

Capitol Network News

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

Weekly Edition, Friday, November 8, 1996

ELECTION RESULTS CHALLENGED IN HOUSE, SENATE DISTRICTS

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Republican candidates in one House and one Senate race challenged the results of Tuesday's general election results, alleging improprieties and asking that some ballots be recounted.

Curt Roggow, Republican candidate for the House District 41 seat, alleged 11 candidates voted improperly in Tuesday's election, including the parents of his opponent, Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall. Roggow was defeated by only 11 ballots in the general election.

According to Roggow's filing with the state election, Mary Ellen Voskuhl and William Lee Voskuhl were two of nine voters registered in other counties who cast ballots at Garfield County precincts during the general election. Roggow also alleges that two voters were allowed to vote although they were not registered in the county.

Roggow also requested a manual recount of all the ballots cast in the three counties —

Garfield, Logan and Kingfisher — which make up the 11th District, including all absentee ballots.

District 21 state Senate candidate Randy Wedel filed three petitions alleging irregularities in Tuesday's election, one for each county in the senatorial district, and requested a manual recount of all absentee ballots from seven Logan County voting precincts. Wedel, a Stillwater Republican was defeated in the election by Mike Morgan, a Democrat also from Stillwater, by only 32 votes.

In Logan County, Wedel alleges, like Roggow, that eight voters were allowed to cast a ballot although each of the voters "had

moved his or registration to another precinct" in another county. Seven of those individuals, Wedel notes in his petition, are now registered in Oklahoma County, while the remaining voter is registered in Tulsa County. Also in Logan County, Wedel alleged five voters whose names did not appear on the precinct voter roll were allowed to cast their ballots "after completing and signing a challenged voter affidavit.

Wedel's allegations concerning Payne County are similar. In that county, Wedel alleges 12 voters registered in other counties were allowed to cast their ballots in Payne County precincts and that 56 voters

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PRISON SUIT HEADS BACK TO FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) A 24-year-old lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Oklahoma prison conditions was ordered back to federal district court Thursday in a move that took Oklahoma's attorney general by surprise.

The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals was instructed by the U.S. Supreme Court to re-evaluate an order for evidentiary hearings on injunctions and orders arising from the 1972 *Battle v. Anderson* case in light of the enactment of the Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1996, a law aimed at eliminating needless prison lawsuits and returning control of prisons to the states.

In a surprise move Thursday, the circuit court notified Attorney General Drew Edmondson's office that it had "reaffirmed its previous order," setting the stage once again for the evidentiary hearings. The move, Edmondson said, was entered without any additional briefing or arguments and without further explanation from the court. It came one month to the day after the Supreme Court issued its instructions to the appeals court.

The decision means Oklahoma will have to submit evidence of its compliance with federal mandates concerning the state's

prison conditions.

The attorney general's office contends that Oklahoma's corrections system was found to be in constitutional compliance in 1983 and that all the orders should be dissolved. Tulsa attorney Louis Bullock, who filed the original case, disagrees, saying the federal district court noted substandard conditions at that time.

"The Prison Litigation Reform Act instructs courts to stay in a case only until specific constitutional violations are resolved, and Oklahoma's violations have long been resolved," Edmondson said. "I believe the state has a very strong argument for shutting down the *Battle* case, and I am disappointed that the Tenth Circuit did not even allow us to make that argument. It is time for this case, which is now about a quarter of a century old, to be over."

Edmondson, who is the sixth attorney general to deal with the case, said he again intends to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We will submit our petition to the Supreme Court right away," said Edmondson. "We thought, after the Supreme Court's order last month, that we saw the light at the end of this long tunnel, and we were pleased. We still see that light, only it is a little further away."

Capitol Network News will not be published on Monday, Nov. 11 due to the Veterans Day holiday.

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COMMISSIONS CONTINUE BORDER DISCUSSIONS

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Just where does the Oklahoma-Texas border lie?

That is the question legislatively-appointed commissions from each state hope to answer. But their efforts nearly hit a road block Friday when the Oklahoma delegation decided to reject its own working draft of a compact between the two states, possibly distancing itself from a major point of agreement between the two groups.

At a meeting in September, the Oklahoma and Texas Red River Boundary commissions reached a tentative agreement that the so-called vegetation line on the south bank of the river would mark the border. Exactly what constituted that line was left to further negotiation, such as that set for Friday.

In a Friday morning meeting of the Oklahoma commission, however, Rep. Howard Cotner, D-Altus, led a charge that resulted in the commission rejecting its working draft of a proposed compact between the two states, a central component of which was the vegetation line theory.

"This whole thing," Cotner said, referring to the working draft, "is based on something we're want to accept on behalf of the State of Oklahoma. I don't agree with that."

Cotner said he disagreed with the concept of relying on the vegetation line as a means of determining the border, largely because it was not permanent and subject, in some cases, to significant movement. Additionally, the retiring state representative said, objections raised earlier in the meeting by the U.S. Department of Interior concern-

ing the impact of such a compact on Native American law made him wonder whether the panel was acting in haste.

Emmitt Rice, with the U.S. Department of the Interior, asked that his agency be given some time to review the proposed compact, noting that proposals which affected the border between Texas and Oklahoma could also affect Indian land. It was preferable that such concerns be addressed now, he said, rather than later, because the compact would require the approval of Congress, which might object if the Secretary of Interior expressed concerns over its impact on Indian issues.

Assistant attorney general Neal Leader defended the working document, saying the neither the state nor the panel would be bound by anything decided Friday.

"We can still do anything we want, even if we adopt this today," he said. "I think we should continue to talk about the issue, even if later we decide to go another way."

Leader's argument, however, was not persuasive enough to sway a majority of the commission's members, and a motion to re-

ject the working draft was approved.

That meant, Leader noted, that Oklahoma would enter a soon-to-follow meeting with the Texas delegation without a working document from which to speak.

That did not sit well with the Texas group when the two panels convened in joint session.

Members of the Texas commission first expressed their frustration with Rice, the Department of Interior and Oklahoma Indian tribes, saying every effort had been made to include them in the discussions at an early point with no apparent success.

"I think this just shows you have been lacking in interest," a member of the Texas panel proclaimed.

The Oklahoma commission's rejection of its working draft of the compact also drew criticism from the chair of the Texas commission.

"By today's vote," Bill Abney, chairman of the Texas commission said, "you are telling us that you are unable to respond to what we gave you six weeks ago."

Abney stressed that it was his commission's position that use of the vegetation line as the dividing point between the states "was the right decision and the only decision that is going to work for the taxpayers of the Red River Basin."

Specifically, he said, such a line would be easily identified by all parties concerned along the river.

"I don't want to spend Texas' money to bring people up here to be told we're not ready to talk about it," Abney added.

When it appeared the day's negotiations were on the verge of ending because of the Oklahoma commission's decision, Leader asked state commission chairman Sen. Robert Kerr, D-Altus, whether it might be possible to question the Texas delegation about some recently suggested changes. Because the Oklahoma commission had lost its quorum and could no longer conduct formal business, Kerr agreed.

While no formal agreement was reached between the two parties, specific language issues, particularly related to the definition of the vegetation line were discussed. Each side is to consider the proposed changes for discussion and possible acceptance a future joint meeting of the commissions.

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whose names did not appear on voter registration rolls were allowed to vote utilizing challenged voter affidavits.

In his Lincoln County allegation, Wedel charges that three voters registered in other counties were allowed to cast their ballots in Lincoln County. The allegation regarding the challenged voter affidavit was not raised by Wedel in Lincoln County.

Additionally, Wedel alleges that electioneering on behalf of his opponent took place while the election was in progress within 300 feet of a Payne County ballot box.

In a separate petition, Wedel also asked that the absentee ballots from seven Logan County precincts be recounted.

The challenges will be heard by judges in the respective district courts covering the counties in which the irregularities are alleged to have occurred.

According to a publication prepared by the State Election Board, "voting by persons who were not registered in a number that exceeded the margin between the two candidates involved in the election and voting by persons who were not registered within the district in a number that exceeded the margin between the candidates involved" are two of a handful of irregularities "that have been found sufficient to have a new election ordered."

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"To lose is to learn."

Anonymous

SENATE PLANS TO FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT, TAXES AND HIGHWAYS

By Michelle Boyd Waters
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Republican Senators will focus on environmental cleanup, the budget, tax reform including tax reduction and increased highway funding during the 105th United States Congress, Sen. Don Nickles, R-Oklahoma, assistant majority leader, said at a press conference in Oklahoma City Friday afternoon.

Nickles told members of the press that he is confident the Senate will be able to pass a balanced budget at the next session, since they have picked up two more Republican votes in the election. The Senate was two votes short of passing a constitutional amendment to balance the budget during the last session.

Nickles also said that fellow Republicans have been more conciliatory in their comments regarding the Clinton administration recently.

"We will be happy to work with the President if we think he's right," Nickles said. "But if we think he's wrong, we will oppose him."

The Senator mentioned that Congress was able to pass a welfare reform bill that President Bill Clinton signed into law.

"A divided government can be cooperative," the Senator said. However, Clinton will have to be more moderate than he was during his first two years as president.

Nickles also said he believes the Presi-

dent will try to pass some of his items by bypassing the Congress with an executive order.

Members of the press asked Nickles about his views on the resignation of several Clinton cabinet members. Nickles said he thinks the new appointees will have a tough time answering some of the questions that will be asked of them regarding corruption in campaign funding and other issues.

Nickles said he thinks it will be good for the President and the country to have a lot of new people in the executive cabinet because of the problems the administration is going through.

"This has been the most scandalous administration since Watergate," Nickles said.

The Senator said some people are leaving Clinton's administration to escape inquiries while others have just had enough after four years in office.

"The administration has a lot of pending problems and it will not be fun for the next person in office," he said.

Overall, Nickles said he thinks the next session will be interesting because of the division of parties between the executive branch and the Congress.

Nickles' term ends in 1998. He did not mention whether he would seek reelection at that time.

As assistant majority leader of the U.S. Senate, Nickles holds the highest leadership position ever held by an Oklahoma Senator. He has been a member of the Senate Republican leadership for eight years and is Oklahoma's senior senator. He is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Budget Committee, Rules and Administration Committee and Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The Senator's career in public service began in 1977 when he was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate. He served for two years before he was elected to the U.S. Senate. At the time, Nickles, 31, was the youngest Republican ever elected to the U.S. Senate. He went on to become the first Oklahoma Republican ever elected to a third term in the U.S. Senate.

Nickles became involved in Republican leadership in 1988 when he was selected by his colleagues to chair the Republican Senatorial Committee. He was elected to three terms as chairman of the Republican Policy Committee.

SEC ISSUES COMMISSION REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS From Securities & Exchange Commission

■(WASHINGTON) A report on Administrative Proceedings for the Period April 1, 1996 through Sept. 30, 1996 has been issued giving summary statistical information on the Commission's administrative proceedings caseload. This report is issued pursuant to a requirement in the Commission's Rules of Practice that such a report be published in the SEC Docket each October and April. (Rel. No. 34-37911)

ENFORCEMENT PROCEEDINGS Gary Lewellyn Permanently Enjoined in Penny Stock Scheme

The Commission announced that on Oct. 31 a final judgment was entered in United States District Court in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, against Gary V. Lewellyn. Without admitting or denying the allegations in the Commission's complaint, Lewellyn consented to be permanently enjoined from future violations of Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933, and Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, based on his participation in the offering of the common stock of Omnet Corporation (Omnet), a penny stock company, and its

See *SEC Report*, page 4

GOVERNOR KEATING ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS TO STATE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

From The Governor's Office

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

The Governor named Hatton McMahan, 68, of Altus to the Oklahoma Industrial Finance Authority and the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority to serve a term ending October 11, 2002. He succeeds C. Kendric Ferguson who also served on both boards. Senate confirmation is required.

Jim Knutson, 51, of Harrah was named and Phillip Root, 43, of Canute was reappointed to the Oklahoma Liquified Petroleum Gas Board. Knutson will serve a term ending June 30, 1999 and succeeds Jay Lundy who resigned. Root will serve a term ending June 30, 2000. Senate confirmation is required.

Bob Summers, 62, of Tulsa was named to the State Board of Pharmacy to serve a term ending June 30, 1998. He succeeds George Kirk who resigned. Senate confir-

mation is required.

Terry Kiefner, 40, of Oklahoma City, Claudia Barnes, 53, of Ponca City, and Perry Farmer, 31, of Broken Arrow were named to the Hospice Advisory Board to serve terms ending September 1, 1999. Kiefner succeeds Susan Lashmet. Barnes succeeds Vicki Myers and Farmer succeeds Deanna Rogers.

Larry Brannon, 46, of Oklahoma City and William Tisdale, 33, of Tulsa were named to the Juvenile Placement Guidelines Committee to serve terms ending June 1, 1997. Brannon succeeds Eric Hunter and Tisdale succeeds Alan Synar.

Richard Guse, 62, of Broken Arrow was reappointed to the Crime Victims Compensation Board to serve a term ending September 30, 1999.

Governor Keating also named Fran Daffer, 60, of Oklahoma City to the Advisory Committee on Dietetic Registration to serve a term ending at the pleasure of the governor. Daffer succeeds Doris Cross.

SEC Report, continued from page 3

successor, Performance Nutrition, Inc. (PNI). The Commission's complaint alleged that Lewellyn, along with Charles Bazarian (Bazarian) and others, promoted the common stock of Omnet, and, later, PNI, through Royal American Management, Inc., and that Bazarian and certain other persons subsequently offered and sold the common stock of Omnet and PNI based on the promotional activities of Lewellyn and others. [SEC v. Royal American Management, Inc., et al., CIV-94:1619-T, USDC, WD/OK] (LR-15147)

Shaner & Co., Inc. and Mark Shaner Enjoined

The Commission announced that on Oct. 21 it filed an action in federal district court against Shaner & Company, Inc., a registered broker-dealer, and Mark Shaner, its President, for violating and aiding and abetting violations of the anti-fraud provisions of the federal securities laws. The complaint alleges that from at least Dec. 1994 to Oct. 1995, in the offer and sale of limited partnership units in the Shaner Fund, L.P., Shaner, through Shaner & Co., misrepresented and omitted to state material facts to investors, concerning the intended use of investor proceeds and the risks of investing. The complaint seeks an order of permanent injunction, disgorgement including prejudgment interest and civil penalties. Simultaneous with filing the complaint, Shaner and Shaner & Co. consented, without admitting or denying the allegations in the complaint, to the entry of an order of permanent injunction, disgorgement of \$621,804 plus prejudgment interest of \$34,581 and an order which does not impose civil penalties based on their financial inability to pay. On Oct. 28, the Court permanently enjoined Shaner and Shaner & Co. from violating, and aiding and abetting violations of the above-mentioned provisions and ordered them to pay the agreed amount of disgorgement and prejudgment interest. [SEC v. Mark S. Shaner and Shaner & Co., Inc., SD/IA, No. 4-96-CV-70767] (LR-15149)

Temporary Restraining Order Entered Against Consumer Plus, L.C., Palmer Research and Development and David Palmer

On Nov. 4, a complaint was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Utah seeking a temporary restraining order, an asset freeze and other relief against Consumer Plus, L.C., Palmer Research and Development and David R. Palmer.

