC fills in the blanks in the economic development equation.

## THAT'S GOOD FOR OKLAHOMA!!



# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY

## AWARDS

### ADOPTION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED DURING CEREMONY OCT. 24

■(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.

"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.

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.

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.

—HOUSE MEDIA  
10/14/96

*"Democratic institutions are never done — they are, like the living tissue, always a-making. It is a strenuous thing this of living the life of a free people: and we cannot escape the burden of our inheritance."*

Woodrow Wilson  
speech in Middletown, CT  
April 30, 1889

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

■(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, starting 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.

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.

—HOUSE MEDIA  
10/15/96

## CORRECTIONS

### JAIL TASK FORCE HEARS PROBLEMS, LOOKS FOR SOLUTIONS

■(GIT) At the first meeting of the state legislative task force on jails Thursday, county sheriffs willingly discussed their common problems.

A county jail built in 1934, designed to house 15 prisoners, holds 39. Some sleep on the floor.

A multi-million dollar drug dealer is guarded by a minimum wage employee, in county jail.

Checking other counties for outstanding warrants on a suspect involves calls to 76 other counties, because there is no network from county to county.

Some sheriffs' deputies qualify for, and use, food stamps. Others are eligible. One county sheriff takes home \$800 a month.

No one knows how many escapes from county jails happen each year. Records are kept separately, by hand, in most cases.

These are only a few of the problems brought up at the first meeting.

The task force, mandated by Senate Joint Resolution 34, is made up of ten house and senate members and ten county sheriffs, who will study the situation at the county jails and sheriffs' offices and make recommendations to the legislature on the first day of the 46th session.

Legislators listened, sometimes in disbelief, as sheriffs outlined the stumbling blocks to law enforcement that make their day.

Seminole County Sheriff Charles Sisco drives 100 miles to pick up a prisoner at McLoud Correctional Center in Farris and bring him back to Wewoka for a two-minute hearing. Then the prisoner is driven back to Farris — a round trip of 400 miles, and it all comes out of the sheriff's budget.

His story was just one of several. Although legislation is in place to provide for video arraignments and hearings, no funding was appropriated with the legislation to allow counties to buy the equipment.

Technologically, John Walsh Jr., executive director of the Oklahoma Sheriff's Association said, county sheriffs' offices need computers just to "bring us into the 20th century." Along the same line, each county needs a coordinated communications system and a statewide network for checking outstanding warrants.

Other problems listed were unsafe, crumbling facilities; untrained staff, low salaries and small budgets.

Most jails in Oklahoma were built before 1950, Walsh said, and many counties do not have the funds to build a jail. Jail standards cannot be met, he said.

Quality staff is at a critical low in most counties. Salaries are too low to draw top applicants.

Legislators and law enforcement officials at the meeting agreed budgets and funding for county law enforcement needs some fundamental changes. Right now, each county office — court clerk, county clerk, sheriff, appraiser and county treasurer — is apportioned a part of the millage collected in ad valorem taxes. Sheriffs' offices get one-tenth of one-tenth of the taxes collected to run two important offices — investigation and detention.

Compared to 1993, Walsh said, the 51 Oklahoma counties he has studied so far rank

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# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



below the national average in everything.

Task force chairman Sen. Lewis Long, D-Glenpool, wanted to know what other states are doing to solve some of the same problems. Regional jails are one solution, Sheriff Glanz said, with perhaps a 48-hour holding facility in each county. An additional statewide tax, to be used just for county law enforcement was mentioned. Using statewide computer systems already in place, such as the Department of Human Services or Oklahoma libraries was a solution mentioned to take advantage of video hearings.

No matter what, Sheriff Dayle James of Okmulgee County said, "we need to keep law enforcement local." In rural counties, the sheriff is the bottom line in law enforcement, one sheriff said, "the thin blue line."

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/17/96

## EDUCATION

### CANDIDATES, OFFICIALS FOCUS ON EDUCATION

■(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.

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 indiscriminate budget slashing.

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.

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."

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/15/96

### KEATING OUTLINES EDUCATION PLANS TO APOE

■(GIT) Governor Frank Keating pledged on Thursday to pursue an agenda he said he believes will make Oklahoma schools great and will promote further economic development in the state.

Speaking in Norman before more than 100 teachers at the first Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators statewide convention, the governor said the idea that

"if we spend more, we'll get more" has been proven false. Rattling off a lengthy list of statistics, Keating said despite increases in funding for education at both the state and national levels that there has been no improvement in the students leaving public schools.

Keating said the issue of strong academic standards is one which has become blurred in recent years.

Finally, Keating said, there should be accountability in public education. Students, he said, should be accountable for learning, teachers should be held accountable for teaching and administrators should be held accountable for creating an environment in which teachers can teach and students can learn. Parents, too, he said, should share in that accountability.

Those objectives, Keating said, could be accomplished by embracing his plans for education. One such proposal, which he advanced earlier this year, would increase the teaching of basic subjects — math, science, English and social studies — and graduation requirements. Called "4 by 4," the program would require four years of high school education in each of the subjects.

Other components of Keating's education plan included:

- ✓ School choice;
- ✓ Charter schools;
- ✓ Career teacher pay raises; and
- ✓ Increased emphasis on teaching what he called the state's "best and brightest."

Ultimately, the governor said, the way to improve public schools is "to return to what works and discard what doesn't."

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/17/96

## ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

### NATURAL GAS POLICY COMMISSION HOLDS SECOND MEETING

■(GIT) BTUs and molecules; practices and policies; regulation and legislation were all brought before the second meeting of the Joint Commission on Natural Gas Policy Thursday at the State Capitol.

#### BACKGROUND

The Commission was created to study the policies, laws, agency rules, and economics affecting the natural gas industry and make recommendations on any issue determined

*Continued on next page*



# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



to be of great importance to the natural gas industry in Oklahoma. In addition, the Commission was directed, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, to provide data and assistance to the Governor and the Legislature in the formation of an Oklahoma energy plan and policy statements to present to the Congress and the President of the United States with regard to a national energy strategy. The 20-member Commission is comprised of representatives from the executive, legislative, and regulatory branches of state government as well as industry and royalty owner representatives.

## STATUS OF RESTRUCTURING STATE GAS UTILITIES

David Brammer, Coordinator of Economic Policy, Public Utility Division of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission provided an update on the status of state gas utility restructuring efforts.

"Restructuring the gas utility industry in Oklahoma will require a combination of rule making by the Corporation Commission as well as enabling legislation," Brammer said.

The first Notice of Inquiry to address energy industry restructuring was issued under PUD960000133 on May 17, 1996. Since that time, the Corporation Commission held technical conferences to discuss the industry's concerns and recommendations for bringing the benefits of the marketplace into the utilities industry as soon as possible. The final hearing before the Commission en banc is scheduled for December 4, 1996.

Brammer explained that the Commission must define competitive services; that is, services that are to be unbundled and regulated in a different manner. Brammer also noted uniform taxation on all service providers; equal regulation for all similar service providers where there is competition; and an obligation to serve, as policy issues related to competitive services that must be resolved.

In its comments to the Commission under PUD96000133, Oklahoma Natural Gas Company defined "restructuring" as the process by which services or products which have traditionally been provided as part of the Company's "bundled" and/or merchant sales services are identified and segregated, to be offered as separate services, some in a competitive marketplace and some in a regulated environment.

Brammer continued with his summary of objectives for restructuring, stating utilities should fully unbundled, depending upon the different needs and choices of consumers and that non-traditional service providers should be allowed and encouraged to provide competitive services.

Williams Energy Services Company, a subsidiary of The Williams Companies, submitted in its comments under PUD960000133, "the cornerstone of any restructuring should be the unbundling of transmission and distribution functions from marketing functions. Such unbundling should include an obligation to provide non-discriminatory open access to all qualified marketers, regardless of whether such marketers are affiliated with the transmission or distribution service provider. Corporation Commission oversight with a viable complaint process will be vital to any unbundling."

In order to implement unbundling, Brammer explained, utilities will file an application to provide unbundled services, which will be subject to review and comment by all parties.

The Corporation Commission will establish reporting and information disclosure requirements which will be applied on an equal basis for all service providers within each unbundled segment. Further the Commission will prohibit affiliate preferential treatment in all areas and will monitor compliance with the prohibition.

TRANSOK, Inc., an intrastate natural gas pipeline and storage company, stated "The Commission must establish a framework which will enable competition to govern all aspects of service except for residential service. In Phase I, the Commission must require the complete unbundling of utility services except for local distribution service. It must remedy the monopolistic situations such as sole source suppliers and full requirements provisions, allow direct connect customers an alternative to obtaining gas ser-

vices from traditional utilities, and require utilities to obtain bids for gas supply including gas to be delivered by a third party pipeline into each city-gate for the utility's distribution service. In a competitive market, TRANSOK would envision the Commission acting as an arbitrator, but continuing to regulate the distribution of gas to residential customers. As an arbitrator, the Commission would mediate and resolve complaints rather than actively regulate utility service."

