

Capitol Network News

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Weekly Edition, Friday, November 1, 1996

MANAGED CARE PANEL DISCUSSES INFORMATION SHARING

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Information and how it's shared was the focus of discussion Thursday for members of the Senate Task Force on Managed Care.

The issue of information sharing was previously identified by members of the task force, particularly those from the medical profession, as one of concern.

Of particular interest to physicians were so-called gag rules, contractual agreements between doctors and managed care providers, such as health maintenance organizations (HMOs), which prohibit the physicians from disclosing certain information to their patients. Doctors say such agreements run counter to their ethical obligations as physicians.

Hank Hartsell, director of the certificate of need division for the Oklahoma Health Department, said he has not seen any examples of rules which would inhibit the discussion of treatment options in Oklahoma. More common, he said, are prohibitions on the disclosure of certain financial information by both the physician and the health care provider and prohibitions on the use of information obtained while under contract with

a provider for solicitations. Additionally, he noted, some contracts include provisions limiting physicians criticism of the health care provider's benefit plan.

The state Board of Health, Hartsell added, has also taken a position discouraging gag rules, particularly those which might discourage a doctor from discussing treatment options with their patients.

In a related matter, Oklahoma Health Care Authority director Garth Splinter outlined that agency's hope to make report cards available on the various health care products sold in the state. Such an effort, he explained, is consistent with the idea that the health care industry, much like other services, be consumer driven. To accomplish that, he said, consumers must be informed.

The difficulty, Splinter and Karen Collier, the authority's liaison to the Employee Ben-

efits Council, said, is in developing what would be considered good, valid and comparable data for distribution to consumers.

"In order of it to be useful," said Collier, "the information must that information that the members want, that they need and that they know how it applies to them and to their situation."

In a subcommittee discussion on the report subject led by Sen. Angela Monson, D-Tulsa, panel members said the following information should be included in such reports:

- The availability of primary care physicians and specialists;
 - The doctors' degree of satisfaction with the plan;
 - Customers' satisfaction rating of the plan;
 - A discussion of pricing issues, including
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MENTAL ILLNESS INSURANCE TASK FORCE ADVANCES WORK

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Joint Task Force on Parity for Mental Illness Insurance Coverage was urged to move forward with its work Thursday during a meeting in Tulsa.

A cadre of speakers, including doctors, nurses, employee assistance coordinators and others, told the panel that quality mental health care can lead to cost savings in both the private and public sector. The task force hopes to draft legislation that would require group insurance plans to include a mental health component comparable to the plans' medical and surgical benefits.

Dr. Murali Krisna, medical director for Integris Mental Health Services, told the panel, "We are being a penny-wise and a pound-foolish in this country right now" when it comes to mental health insurance coverage.

Dr. Krisna stressed that mental health care plans should be "properly managed," focusing on compassion in the treatment of patients, the economics of costs and the capacity of the treatment system. Proper management, he said, would be the "glue that

keeps the (treatment) system together."

Dr. Pam Price-Hoskins, with the University of Oklahoma's College of Nursing, told the panel that mental health insurance parity would help promote the development of what she called "much needed community-based mental health services." Such services, she added, are important in preventing the hospitalization of as many as 85 percent of those receiving mental health treatment.

The remaining 15 percent, Dr. Hoskins said, require in-patient hospitalization and care.

"Currently, we are having to make do with the support services that are available at the community level," said Dr. Hoskins. "If these services develop in the community, I believe we will see increased savings in the mental health treatment system overall."

Dr. Mike Smith, employee assistance coordinator for Oklahoma Natural Gas, also expressed support for efforts to bring mental illness health insurance coverage parity, saying such efforts are important in providing a good and productive work environment.

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ing a sample scenario estimating the average cost for a family over a one-year period;

- The amount of control of referrals by primary care physicians to specialists;
- Appointment response time; and
- A measurement of preventive health measures supported and enacted by the health care plan.

Task force co-chair Mike Duncan, chief executive officer of University Physicians Medical Group, addressed the topic of information sharing between providers or doctors and the health plans. Such information sharing, he said, is limited.

"It's amazing to me," said Duncan, "how many times doctors are put in the position of just trying something" in an effort to treat patients. Doctors, he added, are often making decisions without the information they need, although such information may be readily available.

In a subcommittee discussion of the issue, Duncan reported that the following information from patients would help physicians to make better decisions:

- What other physicians they are seeing;
- What medications, prescription and nonprescription, they are taking; and
- A complete medical history.

Additionally, doctors in the subcommittee discussion suggested that information about the number of referrals other physicians were making to specific types of specialists would be helpful. Such information, Duncan said, could be used by the physician to see what areas they might need to "brush up" on or obtain additional training in.

Other helpful information identified by the

subcommittee included:

- Information concerning the results or outcomes of specialists' treatments;
- Costs per procedure; and
- Simplified explanations of plans' eligibility and benefit programs.

The task force plans to use the information gathered at Thursday's meeting and its other meetings to make a recommendation to the legislature for consideration during the 46th legislative session.

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ment. Dr. Smith added that he was concerned that some efforts, such as a recently enacted federal bill, would frustrate some companies' efforts to offer programs of their own.

Additionally, he said, plans that require employees to bear some of the initial costs of treatment, such as 50-50 copay programs, may do more harm than good.