The complaint alleges the defendants are

violating Sections 5(a), 5(c) and 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and Rule 10b-5 thereunder. The Commission alleges that Palmer and Palmer Research have been soliciting investments in the form of unregistered interests in Consumer Plus and that these interests are securities. It is further alleged that Palmer and Palmer Research misrepresented, among other things: the aggregate dollar value of the securities being offered, the return on investment which could be expected; and the success of Consumer Plus' business operations. In addition, the complaint alleges that Palmer has been misappropriating a significant portion of the funds invested in Consumer Plus to pay personal expenses.

On Nov. 5, the Honorable J. Thomas Greene, United States District Judge, issued a temporary restraining order, asset freeze and other relief. Judge Greene also scheduled a Nov. 15, 1996, hearing on the Commission's application for a preliminary injunction. [SEC v. Consumer Plus, L.C., Palmer Research and Development and David R. Palmer, Civil Action No. 2:96CV-0930G, USDC, D. Utah] (LR-15150)

Frederick Moran and Firms Enjoined and Ordered to Pay Penalties

On Nov. 1, Judge Bernard Newman enjoined defendants Frederick A. Moran and Moran Asset Management, Inc. from violating Sections 204, 206(2) and 207 of the Advisers Act and Advisers Act Rule 204-1(b)(1). Judge Newman also enjoined Moran and Moran & Associates, Inc. Securities Brokerage from violating Section 15(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 15b3-1 thereunder. Judge Newman incorporated his previous findings that Moran violated Section 206(2) of the Advisers Act by placing his personal interest ahead of the interest of clients, when he allocated shares of Liberty Media Communications purchased in advance of the announcement of the Bell Atlantic/TCI/Liberty merger to his personal and family accounts while allocating shares of those securities purchased at higher prices to his clients. The Court also found that Moran violated the other listed provisions of the securities laws by failing to disclose that two sons were directors of Moran Asset Management and Moran & Associates. The Judge specifically rejected Moran's claim that he was the victim of a government "vendetta." The Court ordered Moran to disgorge \$9,551.17 plus prejudgment interest and ordered the three defendants to pay civil money penalties totaling

\$100,000. [SEC v. Frederick Augustus Moran, et al., 95 Civ. 4472, BN, SDNY] (LR-15151)

Investment Company Act Releases Federated Investors, et al.

A notice has been issued giving interested persons until Nov. 29 to request a hearing on an application filed by Federated Investors, et al. for an order pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Investment Company Act exempting applicants from Sections 12(d)(1)(A)(ii) and (iii) of the Act, under Sections 6(c) and 17(b). The order would provide exemptions that would grant an exemption from Section 17(a), and under Rule 17d-1 to permit certain transactions in accordance with Section 17(d) and Rule 17d-1. The order would also permit certain investment companies to purchase shares of affiliated investment companies that are money market funds for cash management purposes. (Rel. IC-22313 - Nov. 4)

Holding Company Act Releases GPU International, Inc., et al.

A supplemental order has been issued authorizing a proposal by GPU International, Inc. (GPU) and NCP Energy, Inc. (NCP), each a non-utility subsidiary of General Public Utilities Corporation, a registered holding company, to authorize NCP to transfer by dividend its interest in the Pasco Cogeneration Project to GPU, at any time and from time to time on or before Dec. 31, 1996. (Rel. 35-26599)

MONTHLY AIR TRAVEL CONSUMER REPORT ISSUED

From U.S. Dept. of Transportation

■ (WASHINGTON) The Department of Transportation this week issued its monthly Air Travel Consumer Report, which contains information about airline on-time arrivals, mishandled baggage and consumer complaints for September 1996.

The 10 largest U.S. carriers posted a 78.7 percent on-time record in September, better than August's 74.7 percent mark but not as good as September 1995's 85.6 percent record. The airlines reported a mishandled baggage rate of 4.51 complaints per 1,000 passengers in September, better than August's 5.13 rate but not as good as September 1995's 4.11 rate.

Consumers registered 565 complaints about airline service with the department in September, a 16 percent decrease from the 672 complaints received in August but 26 percent more than the 449 tallied in September 1995.

That's Good for Oklahoma!®

OKLAHOMA ACADEMY FOR STATE GOALS PURSUES STATE IMPROVEMENT

■(GIT) Julie Conaster is late, a last-minute lunch with the board chairman of the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals having run longer than she had anticipated.

The pace with which she enters her downtown Oklahoma City office — fast — seems familiar. It probably is. As executive director for the state's only non-partisan think tank and catalyst organization, Julie Conaster has a lot to do.

The group's mission statement says a lot about the organization — billing it as a broad-based, statewide organization dedicated to building consensus upon which programs and policies can be built that develop our state's human and material resources to their fullest potential — but not hardly enough at the same time.



When Bellmon returned to the governor's office nearly 20 years later, the academy had become inactive. He revived it and soon after its resurrection, Conaster was hired to be the organization's executive director.

The group is strictly voluntary, said Conaster, and is made up of people from all walks of life. Its membership list is some 33 pages long, including some of the most well-known names in Oklahoma and others most have never heard.

"We're very diverse," Conaster said, "and our membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the future and well-being of Oklahoma."

Another important element of the academy is its political ties — It has none, making it one of only six nonpartisan, consensus building, catalyst organizations in the country.

RENEWING OKLAHOMA'S RESOURCES

Last year, the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals celebrated its tenth anniversary, or twelfth, depending on how you look at things, says Conaster, the group's only executive director to date.

During his first term as governor, Henry Bellmon got the idea for the academy's creation after participating in a similar group in Arizona. That group lasted only two years, but its impact, Conaster said, is still felt today.

"They worked primarily on judicial reform," she said, "and were instrumental in changing the state's judicial structure into what we have today."

"That is one of the things people find so appealing," Conaster said. "We don't have ties to any one political group or philosophy. In fact, I can't even tell you the political affiliation of most of our members. It never comes up. That's not what we're about."

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Like its mission statement says, the academy aims at "consensus building upon which programs and policies can be built that develop our state's human and material resources to their fullest potential."

How is that done? It's a question Conaster seems to like answering.

The state, she explains, is divided into six regional groups — The two metropolitan areas and four regions. Those groups gather in the spring to identify issues they would like to see considered by the academy. The regional groups must not only pick an issue, they must determine why it is important and prepare a paper describing the importance of the issue for the whole state, how a conference on the issue might be conducted and the possible benefits that might result from focusing attention on the issue.

The six regions each present their issue to a summit of approximately 150 academy members in the fall, Conaster said, and each issue and its potential implications for the state are discussed and considered. The group breaks into smaller groups for further discussion and finally one of the six issues is picked for consideration at the academy's annual conference in the spring.

In some cases, Conaster adds, task forces may be formed to look into the other issues.

In the time between the choosing of the conference issue in the fall and the annual meeting in the spring, Conaster and other academy members are busy assembling information about the chosen issue. Experts are contacted and asked to submit papers about the issue; some are asked to appear and present their papers and to discuss them.

THE OKLAHOMA ACADEMY Executive Committee

Jane Jayroe, Chairman Oklahoma City	Martin Garber, Finance Chair Bartlesville
Rodger A. Randle, President Tulsa	Howard G. Barnett, Jr. Long Range Planning Chair & L.O. Rep. Tulsa
Dave Lopez, President Elect Oklahoma City	Steve Kreidler Membership Chair, Edmond
Ronald W. Howell Immediate Past President, Tulsa	

Regional Council

James K. Howard N.E. Region Chair, Tahlequah	Larry B. Williams S.E. Region Chair, Durant
Michael G. Cooper N.W. Region Chair, Enid	Claudean Harrison S.W. Region Chair, Lindsay
Joe Williams OKC Region Chair, El Reno	William "Bill" R. McKamey Tulsa Region Chair, Tulsa

Other information is gathered for consideration by academy members. It's no wonder Conaster's lunch ran late.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

The ultimate goal of the academy's spring conference, Conaster said, is a series of recommendations that can be presented to the legislature. The group has a long list of recommendations that have been submitted and nearly an equally long list of successes.

"I think that because we are nonpartisan," Conaster explained, "that our recommendations are looked upon a little more favorably. The legislators know we're not giving them information that's predisposed one way or another."

The academy's successes seem to bear that out.

The Economic Development Act of 1987, HB1444, which reorganized the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, created Oklahoma Futures and the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology was partly based on the academy's 1986 work on

economic development.

The academy's work in education helped lead to the creation of Task Force 2000, which resulted in the introduction of HB1017. The group has also made recommendations concerning ad valorem taxes, small business development and recently completed a discussion of crime which focused on private detention and community involvement.

Next spring, the academy will once again turn its attention to education, including early childhood education through lifelong learning, Conaster said.

One thing that is obvious looking over a list of the academy's conference topics is that the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals is often years ahead of the public and lawmakers when it comes to tackling important issues.

The academy, for example, first talked about ad valorem taxes in 1985, followed by a discussion of the state's economic expansion in 1986. Education topped the academy's 1988 agenda and the academy made sweeping recommendations in 1990 covering top-

ics such as education, infrastructure, crime prevention and health care.

Asked why it seems the academy acts before other groups, Conaster said:

"I think it's because we're talking about a group of people who are sincerely concerned about Oklahoma and is attuned to what is happening nationally, as well as internationally. It only stands to reason then that what is done in the state must help it to fit into that global community and move it ahead.

It's not often one hears of the important issues of the day from a group not promoting a particular social or political agenda. That is certainly the case, however, for the Oklahoma Academy of State Goals.

By bringing together community leaders and interested citizens, the academy helps to focus the attention of the state on the important issues of today, and more often than not, of tomorrow as well.

THAT'S GOOD FOR OKLAHOMA!!

OKLAHOMA ACADEMY FOR STATE GOALS RECOMMENDATIONS, 1985 TO 1996

1985 Oklahoma Revenue

Ad valorem tax reform

1986 Economic Expansion

Create State Department of Commerce

1987 Oklahoma's Future

Create Constitutional Study Commission

Strengthen cabinet system

Systematic restructuring of K through 12 system

Ad valorem tax reforms

1988 K-12 Education

Form statewide education task force to implement following recommendations:

- Establish new quality preschool programs
- Improve quality of existing preschool programs
- Develop improved statewide curriculum
- Implement measurable learner outcomes
- Introduce statewide competency testing
- Public district-specific competency test score results

• Strengthen teacher preparation, performance & evaluation

• Significantly increase statewide education funding

• Set standards for school boards & districts

• Governor should directly appoint the Oklahoma State School Superintendent of Public Instruction

• Become national leader in utilization of education technology

1989 Developing Human Potential

Increase access to prenatal/perinatal health care

Promote strengthening of family/community values

Coordination of law enforcement, social & educational agencies

Emphasize drug abuse education & prevention

1990 Oklahoma's Future: Choice or Chance

Establish goal to fund education per peer institutions

Promote a major higher education capital bond issue

Clarify missions/roles of colleges & universities

Initiate statewide infrastructure planning and funding program

Create state bond pool for community level infrastructure

Build/support 21st century telecommunications infrastructure

Create separate Department of Juvenile Corrections

Centralize all state law enforcement agencies

Increase access to prenatal/perinatal health care

Strive for immunization rate of 90 percent of 2-year-olds

1991 Oklahoma: Mind Your Own Policies

Create Academy Environmental Task Force to:

- Develop criteria for proposed Hazardous Waste Siting Commission

• Consolidate environmental oversight of appropriate state agencies

Task Force 2000 should pursue the "school choice" policy analysis

Create a permanent ASG Education Council for liaison purposes

Make state health care responsibilities market/education focused

Explore public/private tourism related partnerships

Determine economic impact of tourism as an industry

1992 Governor's Conference on Telecommunications

The Oklahoma 2007 Vision should be pursued Governor should host a formal telecommunications policy retreat

1993 Public Awareness of State Budget Needs

Forward conference developed budget balancing recommendations to the governor, state legislature, state legislative appropriations leadership and the Office of State Finance

1994 Entrepreneurial & Small Business Development

Oklahoma should establish an "Entrepreneurial Institute"

Promote in-state investor tax incentives to generate risk capital

Establish organization to formalize a network of risk capital

Tort reform should become a major focus of the Academy

State Workers' Compensation Fraud Unit should be fully funded

Remove all barriers to university based technology transfer

1995 Better Government Competition

Transformation of the Grand River Dam Authority

Restructuring county government

Privatization of some duties of fire departments

Modify assessment testing of adults learners

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF 1996 GENERAL ELECTION

Challenges were filed in Senate District 21 and House District 41.