Brammer noted several consumer issues related to the restructuring of the natural gas industry:

- Consumers should have service choices, but should be willing to assume any associated costs, risks, and/or benefits.

- All consumers, especially small-load consumers, should have the opportunity to aggregate.

- Possible impacts of consumer choice, e.g. higher/lower rates, changing quality of service, change in number of service options.

ONG described among the primary objectives of restructuring the need to allow utilities the "opportunity to compete on a "level playing field" with alternate energy sources or service providers in those areas where competition exists or can be developed."

Brammer explained one concern of restructuring is providing universal service and establishing an obligation to serve.

"Who is going to be the service provider of last resort when the local gate might not be appealing in the pure marketplace analysis," Brammer said. The Commission wants a competitive market — we just don't want Granny to freeze in it."

## GROSS PRODUCTION TAX REPORTING

Mike Boyd of Boyd, Rosene and Associates, began the discussion of gross production tax reporting issues. "The reporting of gross production taxes and the filing of amended tax reports is difficult if not impossible given the relatively recent changes in the natural gas industry and the rules, regulations, practices, and procedures of the Oklahoma Tax Commission (OTC)," Boyd said.

Boyd explained the first purchasers now rely on others for data necessary to prepare and file gross production tax reports. The first purchaser is now dependent on the pro-

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*"Political democracy, as it exists and practically works in America, with all its threatening evils, supplies a training school for making first-class men. It is life's gymnasium, not of good only, but of all."*

Walt Whitman  
"Democratic Vistas"  
1871



# 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-

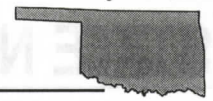
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*"The conflict between capitalism and democracy is inherent and continuous; it is often hidden by misleading propaganda and by the outward forms of democracy, such as parliaments, and the sops that the owning classes throw to the other classes to keep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

Jawaharlal Nehru  
"Glimpses of World History," 1933



# 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."

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*"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*



# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

"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.

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

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/15/96

## GOVERNOR BACKS LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES FOR STATE AIRPLANE USAGE

■(GIT) Governor Frank Keating is willing to back guidelines enacted by the legislature aimed at outlining how the executive office can use state-owned aircraft, a spokesman for the governor said Wednesday.

"Governor Keating does not have a problem with that," Press Secretary John Cox said when asked by *Capitol Network News* whether the governor would be willing to back legislation outlining the use of state government aircraft. "The governor would welcome any legislator, Republican or Democrat, to file legislation that outlines or provides guidelines for the use of the plane. He certainly does not have a problem with that."

Asked whether Keating would sign such a bill if passed by the legislature, Cox stopped short, saying it would depend on the limitations imposed by the legislation.

"But that's his position on any piece of legislation. He's not going to sign it without reading it," Cox explained. "Even if it were a right-to-work bill, he wouldn't tell you today that he would sign it without having seen it."

Cox's comments follow nearly a week of criticism of the governor's use of a state airplane to attend some partisan political fund-raisers. Renewing an argument made by Dan Mahoney, Keating's communications director, Cox called the criticism political in nature, noting that the governor's chief critic, Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, became concerned about the issue only after the Keating attended a fund-raiser for Roach's opponent.

*"Men are conservatives when they are least vigorous, or when they are most luxurious. They are conservatives after dinner."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson  
"New England Reformers"  
1844

The same, Cox said, holds true for Rep. Ron Kirby, D-Lawton, who joined in the criticism on Wednesday.

"Using that \$3 million airplane to campaign for GOP candidates, while accompanied by Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers, is an abuse of power and a waste of tax dollars," said Kirby.

Cox and Mahoney's view of the criticism was joined earlier in the week a lawmaker from the other side of the aisle, Sen. Dick Wilkerson, D-Atwood.

"When the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tem attack the governor for his airplane costs, it's a flim flam," Wilkerson told the Kiwanis Club of Greater Ada on Monday. "They know it, the governor knows it and you know it. That's not a make-or-break issue. Those kinds of things don't have any substance to them, but that constant give and take and the gnawing back and forth is part of how our system works."

"I've never had a reason to think Governor Keating was anything but an honest man, albeit a misguided honest man," added Wilkerson, who went on to criticize the governor for "always talking about what's wrong with Oklahoma."

Cox also stressed that state law mandates that the governor be provided transportation and security by the Department of Public Safety. That department, Cox said in response to questions, is responsible for determining how the governor gets to and from any public event and would be the one affected by any new measures adopted by the legislature.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/16/96

## GINGRICH TOUTS "JUDGMENT," NOT CHARACTER ISSUES

■(GIT) Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole should focus his and the public's attention on what Speaker of the House of Representatives Newt Gingrich said were issues of judgment, not character, in the final three weeks before the general election.

Speaking to reporters some 12 hours before Dole and President Bill Clinton were scheduled to meet in San Diego for their second presidential debate, Gingrich accused Clinton of "trying to buy the election" and of errors of judgment in public policy issues.

Asked what he hoped Dole would do during the debate, Gingrich said, "I hope Bob Dole calmly tells the truth to the American people."

That truth, Gingrich said, shows that Clinton does not have the judgment to be president.

The House Speaker also pointed to the former Arkansas governor's pledge to cut taxes, which he said later resulted in tax increases.

Gingrich's leveled his strongest criticism at recent revelations concerning contributions by an Indonesian banking family and their associates to Clinton's reelection campaign.

Indonesian billionaire Mochtar Riady, his family members and the US subsidiaries and executives of the family's company, the Lippo Group, have contributed more than \$475,000 to the Democratic Party since 1991, according to published reports. The revelations have led Republicans, including Gingrich, to call for a federal investigation into Clinton's ties to the wealthy family.

During his appearance Wednesday, Gingrich pointed to loans from the Import/Export Bank and Department of Commerce appointments as examples of what he called a "network of favoritism" that existed between Clinton's White House and the wealthy family.

Gingrich said a close examination of the relationship reveals "pay off after pay off" and accused the president and the Democratic Party of attempting "to buy the election."

In town for a \$250 per plate GOP fund-raiser, Gingrich dedicated the bulk of his comments to promoting the efforts of the Republican Party.

Holding up a copy of two mock checks — one made out to the Internal Revenue Service and the other made out for an American family — Gingrich endorsed Dole's 15 percent tax cut proposal, saying it would put \$1,261 more dollars in the pocket of a family of four with a \$30,000 income.

And then there was the matter of the ice bucket.

Gingrich used the bucket, in which ice was once delivered to House members' offices twice daily, to illustrate Republican efforts to cut what he called needless spending. In the case of the bucket, Gingrich said Republicans were able to cut \$500,000 for the congressional budget by eliminating the daily deliveries.

That, he said, was the beginning of a bigger story in which budget savings were

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# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



earned by eliminating the House's \$137,000 barber shop, \$18,000 shoe shine stand and \$450,000 post office operations.

The actions, Gingrich said, illustrated the idea that programs existed which could be cut without causing adverse impact on important government services.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/16/96

## APPOINTMENTS TO STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ANNOUNCED

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Governor Frank Keating Thursday announced several appointments to state boards and commissions.

The Governor named John Brock of Tulsa to the Oklahoma Capital Investment Board to serve a term ending Dec. 31, 1998. He succeeds David Johnson who resigned. Senate confirmation is required.

Virgil Jurgensmeyer of Miami, Don Ramsey of Jones, Dean Smith of Hydro and Michael Wright of Minco were named to the Industry Advisory Board. Jurgensmeyer will serve a term ending July 1, 1997. Ramsey and Smith will serve terms ending July 1, 1998. Wright will serve a term ending July 1, 1999. This is a new position created by SB 1030.

Steve Kelley and Joe McGraw of Tulsa, Bob Rollins, Willis Wheat and Nancy Leonard of Oklahoma City were named to the Oklahoma Capitol Complex Centennial Commission to serve terms expiring at the pleasure of the Governor. This is a new position created by SB 823.

—THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
10/17/96

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

### WINDS OF CHANGE BLOW THROUGH DHS, ADVISORS TOLD

■(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 Retardation 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.

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.

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.

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.

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/15/96

*"It is only the poor who are forbidden to beg."*

Anatole France  
Crainquebille, 1901

## LT. GOVERNOR FALLIN MARKS OKLAHOMA/MEXICO WHEELCHAIR EXCHANGE

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Lt. Governor Mary Fallin celebrated the partnership between Oklahoma and Sonora, Mexico as the two states begin a wheelchair exchange program. Wheels for the World and Partners of the Americas donated nine refurbished wheelchairs to Sonora during ceremonies held in the Lt. Governor's office Thursday.