*Incumbent **Results Challenged

CONGRESS

U.S. SENATE

Democrat

474,162 Jim Boren, Tahlequah

Independent

15,092 Bill Maguire, Edmond

8,691 Chris Nedbalek, Oklahoma City

Libertarian

14,595 Agnes Marie Regier, Norman

Republican

✓ 670,610 *Jim Inhofe, Tulsa

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 1

Democrat

57,996 Randolph John Amen, Tulsa

Independent

8,996 Karla Condray, Tulsa

Republican

✓ 143,415 *Steve Largent, Tulsa

DISTRICT 2

Democrat

90,120 Glen D. Johnson, Okemah

Republican

✓ 112,273 *Tom Coburn, Muskogee

DISTRICT 3

Democrat

86,647 Darryl Roberts, Ardmore

Independent

6,335 Scott Demaree, Glencoe

Republican

✓ 98,526 Wes Watkins, Stillwater

DISTRICT 4

Democrat

73,950 Ed Crocker, Norman

Libertarian

4,500 Robert T. Murphy, Norman

Republican

✓ 106,923 *J. C. Watts, Jr., Norman

DISTRICT 5

Democrat

57,594 James L. Forsythe, Edmond

Independent

6,835 Ava Kennedy, Oklahoma City

Republican

✓ 148,362 *Ernest J. Istook, Warr Acres

DISTRICT 6

Democrat

64,173 Paul M. Barby, Woodward

Republican

✓ 113,499 *Frank Lucas, Cheyenne

CORPORATION COMMISSION

Democrat

519,598 Wanda Jo Peltier, Okla. City

Republican

✓ 569,704 *Ed Apple, Duncan

STATE SENATE

DISTRICT 1

Democrat

✓ 18,991 *Rick M. Littlefield, Grove

Republican

6,210 Bob McDowell, Afton

DISTRICT 3

Democrat

✓ 14,453 *Herb Rozell, Tahlequah

Republican

9,972 Tom Gann, Ft. Gibson

DISTRICT 7

Democrat

✓ 14,780 *Gene Stipe, McAlester

Republican

11,463 Pat Key, McAlester

DISTRICT 9

Democrat

✓ 17,403 *Ben Robinson, Muskogee

Republican

6,705 Debra A. Lienhart, Haskell

DISTRICT 13

Democrat

✓ 16,275 *Dick Wilkerson, Atwood

Republican

8,642 Barbara Young, Ada

DISTRICT 15

Democrat

✓ 16,474 *Trish Weedn, Purcell

Republican

11,083 Rod Cleveland, Norman

DISTRICT 17

Democrat

✓ 14,691 *Brad Henry, Shawnee

Republican

10,594 Jerrell Puckett, Norman

DISTRICT 19

Democrat

11,912 *Ed Long, Enid

Republican

✓ 13,551 Robert Milacek, Waukomis

DISTRICT 21**

Democrat

✓ 12,944 Mike Morgan, Stillwater

Republican

12,912 Randy Wedel, Stillwater

FILED CHALLENGE

DISTRICT 23

Democrat

✓ 14,221 *Bruce Price, Hinton

Republican

8,224 Lonnie John Paxton, Tuttle

DISTRICT 29

Democrat

10,424 Chuck Hoskin, Vinita

Republican

✓ 17,083 James R. Dunlap, Bartlesville

DISTRICT 33

Democrat

✓ 14,807 *Penny Williams, Tulsa

Republican

11,573 Brian Lehman, Tulsa

DISTRICT 35

Democrat

12,527 Pat Woodrum, Tulsa

Republican

✓ 17,066 James A. Williamson, Tulsa

DISTRICT 37

Democrat

✓ 12,638 *Lewis Long, Sapulpa

Republican

10,630 Tim Plinsky, Tulsa

DISTRICT 39

Democrat

7,463 John Zelis, Tulsa

Republican

✓ 20,147 *Jerry Smith, Tulsa

DISTRICT 43

Democrat

✓ 9,941 *Ben Brown, Oklahoma City

Republican

7,600 Jerry Kasprick, Del City

DISTRICT 45

Democrat

7,860 Karl Rysted, Moore

Republican

✓ 17,520 Kathleen Wilcoxson, Okla. City

DISTRICT 47

Democrat

9,038 Jim Sturdy, Oklahoma City

Republican

✓ 21,171 *Mike Fair, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 49

Democrat

12,388 *Don Williams, Balko

Republican

✓ 13,656 Owen Laughlin, Woodward

DISTRICT 51

Democrat

8,290 Bill Brock, Broken Arrow

Republican

✓ 25,490 *Charles Ford, Tulsa

**STATE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

DISTRICT 2

Democrat

✓ 7,213 *J.T. Stites, Sallisaw

Republican

3,819 Joe F. Peters, Sallisaw

DISTRICT 5

Democrat

✓ 8,111 *Joe Hutchison, Jay

Republican

5,071 Carolyn Allen, Afton

DISTRICT 6

Democrat

✓ 6,915 *Joe Eddins, Vinita

Republican

6,235 Jay Franklin, Vinita

DISTRICT 7

Democrat

✓ 7,222 *Larry Roberts, Miami

Republican

4,102 Kim McLain, Miami

DISTRICT 9

Democrat

✓ 8,719 *Dwayne Steidley, Claremore

Republican

5,913 Bryan A. Birdsong, Claremore

DISTRICT 10

Democrat

✓ 5,937 *Gary S. Taylor, Dewey

Republican

3,865 Dave Neely, Nowata

DISTRICT 11

Democrat

4,827 Don Raley, Ramona

Republican

✓ 10,579 Mike Wilt, Bartlesville

DISTRICT 12

Democrat

✓ 7,279 *Jerry Hefner, Wagoner

Republican

5,667 Jerry Hill, Muskogee

DISTRICT 13

Democrat

✓ 6,520 *Bill Settle, Muskogee

Republican

4,336 Phyllis McLemore, Muskogee

DISTRICT 14

Democrat

✓ 7,617 *Barbara Staggs, Muskogee

Republican

5,211 Dan Chepkas, Muskogee

DISTRICT 15

Democrat

✓ 9,423 Bobby Frame, Checotah

Republican

3,745 George M. Hedrick, Stigler

DISTRICT 16

Democrat

✓ 7,730 *M.C. Leist, Morris

Republican

3,430 Brian Priegel, Okmulgee

DISTRICT 17

Democrat

✓ 7,868 *Mike Mass, Hartshorne

Republican

3,416 Larry Boggs, Wilburton

DISTRICT 18

Democrat

✓ 8,530 *Lloyd Fields, McAlester

Republican

4,436 David Attebury, McAlester

DISTRICT 22

Democrat

✓ 8,385 *Danny Hilliard, Sulphur

Republican

2,270 Ron Gordon, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 23

Democrat

✓ 5,710 *Betty Boyd, Tulsa

Republican

5,569 Jon Mullican, Tulsa

DISTRICT 24

Democrat

✓ 7,671 Dale Turner, Holdenville

Republican

3,447 Bruce Coker, Okemah

DISTRICT 25

Democrat

✓ 8,266 *Bob Plunk, Allen

Republican

3,826 Tom Bush, Ada

DISTRICT 26

Democrat

✓ 7,192 *Robert E. Weaver, Shawnee

Republican

3,822 Rickey Dale Crain, Shawnee

DISTRICT 27

Democrat

✓ 6,067 *Dale Smith, Saint Louis

Republican

5,401 Phil Hartoon, Tecumseh

DISTRICT 28

Democrat

✓ 6,180 *Mike Ervin, Wewoka

Republican

3,507 Mark Gwartney, Seminole

DISTRICT 29

Democrat

4,878 David L. Thompson, Bristol

Republican

✓ 6,604 *Todd Hiatt, Kellyville

DISTRICT 30

Democrat

✓ 6,245 *Mike Tyler, Sapulpa

Republican

5,061 Pam Ballard, Sapulpa

DISTRICT 31

Democrat

3,464 C.E. Jim Hunt, Jr., Guthrie

Republican

✓ 9,575 *Frank Davis, Guthrie

DISTRICT 32

Democrat

✓ 6,112 *Don Kinnamon, Stroud

Republican

5,572 Don E. Sporleder, Davenport

DISTRICT 34

Democrat

5,602 Bernice Mitchell, Stillwater

Republican

✓ 6,961 Terry Ingmire, Stillwater

DISTRICT 35

Democrat

4,723 Peggy Lucas Prewitt, Cleveland

Republican

✓ 7,875 *Larry Ferguson, Cleveland

DISTRICT 36

Democrat

✓ 7,626 *James Hager, Pawhuska

Republican

2,693 John Handshy, Skiatook

DISTRICT 37

Democrat

5,196 Bernie Jackson, Ponca City

Republican

✓ 7,217 Jim Newport, Ponca City

DISTRICT 39

Democrat

4,886 Bill Long, Piedmont

Republican

✓ 9,495 *Wayne Pettigrew, Edmond

DISTRICT 40

Democrat

3,939 Rick Lowery, Enid

Republican

✓ 5,143 *Mike O'Neal, Enid

DISTRICT 41**

Democrat

✓ 7,166 *Sean Voskuhl, Marshall

Republican

7,155 Curt Roggow, Enid

FILED CHALLENGE

DISTRICT 44

Democrat

✓ 7,629 *Laura Boyd, Norman

Republican

4,363 Kennette Hughes, Norman

DISTRICT 45

Democrat

✓ 5,674 Wallace Collins, Norman

Republican

5,495 Steve Byas, Norman

Libertarian

405 Randy L. Boyd, Norman

DISTRICT 46

Democrat

4,866 Jamie McAloon, Norman

Republican

✓ 7,953 *Doug Miller, Norman

DISTRICT 47

Democrat

4,973 Richard Allen, Chickasha

Republican

✓ 6,886 *Dan Ramsey, Chickasha

DISTRICT 48

Democrat

✓ 5,731 *Al Sadler, Ardmore

Republican

4,985 Greg Piatt, Ardmore

Reform

324 Mike Thompson, Ardmore

DISTRICT 50

Democrat

✓ 7,311 *Jari Askins, Duncan

Republican

5,770 Sam Holthe, Duncan

DISTRICT 51

Democrat

✓ 7,075 Raymond G. McCarter, Marlow

Republican

4,027 Lonnie A. Ward, Walters

DISTRICT 52

Democrat

✓ 4,867 David B. Braddock, Altus

Republican

4,078 Ronald D. Osterhout, Altus

DISTRICT 53

Democrat

5,178 Mary Sue Schnell, Norman

Republican

✓ 9,127 *Carolyn Coleman, Moore

DISTRICT 54

Democrat

4,235 Leigh Tucker, Moore

Republican

✓ 7,017 *Joan Greenwood, Moore

DISTRICT 56

Democrat

✓ 6,577 *Ron Langmacher, Carnegie

Republican

2,967 Brent Parmer, Apache

DISTRICT 57

Democrat

✓ 5,857 James Covey, Custer City

Republican

5,259 Rick Webb, Custer City

DISTRICT 59

Democrat

✓ 8,240 *Clay Pope, Loyal

Republican

4,538 Carolyn L. McLarty, Mutual

DISTRICT 61

Democrat

✓ 6,579 *Jack Begley, Goodwell

Republican

5,394 Carla Smalts, Keyes

DISTRICT 62

Democrat

✓ 5,965 *Abe Deutschendorf, Lawton

Republican

3,032 Douglas F. Bayless, Lawton

DISTRICT 63

Democrat

✓ 8,198 *Lloyd Benson, Frederick

Republican

2,338 Juliana Peyravay, Lawton

DISTRICT 64

Democrat

✓ 5,177 *Ron Kirby, Lawton

Republican

2,755 Tab Turner, Lawton

DISTRICT 65

Democrat

✓ 3,876 *Jim R. Glover, Elgin

Republican

2,915 Chris Smith, Canton

DISTRICT 66

Democrat

✓ 5,670 *Russ Roach, Tulsa

Republican

5,310 Shirley Forsythe, Tulsa

DISTRICT 68

Democrat

✓ 6,329 *Shelby Satterfield, Tulsa

Republican

5,262 Bradley Gaskins, Tulsa

DISTRICT 69

Democrat

3,894 Harold G. Wilmott, Jenks

Republican

✓ 10,457 *Fred Perry, Tulsa

DISTRICT 71

Democrat

4,418 Harry Shivery, Tulsa

Republican

✓ 8,327 *John Sullivan, Tulsa

DISTRICT 72

Democrat

✓ 5,114 Darrell Gilbert, Tulsa

Republican

2,549 Leo P. Burgard, Tulsa

DISTRICT 74

Democrat

✓ 7,308 Phil Ostrander, Collinsville

Republican

5,894 *John Smaligo, Owasso

DISTRICT 75

Democrat

3,307 Rudy DeBruin, Tulsa

Republican

✓ 8,567 *Mike Thornbrugh, Tulsa

DISTRICT 77

Democrat

5,267 *Gary Stottlemeyre, Tulsa

Republican

✓ 5,391 Mark Liotta, Tulsa

DISTRICT 78

Democrat

✓ 7,312 Mary Easley, Tulsa

Republican

7,014 *Flint Breckinridge, Tulsa

DISTRICT 79

Democrat

3,242 Bret A. Unterschuetz, Tulsa

Republican

✓ 10,576 *Chris Hastings, Tulsa

DISTRICT 84

Democrat

4,971 Herb Bradshaw, Bethany

Republican

✓ 7,812 *Bill Graves, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 86

Democrat

✓ 6,356 *Larry Adair, Stilwell

Republican

4,341 Bobby J. McAlpine, Stilwell

DISTRICT 87

Democrat

4,119 Coleen Woody, Oklahoma City

Republican

✓ 7,074 *Robert Worthen, Okla. City

DISTRICT 88

Democrat

✓ 4,362 *Debbie Blackburn, Okla. City

Republican

2,695 Pat Smith, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 92

Democrat

✓ 4,509 *Bill Paulk, Oklahoma City

Republican

3,858 Eddie Cox, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 93

Democrat

✓ 4,356 Al Lindley, Oklahoma City

Republican

2,857 Steven J. Hammontree, Okla. City

DISTRICT 94

Democrat

✓ 6,009 *Gary Bastin, Del City

Republican

4,367 Kevin Calvey, Del City

DISTRICT 96

Democrat

✓ 7,260 *Mark Seikel, Harrah

Republican

5,845 Darlene Pointer, Choctaw

DISTRICT 97

Democrat

✓ 7,487 *Kevin Cox, Oklahoma City

Republican

3,325 Nan Miller, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 98

Democrat

5,051 Jack Perry, Yukon

Republican

✓ 7,878 *Tim Pope, Mustang

DISTRICT 99

Democrat

✓ 5,850 *Opio Toure, Oklahoma City

Republican

2,175 Denise Engle, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 101

Democrat

4,621 J. Alex Greenwood, Midwest City

Republican

✓ 5,366 *Forrest Claunch, Midwest City

LEGISLATORS WITHOUT OPPOSITION OR ELECTED IN THE PRIMARY OR RUNOFF ELECTION

STATE SENATE

DISTRICT 5

Democrat

- ✓ Jeff Rabon, Hugo

DISTRICT 11

Democrat

- ✓ *Maxine Horner, Tulsa

DISTRICT 31

Democrat

- ✓ *Sam Helton, Lawton

DISTRICT 41

Republican

- ✓ *Mark Snyder, Edmond

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DISTRICT 1

Democrat

- ✓ *Terry Matlock, Garvin

DISTRICT 3

Democrat

- ✓ *James Hamilton, Heavener

DISTRICT 4

Democrat

- ✓ *Bob Ed Culver, Tahlequah

DISTRICT 8

Democrat

- ✓ *Larry Rice, Pryor

DISTRICT 19

Democrat

- ✓ *Randall Erwin, Nashoba

DISTRICT 20

Democrat

- ✓ *Tommy Thomas, Atoka

DISTRICT 21

Democrat

- ✓ *James Dunegan, Calera

DISTRICT 33

Democrat

- ✓ *Dale Wells, Cushing

DISTRICT 38

Republican

- ✓ *Jim Reese, Nardin

DISTRICT 42

Democrat

- ✓ *Bill Mitchell, Lindsay

DISTRICT 43

Republican

- ✓ *Tony Kouba, Yukon

DISTRICT 49

Democrat

- ✓ *Fred Stanley, Madill

DISTRICT 55

Democrat

- ✓ *Jack Bonny, Burns Flat

DISTRICT 58

Republican

- ✓ *Elmer Maddux, Mooreland

DISTRICT 60

Democrat

- ✓ *Randy L. Beutler, Elk City

DISTRICT 67

Republican

- ✓ Hopper Smith, Tulsa

DISTRICT 70

Republican

- ✓ *John Bryant, Tulsa

DISTRICT 73

Democrat

- ✓ *Don Ross, Tulsa

DISTRICT 76

Republican

- ✓ *Don Weese, Broken Arrow

DISTRICT 80

Republican

- ✓ *Scott Adkins, Broken Arrow

DISTRICT 81

Republican

- ✓ *Ray Vaughn, Edmond

DISTRICT 82

Republican

- ✓ *Leonard E. Sullivan, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 83

Republican

- ✓ *Fred Morgan, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 85

Republican

- ✓ *Odilia Dank, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 89

Democrat

- ✓ *Charles Gray, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 90

Republican

- ✓ *Charles Key, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 91

Republican

- ✓ *Dan Webb, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 95

Republican

- ✓ *Bill Case, Midwest City

DISTRICT 100

Republican

- ✓ *Richard Phillips, Warr Acres

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF VOTE ON STATE QUESTIONS

STATE QUESTION NO. 670

Legislative Referendum Number 302

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.

✓ Yes 747,003 No 353,518

STATE QUESTION NO. 671

Legislative Referendum Number 303

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.

✓ Yes 733,014 No 375,343

OFFICIAL RESULTS OF JUDICIAL ELECTION

JUSTICES OF THE OKLAHOMA SUPREME COURT

Dist. 1 Robert E. Lavender

Y 617,147 N 364,839

Dist. 6 Robert D. Simms

Y 617,311 N 357,113

Dist. 9 Joseph M. Watt

Y 608,022 N 364,013

JUDGES OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

Dist. 2 Charles A. Johnson

Y 612,896 N 362,675

Dist. 3 Gary L. Lumpkin

Y 587,726 N 375,924

JUDGES OF THE OKLAHOMA COURT OF CIVIL APPEALS

Dist. 1, Office 1 Jerry L. Goodman

Y 618,155 N 351,436

Dist. 1, Office 2 Daniel J. Boudreau

Y 595,234 N 367,826

Dist. 2, Office 1 John F. Reif

Y 584,922 N 376,364

Dist. 2, Office 2 Keith Rapp

Y 553,923 N 410,632

Dist. 4, Office 2 Larry E. Joplin

Y 604,785 N 358,415

STATE QUESTIONS NO. 674

Legislative Referendum Number 304

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.

To achieve these goals, crime victims and their families would have certain rights, including the following:

1. The right to know the status of the prosecution and investigation.

2. The right to know the location of the defendant from arrest through the serving of a sentence.

3. The right to be present at proceedings where the defendant has a right to be present.

4. The right to be informed when a defendant escapes or is released.

5. The right to be heard at sentencing and parole hearings.

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 Legislature or the people would also prescribe those responsible for following the established procedures.

Either the Legislature or the people could extend any victims' rights to youthful offender proceedings.

✓ Yes 1,024,786 No 99,642

STATE QUESTION NO. 675

Legislative Referendum Number 305

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.

✓ Yes 785,606 No 313,572

STATE QUESTION NO. 676

Legislative Referendum Number 306

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. 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.

✓ Yes 807,215 No 289,963

STATE QUESTION NO. 677

Legislative Referendum Number 307

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 a 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 or less. Improvements to the property would be added to the assessed value of the property. This measure would be come 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.

✓ Yes 804,356 No 290,086

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY

AGRICULTURE

USDA CONDUCTS WETLANDS PROGRAM SIGN UP

■(STILLWATER) Oklahoma landowners can have their wetlands and be paid for them, too.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) is conducting a sign up for the Wetlands Reserve Program. The sign up began Nov. 4.

The program is competitive and applicants will improve their opportunities for participation by early enrollment.

"The program now offers landowners more options for wetlands restoration and more time to work with NRCS conservationists to develop a plan to restore and protect wetlands," Ron Clark, NRCS state conservationist, said.

Landowners can sign up at any local NRCS office. Information about the program is also available from local conservation district offices, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Cooperative Extension Service.

To be eligible for WRP, land must be restorable and provide significant wetland and wildlife habitat. The program offers landowners three options: permanent easements, 30-year easements and restoration cost-share agreements of a minimum 10-year duration. The restoration cost-share agreements provide financial and technical assistance for implementing wetland restoration practices and do not require recorded easements.

No new permanent easements can be enrolled after Oct. 1, until at least 43,333 acres of non-permanent easements are enrolled in the program nationwide.

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
11/07/96

BUSINESS & LABOR

QUALITY JOBS PROGRAM GETS RESULTS

■(GIT) The Oklahoma Quality Jobs Program Act, the Saving Quality Jobs Act and the Former Military Facility Development Act — an umbrella of job incentive legislation passed in 1993 in Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes — was renewed in 1996

through SB689. An original target of the program was assisting industries which generally export their goods and services, and creating growth in industries, which would otherwise not occur. The new law eliminates the sunset provision of the original legislation and requires the Oklahoma Department of Commerce to submit a report every three years, documenting the results of these programs and their cost effectiveness.

First quarter figures are in for the program, and in the first quarter of fiscal 1997, the program has added 1,335 new jobs to Oklahoma, with a final total of 1,832 jobs created when the project is complete, through funding of expansions and new businesses in the state.

Overall, the Quality Jobs Program has added 31 new locations to Oklahoma and expanded 94 Oklahoma companies since their first year of business. Most projects have been in the larger cities of Oklahoma (57.6 percent) but even the small towns have benefited. According to Department of Commerce records, 11 new projects have benefited towns with fewer than 5,000 people, and 3,601 jobs have been added.

Eleven projects with a total of 3,875 jobs have been working in municipalities with between 5,000 and 10,000 people.

In population areas of 10,000 to 50,000 people, 31 projects have brought 10,509 jobs to these areas, and cities with 50,000 to 100,000 people have received 13 projects and added 3,842 jobs.

Cities with over 300,000 population, such as Oklahoma City and Tulsa, have benefited from 59 projects with 30,848 new jobs added.

In three years, 52,675 jobs have been projected on 125 projects, with about 15,000 new jobs right now, Dan Gorin, chief economist with the Department of Commerce, said. Overall, Gorin said, the Quality Jobs Program accounts for 15 percent of the job growth in the state.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/07/96

"A country can get more real joy out of just hollering for their freedom than they can if they get it."

Will Rogers
The Autobiography of Will Rogers
1949

CEREMONIES & EVENTS

SPECIAL VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is urging all women from throughout Oklahoma to participate in a unique Veterans Day Program.

On Nov. 11, 1996, the women veterans of Oklahoma will be honored for the first time statewide. All men and women veterans across the state, whether serving now or many years ago, are invited to attend.

Ceremonies will begin at 11:00 a.m. just south of the State Capitol at the Historical Building. The guest speaker will be Lieutenant Colonel Denise O'Hara-Webb of Tinker Air Force Base.

A laying of a special wreath to honor past and present veterans will conclude the program.

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs is committed and proud to assist in this patriotic endeavor.

—OKLA. DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
11/04/96

CRIME & JUDICIARY

TASK FORCE URGED TO CONTINUE FUNDING OF INDIGENT LEGAL SERVICES

■(GIT) A joint task force was urged Thursday to protect the state legislature's appropriation to indigent legal services agencies in the state.

"I hope this committee will recommend the continuation of last year's appropriation," Gayla Mitchell, director of Oklahoma Legal Services, told the Joint Task Force to Study Fees for Indigent Legal Services.

If that appropriation, which totaled \$450,000 for fiscal year 1997, is not continued, Mitchell warned the task force, "We will have a terrific budget shortfall that will result in staff cutbacks."

Unlike Oklahoma's Indigent Defense System, which provides legal services in criminal cases, indigent legal services provide attorney assistance in non-criminal, civil matters. Like the state's indigent defense system, however, the various agencies involved in providing civil legal service have seen their financial support dwindle, particularly that provided by the federal government.

Continued on next page

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

The task force, Mitchell noted, is charged with discussing possible alternatives for funding the legal services.

A possible alternative, discussed at length during the task force's early October meeting, is the expansion of the IOLTA (Interest On Lawyers' Trust Accounts) program from a voluntary program to an all-inclusive or opt out program. Tony Scott, who administers the program for the Oklahoma Bar Association, told the panel Thursday that such a move would likely increase the money flowing into the program from approximately \$300,000 annually to just under \$600,000. Approximately 42 percent of the state's active attorneys participate in the program, which was established by the state's Supreme Court, Scott said.

The program is funded, as its name implies, with interest earned on attorneys' trust accounts.

"We won't know how much additional money we might bring into the system until we actually make such a move," said Scott, noting that the amount generated in other states has varied when a similar conversion was made.

Scott also warned the task force that a recent Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals decision threatens the continuation of the IOLTA programs. Specifically, he explained, the court ruled that similar programs in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas were unconstitutional because they unfairly deprived citizens — the attorneys' clients — of property.

If that decision is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, Scott said, "The IOLTA program in its present form will most likely go away."

Even voluntary programs such as Oklahoma, Scott added, would likely be harmed by such a decision, because attorneys would likely be required to obtain their clients'

consent to send the interest earned on their money to the program, creating a problem in terms of administration.

Scott said the Supreme Court would likely hear the case because of the different lower court opinions concerning such programs.

Sen. Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City, and Sen. Jerry Smith, R-Tulsa, the only two lawmakers in attendance because of the House's Democratic caucus, expressed support for protecting the legislature's appropriation to indigent legal services, saying other methods of funding the efforts, such as fee increases, would not likely survive lawmakers' scrutiny.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/07/96

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STATE BACKS NEW VENTURE FUND

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Michael A. Tharp, president, Oklahoma Capital Investment Board, on Monday announced that the Oklahoma Capital Formation Corporation has made an investment in Chisholm Private Capital Partners, L.P., an Oklahoma based venture capital fund with offices in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

Chisholm invests in both new and existing firms with strong management teams who can use additional capital to create significant increases in value. Chisholm works closely with management and co-investors to help companies finance transitions from one stage of development to another. Chisholm invests in a wide variety of industries including manufacturing, software, telecommunications services and health care. The primary focus is Oklahoma and the contiguous states.

The fund recently held its first closing at \$12.5 million of total committed capital. The Oklahoma Capital Formation Corporation committed to \$3.15 million at the first close. C. James Bode, John B. Frick and Joe D. Tippens are the general partners of the fund and have committed \$1 million of their personal capital to the fund.

Michael Mitchelson, chairperson of the Oklahoma Capital Investment Board, stated that this group of general partners with two offices in the state should provide Oklahoma entrepreneurs with access to growth capital.

—OKLA. DEPT. OF COMMERCE
11/04/96

EDUCATION

ATTORNEY GENERAL ISSUES EDUCATION OPINION

■(GIT) State education officials won two and lost one on Monday when the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office issued its response to a request for a formal opinion concerning the expenditure of certain funds.

The opinion, prepared by Assistant Attorney General Neal Leader, follows a request from Superintendent of Public Instruction Sandy Garrett.

The state superintendent asked:

- Whether the State Board of Education could expend appropriated money for existing programs which were to have been amended by legislation that was vetoed;
- Whether the board could expend monies for programs which were named specifically in an approved piece of legislation but for which the legislation creating the program was vetoed; and
- Whether the board has the authority to extend the state's minimum salary schedule to include years of experience beyond those set out in law.

At the heart of the questions were SB800 and SB1100. SB800, which appropriated more than \$116.5 million to the State Board of Education was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. SB1100, however, was vetoed by Governor Frank Keating.

As a result of that action, funds appropriated in SB800 which would have gone to new programs created by SB1100 were withheld from the state board. Additionally, money allocated for career teachers' pay raises, the schedule of which was included in SB1100, was sent directly to districts for use as they saw fit, leaving career teachers without a guarantee of a pay increase.

Leader determined that the board could legally expend funds appropriated for a program which would have been amended by a separate piece of legislation which was vetoed, noting that despite the veto of a bill which would have altered the program, the program continues to exist.

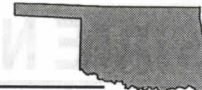
On the issue of whether appropriated funds could be spent on a program that was created by legislation that was vetoed, although the expenditure of the funds was approved, Leader determined that because the program does not exist — the governor's

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"The American feels so rich in his opportunities for free expression that he often no longer knows what he is free from. Neither does he know where he is not free; he does not recognize his native autocrats when he sees them."

Erik H. Erikson
Childhood and Society
1950

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



veto prevented that — the funds could not be expended.

"We thus conclude," Leader wrote in summarizing his answers to the two questions, "that where funds are appropriated for a program which exists under existing law, the funds appropriated may be spent on the program, even though anticipated amendments in the program failed because of the Governor's veto. On the other hand, where funds are appropriated for the implementation of a new program which never comes into existence, due to the Governor's veto, the appropriated funds may not be spent on that proposed new program, which the Governor vetoed."

On the issue of career teacher pay raises, the schedule for which was part of the vetoed SB1100, Leader determined that it is within the authority of the State Board of Education to "adopt a minimum salary schedule for teachers will 19 or more years of experience."

Specifically, Leader wrote, "As there is no legislation establishing a minimum salary schedule for teachers with 16 years or more experience, and as no law restricting the State Board of Education's power to adopt such a rule exists, we conclude that the Board possesses such power."

Some \$13 million was appropriated in SB800 for career teachers salary increases. Because that money has been distributed to school districts without the mandate of SB1100 that it be used for career teacher salary increases, some districts chose to use the funds in other ways.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/04/96

GARRETT PLEASED WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION

■(GIT) State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sandy Garrett said Tuesday that she was "delighted" with the findings by the Attorney General's Office regarding her questions concerning the distribution of certain funds that were held up by a gubernatorial veto.

"There has been \$4.3 million for local teachers' staff development that has been held because of the governor's veto," said Garrett. "We feel strongly that professional development is a major component of teacher growth. We think these funds are necessary for continued education reform in Oklahoma."

The attorney general's opinion, which was released Monday, said that the State Board of Education may expend money to fund an existing program even though amendments to the program were vetoed by the governor. In addition, the attorney general's office concluded, the state board is not precluded from adopting a minimum salary schedule for career teachers.

At issue were two bills, SB800 and SB1100. Governor Frank Keating vetoed SB1100, which, among other things, directed the expenditure of some of the funds appropriated in SB800 and created some new programs to which funds from the appropriation bill were also directed.

As a result of that veto, nearly \$6 million was withheld by the Office of State Finance from the state education board, including \$4.3 million for staff development and \$1.65 million for other programs. The veto also killed a career teachers' salary schedule.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/05/96

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

STATE QUESTIONS WIN VOTER APPROVAL

■(GIT) Oklahoma voters gave their approval Tuesday to six state questions, including all of the three questions developed by a citizens task force charged with examining the need for property tax reform, according to *Legislative Information Network/Capitol Network News* projections.

Computer problems in Oklahoma County made the collection of actual results of Tuesday's election impossible, but with 88 percent of the ballots counted, each of the measures appeared to easily garner more than enough votes for passage.

Voters gave the largest margin of passage — and perhaps an indication of their feelings about crime and corrections issues — to State Question 674, the so-called victims' rights amendment.

State Question 674 establishes constitutional rights for the victims of crime and the family members of victims of crime.

The question also authorizes the legislature, or the people by initiative or referendum, to enact substantive or procedural laws to define, implement, preserve and protect the rights guaranteed to victims by the constitutional amendment, including the author-

ity to extend any of the rights to juvenile proceedings and, if enacted by the legislature, youthful offender proceedings.

Voters also gave their approval to State Question 670, which would increase the number of signatures mandated by the state constitution to call a grand jury. Under the terms of the state question, the number of required signatures will be equal to the number of signatures required to propose legislation by an initiative petition at the county level with the minimum number of signatures increasing to 500 and the maximum number increasing to 5,000.

Additionally, the proposed constitutional amendment requires the legislature to enact laws to prevent corruption in making, filing, circulating and submitting petitions calling for a grand jury.

State Question 671 amends the state constitution to allow multi-year contracts not to exceed three years for school superintendents. The measure was also on its way to easy passage.

Currently, school districts are limited to one-year contracts with their superintendents.

Also receiving voters' approval were three proposals for ad valorem reform — 675, 676 and 677.

State Question 675 caps locally assessed real property tax ratios at 13.5 percent with a floor of 11 percent and places a 10 percent to 15 percent cap on all tangible personal property ratios, including locally assessed businesses. The measure also provides for the stabilization of the assessment ratio on all state assessed property at the level in effect on Jan. 1, 1996 — 22.85 percent, 22.85 percent for public service property and 11.07 percent for airline and railroad property.

The ratio of locally assessed real and tangible personal property would not be increased except with approval of the voters of a county at an election called by the county commissioners or by a petition of the voters. Increases in the assessment ratios also cannot be increased within the limits by more than one percentage point per year.

State Question 676 limits an increase in the fair cash value of any locally assessed real property to five percent in any taxable year. The cap will not apply in any year when title to the property is transferred, changed or conveyed to another person or when improvements have been made on the property.

Additionally, the question, which passed,
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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



provides that counties not in compliance with laws or regulations governing the valuation of locally assessed real property will not be subject to the cap until the county is deemed to be in compliance. The cap will not apply to personal property or public service corporation property.

State Question 677 freezes the tax value of homes owned by those over the age of 65 with gross incomes of \$25,000 or less and passed. Under the terms of the proposal, any improvements made to such property shall be assessed and added to the assessed value of the property.