"I'm so happy that my office was able to bring these parties together. Now two American organizations with a strong Oklahoma presence will be able to provide much-needed assistance to Sonora," Fallin said.

Wheels for the World, and its local organization, Wheels for Oklahoma City, are organizations dedicated to refurbishing used wheelchairs for distribution to those who cannot afford them. The group began several years ago with a wheelchair drive in Oklahoma City. They now provide wheelchairs to disadvantaged people throughout the U.S., and in several foreign countries.

Partners of the Americas is a partnership of 48 American and 20 South American states that have come together to share trade, economic, cultural, and educational ideas. Through Wheels for America, the partnership hopes to donate as many as 100 wheelchairs this year.

—LT. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
10/17/96

## MANAGED CARE TASK FORCE CONSIDERS REGULATIONS

■(GIT) Members of the Senate's Managed Care Task Force were urged to place regulatory responsibility for managed care programs under one state agency and to focus much of their regulator efforts on solvency, rather than quality issues.

David Randel, deputy director of the Ohio Department of Insurance and a representative of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, made the comments during Thursday's meeting of the task force at the state capitol. Randel said that the Ohio General Assembly was currently considering two pieces of legislation with such a focus.

The comments stand in contrast to those made earlier in the meeting by the panel's co-chair, Mike Duncan, and by task force members during the group's Oct. 2 meeting.

*Continued on next page*



# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Most of the issues identified by the task force for discussion, such as quality assessment, access and information sharing, are what its chairmen have called "quality issues," rather than financial considerations.

Randel said a key component of the Ohio proposals is that they will impose regulations on "anyone bearing (financial) risk." Part of the problem in the managed care area, several speakers noted Thursday, was that there is no clear definition of what qualifies as a managed care program. In Oklahoma, for example, only four health care plans — health maintenance organizations (HMOs), pre-paid health plans, provider service networks and workplace medical plans — are regulated by the State Department of Health, Mike Hartsell, executive director of the department told the panel. At the same time, he noted, Oklahoma law does not define what constitutes a managed care program, leaving a number of health care programs, such as preferred provider programs and many others, unregulated.

Randel said legislation which addresses the managed care issue from the standpoint of "anyone bearing risk" should cover all existing health care programs, as well as those which may develop in the future.

That idea was not readily embraced by members of the panel, many of whom argued that only those entities which sell insurance products should be regulated, while those which are not involved in the insurance industry should not be regulated.

Randel also argued that only one state agency, particularly the state insurance commission, should be charged with regulating the managed care industry. The sharing of regulatory responsibility, Randel said, has historically led to problems in states such as California, New York and Minnesota.

According to Hartsell, his department

bears the primary responsibility of enforcing regulations on the health care industry. When dealing with HMOs, he noted, the Oklahoma Insurance Commission evaluates the organizations' finances, but only makes recommendations to the health department.

Randel said the primary regulatory focus of the legislation proposed in Ohio is solvency.

That, he said, is because the failure of a health care organization "is one of the worst things you can imagine."

Quality issues, Randel indicated, are important to consumers, but are best addressed by the market place, rather than by regulatory agencies.

That approach, however, Randel said, has drawn objections from those within the health care industry.

As members turned their attention to the task force's future discussions, some reluctance was expressed about taking action without hearing from representatives of some of the health care provider groups, such as provider service networks, preferred provider organizations and others.

That desire left one major issue unresolved by the panel — a determination of what entities would be regulated under any law proposed for Oklahoma. After hearing from representatives of additional health care provider groups, the task force's members indicated that they felt they would be better suited for arriving at a decision on the issue.

In informal balloting near the end of the meeting, however, 18 of the 30 task force members attending the meeting expressed a preference for dividing the regulatory responsibility in Oklahoma between two or more agencies, while 12 of the members expressed a preference for having only one regulatory authority.

In votes on other regulatory issues:

- Twenty-nine of the panel's members voiced support for regulations dealing with solvency;

- Twenty said the capacity to meet a network obligations should be regulated, while 5 panel members disagreed;

- Nineteen of the panel's members said they believe provider selection and access should be regulated, compared to six who said that it should not;

- Twenty voted that the process of credentialing should be regulated, while two voted that it should not;

- Twenty-six panel members said quality assurance should be regulated;

- Twenty-seven voted that utilization review, data reporting and outcome information should also be regulated; and

- Nine said profit should be regulated by a legislatively-imposed limit, while 15 said that it should not.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/17/96

## REVENUE & TAXATION

### GENERAL REVENUE RECEIPTS SHOW GAINS FOR MONTH, QUARTER

■(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 historically exceed allocation requirements in Sep-

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*"Bureaucracies are designed to perform public business. But as soon as a bureaucracy is established, it develops an autonomous spiritual life and comes to regard the public as its enemy."*

Brooks Atkinson  
"September 9"  
Once Around the Sun  
1951



# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



tember, 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.

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.

—OFFICE OF STATE FINANCE  
10/15/96

## SENATE BUDGET LEADER LAUDS ECONOMIC GROWTH, LATEST REVENUE REPORT

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The latest revenue report from the Office of State Finance is further evidence that Oklahoma's economy is growing and state economic policies are working, according to a Senate budget leader.

"Just when it seems like we've peaked, our economic numbers get better," said Senator Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "The latest numbers indicate that we're doing a lot of things on the economic development front."

Senator Haney was referring to the September revenue collection report issued by the Office of State Finance Tuesday.

According to the report, tax collections increased by \$27.7 million in September, an 8.5 percent increase from the same period

last year. The tax collection total for the first quarter of this fiscal year is up by \$67.8 million or 8.1 percent higher than the same period last year.

Senator Haney is hoping other state leaders will recognize the good news and use it to promote the state.

"I hope Governor Keating takes a good look at the latest report and recognizes all the positive things that have been happening in Oklahoma.

"Good economic news like this can be a great business recruitment tool. The Governor needs to spend more time talking our state up instead of running it down."

—SENATE MEDIA  
10/16/96

## TOP STATE OFFICIALS ENDORSE TAX QUESTIONS

■(GIT) Four top state officials announced Thursday their support for three state questions designed to lower and impose limits on property tax increases in Oklahoma.

Governor Frank Keating, Senate President Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor and House Speaker Glen D. Johnson said they have agreed to serve as honorary co-chairs of a campaign to win passage of State Questions 675, 676 and 677. Joining the three in their support of the questions was State Treasurer Robert Butkin.

Keating, Taylor and Johnson will work with Oklahomans for Property Tax Relief, a coalition of state business leaders from both sides of the fight over State Question 669, the failed property tax reform effort from the spring.

"The legislative leadership and I wisely sought help from a group of citizens to come up with these meaningful reforms of Oklahoma's antiquated property tax system," said Keating. "These three state questions are exactly the direction we need to go to bring real relief to taxpayers."

Taylor called the state questions the result of a bipartisan effort and urged their approval.

Speaker Johnson said he supports the questions because they offer taxpayers a well-deserved and larger voice in the taxation process.

Butkin, too, praised the bipartisan effort that put the questions on the ballot and urged approval of the questions.

"I am most pleased with the provision that freezes property tax values on homes

owned by senior citizens earning \$25,000 or less per year."

The three questions make up one-half of the state questions which will go before voters during next month's general election.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/17/96

## TOURISM & RECREATION

### A BIG 'WELCOME' TO OKLAHOMA

■(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, director of the travel and tourism division, said.

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. 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, 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

*Continued on next page*

*"You know, the greatest epitaph in the country is here in Arizona. It's in Tombstone, Arizona, and this epitaph says, 'Here lies Jack Williams. He done his damndest.' I think that is the greatest epitaph a man could have. Whenever a man does the best he can, then that is all he can do; and that is what your President has been trying to do for the last three years for this country."*

Harry S Truman  
remarks in Winslow, Arizona  
June 15, 1948



# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



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.

The prototype center from which the others will be modeled is open at NE 122nd and I-35 in Oklahoma City.

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/14/96

## DOING VERY WELL WITH VERY LITTLE

■ (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.

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*. "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.

- Right to work and crews are no longer problems, after cooperation from the Inter-

national 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. Next spring, *The Bill Pickett Story* will begin filming.

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.

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/14/96

## HORSE RACING COMMISSION REQUESTS OSBI CHECK OF APPOINTEES

■ (GIT) At the meeting of the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission Thursday, Commission member Ralph "Butch" Choate suggested submitting to the Legislature a recommendation to include a specific Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation background check for commissioners. Additional appropriations to the OSBI were also suggested to cover the cost of the additional duties. A level three or equivalent check was recommended. After minimal discussion, members voted to recommend an amendment to Title 3A, Sec. 201 of the Oklahoma Statutes, setting forth requirements for becoming a member of the horse racing commissioner.

## RACE DAYS SET FOR SOME TRACKS

Commission members okayed 1997 race day schedules for Remington Park, Blue Ribbon Downs and the Tulsa County and

State Fair venues; but tabled the Cottonwood Racing Corporation schedule — at Cottonwood's request — until the November meeting.