The freeze will remain in place until the owner dies, the owner's income exceeds the qualifying amount or the ownership of the property is changed.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/05/96

SUPREME COURT OKAYS GAMBLING INITIATIVE

■(GIT) The Oklahoma Supreme Court on Tuesday gave its unanimous go-ahead for Oklahoma voters to decide the fate of a casino gambling state question.

Supported by a group known as BOOST — Better Opportunities for Oklahoma Students and Taxpayers — State Question 672, through the creation of a new constitutional section, would make four locations immediately eligible for authorized gaming — the pari-mutuel horse racing facilities at Remington Park in Oklahoma City (Oklahoma County) and Blue Ribbon Downs near Sallisaw (Sequoyah County), as well as anywhere in Love County and a specified tax district in Tulsa County. Until five years following the proposal's approval by the voters, casino gambling would not be allowed in the remaining 73 counties.

The proposal also calls for the establishment of a state gaming commission with the power to provide regulation and enforcement of casino gambling, as well as collection of gaming fees from each licensed gaming facility operator, and for criminal penalties for violation of gaming laws and legalization of obligations incurred in the course of authorized gaming. The gaming commission would retain a legislatively-approved amount of the fees collected, while the remaining funds would be earmarked for specific computer-related educational purposes, local governments and correctional institutions.

The question was submitted to the Secretary of State for ballot placement after some 202,993 voter signatures were collected, well above the 149,252 needed.

The petition was challenged by Wallace Hughes, who raised questions concerning the petition's constitutionality and form.

Concerning Hughes' claim that the ballot title contained misleading statements, the Court agreed that the statement that "[T]he measure opens the door for Indian tribes to engage in the new forms of gambling" "may mislead the voter into believing that 'opening the doors' is akin to 'opening the floodgates.'" The Court amended that sentence of the ballot title to read:

"The measure would allow Indian tribes to request an agreement to operate a gambling casino."

Additionally, the statement, "State limits and standards would have limited or no effect on Indian gambling," posed a problem for both the proposal's opponent and the Court. Specifically, the Court said, the statement, combined with information not included in the ballot title, "may mislead voters into believing that casino gambling on Indian land will be an unregulated activity."

As a result, the Court ordered that statement be removed from the ballot title, along with the statement, "The State could not tax Indian gambling."

On the question of the legalization of gambling debts, the Court agreed with Hughes that the statement contained in the title was "overly broad and could lead voters to believe that gambling debts other than those authorized by the proposed measure would be made legal and enforceable," and ordered four words be added to that statement in the title, so that it reads, "The measure makes gambling debts incurred at authorized casinos legal and enforceable."

Concerning the "gaming" versus "gambling" issue, the Court sided with the Attorney General's Office, saying it could not conclude that the use of "gambling" instead of "gaming" is contrary to the command of statutory law.

"It has been well said that a hungry man is more interested in four sandwiches than four freedoms."

Henry Cabot Lodge Jr.
The New York Times, March 29, 1955

Combined with the Court's amendments to specific statements in the ballot title and the deletion of other language, the Court determined the question to be "legally sufficient for submission to the people of Oklahoma."

Consideration of the question could come during a special election called by the governor, although such an election is unlikely, or in two years, during the next general election.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/05/96

GOP WINS STATE CONGRESSIONAL SEATS

■(GIT) Oklahoma Republicans appeared successful in their attempt to gain complete control of the state's congressional delegation in Tuesday's general election, reclaiming five of six seats, taking over the sixth and retaining control of state delegation to the United States Senate.

The hottest race of the night came, as expected, in the Third District, where Wes Watkins eked out an apparent win over Darryl Roberts. Throughout the night, the two candidates swapped the lead, with independent Scott Demaree consistently a distant third.

Watkins did what he had to do to win the race — Draw a substantial number of the heavily Democratic Little Dixie voters across party lines to cast their ballots in his favor.

Going into Tuesday's election, the Third District was the only seat held by a Democrat, Rep. Bill Brewster, who announced last year that he would not seek reelection.

In the Second District, which was expected to be almost as hotly contested, Republican Tom Coburn retained his place in the House of Representatives, besting outgoing state House Speaker Glen Johnson.

In the remaining races for the House of Representatives, Republicans easily retained their seats.

District One Congressman and Republican incumbent Steve Largent swept up the largest number of votes, beating Democrat Randolph John Amen and independent Karla Condray.

In the Fourth District, which early predictions indicated would be one of the mostly hotly contested races, Republican incumbent J.C. Watts defeated Democratic challenger and former state representative Ed Crocker with independent Robert T. Murphy picking up the remaining votes.

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

The story was much the same in the Fifth District, where Republican incumbent Congressman Ernest Istook defeated James Forsythe and independent Ava Kennedy.

In the Sixth District, Republican incumbent Congressman Frank Lucas defeated Paul Barby.

Last minute campaigning, particularly in the form of hard-hitting radio and television ads, did little for US Senate candidate Democrat Jim Boren. Republican incumbent Jim Inhofe swept by the cousin of former Senator David Boren, leaving the remainder of the votes to be split by independents Bill Maguire; Chris Nedbalek; and Libertarian Agnes Marie Regier.

Presidential challenger Bob Dole was the apparent winner of Oklahoma during Tuesday's election, bucking the trend at the national level that would send President Bill Clinton back to the White House for a second term.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/05/96

REPUBLICANS GAIN THREE SEATS IN STATE LEGISLATURE

■(GIT) The results were nowhere near early predictions, but after the last vote from Tuesday's general election was finally counted — sometime shortly before dawn Wednesday — Oklahoma Republicans could begin bragging: They had picked up three seats in the state legislature.

The wins were not enough to give the state GOP control of either legislative body, but they were enough to more firmly cement the party's control of the veto in the House of Representatives and to endanger the Democrats control of the veto in the Senate, where two Democratic incumbents fell to Republican challengers.

In the House, where Republicans trailed Democrats by a 64-36 margin with one vacancy at the end of the 45th Legislative session, Republicans managed a one seat gain, amidst races that saw two GOP incumbents defeated. Republicans lost the services of two Tulsans, District 74's John Smaligo and

District 78's Flint Breckinridge. Political newcomer Phil Ostrander captured the District 74 seat, while fellow newcomer Mary Easley, mother of Sen. Kevin Easley, D-Broken, won the District 78 seat.

In exchange, the GOP gained the District 77 seat, where Mark Liotta defeated Democratic incumbent Gary Stottlemire, and District 34, where Republican Terry Ingmire defeated Bernice Mitchell in the race for the right to succeed Rep. Calvin Anthony, D-Stillwater, who left the House to pursue a career in Washington, D.C.

Three other House races bear mentioning because of the closeness of their results:

- District 23, where Democratic incumbent Betty Boyd retained her seat by less than 150 votes over Republican challenger Jon Mullican;

- District 41, where Democratic incumbent Sean Voskuhl retained his seat by only 11 votes over GOP challenger Curt Roggow; and

- District 45, the seat vacated by Ed Crocker, where Democrat Wallace Collins notched a victory over Republican Steve Byas by less than 200 votes, with Libertarian candidate Randy L. Boyd bringing up the rear.

In the Senate, Republicans moved closer to the 17 votes needed to control gubernatorial vetoes by picking up two seats, bringing the balance of power to 33 to 15 in favor of Democrats.

The Democrat's losses came in District 19, where incumbent Ed Long fell to Republican challenger Robert Milacek, and in District 49 where Republican challenger Owen Laughlin defeated incumbent Don Williams.

A collective gain of three seats, which cements the GOP's control of Keating's veto in the House and moves the party closer to control in the Senate, could arguably be the "more, more, more" Republicans Keating said were needed to make a reelection bid attractive.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/06/96

PHILOSOPHIES CLASH IN ELECTION'S WAKE

■(GIT) The dust had barely settled from Tuesday's general election when it became apparent the state's chief executive and legislative leaders were doing more than simply standing on different sides of the political aisle.

"There are two sides to every story," John Cox, press secretary for Governor

Frank Keating said. "While the legislative leadership likes to think the glass is half-full, the governor thinks it's half-empty and that there are things we can do to fill it.

"It's a difference of philosophies, of political, business and economic development philosophies."

The governor's philosophy, Cox said, included improving Oklahoma through efforts such as right-to-work, workers' compensation reform and tax cuts, consistent issues of Keating's administration.

Keating, Cox and other members of the governor's administration were "ecstatic," the governor's press secretary said, over the results of the general election which saw the Republican Party flex its muscles and gain some ground on state Democrats.

Despite the excitement and the potentially new found power that comes with having one's party completely control the state's congressional delegation, pick up two important seats in the state Senate, maintain its control of the veto in the state House and win a spot on the Corporation Commission in the most hotly contested race in the state, Cox said, "We're ready to put politics aside and begin working again to move Oklahoma forward."

That goal was shared by Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor, D-Claremore, who warned, "Governor Keating's penchant for name-calling and his endless bad-mouthing of our state will have to come to and end if we're going to work together and move Oklahoma forward."

Taylor took particular exception with what he called the governor's "frequent personal attacks" on incumbent Democrats and his involvement in raising funds "to help bankroll campaign attack ads" against those incumbents.

"Those kind of gutter tactics may work well on the east coast or in Washington, D.C., but Oklahomans have consistently rejected them," Taylor said.

Like Cox, Taylor said there are many pressing issues currently confronting Oklahoma. After that, however, the two men part company.

"We're optimistic and positive about Oklahoma and its future," Cox said. "The disagreement is about how to get there. The Democrats are happy with the status quo, and like I said, the governor and his administration believe there is much more that can be

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"All government is ultimately and essentially absolute."

Samuel Johnson

"On the American Revolutionaries"

Taxation No Tyranny

1775

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

done to make this state a player on the national and international scene."

For his part, Taylor urged the governor "to stop campaigning and begin cooperating."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/06/96

OKLAHOMA COUNTY PROPELS APPLE TO WIN IN CORPORATION COMMISSION RACE

■(GIT) Republican incumbent Ed Apple won his first election to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission early Wednesday morning, besting former state Democratic Rep. Wanda Jo Peltier in what became one of the most watched, hotly contested and nerve wracking races in the state.

Apple captured 52.3 percent of the vote to Peltier's 47.7 percent of the vote after ballots from Oklahoma County, which accounted for nearly 12 percent of the votes cast in the race were finally counted early Wednesday morning.

A mere 50,206 votes separated the two candidates in the final tally of the statewide race.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/06/96

STATE PAID TO GET RID OF OLD PLANE

■(GIT) It was supposed to be used as a trade-in, but the state's Department of Public Safety actually paid a Tulsa-based firm to take one of its old aircraft off its hands in the deal that landed a new aircraft for Oklahoma's chief executive.

According to information discovered by House staff, records from the Office of State Finance show that the Department of Public Safety paid \$7,500 to TulsAir Beechcraft, Inc., on Sept. 26 to settle a claim that the Cessna 421-B traded in as part of the deal to acquire Governor Frank Keating's King Air 350 "was not airworthy" and was "inoperative under FAA regulations."

Rep. James Hamilton, D-Poteau and a critic of Keating's use of the aircraft for political and personal purposes, said, "That raises additional serious questions about the bidding process the DPS used to acquire the governor's airplane. Furthermore, the pub-

lic has been provided with no explanation of why the State of Oklahoma would pay money to get rid of an airplane."

Questions about the purchase process that put the plane in a state hangar arose last week when Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, an outspoken critic of Keating's use of the state-owned plane, asked the State Auditor and Inspector and the Attorney General to look into the matter.

The Department of Public Safety maintains that the purchase of the plane was handled legally and that the lowest and best bidder was selected.

State documents, however, indicate it was the department's intention to trade in the aircraft for credit against the purchase of the new plane.

The first known reference to the purchase of a new aircraft for executive transportation and the trade-in of an older aircraft as part of that acquisition appears in the Fiscal Year 1997 Executive Budget prepared by the governor's office.

In a section entitled "Executive Airlift Support Services" under the portion of the budget proposal dealing with the public safety department, Keating and his staff wrote, "The principal aircraft deployed for airlift support mission has been the department's Cessna 421B; however, this aircraft has come under scrutiny concerning its air worthiness, unreliability, demonstrated mechanical shortcomings and high maintenance expense. Recommendations in this budget are that the agency upgrade and salvage or sell the Jet Commander (another DPS aircraft) and Cessna 421B as appropriate and acquire by lease-purchase, a new or late model Beechcraft 200 or 350."

Additionally, the public safety department's request for proposals makes note of the plan to trade in those two aircraft, offering the aircraft for trade-in on the proposal form and providing a space on the form for deducting the value of the planes from the cost of the aircraft being acquired.

Despite the fact that the Cessna 421B, which was taken in trade, was declared "not airworthy" and "inoperative under FAA regulations" sometime after the state's purchase of the new plane was completed, Department of Public Safety flight logs indicate that the governor flew on the aircraft 91 times in 11 months, including as recently as June 18, one month before the purchase

of the King Air 350, Hamilton said.

Ironically, a provision of the bill which provided funding for the purchase of the new plane, SB837, requires legislative approval before the plane can be disposed of in any way, such as selling the aircraft or using it as a trade-in during the purchase of another plane.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/05/96

FIERY DEMOCRATS CAUCUS, ELECT PRO TEMPORE

■(GIT) Sixty-five fiery House Democrats caucused Thursday, dividing their time between serious legislative and caucus matters and attacks on Republicans, particularly the governor.

It was during the speaker pro tempore nomination speeches that the Democratic lawmakers' feelings began to be made known.

"We have just endured one of the most vicious political onslaughts in history," Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, said in his endorsement of Rep. Larry Adair, D-Stilwell, who went on to be elected speaker pro tempore, "and we have emerged with our integrity and a new sense of purpose to pursue a common sense, progressive agenda, which we will dare the governor to veto if he has the audacity to do so."

Adair pointed his finger squarely at the governor, accusing him of leading the assault against Democratic lawmakers.

Rep. Jack Begley, D-Goodwell and Adair's challenger for the post, called the recent election a learning experience, particularly for his family.

"My family learned I voted to have condoms passed out to homosexuals, to release prisoners from prison to raise millions of dollars of fees, against teachers and small business and the taxpayers, apple pie and Chevrolet," Begley said.

That type of campaigning, Begley said, had to be stopped, adding that he was willing to sponsor legislation aimed at requiring political advertising be true and disclose from where certain information came.

By secret ballot, Adair won the post by a vote of 35 to 30.

Representative Loyd Benson, D-Frederick, who was named Speaker of the House-designate by acclamation during the caucus, also took the governor to task, ac-

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"A man cannot be comfortable without his own approval."

Mark Twain

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

cusing him of campaigning against all Democratic incumbent lawmakers by attempting to brand them with the "liberal" label.

Joining Benson and Adair in leadership positions was Rep. Fred Stanley, D-Madill, who was named caucus chairman by acclamation.

Named to the caucus' ethics committee were Rep. Betty Boyd, D-Tulsa; Rep. James Hager, D-Pawhuska; Rep. Bill Mitchell, D-Lindsay; Rep. Ron Langmacher, D-Carnegie; and Rep. Randall Erwin, D-Nashoba.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/07/96

HOUSE TURNOVER FALLS BELOW AVERAGE

■(GIT) The state House of Representatives saw its lowest turnover in recent memory as a result of Tuesday's general election, according to the director that legislative branch's media services, giving some credence to the idea that incumbency had its advantages.

"Usually, the turnover is from 22 to 25 percent," said House media services director Mike Ray. "This time it was only 15 percent."

More of the turnover, Wray noted, was the result of lawmakers' actions rather than the decisions made by voters at the polls. A total of six representatives retired from public service at the end of the 45th legislative session. Five others left their House seats in search of higher office.

Only three were defeated in Tuesday's general election.

Combined with one new lawmaker who will fill a previously-existing vacancy, that means 15 new faces will grace the House floor when the 46th Legislature convenes next year, including:

- Mike Wilt, R-Bartlesville, District 11;
- Bobby Frame, D-Checotah, District 15;
- Dale Turner, D-Holdenville, District 24;
- Terry Ingmire, R-Stillwater, District 34;
- Jim Newport, R-Ponca City, District 37;
- Wallace Collins, D-Norman, District 45;
- Raymond G. McCarter, D-Marlow, District 51;
- David B. Braddack, D-Altus, District 52;
- James Covey, D-Custer City, District 59;
- Hopper Smith, R-Tulsa, District 67;
- Darrell Gilbert, D-Tulsa, District 72;
- Phil Ostrander, D-Collinsville, District 74;

- Mark Liotta, R-Tulsa, District 77;
- Mary Easley, D-Tulsa, District 78; and
- Al Lindley, D-Oklahoma City, District 93.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/07/96

ELECTION IMPACTS REFORMERS, LIBERTARIANS

■(GIT) Tuesday's general election did little to change the face of the state legislature and gave the state its first 100 percent Republican-controlled congressional delegation.

But the election outcome's biggest impact may have been on the state's Reform and Libertarian parties. Preliminary results indicate that the Reform Party will retain its status as a recognized party through the 1998 election, while the Libertarian Party will cease to exist as a recognized party in the state.

State law mandates that recognized parties receive 10 percent of the vote in a presidential or gubernatorial election in order to maintain their status as recognized parties, State Election Board Secretary Lance Ward explained. The Reform Party's presidential candidate, H. Ross Perot, received 10.8 percent of Oklahoma's presidential ballots, while the Libertarian Party's candidate, Harry Browne, received only .46 percent of the votes. Those results are scheduled to be certified by the State Election Board on Friday.

Pending the results' certification, Ward said, "The Reform Party will remain a recognized party in the state, having received 10.8 percent of the vote. All that was required was that they receive 10 percent. The Libertarian Party will cease to exist once the results are certified."

That means, Ward added, that in order for the Libertarian Party to have candidates appear on future ballots that they will have to seek the signature of several thousand registered Oklahoma voters again.

There are two routes the party could go, Ward added. They could seek recognized party status, meaning voters could register to vote under the party's name, it could hold a primary and could field a candidate in any race, or they could become an unrecognized party, having only the right to have the party's candidates for president and vice president appear on the general election.

Becoming a recognized party requires the signatures of registered voters equal to or

more than five percent of the electorate participating in the general election. To become an unrecognized party, only three percent of those signatures is required.

The Libertarian Party was an unrecognized party in 1992, rising to recognized status for the 1996 election.

Those voters currently registered as members of the Libertarian Party, Ward added, will automatically become registered independents once the general election results are certified and the party is declared to no longer be recognized.

The Reform Party employed a similar manner to get a position on this year's ballot, obtaining the signatures of five percent of the number of voters participating in the last general election.

A new challenge, Ward noted, now faces the Reform Party:

It must field a gubernatorial candidate in 1998 or it risks losing its status as a recognized party.

"The law is clear," Ward explained. "To remain a recognized party, parties have to receive 10 percent of the votes in a presidential or gubernatorial election. If the party doesn't file a candidate, it can't get that 10 percent of the vote, and therefore, would cease to be a recognized party."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/08/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

QUESTIONS SURROUND IMPLEMENTATION OF COFFMAN REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

■(GIT) George Miller hardly hesitates when he's asked about the recommendations made by a special governor's task force appointed to look into the death of an eight-year-old Cleveland County boy.

"We would love to carry out each and every one," said Miller, executive director of the Department of Human Services.

Then, however, he pauses.

"I'm doubtful we'll get all these things," he said, adding that the political environment is such that many want to privatize services, keep government out of peoples' lives and cut taxes.

"There's not many of the task force's recommendations that you can implement without crossing some of those lines."

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

Governor Frank Keating appointed the special task force earlier this year to study the facts surrounding the death of eight-year-old Shane Coffman. The young boy's mother and her boyfriend face first-degree murder charges in the death.

"The task force started its work partly because of rumors of missing records, secret information and the idea that the case was mishandled," Miller said. "In my opinion, they found none of that, and for that reason, I feel it reflects well on the Department of Human Services."

One of the things the task force did find was what its members called "The Wall," a series of multiple reports to the department, law enforcement officers and others concerning the family and the well being of Shane and his siblings. That information, the task force concluded, was never completely researched by those investigating complaints involving the family, leaving each ensuing official to get only one part of the picture and for the panel to call for improvements in the sharing of information.

Some of that, Miller notes, is already being done, because of a 1995 state mandate for the establishment and maintenance of a central registry of child abuse, sexual abuse and neglect cases.

"We have the first certified system in the United States," Miller said, "that is being used as a model for other states across the country."

Asked whether the system might have helped Coffman by providing social workers, law enforcement officers and prosecutors access to his family's apparently long case history, Miller said, "Possibly, because it makes a lot of that kind of information available to prosecutors, the courts and social workers throughout the process."

Another key component of the task force's recommendations are the so-called multidisciplinary teams, a group of local professionals designed to coordinate child abuse investigations and to minimize the number of interviews necessary with a child victim.

The same 1995 bill that established the abuse registry system, HB1993, also requires that district attorneys, working in coordination with the Child Abuse Training and Coordinating Council, "in counties having 50 or more incidents of confirmed child sexual abuse or physical abuse" convene such teams by July 1, 1997.

Miller, whose child welfare workers would be a part of such teams, agrees the idea is great, but cautions it may not be too realistic.

"First of all," Miller explained, "you don't have all the mandated professions available in all the counties. That's going to be a problem. Secondly, this is a very time consuming process, and you're asking people who may already be overburdened to take on a rather large responsibility. That's going to discourage some people from actively participating."

Additionally, Miller said, there is the possibility of turf wars.

That issue, too, was addressed in the task force's recommendations, albeit in an indirect manner, when the panel suggested that a case manager or lead investigator supervise child abuse investigations.

Miller, too, said the Department of Human Services would see that any legislation needed to deal with the task force's recommendations would be introduced. Without that, he said, "All you'd have is a bunch of paper with a lot of ink on it. It wouldn't save any children."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/04/96

FIRST STEP STOPPED IN COMMITTEE

■(GIT) The Oklahoma legislature had the opportunity to establish a coordinating body for Medicaid services to children, in the 45th session. Reps. Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, and Laura Boyd, D-Norman, authored a bill to create the Family Centered and Community Designed Services Act. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa, was the Senate author of HB2231.

The bill called for community services to take care of everything from child abuse prevention to literacy, through family resource centers, voluntary home visitation, case management, wrap-around services and co-location of services. A "local management team" would be the locally appointed body responsible for the design and implementation of a local service system.

Under a section of new law, the bill iden-

tified the most frequent problems for families seeking or receiving services as: difficulty identifying appropriate service providers; completing multiple applications; "confusing and occasionally contradictory duplications" in delivery of services when services are received through more than one agency or service provider and, "delivery of services available," rather than "delivery of services based on needs of child or family." Ten state agencies were named as responsible for implementation of the requirements of the act.

The bill passed both houses of the legislature in the first session, Juvenile Justice Planner Grace Kelley said Tuesday, then was vetoed by Governor Keating. HB2231, introduced during the 1996 session, was given a do-pass recommendation and sent to committee where it died.

With the new draft, the Commission anticipates another bill will be introduced in the 46th Oklahoma legislature.

State agency heads have until Nov. 12 to suggest changes in the draft plan for Medicaid funds distribution submitted to the NeedsMet Committee of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, last month. The plan was drawn up by the Institute of Health Services Management of Bethesda, MD.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/05/96

INSURANCE

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT ISSUES INFORMATION PACKET

■(GIT) An advisory letter was sent this week to approximately 65,000 Oklahomans who may possibly be affected by a federal class action lawsuit against the Prudential Insurance Company of America.

The letter, from Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Crawford, explains to the company's policyholders that they will soon be receiving a large informational packet from the insurance company.

The Oklahomans to whom the letter was sent were identified as having purchased whole life insurance policies from Prudential between Jan. 1, 1982, and Dec. 31, 1995. Those individuals are potential members of a federal class action lawsuit arising from alleged improper sales practices and misrep-

Continued on next page

"Society can only exist on the basis that there is some amount of polished lying and that no one says exactly what he thinks."

Lin Yutang

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

resentations by Prudential in its sales of life insurance products.

Prudential's packets are expected to arrive late this week and is the first step in a restitution process.

Crawford participated in a 43-state task force which investigated the alleged sales abuses by Prudential and came up with the restitution plan of its own.

The task force, Crawford said was important for two reasons. First, it created a restitution program which is now being merged with the federal class action to provide more substantial relief to injured policy holders. Secondly, if the federal class action falls short, the state-led remediation plan will still be in place due to the efforts of the task force.

It is believed that there were over 10.7 million policies affected by the suit nationwide.

If the class action lawsuit is approved, Prudential will pay a minimum of \$410 million, but that number could go significantly higher, Crawford said, depending on approval of the class action and on how many claims are filed and scored. Oklahoma's share of the total is not yet known.

In July, Crawford entered an order against Prudential requiring the company to pay a \$300,000 fine directly to Oklahoma.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/06/96

MILITARY & VETERANS

KAW NATION SPONSORS VETERANS MEETING

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Kaw Nation will sponsor a Veterans Benefits Town Hall Meeting 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 14, at the American Legion Post 14, 407 West South Avenue in Ponca City.

Representatives will be present to help all veterans with questions.

Updated information dealing with service and non-service connected compensation and pensions, service records, awards and medals, emergency assistance grants, veterans centers, medical benefits, death benefits and widow benefits will be discussed.

—OKLA. DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
11/07/96

"When three people call you an ass, put on a bridle."

Spanish proverb

NATURAL RESOURCES

INTERIM STUDY COVERS RURAL WATER ISSUES

■(GIT) Rep. Mike Mass, D-Hartshorne and chair of the House Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources, met with members of interim study 96H-08 Wednesday to determine what steps need to be taken to provide water to the smallest towns covered by the water provisions in HB1434 for towns with less than 10,000 people.

The Oklahoma Rural Water Association currently provides training and assistance to rural water districts with appropriated funds from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. However, Mass said constituents in his and other legislator's districts from the smallest towns have complained that they still do not have water systems or properly trained, full-time operators in place.

The Rural Economic Action Plan of 1996, HB1434, which was signed into law by the governor in May, states that towns with less than 10,000 people have priority in receiving assistance from the funds.

Gene Whatley, executive director of ORWA, said that "economic feasibility" prevents many of the smallest towns from forming water districts.

However, the OWRB does not have sufficient funds to provide for all the priority communities, said Duane A. Smith, assistant director of the OWRB.

Earlier this year, an audit was performed by the State Auditor and Inspector which produced questions concerning the use by the ORWA of appropriated funds received from the OWRB. The audit was released in September.

The OWRB has been appropriated \$139,500 each of the last two years to provide technical assistance and training to rural water districts in Oklahoma. The Legislature directed the OWRB to contract with the nonprofit ORWA to carry out these responsibilities. In turn, the ORWA created Water Systems Management, Inc., a for-profit subsidiary, for the expressed purpose of managing water systems and providing technical assistance to water systems.

In response to the findings of the State Auditor & Inspector's report, ORWA recalculated funds expended by it on training and technical assistance during the respective

contract periods audited by the State Auditor using the same formula it previously used with appropriate adjustments with the result that the ORWA expenditures for training and technical assistance greatly exceeded the contract amount of the OWRB contracts.

In response to the audit, OWRB has drafted a bid specification detailing the work needed to carry out the Small Community Technical assistance and Training Program. The program will seek to train individuals in rural water districts on the mechanics of operating and maintaining their water systems and will offer technical assistance in the engineering of water systems for small communities. Open solicitation for bids will follow.

The group plans to meet again to determine if the appropriation of more funds or the creation of new legislation will be needed to help the smaller communities get their water demands met.

Materials handed out at the meeting, including the audit and bid specification, are available from Legislative Information Network. You may e-mail, fax or call in your request.

—MICHELLE BOYD WATERS
11/06/96

PUBLIC SAFETY

HIGHER LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR OKLAHOMA MOTORISTS?

■(GIT) Do Oklahoma motorists need higher liability insurance coverage?

That was the subject members of the Public Safety Committee discussed Thursday in Interim Study 96H-50, chaired by Rep. Shelby Satterfield, D-Tulsa, requested by Rep. Jack Bonny, D-Burns Flat. "This interim study was brought about because I had a car wreck," Bonny said. "The guy who ran into me had 10-20-10 insurance, which paid for my car. Then his insurance ran out and my medical bills were picked up by my insurance."

"A lot of people have told me the same thing, so I wanted to hear the pros and cons from everyone," Bonny said.

Representatives of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, State Insurance Department, the Department of Public Safety and four major insurance companies—Allstate Insurance, Farmers Insurance, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance and State

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

Farm Insurance—met to discuss the issue.

Brad Bryant of the property and casualty insurance department for the state said approximately 20 percent of the vehicles we meet on the road are not covered by insurance. Bryant's department recommends revising the law to stagger the safety inspection and tag purchase times so proof of insurance will have to be shown at least two times a year. He also recommended impounding vehicles of uninsured motorists for 30 to 90 days, or until proof of insurance—perhaps a non-refundable policy—is provided.

All states surrounding Oklahoma require at least 20-40-15 liability coverage, Bryant said. His department estimates rates for Oklahoma drivers would rise about 15 percent for higher liability coverage.

Bryant also mentioned a change in the seat belt law, from secondary to primary. A primary law would allow law enforcement to stop and ticket a driver for not wearing a seat belt.

State Farm representative Jim Walker said his company understands the nature of the problem, but is "not supportive of increasing [liability] limits. Our concern is affordability," Walker added.

"We [State Farm] believe the percentage of uninsured motorists is greater than 20 percent, more like one-third," Walker said, and the percentage of drivers with 10-20-10 coverage is also about a third. "If we raise the liability limits to 25-50-25, it will drive up the price for everyone."

Representing Oklahoma Farmer's Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, Al Jennings cited some figures from his company files. "In 1965," Jennings said, "we started pre-matic, and clients can pay one-sixth of a six month premium monthly. On our standard risk policy, 35 percent lapse within the first six months. On our preferred risk policy, only six percent lapse in the first six months."

"If a man really knew himself he would utterly despise the ignorant notions others might form on a subject in which he had such matchless opportunities for observation."

George Santayana

Despite the problems, Jennings said his insurance company did not support a liability coverage increase either. "We feel affordability is a key issue," Jennings said.

Both insurance company representatives agreed if motorists opted to buy uninsured motorist coverage, the premium rate could go down for all drivers. "We'd be getting a premium from everyone," Jennings said, "instead of 70 percent."

The meeting adjourned with the promise of more information to come from studies in other states.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/07/96

TOURISM & RECREATION

HISTORIC AREA PROMOTES CHISHOLM TRAIL

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Tri-County Historic Chisholm Trail Commission, an alliance of southern and central Oklahomans living in the vicinity of its namesake late 1800s cattle drive trail, is stepping up efforts to promote the area's economic development through tourism.