Cottonwood Racing Corporation at Will Rogers Downs in Claremore requested an organization license. A portion of the public hearing for the request was held at the HRC September meeting and commissioners were scheduled to hear the final portion, deliberate and vote on the application for 1997 racing today. At the request of Cottonwood counsel Clark O. Brewster, the remainder of the public hearing was postponed due to the absence of vice chair Tom Drummond.

In other commission action, members added a requirement to the license for Blue Ribbon Downs. Because of their record of delinquent reimbursements to the HRC for race officials and equine testing, Blue Ribbon Downs — in addition to the \$200,000 bond required of all race tracks — will be required to provide personal guarantees. Either the board of directors or the principal owners must sign a personal guarantee for obligations owed to the Oklahoma Racing Commission.

Public comment will be received on a change in rule 325:25-1-10, Horses Ineligible to Start in a Race, with notice of publication set for November 15.

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/17/96

## AN OMNIDOME IN OKLAHOMA'S FUTURE?

■ (GIT) The score, Rep. Jack Bonny, D-Burns Flat said, is Texas 7, Oklahoma 0. Bonny was speaking at the first meeting of House Interim Study 96-15, Thursday. He was referring to the fact that Texas has seven IMAX theaters, Oklahoma has none, a situation Omnplex hopes to remedy.

The meeting was held at the Omnplex, Oklahoma's premier science museum. Omnplex trustees and representatives of the interim study are working together to figure out a way to help Omnplex fund a \$7.3 million IMAX theater for Oklahoma.

Listing some of the reasons why Omnplex is the obvious site for the state-of-the-art theater, Jerry Austin, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, said:

- Omnplex is among the largest and best attended museums in the U.S.

- Among science museums, average at-

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"No one has a finer command of language than the person who keeps his mouth shut."

Sam Rayburn  
quoted

Lawrence Daily Journal-World  
Aug. 29, 1978



# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



tendance is 95,000 per year, according to the American Association of Museums (AAM). Omniplex averages 350,000 visitors a year.

- *Parents Magazine* recently recognized Omniplex as one of the nation's best museums for children.

- Omniplex is one of 743 fully accredited by the above-mentioned AAM.

Another measure of respect, Austin said, is Omniplex' charge to develop educational programs for NASA.

Now, Austin said, the museum is planning the largest project in their 40-year history, the OmniDome. It will be the first in Oklahoma and one of only 80 in the U.S. Surrounding states have 15 IMAX theaters. Omniplex has already raised more than \$3.2 million of the money needed, and plans on a total of \$5 million in private donations. "We've never asked for state help before," Austin said, "but we'll not be able to fully fund the project through private donations."

Trustees of the museum are hoping for a loan of about \$2 million from the state, to be repaid — they hope — from sales taxes collected at Omniplex, in the amount of \$200,000 annually.

State statute 68 OS 1991, Section 1356, allows for tax exemptions for colleges and universities. Omniplex trustees hope to add "accredited museums" to the exempted facilities.

Rep. Ray Vaughn, R-Edmond, agreed a bill would be drafted to change the statute if the committee feels it would be advantageous.

—GERRY CHERRY  
10/17/96

## TRANSPORTATION

### TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION HITS THE ROAD

■(GIT) Members of the Oklahoma Transportation Commission will hit the road in October and November to conduct nine transportation summits designed to discuss Oklahoma's current and forecasted transportation demand.

The summits are scheduled on Mondays and Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 21 and 22. Each commissioner will attend his multi-county area summit and the entire commission will attend the statewide summit set for Oklahoma City.

Department of Transportation officials

will present a 45-minute overview of Oklahoma's current funding versus projected needs at each summit, followed by a 45-minute feedback or public comment session. Citizens will be encouraged to present specific transportation goals for their area either in person or in writing.

The dates and locations of the meetings include:

- Oct. 21, Lawton, 5 to 6:30 p.m.;
- Oct. 22, Altus, 2 to 3:30 p.m.;
- Oct. 28, Durant, 5:30 to 7 p.m.;
- Oct. 29, Ada, 1 to 2:30 p.m.;
- Nov. 4, Oklahoma City (statewide summit) 3 to 4:30 p.m.;
- Nov. 18, Enid, 5 to 6:30 p.m.;
- Nov. 19, Woodward, 10 to 11:30 a.m.;
- Nov. 25, Muskogee, 2 to 3:30 p.m.;
- Nov. 26, Tulsa, time to be announced.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/17/96

## UTILITIES

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

■(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."

*"Difficulty is the excuse history never accepts."*

Edward R. Murrow  
on President John Kennedy's  
inaugural address  
Oct. 19, 1959

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.

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, whole 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.

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.

Edmondson indicated it is too early to 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 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.

—OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
10/14/96

### TASK FORCE REVIEWS ELECTRIC UTILITY RESTRUCTURING

■(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

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# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

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.

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.

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.

—SHAWN ASHLEY  
10/15/96

*"It is undoubtedly the business of ministers very much to consult the inclinations of the people, but they ought to take great care that they do not receive that inclination from the few persons who may happen to approach them."*

Edmund Burke  
Letters on a Regicide Peace  
1796-97

## CORPORATION COMMISSION SEEKS INPUT ON TELEPHONE SERVICES AND COMPETITION

■(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.

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.

### 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.

Suggestions from the public, local governing 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.

—OKLA. CORPORATION COMMISSION  
10/15/96

## WILDLIFE

### RUMOR MILL WORKING OVERTIME ON MOUNTAIN LIONS

■(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."

"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."

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.

—OKLA. DEPT. OF WILDLIFE  
10/15/96

*"People say law but they mean wealth"*

Emerson, "Journals," 1841



# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



## AGRICULTURE

### ROMINGER ANNOUNCES USDA'S SUPPORT OF SUSTAINABLE 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.

"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."

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 Sus-

tainable Development, will chair the Council, consisting of representatives from various USDA agencies.

—US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
10/14/96

### NEW VOLUNTARY PROGRAM TO PROTECT SOIL AND WATER ANNOUNCED

■(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."

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.

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.

—US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
10/14/96

### OKLAHOMAN REAPPOINTED TO THE MUSHROOM COUNCIL

■(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.

—US DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
10/15/96

## AWARDS

### QUALITY BRINGS RESULTS

■(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.

"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."

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
10/15/96

*"To make one's fortune is so fine a phrase, and of such charming import, that it is universally used; ;it is to be met with in all languages, is pleasing to strangers and to barbarians, is to be found at court and in the city, has made its way into cloisters and scaled the walls of monasteries and convents; there is no place so sacred where it has not penetrated, no desert or solitude where it is unknown."*

La Bruyere  
Of the Gifts of Fortune  
Characters  
1688



# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



## BUSINESS & LABOR

### INITIATIVES TO ASSIST THE NATION'S DISABLED WORKFORCE

■(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.

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.

—US DEPT. OF LABOR  
10/14/96

### OSHA'S STRONG ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM CONTINUES IN FY 96

■(WASHINGTON) While working hard to build partnerships with business owners who care about their workers' safety and health, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has simultaneously worked to stringently enforce safety standards for those who don't.

In the past fiscal year, the number of OSHA citations for very serious safety violations was up 30 percent. The total of significant and egregious enforcement cases in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 1996, (FY

*"The danger of success is that it makes us forget the world's dreadful injustice."*

Jules Renard  
Journal, 1908

'96) was up sharply over the previous year: 165 compared with 125. Significant cases are those with proposed penalties totaling more than \$100,000 and egregious cases are those where multiple willful violations warrant instance-by-instance penalties.

There were six egregious cases in FY '96 compared with 17 in FY '95.

—US DEPT. OF LABOR  
10/16/96

## EDUCATION

### BORROWERS REALIZE GOALS THROUGH LOANS

■(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.

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).

—US DEPT. OF EDUCATION  
10/14/96

### STUDENT SCORES UP IN MATH, SCIENCE; READING, WRITING SKILLS STABLE

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics reported that American students generally improved performance in math and science, but remained stable in reading and writing achievement.

In commenting on the Report in Brief:

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 1994 Trends in Academic Progress, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley urged schools and families to work harder to improve reading and writing skills, while expanding on the gains made in math and science.

Department research shows that reading and writing are greatly influenced by what goes on in the home and in after school activities. "Parents can do their part by making sure that children have a vast assortment of reading material and practice writing, and get a library card and use it," Riley added.

Known as the "The Nation's Report Card," NAEP has monitored trends in academic achievement since the 1970s and is the only continuing assessment of a nationally representative sample of U.S. students' academic performance. In science, math, and reading, students were tested at ages nine, 13, and 17. In writing, students in grades 4, 8, and 11 were tested.