Residents of each of the three counties, Jefferson, Stephens and Grady, are active in the Commission's work, with participation open to anyone willing to work for economic growth along the historic trail.

The Chisholm Trail was named after Jesse Chisholm, a Chickasaw Indian trader, who established the route as his trading itinerary. It later became known as a cattle trail. The commission is the brainchild of Oklahoma State Senator Carol Martin, who wants to bring the trail back to its original purpose. "We intend to complete the cycle," she said, "making the historic trail once again an economic trade route."

The Commission's long-term objective is to promote increased tourism as an economic development tool for the area. With the Chisholm Trail as its focus, the program is similar to the Green Country concept used to promote the state's forested eastern sections, but with a thematic rather than regional approach.

After funding is raised by the Tri-County group, development of a brochure featuring attractions, sites and accommodations along the Trail will be published by the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation.

A Home Page on the Internet is being

produced, donated by Chisholm Trail Internet Services, a Duncan, OK firm. Martin said that Tri-County presence on the Internet opens a world wide market for area attractions, referring to international fascination with America's western heritage.

Concrete markers should soon be in place in Jefferson and Stephens counties, placed with the help of Trail historian Bob Klemme of Enid. The markers, donated by Ringling, OK ranch and farm realtor Mike Turner, will be spaced about one mile apart along the actual site of the cattle trail.

—SENATE MEDIA
11/07/96

WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE COMMISSION DISCUSSES LITIGATION, PERSONNEL

■(GIT) At the regular monthly business meeting in Oklahoma City, Monday, the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission honored longtime staffers, discussed legal issues, voted to provide a new home for the Durant Fish Hatchery manager and approved acquisition and exchange of real property in Deep Fork and Packsaddle Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

The STEP (shotgun training education program) got a helping hand from the National Rifle Association Foundation of Oklahoma, with a \$1,983 donation to buy shotguns for youth in the program.

Director Greg Duffy reported on a meeting in Texas last week between Texas and Oklahoma legislators. The Wildlife Conservation Department will ask Governor Keating's assistance in opposing the Red River Chloride Project. Currently, release of the draft supplement of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public comment on the project has been put on hold in Washington, Ross Adkins, public affairs spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said.

In 1957, Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and authorized the U.S. Dept. of Health to find the source of chlorides running into the Red River. The Corps was authorized to find a solution to the pollution, after the source was determined to be an old inland sea Adkins said. Currently, a daily average of 3,600 tons of chloride goes into the Red River Adkins said.

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Other projects proposed are designed to remove 45 percent of the chlorides going into Lake Kemp and Lake Texhoma.

Lake Kemp is the major water source for Wichita Falls, Texas. Kemp does not meet EPA standards for municipal water use Adkins said, and Lake Texhoma meets municipal EPA standards only three percent of the time, a figure that would change to 94 percent acceptable if the project is completed.

Opponents to the project cite the EIS estimate of a nine percent average impact on the fish harvest at Texhoma, with a 14 percent impact in some areas of the lake. Cloudiness of the water will increase opponents say, if the chlorides are removed. Other concerns, Adkins said, are for the fish, wildlife and plants along the stretch of the Red River where chloride removal takes place.

"Of course," Adkins said, "the primary benefit right now is for Texas. By the year 2000, Texas is going to have a problem finding drinking water."

Directors received the financial statement for the first quarter of fiscal 1997, presented by Robert Taylor. Sales of fishing and hunting licenses totaled \$1,368,383 in the first quarter, compared to \$1,521,593 for the first fiscal quarter of 1995. Agricultural and oil lease income was almost double last years, from \$129,080 in Sept. 1995 to \$249,570 in Sept. 1996. Sales of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses were up \$100,000 over last year, from \$137,800 to \$237,625, Taylor noted, in part due to seasonal buying.

Assistant Attorney General Jeanine Hale reported to directors on the status of Wildlife Department legal issues. There are approximately 85 items on the list, Hale said, but not all are active. Hale reminded directors that March 1997, is the last opportunity to adopt permanent rules, and rulemaking intent must be filed in the Oklahoma Register within the next few months.

When asked if any of the 85 cases posed any financial risk for the department, Hale mentioned the Offutt case in Sequoyah County. More than a year ago, Kelly Hunter of the Attorney General's office said, Billie Offutt filed a civil suit in district court in Sequoyah County against the Department of Wildlife Conservation. In her suit, Offutt alleges the Oklahoma hunting regulations prevent her from protecting her property from wildlife damage, and the effect of the

hunting regulations is a "regulatory taking" of her property by the State of Oklahoma without compensation. She is requesting compensation for crop damage by wildlife. Hunter said there is no precedent in Oklahoma for a claim of this type. After several hearings, the case is still pending.

In other business, directors heard a report on the 35 houses owned by the Wildlife Conservation Department on wildlife management areas and fish hatcheries. Security of equipment on the WMAs and at fish hatcheries is an important reason to have someone living there directors agreed.

The houses, from 800 square feet to 2100 square feet, were built between the 1930s and the 1950s, and some need major repairs. The board voted to replace the 800 square foot house at the Durant State Fish Hatchery with budgeted funds for the job.

A request by Ken Ryel to solicit bids on a metal storage building to be erected southwest of the existing department facility at 1801 N. Lincoln was tabled for 30 days, so directors can look at the proposed facility.

After executive session, directors voted to authorize an exchange of a 95 acre tract of land in the Deep Fork WMA with an adjacent landowner, on an acre-for-acre basis. The board also voted to try to purchase a 160 acre in-holding in the Packsaddle WMA at the school land auction.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/04/96

NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES ACT COULD HELP OKLAHOMA

■(GIT) When President Clinton signed HR4283, last week, he signed into law the National Invasive Species Act of 1996, aimed at "controlling the unintentional introduction and spread of invasive species, such as the zebra mussel, throughout the waters of our nation." Clinton added, "HR4283 will establish a national voluntary ballast water management program to reduce the threat of additional pest species entering our waters." The bill includes provisions to support research and demonstrate new technologies for combating aquatic nuisance species.

The zebra mussel has made its way into Oklahoma from its introduction into the Great Lakes. Ballast water dumped from freighters introduced the tiny mussel into an alien environment with no natural predators.

Zebra mussels have been found inside the

locks at both Robert S. Kerr and Webbers Falls along the McClellan-Kerr Navigation System, and may already occur in other Oklahoma waters.

The mussel is thumbnail-size, with elongated, D-shaped, thin shells striped in a zebra-like pattern. They live up to five years. Thread-like filaments attach the mussel to boat hulls, reefs, navigational buoys and other submerged objects. Females produce from 30,000 to 100,000 eggs per season. Due to their high reproductive rate and the limited number of natural predators, zebra mussels can populate a body of water in two or three years, clustering together with hundreds of thousands per square meter.

More than 70 percent of U.S. power plants are expected to be affected by the year 2000. High water flow rates inside pipes provide a constant source of food for the mussels, which cluster in mats on top of each other, lining the inside of intake structures and clogging pipes.

The mussels attach themselves to, and grow within, water intakes of both inboard and outboard motors, and attach themselves to boat hulls.

As prevention, boats should not be left in the water for extended periods of time. Mussels can be transported inside bilges, engine cooling systems, minnow buckets, live wells and anywhere water is trapped.

A task force has been formed in Oklahoma to address the problem. The task force includes representatives from the Wildlife Department, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Oklahoma State Department of Health, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma Biological Survey, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/04/96

"The circumstances of the world are continually changing, and the opinions of men change also; and as Government is for the living, and not for the dead, it is the living only that have any right in it."

Thomas Paine
The Rights of Man
1791

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



AGRICULTURE

CCC LENDING RATES FOR NOVEMBER 1996

■(WASHINGTON) The interest rate for 1995 and prior crop year commodity loans disbursed by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation during Nov. 1996, is 5.625 percent, down from the Oct. 1996 rate of 5.875 percent. For 1996 crop year commodity loans, the interest rate is 6.625 percent for loans disbursed during Nov. 1996, down from 6.875 for Oct. 1996.

Past monthly releases announcing interest rates charged by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation on commodity loans disbursed for that particular month reflected the interest rate charged the CCC by the U.S. Treasury for that month. This was the interest rate specified by the CCC since Jan. 1, 1982, but the process of establishing the interest rate was changed by a provision of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, enacted on April 4, 1996.

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
11/04/96

PUBLIC LAW 480 COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS ANNOUNCED

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Agriculture this week announced preliminary fiscal year 1997 allocations of \$205.0 million for 21 countries to cover commodity financing extended under Title I of the Food for Peace Program (Public Law 480), and commodity grants under the Food for Progress Program, funded by Title I appropriations.

According to Christopher E. Goldthwait, general sales manager for USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, this week's announced allocations reflect a P.L. 480 program level for fiscal year 1997 of \$226.9 million for concessional credit financing, and \$13.9 million for ocean freight differential costs associated with cargo preference requirements. The commodity allocations reflect current market conditions, particularly for feed grains and soybeans.

Title I of the Food for Peace Program is a concessional sales program to promote

exports of agricultural commodities from the United States and to foster broad-based sustainable development in recipient countries. The program provides export financing over payment periods of up to 30 years, low interest rates, and maximum grace periods on payments of principal of up to five years. Private entities, including agricultural trade organizations, are authorized to participate in the program.

The Food for Progress program is an independently authorized program that may be funded with Title I monies. This program is used to support countries that have made commitments to introduce or expand free enterprise elements in their agricultural economies. Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan are the countries currently expected to receive commodity donations through this program.

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
11/07/96

BUSINESS & LABOR

IRS ANNOUNCES 1997 PENSION PLAN LIMITATIONS

■(WASHINGTON) The Internal Revenue Service recently announced cost-of-living adjustments applicable to dollar limitations on benefits under qualified retirement plans and to other provisions affecting such plans.

Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code provides for dollar limitations on benefits and contributions under these plans. It also requires that the Commissioner annually adjust these limits for cost-of-living increases. Effective January 1, 1997, the limitation on the annual benefit under a defined benefit plan under section 415(b)(1)(A) is increased from \$120,000 to \$125,000. For participants who separated from service before January 1, 1997, the limitation for defined benefit plans under section 415(b)(1)(B) is computed by multiplying the participant's compensation limitation, as adjusted through 1996, by 1.0294.

The limitation for defined contribution plans under section 415(c)(1)(A) remains unchanged at \$30,000.

The Code provides that various other dollar amounts are to be adjusted at the same time and in the same manner as the dollar limitation of section 415(b)(1)(A). These dollar amounts and the adjusted amounts are as follows:

The special limitation for qualified police or firefighters under section 415(b)(2)(G) is increased from \$66,000 to \$70,000.

The limitation on the exclusion for elective deferrals under section 402(g)(1) remains unchanged at \$9,500.

The dollar amount under section 409(o)(1)(C)(ii) for determining the maximum account balance in an employee stock ownership plan subject to a 5-year distribution period is increased from \$690,000 to \$710,000, while the dollar amount used to determine the lengthening of the 5-year distribution period is increased from \$135,000 to \$140,000.

The threshold amount under section 4980A(c)(1)(B) regarding excess distributions is increased from \$155,000 to \$160,000.

The limitation used in the definition of highly compensated employees under section 414(q)(1)(B), as changed by section 1431 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, is \$80,000.

The annual compensation limit under sections 401(a)(17) and 404(l) is increased from \$150,000 to \$160,000.

The compensation amount under section 408(k)(2)(C) regarding simplified employee pensions (SEPs) remains unchanged at \$400. The compensation amount under section 408(k)(3)(C) for SEPs is increased from \$150,000 to \$160,000.

The compensation amount under section 408(p)(2)(A) regarding simple retirement accounts, as added by section 1421 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, is \$6,000.

The limitation on deferrals under sections 457(b)(2) and (c)(1) concerning deferred compensation plans of state and local governments and tax-exempt organizations remains unchanged at \$7,500.

—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
11/06/96

NEW IRS DOCUMENT EXPLAINS SECTION 530 RELIEF REQUIREMENTS

■(WASHINGTON) The Internal Revenue Service recently released a simple, one-page document to help businesses understand their rights under the law when the IRS questions their classification of workers as independent contractors.

The new explanation, Independent Contractor or Employee?, sets out the three so-

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*"Integrity simply means a willingness
not to violate one's identity."*

Erich Fromm

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



called section 530 relief requirements — provisions contained in section 530 of the Revenue Act of 1978. In general, a business can be relieved of certain federal employment tax obligations if it:

- had a reasonable basis for not treating workers as employees,
- was consistent in its treatment of any similar workers as contractors, and
- consistently filed required information returns with the IRS.

IRS tax examiners will provide the new explanation of section 530 relief requirements at the beginning of any inquiry into worker classification and will answer any questions about eligibility for this relief.

—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
11/06/96

IRS ANNOUNCES MODEL SIMPLE RETIREMENT PLAN

■(WASHINGTON) The Internal Revenue Service recently announced the release of Form 5305-SIMPLE. Section 1421 of the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-188), signed into law on August 20, 1996, created the Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE Plan) effective in 1997. SIMPLE Plans offer small employers a simplified option for providing retirement income for employees through salary reduction and matching contributions that are made to individual retirement accounts or annuities (IRAs).

Form 5305-SIMPLE provides small employers with an easy way to adopt a SIMPLE Plan by using a model plan document, notification to employees, and salary reduction agreement. For the 1997 calendar year, the model SIMPLE Plan can be made effective as early as Jan. 1 and as late as Oct. 1.

—INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
11/06/96

CRIME & JUDICIARY

NICKLES REQUESTS PROBE OF TATUM MURDER

■(GIT) Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles on Wednesday asked Secretary of State Warren Christopher to work closely with Russian authorities to fully investigate the murder of Oklahoma businessman Paul Tatum.

Tatum was gunned down over the weekend in Moscow.

Tatum's murder, some believe, may have

been linked to his business dealings in the Russian Republic, raising concerns about the safety of other American citizens doing business there. That concern prompted Nickles to also ask Christopher what steps the U.S. government is taking to prevent further such attacks.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/07/96

EDUCATION

MORE THAN \$9 MILLION AWARDED FOR DRUG AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

■(WASHINGTON) More than \$9 million in grants for drug and violence prevention programs has been awarded to schools and communities across the nation, U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley announced last week.

The awards support two year projects that tackle youth drug use and violence by:

- infusing research based knowledge about "what works" into the design, development and implementation of school based efforts to prevent drug use among youth;
- preventing students from bringing firearms and other weapons into schools;
- preventing truancy and addressing the needs of youth who are out of the education mainstream (dropouts, truants); and,
- preventing violent, aggressive, intimidating or other disruptive behavior arising from bullying, sexual harassment or other causes.

Three quarters of the 28 grantees are located in Empowerment Zones or Enterprise Communities.

Each application was evaluated and scored by three non-federal reviewers drawn from drug and violence prevention experts from around the country. Grants were awarded on the basis of highest average score. Funding for the grants was provided under the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act appropriations.

—U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
11/04/96

"To model our political system on the speculations of lasting tranquility, is to calculate on the weaker springs of the human character."

Alexander Hamilton
The Federalist, Jan. 5, 1788

ENVIRONMENT

EPA EXPECTS TO FUND 25 NEW BROWNFIELDS PILOTS IN 1997

■(WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency is accepting proposals for the 1997 National Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Pilots. The brownfields assessment pilots, which are each funded up to \$200,000 over two years, are designed to empower states, communities and other parties interested in economic redevelopment to work together to prevent, safely clean up and reuse brownfields.