The trend report found that the average math and science score for nine year olds was higher than 20 years ago. Thirteen year olds had higher average math scores than in 1973, while their science scores were not significantly different over the time period from 1970 to 1994.

The average science score for 17 year olds in 1992 and 1994 was higher than anytime since 1977, but lower than the 1969 average, while their average math scores in 1992 and 1994 were higher than anytime since 1978, and a little higher than in 1973.

Student performance is reported on a 500-point scale, divided into five levels of achievement (150, 200, 250, 300 and 350).

The report is available from the National Library of Education by calling 1-800-424-1616, and via the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/NCES/NAEP>.

—US DEPT. OF EDUCATION  
10/16/96

## ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

### ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SUPPORTS EXPANDED USE OF NEVADA TEST SITE

■(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

*Continued on next page*



# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



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 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. 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.

- 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.

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.

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.

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
10/14/96

Calif., 3814 allowances received (the biggest single award to date); San Diego Gas & Electric, Calif., 1027 allowances; Sierra Pacific Power, Nev., 666 allowances; ESI Energy, Fla., 143 allowances; and Wisconsin Public Power, 37 allowances.

For further technical information on the awards, contact Melanie Dean at 202-233-9189 or the Acid Rain Hotline at 202-233-9620.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
10/16/96

## GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

### HAMMER AWARD GOES TO KANSAS CITY CIVIL RIGHTS OFFICE

■ (KANSAS CITY) Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award, recognizing outstanding examples of reinventing government, was presented Wednesday to the U.S. Education Department's Office for Civil Rights in Kansas City.

The award honored the Kansas City office for developing a faster, friendlier approach to civil rights compliance reviews in its region, which includes Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska and Missouri.

The Hammer Award was named in recognition of the infamous \$400 government hammers of years past. The plaque consists of a \$6 hammer, a ribbon and card from Gore — all in an aluminum frame.

What prompted the Kansas City honor was the office's new "Profile, Assessment and Resolution" approach to compliance reviews. It replaced a lengthier, sometimes more confrontational process.

Under the new program, the civil rights office shares its expertise with that of state and local school officials, parents, and other community members to reach effective solutions to high priority civil rights issues. Traditional compliance reviews could sometimes take months. Now, they are usually resolved with school officials in 30 to 45 days.

The partnership approach has also resulted in far fewer staff resources being expended.

Like all civil rights regional enforcement offices, Kansas City's staff of 50 investigators, attorneys and others ensure that schools comply with civil rights laws.

—US DEPT. OF EDUCATION  
10/16/96

## ENVIRONMENT

### UTILITIES LAUDED FOR MEASURES CUTTING ACID RAIN, GLOBAL WARMING EMISSIONS

■ (WASHINGTON) In an action reflecting EPA's market-based, cost-efficient approach to Clean Air Act implementation, the Agency Tuesday announced the awarding of 5,687 acid rain bonus allowances to five electric power utilities for undertaking energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. This is the sixth group of awards given under the Conservation and Renewable Energy Reserve program established by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

Energy efficiency leads to less power generation demand, which in turn leads to emission reductions in sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), toxics and particulates, as well as the reduction of water contaminants and solid waste. Electric power plants are the biggest United States source of SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and carbon dioxide. The energy efficiency and renewable energy measures will lead to a one-time CO<sub>2</sub> reduction of approximately 2.15 million tons.

The five awardees and number of allowances received are: Pacific Gas & Electric,

*"No man is a warmer advocate for proper restraints and wholesome checks in every department of government than I am; but I have never yet been able to discover the propriety of placing it absolutely out of the power of men to render essential services, because a possibility remains of their doing ill."*

George Washington  
letter to Bushrod Washington  
Nov. 10, 1787



# FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



## PUBLIC SAFETY

### LABOR SECRETARY UNVEILS WORKPLACE FIRE SAFETY TIPS

■(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.

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, employees have the right to complain to OSHA about fire hazards in their workplaces.

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.

—US DEPT. OF LABOR  
10/14/96

*"Governments are more the effect  
than the cause of that which we are."  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
letter to George Coleridge  
April 1798*

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

■(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 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.

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
10/15/96

### DOE SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ALUMINUM INDUSTRY

■(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.

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 environmental conditions associated with all aluminum production operations; and
- Developing new sensors and controls to enhance the aluminum industry's competitiveness.

—US DEPT. OF ENERGY  
10/15/96

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### FCC CHAIRMAN URGES OPEN COMPETITION AND CHOICE IN CHINA

■(BEIJING) Federal Communication Commission Chairman Reed Hundt urged China's leaders to further "the goal of open competition and choice in telecommunications," recently. Hundt's remarks were in a speech to the Center for Information Infrastructure and Economic Development in Beijing, China.

Hundt said that through telecommunications advances "China can discover a way to bring to all the benefits of education." He added that satellite technology "holds tremendous promise for a country as large and geographically diverse as China [by] bringing information and education to any corner of China without the need for the very expensive installation of wireline networks.

—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION  
10/16/96

*"If you're going to sin, sin against  
God, not the bureaucracy, God will  
forgive you but the bureaucracy  
won't."*

*Hyman G. Rickover  
quoted by William A. Clinkscales, Jr.  
The New York Times  
Nov. 3, 1986*



# 1996 Interim Studies - House

## **Interim Study 96H-01, Ad Valorem Tax Reform, Don Weese**

Intent of this study is to look at possible means for providing for both constitutional and statutory repeal of ad valorem taxes not related to any bonded indebtedness and replacing any lost revenue through another source (i.e. an income tax surcharge or local sales tax); Revenue and Taxation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-02, Workers Comp Insurance, Terry Matlock**

Classification by hazard and job description and title; Insurance Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-03, Zoning Ordinances — Manufactured Homes, Jerry W. Hefner**

Prohibiting cities, counties, and political subdivisions from enacting or enforcing zoning ordinances excluding mobile homes; County and Municipal Government Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-04, Motor Vehicle Registration Avoidance, Shelby Satterfield**

I would like to request a Joint Interim Study in conjunction with Sen. Lewis Long on the issue of motor vehicle registration avoidance. Several categories of avoidance can be identified: 1. A vehicle owner may register in a neighboring state where registration fees are lower; 2. A person may simply overlook their deadline and thus be "in arrears" rather than deliberately avoiding registration; 3. A vehicle owner may constitute the always present "hard core" avoider who, for one or more reasons, avoids deliberately and indefinitely. For whatever reason, this person knowingly accepts the risks associated with this avoidance. With an average passenger vehicle registration fee approaching \$100, Oklahoma's relatively high yearly fee means that even a small percentage of avoiding motorists creates a severe economic loss. Since Oklahoma has not conducted a complete reissuance since 1980, some estimate vehicle registration evasion to be anywhere from 5% to 10%. Using these figures, Oklahoma could be losing upwards of \$40 million annually; House Committee on Public Safety, in conjunction with the Senate.

## **Interim Study 96H-05, Economics of Oklahoma Agriculture, M.C. Leist**

Agriculture in Oklahoma in the mid 1990s has reached a negative economic condition unequaled within the last fifty years. Unseasonable freezes, extreme drought coupled with extremely low cattle prices have caused many facets of agriculture to experience this financial crisis. In the past the State House of Representatives has been responsive to the needs of agriculture primarily in the areas of property rights, tax exemptions, and favorable operating latitudes. The Ag Link Program, Beginning Farmer Program and the Ag Mediation Program are precursors of the increased state government direct assistance to the ag sector. Value added has become important as evidenced by the state commitment to the Food Processing Center, Made in Oklahoma program and cooperative development program. Recent developments in ag necessitate an analysis of the direct economics of agriculture. This analysis will con-

sist of three basic factors: 1. The current conditions of agricultural support (by topical area); 2. Change factors in ag both internal and external; and 3. State policy responses; Agriculture Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-06, Weather Modification, Elmer L. Maddux**

To study, as an on-going program, cloud reseeded and hail suppression. Research the possibility of matching funds from county government; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-07, Transfer of Forestry Division, Mike Mass**

Study the feasibility of transferring the Forestry Division from the State Department of Agriculture; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

## **Interim Study 96H-08, Rural Water Training, Mike Mass**

Monitor and evaluate rural water system program administered by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board; House Committee on Energy, Environment and Natural Resources.

## **Interim Study 96H-09, International Bluegrass Festival, Joe J. Hutchison**

Meet with Guthrie Chamber of Commerce, TNN, Gaylord Productions, Lazy E and meetings with private corporations as sponsorship. Attend International Bluegrass Music Awards and workshops in Owensboro, Ky., September 25, 1996, through September 28, 1996; Tourism and Recreation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-10, Disability Fishing License, James H. Dunegan**

Interim study to study fish license, specifically in the disability category; Wildlife Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-11, Sex Offender Registration, Jack Bonny**

Examine recent federal legislation regarding sex offender registration and the impact of community notification requirements on current state law; Criminal Justice Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-12, Business Issues, Jack Bonny**

The purpose of the study proposal is to review and assess the economic impact that research and development, telecommunications and technological advancements have on Oklahoma businesses and how this type of activity can be enhanced; Development Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-13, Worker's Comp, Bill Settle**

Specific revisions regarding injuries; policies of the State Insurance Fund; and review the nominating process of appointing workers' comp judges; Judiciary Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-14, Oklahoma Indigent Defense Fund, Dwayne Steidley and Jerry L. Smith**

Comprehensive joint study of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System which includes study of the funding of the system; Assigned to the House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement in conjunction with the Senate.

## **Interim Study 96H-15, Tax Incremental Financing, Ray Vaughn**

Tax incremental financing techniques for use in economic development, tourism and recreation projects; Economic Development Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-16, ODOT Infrastructure Bank, Ray Vaughn**

Use of funds deposited in the Infrastructure Bank of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-17, Public Utility Property Taxes, Jack Begley**

Defining public utility central and local assessment for public utility property taxation; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education.

## **Interim Study 96H-18, Oklahoma Wineries and Vineyards, Tommy Thomas and Mike Mass**

Oklahoma laws as they relate to vineyards and small in-state wineries; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

## **Interim Study 96H-19, Medicaid and Welfare Reform, Tommy Thomas and Mike Mass**

Federal reform of Medicaid and Welfare programs; Human Services Committee and the Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Human Services.

## **Interim Study 96H-20, Revenue and Taxation, Dan Webb**

Review and formulate a more equitable state tax system for state taxes, including a review of a flat or single tax rate; Revenue and Taxation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-21, Administrative Rules, Charles Gray and Dan Webb**

To review and study the administrative rule making process and procedure of any state agency, board or commission; House Committee on Administrative Rule Review.

## **Interim Study 96H-22, DOC and Department of Mental Health, Joe Eddins**

A comprehensive study of the Department of Corrections and Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services emphasizing the cost effectiveness of treatment as it pertains to those individuals who are under the care and custody of the Department of Corrections. The study will address two areas of concern: the cost effectiveness of treatment of those individuals who are confined in correctional facilities as incarcerated felons and those individuals who are under the direct supervision of the Department of Corrections in the community that are supervised by Probation and



# 1996 Interim Studies - House

**Parole.** The study will also include, but not be limited to, current treatment programs that are operated by the Department of Corrections and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, to include operating budgets, staffing patterns, client-staff ratios, treatment modalities and the effectiveness of programs to include improvement of negative behaviors and/or impact on recidivism; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-23, Full Tax Exemption for Goodland Boys Home, Randall L. Erwin.**  
Research DHS contract policies for children's homes. Feasibility of amending tax exemption for Goodland Boys Home to 100%; Revenue and Taxation Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-24, Court Costs Collection, Ray Vaughn**  
Methods of collecting outstanding court costs and fees; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement.

**Interim Study 96H-25, National Veterans Cemetery Site, Ron M. Kirby and Sam Helton**  
After pursuing legislation to create a state veterans cemetery, it has been documented that the proposed site should be a national veterans cemetery site. This will facilitate expenditures, possibly by the state, involving improvements to the actual site, entrances to and exits off of Interstate 44 or H.E. Bailey turnpike, and possible improvements to State Highway 277. All of this is contained in the National Environmental Impact Studies for the cemetery site provided by the Veterans Administration; House Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs.

**Interim Study 96H-26, Review Capital Needs of OETA, Betty Boyd**  
Due to age of equipment and scope of statewide services, request a review of Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) agency capital needs to address future quality transmission. Would request this study be assigned to the A&B Education Subcommittee; and **Interim Study 96H-60, OETA, James E. Hamilton.** Request a joint House and Interim Study Committee to study the operational and capital needs of OETA; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education in conjunction with the Senate.

**Interim Study 96H-27, Final Disposition of Hissom, Russ Roach**  
Joint Interim Study on the final disposition of Hissom; Assigned to a special joint committee whose members will include Roach as House chairman, along with Reps. Larry Ferguson, James Hager, Bill Mitchell, Shelby Satterfield, Mark Seikel, Bill Settle, Dwayne Steidley, Tommy Thomas and Mike Thornbrugh.

**Interim Study 96H-28, Managed Care, Tommy Thomas, Randall Erwin**  
To discuss implementation of managed care in the rural portions of Oklahoma; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Human Services.

**Interim Study 96H-29, Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Randy Beutler, Terry Matlock**  
The purpose of this study is to discuss and review the rules promulgated by the Department of Agriculture on Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). This proposal would be the subject of a joint study by the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate interim study to be chaired by Sen. Lewis Long; Joint study of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

**Interim Study 96H-30, Early Childhood, Joe Eddins**  
Study the needs and programs available for low income children age 3 through 6, with special emphasis on 3 and 4 year old children in Head Start, 4 & 5 year old children in public schools, and 6 year old children in transition first grade. How Title I money is used for these in extended day or full day programs; Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-31, CASA, Randall Erwin**  
To research all aspects of CASA including needs, merits, and possible funding; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-32, Study of Community Action Agencies, Randall Erwin**  
Study the feasibility of the agencies merging with the State Insurance Department. Research on the impact of joint state retirement and insurance benefits; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

**Interim Study 96H-33, Federal Discharge Permits and Concentrated Animal Feed Yard Operations, Elmer Maddux**  
Examination of requirements for state assumption of federal N.P.D.E.S. program for agricultural jurisdictional areas (State Department of Agriculture) and concentrated animal feeding operations; House Agriculture Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-34, Ad Valorem, James Hager**  
Examine issues related to revision of the ad valorem funding system for schools and governmental entities; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education; Agriculture Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-35, Education - Residency, James Hager**  
Study issues relating to student residency for school purposes; Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-36, Education - Common Education, James Hager**  
Study current issues relating to Oklahoma common education system including issues related to curriculum; Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-37, Education - Vo-Tech, James Hager**  
Study current issues relating to Oklahoma's vocational technical education system; Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-38, Education - Higher Education, James Hager**  
Study current issues relating to Oklahoma's Higher Education System; Education Committee

**Interim Study 96H-39, Health Insurance Issues, Betty Boyd**  
A study to determine what new medical procedures and/or equipment should be included in health insurance coverage and attendant fiscal impact; House Committee on Insurance.

**Interim Study 96H-40, Implementation of HCR1108, Abe Deutschendorf**  
As a follow-up to the passage of HCR1108, study will review reports requested from each state agency. HCR1108 directed each agency to submit a report/plan identifying millennium computer conversion problems brought into place by the year 2000. This study will begin in November after the agencies have submitted their reports. Hopefully this early study can help the state to save a great deal of money; and **Interim Study 96H-59, Millennium 2000 Problem, Fred Perry.** Exploration aspects of problem acknowledged by HCR1108; House Committee on Science and Technology.

**Interim Study 96H-41, Reading Programs in Oklahoma, Abe Deutschendorf, Jack Begley**  
Study the successful reading programs in Oklahoma. This study proposal includes site visits to schools with outstanding reading programs successes. In addition a study of Reading Remediation Programs of exemplary success. This study will shed some light on some little known new insight to the age old question, "How best does a child learn Read;" Education Committee.

**Interim Study 96H-42, Family Centered and Community Designed Services, Sean Voskuhl**  
Determine appropriate methods for coordinated delivery of family and early childhood development services; House Committee on Children, Youth and Family Services.

**Interim Study 96H-43, Ostrich and Emu Processing Facilities, Bob Ed Culver**  
Study the creating and financing of ostrich meat processing and tanning facilities and of emu meat processing and oil extraction facilities. Review the experience of such facilities in the surrounding states; Agriculture Committee

**Interim Study 96H-44, Review or Joint Rules, Dwayne Steidley, Don Kinnamon**  
Requesting a joint special committee to review procedures in the joint rules which relate to deadlines and other matters that impact the flow of legislation between the two houses; Assigned to a special joint committee whose House members are Benson, Adair, Askins, Bastin, Begley, Hamilton, Hilliard, Rice Thomas, Toure, Kinnamon and Steidley.



# 1996 Interim Studies - House

## **Interim Study 96H-45, Chiropractic Services, Charles Gray**

Review issues relating to chiropractic services including: (1) any willing provider laws; (2) prescription authority; (3) minor surgery; (4) other relevant concerns; Public Health Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-46, Local Control of Community Services, Sean Voskuhl**

Review of the issues included in HB2231; Youth and Family Services Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-47, Revision of Title 43A, Mental Health Code, Joe Eddins**

Continuation of the 1995 study, to complete the revision and updating of the title; Mental Health Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-48, Predatory Sex Offender, Bill Paulk**

Study to review Predatory Sex Offender laws (per HB2617); Criminal Justice Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-49, Truth in Sentencing, Bill Paulk**

Truth in Sentencing (as per final draft by Rep. Steidley) and **Interim Study 96H-64, Truth in Sentencing / Community Corrections, Dwayne Steidley**

A Special Joint study to evaluate the community corrections recommendations provided in SB1200 and truth in sentencing proposals in HB1138. Purpose is to propose a new bill for 1997 session; Assigned to a special committee comprised of Steidley, Paulk and Reps. Jari Askins, Flint Breckenridge, Bob Ed Culver, Danny Hilliard, Larry Rice, Bill Settle and Opio Toure.