A brownfield is a site or a portion of a site that has actual or perceived contamination, as well as an active potential for redevelopment or reuse.

Chosen pilots test redevelopment models, direct special efforts toward removing regulatory barriers without sacrificing protectiveness, and facilitate coordinated environmental assessments and cleanup efforts at the federal, state and local levels. These funds are used to generate interest by pulling together community groups, investors, lenders, developers and other affected parties to address the issues of clean up sites contaminated with hazardous substances and returning them to appropriate productive use.

EPA expects to select 25 additional national brownfields assessment pilots by March 1997. All applications must be postmarked no later than Jan. 13, 1997. Previously unsuccessful applicants must revise and resubmit their applications. Applications submitted before Nov. 1, will not be considered.

Copies of the application package and the solicitation notice can be obtained by calling the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
11/04/96

WASTEWISE PARTNERS ACHIEVE IMPRESSIVE RESULTS

■(WASHINGTON) Under the Environmental Protection Agency's voluntary waste reduction program, "WasteWiSe," 208 reporting companies quadrupled reported waste reduction over 1994 amounts, eliminating 344,000 tons of material through waste prevention, and recycling an additional 4.2 million tons of material. This represents a sub-

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FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



stantial conservation of natural resources and a significant diversion of materials from landfills.

In 1995 WasteWi\$e partners saved about \$59 million in purchasing costs through efforts to reduce transport packaging. Reduction in transport packaging is a key cost-cutting opportunity for many companies.

EPA's "Second-Year Progress Report," (Document Number: EPA530-R-96-016) is available through the RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346.

—ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY
11/04/96

AGENDA ANNOUNCED FOR THIRD MEETING OF FOOD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

■(WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency announced the agenda for the third meeting of the Food Safety Advisory Committee which will be held on Nov. 14-15, in Fairfax, VA. The meeting is open to the public.

Recently formed as a subcommittee under the auspices of EPA's Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology, the new advisory committee was established to assist the Agency with the implementation of the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), signed into law on Aug. 3. The new law amends both the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to provide a protective regulatory scheme for pesticides.

The Food Safety Committee is made up of approximately 45 representatives from the general public, environmental and public interest groups, the public health community, the chemical industry, agriculture and other pesticide user groups, food processors, federal and state governments, academia and

others. Margie Fehrenbach of EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs is the Committee's designated federal officer (703-305-7090).

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
11/04/96

U.S.-CANADA REPORT SHOWS PARTICULATE HEALTH DANGERS, ACID-RAIN PROGRESS

■(WASHINGTON) The United States and Canada recently jointly released their third biennial Progress Report on acid rain and other air quality issues under the 1991 United States/Canada Bilateral Air Quality Agreement. The report contains the first five-year review of the Agreement to determine its effectiveness in addressing transboundary air pollution.

Since the last progress report, health effects studies indicate that acidic aerosols and other types of particulate matter have adverse health effects in both countries. Both governments also report substantial progress in reducing emissions and effects of acid rain.

The 110 biggest sulfur dioxide (SO₂)-emitting power plants and other utilities in the United States were in compliance with the acid rain reduction requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments in 1995, the first year of the program (SO₂ is one of the prime ingredients in the formation of acid rain). SO₂ emissions in this country also declined sharply in 1995, decreasing to 5.3 millions tons annually from 1980 levels of 10.9 million tons (a 51 percent decline). The 1995 SO₂ levels were 3.4 million tons better than required under the Clean Air Act.

The report cites studies showing reduction in surface water sulfates, leading to water quality improvement in the northeastern United States and Canada, as well as a decrease in lake nitrate concentrations in the Adirondacks; however, the report cites other studies indicating that nitrogen deposition at current levels could reduce the benefits of acid rain reduction in the long term.

In addition, the study finds no evidence of widespread forest decline from acid deposition, with some exceptions in some especially sensitive regions.

The five-year review of the Air Quality Agreement in the report concludes that, overall, both governments have been successful in fulfilling their obligations under the pact, particularly regarding acid rain control.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
11/05/96

EPA STOPS DISCHARGE OF OIL AND GAS WELL POLLUTANTS

■(WASHINGTON) Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol M. Browner increased protection to public health and the coastal waters along the Gulf of Mexico and Cook Inlet, Alaska, by requiring coastal oil and gas production facilities to stop pollutant discharges into the Gulf of Mexico and reduce such discharges into Cook Inlet, eliminating nearly two billion pounds of contaminants that annually reach these waters.

Under a final Clean Water Act rule, Browner set limits for pollutants discharged into coastal waters from oil and gas production facilities along the Gulf of Mexico and Cook Inlet, Alaska, the last two remaining U. S. coastal areas receiving such discharges. These limitations are expected to reduce current discharges of toxic pollutants, including arsenic, cadmium and lead, by more than two hundred thousand pounds per year; conventional pollutants, such as oil, grease and solids, by approximately 2.8 million pounds per year; and non-conventional pollutants, such as chlorides, ammonia, and aluminum, by approximately 1.5 billion pounds per year. The major waste streams being limited are produced water, drilling fluids and drill cuttings. EPA is conducting additional studies on discharges from Cook Inlet before any additional action is considered.

At the same time under the rule, Browner incorporated into federal law state issued zero-discharge standards already in place for such facilities along the California, Florida and Alabama coasts and along the North Slope of Alaska.

EPA estimates that total annual costs of the final rule are \$16.2 million.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
11/07/96

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING FOR '96 ELECTIONS REACHES \$469 MILLION

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Senate and House candidates involved in Tuesday's general election raised \$562 million and spent \$469 million from Jan. 1, 1995, through Oct. 16, 1996. This represents a modest increase over 1994 totals. Congressional campaign fundraising increased by 8 percent, while

Continued on next page

"I have a habit of comparing the phraseology of communiques, one with another across the years, and noting a certain similarity of words, a certain similarity of optimism in the reports which followed the summit meetings and a certain similarity in the lack of practical results during the ensuing years."

Margaret Thatcher
London Times
June 1, 1984

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



spending is up by 4 percent. Senate and House candidates reported \$145.1 million cash balances as they entered the last three weeks of the campaign.

Through Sept. 30, all Congressional candidates, including primary losers, reported raising over \$617 million and spending \$489 million. This is an increase of 12 percent in fundraising over '94 and only 10 percent in spending over both '92 and '94 totals of \$445 million.

Senate candidates have raised \$187.8 million and spent \$168.3 million. They reported \$28.8 million in cash reserves for the last weeks of campaigning.

In contrast, House races have increased 27 percent in fundraising and 23 percent in spending. Candidates have raised \$374.1 million and spent \$300.7 million, with \$116.3 million left for the final weeks.

Funds from candidates themselves, either in the form of loans or direct contributions, are down by more than \$22 million, mostly due to a decrease in the amounts Senatorial candidates have used of their own funds — \$19.4 million compared to \$42.2 million in '94. (This is predominantly due to the last California Senate race.) House candidates have reported tapping slightly more of their own funds than in '94, investing \$23 million.

Financing for Senate races came in the form of \$124.1 million from individuals and \$34.1 million from PACs. House candidates received \$211.1 million from individuals and \$126.3 million from PACs.

—FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
11/07/96

MILITARY & DEFENSE

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS REVIEW VERIFICATION MEASURES AT DOE SITES

■(WASHINGTON) The United States has joined with the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in a new initiative aimed at increasing the international verification of weapons-usable nuclear materials. The purpose of the initiative is to verify that fissile materials no longer needed for U.S. and Russian defense purposes are not reused to produce new nuclear weapons. As the first step in the initiative, representatives from Russia and the IAEA visited three Department of Energy sites this week.

The delegations visited Argonne National Laboratory-West in Idaho, the Hanford Site in Washington state and the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado. The visits to Hanford and Rocky Flats focused on how IAEA inspections have been carried out at those sites to verify that excess plutonium at those sites is not reused for weapons.

Following the site visits, the Russian and IAEA delegations met with senior U.S. officials in Washington D.C. to discuss how to proceed in carrying out the trilateral initiative.

—U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY
11/07/96

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The delegations visited Argonne National Laboratory-West in Idaho on Nov. 4 for demonstrations of remote monitoring technology. They visited the Hanford Site in Washington state on Nov. 5 and the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site in Colorado on Nov. 6-7. The visits to Hanford and Rocky Flats focused on how IAEA inspections have been carried out at those sites to verify that excess plutonium at those sites is not reused for weapons.

Following the site visits, the Russian and IAEA delegations will travel to Washington, D.C., for meetings on Nov. 8 with senior U.S. officials to discuss how to proceed in carrying out the trilateral initiative.

Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary, Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Viktor Mikhailov and IAEA Director General Hans Blix announced the trilateral initiative in September at the IAEA's 40th General Conference in Vienna, Austria. The initiative, which will result in a joint report by June 1997, advances the commitments made by

Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin to ensure the transparency of nuclear arms reductions and the control of fissile material removed from weapons.

—U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY
11/07/96

TRANSPORTATION

REFERENCE GUIDE FOR INTERCITY RAIL PROJECTS PUBLISHED

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) last week announced the publication of a reference guide to assist states and localities considering investment in public-benefit intercity rail and rail-related projects.

The guide is designed to assist local and state planning agencies in their transportation decision-making and to encourage them to consider rail projects in transportation plans and programs in their determination of cost-effective allocation of transportation resources.

The guide provides information about federal and state transportation planning processes; rail project evaluation and priority setting; existing rail projects funded under the various categories of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA); assessment of societal/environmental benefits of intercity rail; and innovative financing methods.

Also included in the guide is information on a new computer model designed to assist states and localities in analyzing the economic and financial benefits of public sector investment in rail and rail-related projects.

To receive a copy of the reference guide, contact the FRA's Office of Policy at (202) 632-3131, fax (202) 632-3705.

—FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION
11/04/96

"When distant and unfamiliar and complex things are communicated to great masses of people, the truth suffers a considerable and often a radical distortion. The complex is made over into the simple, the hypothetical into the dogmatic, and the relative into an absolute."

Walter Lippmann
"The Public Philosophy," 1955

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, Commanche 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 Passed
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 Passed
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"> a. Slot machines and roulette, b. Craps, keno and video gambling c. All gambling played with cards, dice, mechanical devices or computers, and d. Other forms of gambling. <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"> 1. Remington Park Racetrack 2. Blue Ribbon Downs Racetrack 3. A facility in Tulsa, and 4. A facility in Love County. <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. The measure would allow Indian tribes to request an agreement to operate a gambling casino. 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 incurred at authorized casinos 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>	Okayed by Supreme Court on Nov. 5, 1996 to be placed on ballot

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"> 1. The right to know the status of the prosecution and investigation. 2. The right to know the location of the defendant from arrest through the serving of a sentence. 3. The right to be present at proceedings where the defendant has a right to be present. 4. The right to be informed when a defendant escapes or is released. 5. The right to be heard at sentencing and parole hearings. <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 Passed

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 Passed
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 Passed

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 Passed

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Tuesday, November 12, 1996

9:00 **Commissioners of the Land**
State Capitol, Governor's Large Conference Room

Wednesday, November 13, 1996

9:15 **Joint Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development**
123 Animal Science Building, Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater, OK

11:00 **Jail Task Force, Interim Study: SJR 34**
Wagoner County Jail, Courthouse Building, 307 E. Cherokee, 3rd Floor, Wagoner

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

Thursday, November 14, 1996

10:00 **Interim Study 96H-3, Manufactured Homes**
Members of the House County & Municipal Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 412-B

1:30 **Oklahoma Tax Commission**
Room 501B, State Office Building, 440 S. Houston, Tulsa

Friday, November 15, 1996

1:00 **Managed Care Task Force**
Conference Center, Conference Room C & D, Integris Baptist Medical Center,
3366 NW Expressway, Oklahoma City

2:30 **Dispute Resolution Advisory Board**
Denver Davison Building, 1915 N. Stiles, Suite 305 Conference Room, Oklahoma City

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
-
- 9:30** **Joint Interim Committee on Electric Utility Task Force**
Created by SJR 37
State Capitol, Senate Chamber

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

Monday, December 2, 1996

- 10:00** **State Board of Equalization**
State Capitol, Governor's Conference Room
-
- 11:00** **Oklahoma Transportation Commission**
200 NE 21 St., Commission Room, 1st Floor, Oklahoma City

Tuesday, December 3, 1996

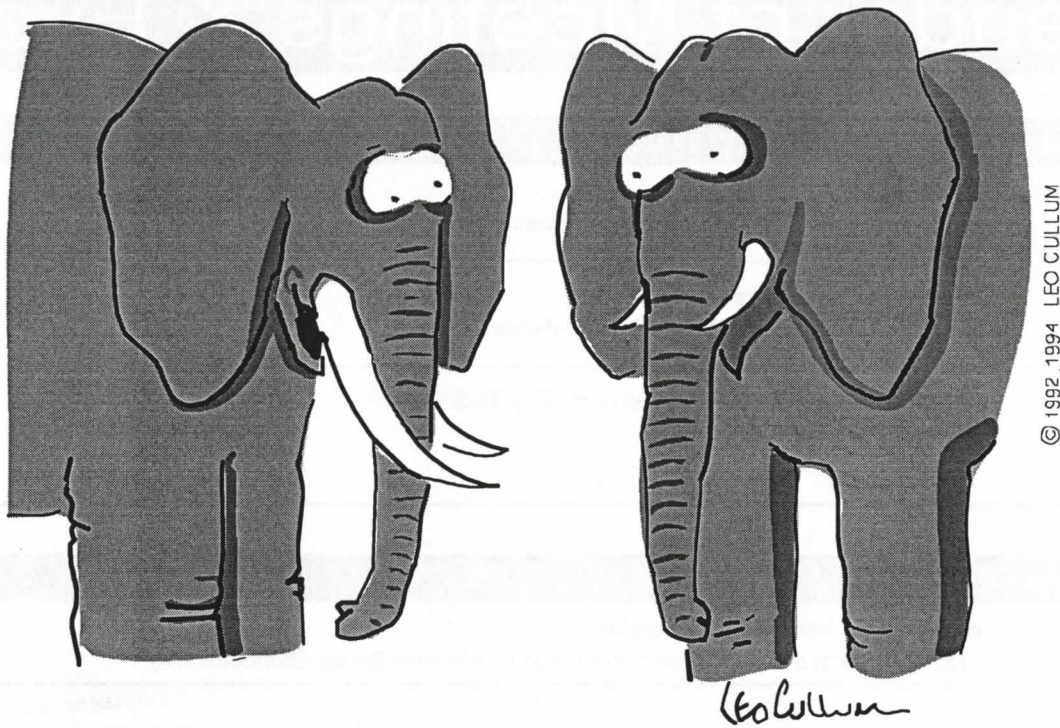
- 9:30** **Oklahoma Commission for Human Services**
Room 214, Sequoyah Office Bldg., Oklahoma City

Tuesday, December 10, 1996

- 9:00** **Commissioners of the Land**
State Capitol, Governor's Large Conference Room

Thursday, December 12, 1996

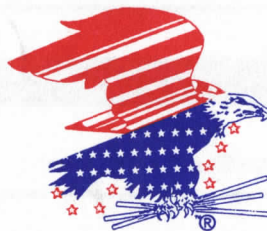
- 1:00** **Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Prep**
Dyer Room, Oklahoma Education Association, 323 E. Madison, Oklahoma City



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