## **Interim Study 96H-50, Motor Vehicles and Insurance, Jack Bonny**

Review insurance and financial responsibility requirements for motor vehicles; Public Safety Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-51, Resource Centers, Mark Seikel**

Study on the status and impact of downsizing on Northern Resource Center and Greer Center Facility at Enid and Southern Resource Center of Pauls Valley; Human Services Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-52, Ritualistic Child Abuse, Mark Seikel**

Study to review prohibiting Ritualistic Child Abuse with DHS, Youth & Family and Criminal Justice; Human Services Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-53, Corporation Commission Jurisdiction in Guymon-Hugoton Field, Larry Rice**

To review the relevancy of the Guymon-Hugoton field rules to current field conditions. Topics to be addressed include infill drilling and proration limits; Assigned to the Commission on Natural Gas Policy.

## **Interim Study 96H-54, Public Trusts and Tax Exempt Financing, Robert Weaver**

Interim study to discuss the disclosure and accountability requirements surrounding Public Trusts and tax exempt financing; Banking and Finance Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-55, Inmate Trust Accounts, Robert Weaver**

Interim study to discuss the feasibility of exploring funding options for the victims of crime in Oklahoma. The study should address inmate trust accounts and other funding options; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement.

## **Interim Study 96H-56, Jet Ski and Boating Legislation, Robert Weaver**

Interim study pursuant to HCR1110 regarding jet ski and boating legislation, requesting coordination with specified state agencies and proposing legislation; Public Safety Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-57, OK Indian Affairs Commission Funding, Robert Weaver**

Interim study to discuss the feasibility of various Indian tribes in the State of Oklahoma contributing to the funding of the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

## **Interim Study 96H-58, Recreational Vehicle Tags, Fred Perry**

Study to discuss recreational vehicle tag costs and taxes; Revenue and Taxation Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-59, Millennium 2000 Problem, Fred Perry**

Combined with Interim Study 96H-40.

## **Interim Study 96H-60, OETA, James E. Hamilton**

Combined with Interim Study 96H-26.

## **Interim Study 96H-61, Feasibility of constructing a State Office Building, James E. Hamilton**

Identify space being rented in Oklahoma City area by state agencies or Higher Education, determine the amount of annual lease and rent payments being made for such space and investigate the possibility of building one or two new buildings in the Capitol Complex and use rent money for pay out of bond issue; Appropriations and Budget.

## **Interim Study 96H-62, Sole Source Contract Procedures, James E. Hamilton**

To review Sole Source contract procedures involving state agencies and higher education, and to review the Fuelman contract now being administered through the Department of Central Services; Appropriations and Budget.

## **Interim Study 96H-63, State Banking Regulatory Fees, Abe Deutschendorf, Bob Weaver**

A comparative view of charges assessed to the credit unions and banks as it relates to the State Banking regulatory fees; Banking and Finance Committee.

## **Interim Study 96H-64, Truth in Sentencing / Community Corrections, Dwayne Steidley**

Combined with Interim Study 96H-49.

## **Interim Study 96H-65, Workers' Comp, Chris Hastings**

Evaluate the performance of the recent works' comp reform (special session 1994) in relation to its impact on insurance rates and safety programs and results. Look at further reforms in workers' comp to reduce rates; lower risks; and increase safety; Assigned to a special committee comprised of Rep Don Kinnamon, chairman; House Majority Leader Loyd Benson, House Majority Leader Larry Ferguson, Rep. Don McCorkell and Rep Bill Settle.

## **Interim Study 96H-66, Rules of Conduct, Chris Hastings**

Set-up bipartisan committee to outline and create Rules of Conduct on House floor by members / staff / guests; House Committee on Rules.

## **Interim Study 96H-67, OK Housing Finance Agency, Chris Hastings**

Review whether the Oklahoma House Finance Agency (OHFA) is acting in compliance in monitoring and enforcing the rules under the IRS Code under the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program; Appropriations and Budget.

## **Interim Study 96H-68, State Insurance Fund, Chris Hastings**

Explore the possibility of privatizing the State Insurance Fund; Assigned to a special committee consisting of Kinnamon as chairman, Benson, Hastings, McCorkell, Settle and Reps. Howard Cotner and Fred Morgan.

## **Interim Study 96H-69, Funding for Aids Research, Don Ross**

Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

## **Interim Study 96H-70, Impact of Prevention and/or Intervention Programs, Don Ross**

The impact of prevention and/or intervention as they relate to Oklahoma's delinquency and youth gang intervention and deterrence grant program; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.



# 1996 Interim Studies - Senate

## **Interim Study 96S-004, Motor Vehicle Registration Avoidance**

Special Joint Interim Committee, Co-Chair, Sen. Lewis Long. Senate Members: Sens. Mike Fair, Keith Leftwich, Angela Monson, Ben Robinson, Mark Snyder and Dick Wilkerson.

## **Interim Study 96S-006, Weather Modification**

Special Joint Interim Committee, Co-Chair Sen. Paul Muegge. Senate Members: Senate Agriculture Committee.

## **Interim Study 96S-007, Department of Agriculture, Transfer of Forestry Division**

Special Joint Interim Committee, Co-Chair Sen. Rick Littlefield. Senate Members: Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources & Regulatory Services.

## **Interim Study 96S-014, Oklahoma Indigent Defense System**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co Chair Sen. Jerry Smith. Senate Members: Sens. Cal Hobson, Billy Mickle and Herb Rozell.

## **Interim Study 96S-027, Possible Uses and Sales Opportunities for Hissom Center**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Lewis Long. Senate Members: Sens. Larry Dickerson, Mike Fair, Jerry Smith and Penny Williams.

## **Interim Study 96S-029, State Department of Agriculture Rules on Testing for Equine Infectious Anemia**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Lewis Long. Senate Members: Sens. Dick Wilkerson and Paul Muegge.

## **Interim Study 96S-042, Family Centered and Community Designed Services**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Penny Williams. Senate Members: Sens. Ben Brown, Larry Dickerson, Ted Fisher, Angela Monson and Ged Wright. Non-legislative Members: Ken Lackey, Human Services Cabinet Secretary (ex officio); Tom Kemper, Director, OCCY (ex officio); Bill Doenges, Co-Chair, Children's Task Force; Ann Johnstone, Co-Chair, Children's Task Force; Dan Arthrell, Coordinator, Children First; Sharon Terry, Director, Tulsa Youth Services; Anne Roberts, Executive Director, Oklahoma Child Advocate; Karen Rhoads; Sandy Ingraham; Cindy Seay, NE Oklahoma Regional Advisory Board for Children with Special Needs; Barbara Parker; Pat Chambliss; Judge D. Post; Dave King, Executive Director, Wings of Freedom Women's Facility of the Correctional Counseling Institute; and Phil Rhoades.

## **Interim Study 96S-064, Truth in Sentencing**

Special Joint Interim Committee. Co-Chair Sen. Larry Dickerson. Senate Members: Sens. Cal Hobson, Herb Rozell and Ged Wright.

## **Interim Study 96S-101, Agriculture Product Processing**

Assigned to Senate Agriculture Committee, Sen. Paul Muegge, Chairman.

## **Interim Study 96S-102, Tourism Infrastructure**

Assigned to Appropriation Subcommittee on Natural Resources & Regulatory Services, Sen. Rick Littlefield, Chairman.

## **Interim Study 96S-103, Law Enforcement Policy Study**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Sen. Sam Helton, Chairman. Senate Members: Sens. Dick Wilkerson and Keith Leftwich. Non-legislative Members: Bob Ricks, Commissioner of DPS; Malcolm Atwood, Dir. of BNDD; DeWade Langley, Dir. of OSBI; Captain Steve Cain, Norman PD; Kenny Stradley, Comanche Co. Sheriff; Asst. Chief Ron Ward, Lawton PD; Lt. Melvin Murdock, Lawton PD; Chief Sam Gonzolas, OKC Chief of Police; Chief Ron Palmer, Tulsa Chief of Police; Dep. Chief Lawrence Johnson, OKC PD.

## **Interim Study 96S-104, Daytime Use of Auto Headlights**

Senate General Government Committee plus Senator Mark Snyder. Chair Sen. Trish Weedn.

## **Interim Study 96S-105, English as Official Language**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Sen. Ben Brown, Chairman. Senate Members: Sens. Bernest Cain, Brooks Douglass, Howard Hendrick, Carol Martin and Ben Robinson.

## **Interim Study 96S-106, Interest Rates on Small Loans**

Senate Deregulation Committee. Sen. Herb Rozell, Chairman.

## **Interim Study 96S-107, Motor Carrier Registration and Enforcement**

Senate Transportation Committee. Sen. Gene Stipe, Chairman.

## **Interim Study 96S-108, Oklahoma Parents as Teachers Oversight Committee**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Sen. Penny Williams, Chairman. Senate Members: Sens. Howard Hendrick, Maxine Horner, Ed Long and Trish Weedn.

## **Interim Study 96S-110, Turnpikes**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Chairman Sen. Keith Leftwich. Senate Members: Sens. Bill Gustafson, Brad Henry, Dave Herbert, Cal Hobson, Bruce Price and Mark Snyder.

## **Interim Study 96S-111, Capitol Funding Needs**

Special Senate Interim Committee. Chairman Sen. Enoch Kelly Haney. Senate Members: Sens. Ben Brown, Larry Dickerson, Charles Ford, Howard Hendrick, Cal Hobson, Rick Littlefield, Billy Mickle, Ben Robinson, Jerry Smith and Don Williams.



# State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
670		302	SB 651	Legislature 7-14-94	This measure amends Section 18 of Article 2 of the State Constitution. It changes the procedure for calculating the number of persons who must sign a petition to call for a grand jury. It increases the minimum and maximum number required. It directs the Legislature to enact laws to prevent abuse.	Set For Nov. 5, 1996
671		303	HJR 1010	Legislature 5-18-95	This measure amends Section 26 of Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It would let school districts make contracts with school superintendents for more than one year, but not to exceed three years.	Set for Nov. 5, 1996
672	363			"BOOST" Better Opportunities for Oklahoma Students and Taxpayers 6-30-95	<p>This measure adds a new Article to the Oklahoma Constitution. The new Article deals with gambling. The new Article legalizes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Slot machines and roulette,</li> <li>b. Craps, keno and video gambling</li> <li>c. All gambling played with cards, dice, mechanical devices or computers, and</li> <li>d. Other forms of gambling.</li> </ul> <p>For the first five years there could only be four non-Indian gambling facilities. Those facilities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remington Park Racetrack</li> <li>2. Blue Ribbon Downs Racetrack</li> <li>3. A facility in Tulsa, and</li> <li>4. A facility in Love County.</li> </ul> <p>An appointed Commission would regulate and license this gambling. After five years, other gambling facilities could be licensed. There could not be more than one facility in any county. Gambling facilities would have to meet minimum standards.</p> <p>The measure opens the door for Indian tribes to engage in the new forms of gambling. State limits and standards would have limited or no effect on Indian gambling. The State could not tax Indian gambling.</p> <p>The measure makes gambling debts legal and enforceable.</p> <p>State taxes on the new gambling would fund the Commission, and help education prisons. Some tax funds would go to local governments where State licensed gambling is conducted.</p>	Pending in Supreme Court Appeals and Protest filed



# State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
673	364			Joe Windes 9-29-95	<p>This measure amends the State Constitution. The amendment instructs State legislators. The amendment instructs legislators to request a National Constitutional Convention. The Convention would occur if thirty-four states request it. There has never been such a Convention. There are many unanswered questions about such a Convention's limits, membership and powers.</p> <p>The Convention's purpose is the setting of congressional term limits. This would be by proposing an Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Amendment would become law if thirty-eight states approved it.</p> <p>The suggested term limits would limit members of the United States House Representatives to three terms of office. Each House term is a two-year term. The suggested term limits would limit a United States Senator to two terms of office. Each Senate term is a six-year term.</p> <p>A notice would tell voters when a legislator failed to request a Convention. This notice would be on election ballots. The notice would be next to a legislator's name. The ballot notice would appear when an incumbent legislator sought a legislative office.</p>	Pending in Supreme Court Appeals and Protest filed
674		304	SJR 24	Legislature 4/25/96	<p>This measure adds a new section to the State Constitution. The measure deals with the rights of victims of crime. The measure seeks to protect victims' rights that exist under court decisions. It also seeks to insure that victims are treated with respect and dignity in the criminal justice process.</p> <p>To achieve these goals, crime victims and their families would have certain rights, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The right to know the status of the prosecution and investigation.</li> <li>2. The right to know the location of the defendant from arrest through the serving of a sentence.</li> <li>3. The right to be present at proceedings where the defendant has a right to be present.</li> <li>4. The right to be informed when a defendant escapes or is released.</li> <li>5. The right to be heard at sentencing and parole hearings.</li> </ol> <p>The exact nature of these and other rights and the procedures giving them effect would be set up by the Legislature or by the people through initiative or referendum. The Legis-</p>	Set for Nov. 5, 1996



# State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
					<p>lature or the people would also prescribe those responsible for following the established procedures.</p> <p>Either the Legislature or the people could extend any victims' rights to youthful offender proceedings.</p>	
675		305	HB 2198	Legislature 5/24/96	<p>This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. It amends Section 8 of Article 10. It changes the way property is assessed for tax purposes. It would modify the percentage used to assess property. This measure would limit the percentage of fair cash value at which property may be assessed. The percentage for land would not be more than 13.5% nor less than 11%. The percentage for personal property would not be more than 15% nor less than 10%. The people may vote to increase the percentage. These limits would apply only to locally assessed property. These limits would not apply to all property. Property assessed by the State Board of Equalization would use a different percentage. The percentage used by the State Board to make assessments would be the percentage used on January 1, 1996.</p>	Set for Nov. 5, 1996
676		306	HB 2198	Legislature 05/24/96	<p>This measure amends Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It adds a new Section 8B. This measure would limit the fair cash value of real property for property tax purposes. The fair cash value would not increase by more than 5% in any taxable year. This limit would only apply to real property which is assessed by a county assessor. If the property is transferred, changed, or conveyed, the limitation would not apply for that year. The limitation does not apply if improvements have been made to the property, the increased value to the property will be assessed for that year. Any county which is not in compliance with laws or regulations governing valuation of property would not be allowed to apply the 5% limitation. This measure does not apply to personal property. This measure does not apply to property valued or assessed by the State Board of Equalization. The legislature would be allowed to enact laws to implement this section. This measure would take effect on January 1, 1997.</p>	Set for Nov. 5, 1996



# State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
677		307	HB 2198	Legislature 05/24/96	<p>This measure amends the Oklahoma Constitution. This measure would add a new section to Article 10 to be designated Section 8C. It would limit the fair cash value on a homestead for property tax purposes. The homestead must be owned by a person who is 65 years of age or older, with gross household income of \$25,000.00 or less. The fair cash value would not exceed the value of the homestead the first year the individual reached the age of 65 years and had a gross household income of \$25,000.00 or less. Improvements to the property would be added to the assessed value of the property. This measure would become effective on January 1, 1997. If the individual ceases to own and occupy the property, the fair cash value would be assessed as all other real property. If the gross household income exceeds \$25,000.00, the fair cash value will be determined as all other real property according to law.</p>	Set for Nov. 5, 1996



# Calendar of Meetings & Events

**Tuesday, October 22, 1996**

**8:00**      **Oklahoma Center for Advancement of Science & Technology Applied Research Committee**  
301 NW 63, Suite 110, Oklahoma City

**Wednesday, October 23, 1996**

**9:30**      **Joint Legislative Oversight Committee for the Oklahoma Medicaid Healthcare Options System**  
State Capitol, Room 512-A

**Truth in Sentencing Policy Advisory Commission**  
Special Meeting  
State Capitol, Room 432-A

**Thursday, October 24, 1996**

**10:00**      **Senate Energy Administration Reform Task Force**  
Created by SB 941  
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



# Calendar of Meetings & Events

**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

**Tuesday, November 5, 1996**

**7 am - 7 pm**            **General Election**

**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

**Friday, November 8, 1996**

**10:00**                    **War Veterans Commission**  
Conference Room, Oklahoma Veterans Center, Sulphur, OK

**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

**10:00**                    **Adult Day Care Task Force--DHS**  
312 NE 28th, Oklahoma City



# Calendar of Meetings & Events

**Thursday, November 21, 1996****9:00****Horse Racing Commission**

Shepherd Mall Activity Center, 2426 Plaza Prom, Oklahoma City

**Commission on Children & Youth**

4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 114, Oklahoma City

**Monday, November 25, 1996****10:00****Rehabilitation Services Commission**

3535 NW 58th Street, Second Floor Large Conference Room, Oklahoma City

**Tuesday, November 26, 1996****10:00****Commission on Children & Youth**

4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 114, Oklahoma City

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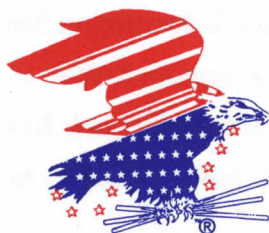
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