"In those cases, because of the costs involved, you are not helping people to get the help they need," he explained. "If there is going to be parity, it must be true parity, where beneficiaries receive the same benefit they do for those plans involving physical health."

Dr. Smith also expressed reservations about treatment caps, which limit the amount of treatment an individual can receive under a specific plan. Such caps, he said, also adversely affect the amount and quality of treatment a patient may receive.

Dr. Ron Krug, with the OU Health Sciences Center's Department of Psychiatry, addressed some of the cost issues often discussed during his testimony before the panel.

Much of the parity discussion, Dr. Krug said, focused on the high costs associated with the treatment of the chronically mentally ill.

"That really should not be an issue," he said, adding that advancement in treatment procedures had significantly reduced the cost involved in the treatment of mental illness, even for the chronically mentally ill.

"Historically," he added, "the costs of treating chronic patients has moved from the private sector to the public sector as the insurance coverage for those individuals has run out."

A recently conducted study, Dr. Krug added, concluded that avoiding such a shift resulted in significantly lower treatment costs.

The task force plans to continue its work this month and next month, before making a final recommendation to the legislature for its consideration.

COFFMAN REPORT CRITICAL OF "SYSTEM"

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Department of Human Services will be asked to improve its procedures for handling child abuse and welfare investigations as a result of a special task force's investigation into the department's handling of the Shane Coffman case.

"In my opinion," said Ken Lackey, Secretary of Human Services, "the people of Oklahoma should be outraged that a number of referrals were made to the Department of Human Services and to law enforcement and a child died."

The eight-year-old's partially-decomposed body was found in February buried in a freezer outside a trailer once occupied by his mother, her boyfriend and the little boy's siblings. An autopsy revealed the child died from injuries suffered during a severe beating or beatings and that he had been dead for as many as six months before his body was discovered.

Lackey, joined by Governor Frank Keating and members of the special task force appointed by the governor to review how the Department of Human Services and other agencies had handled the case, unveiled the findings of their study Friday. The task force concluded that the child abuse investigation and protection system failed Shane Coffman, due largely to its ineffective operation.

As an example, Lackey pointed to the fact that from 15 to 20 Department of Human Services social workers had been involved in child welfare cases involving the Coffman family over a 10-year period, that more than 20 referrals had been made to the department concerning the family, while law enforcement officials had received from three to six referrals about the family. According to Lackey, those involved in the case knew little or nothing about the previous reports and referrals or the steps taken involving the family.

"A lot of people knew about bits and pieces of the case," said Keating, who was briefed on the task force's findings, which filled a large three-ring binder, just before Lackey released a brief summary of the task force's findings and recommendations, "but they couldn't resolve it if they only saw bits and pieces."

What's needed, Keating said and Lackey agreed, is an approach that designates someone, preferably a law enforcement officer, as

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AGENCIES STUDY PLAN FOR MEDICAID FUNDS

By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■(GIT) State agency heads attended the presentation of a draft plan for changes in Medicaid funds distribution for the NeedsMet Committee of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, Tuesday. The funding plan was presented by Tracey Feild and

Hansine Fisher of the Institute for Human Services Management (IHSM) of Bethesda, MD.

The plan calls for:

- collaborative state agency (DHS, Juvenile Affairs, Mental Health, Foster Care, etc.) efforts to move funding for children and youth closer to the local level;

- eliminate duplication and fragmentation of services to clients;

- obtain more federal Medicaid funding through identification of services the federal program will finance with matching funds; and

- establish a state clearinghouse for all services to children and youth.

One agency head feels the plan has merit. Ken Lackey, executive director of Juvenile Affairs and Secretary of Health in Governor Keating's cabinet, said "It's a very worthwhile undertaking to look at additional sources of federal funding. Every agency should be interested."

"As a cabinet member and agency head of the office of Juvenile Affairs, we will set up a strike force and investigate the recommendations to see if we can access additional federal funds," Lackey said. "Historically, we have thought the regional office wouldn't let us use funds in the way they recommended. We're going to look at it immediately."

"Oklahoma isn't organized to coordinate resources in the manner suggested," Lackey continued. "If it happens, it has to be a purely voluntary effort."

Because of fragmentation at the local level, Lackey said, "many families receive benefits from more than one agency. In today's environment, local entities need to play a larger role in delivering services."

"The key," Lackey said, "is involving local entities and coordinating resources." He called the plan an excellent first step; but said, "the problem isn't the recommendations, it's the implementation. I'm going to try to use what information I have to get other agencies to work together."

Stumbling blocks to implementation of the plan, as explained by IHSM, include:

- "The structure of the executive branch of government — where agency directors report to boards instead of to the Governor — is similar to only a handful of states," the report said. "This structure appears to result in service fragmentation and inefficiency, in that no single individual, i.e. the Governor, is accountable for services to families and children."

- "The structure appears to work against the concept of interagency collaboration," the report continues. "Hence, agency staff run their own service systems with little collaboration across systems, or recognition of how collaboration at the local level might more efficiently and effectively serve chil-

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the lead agent in child abuse investigations.

"All the facts, all the information must be seen by someone who is in charge of the case," Keating said, comparing such an investigatory style to his days with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"Nobody," Lackey added, "went back and looked at the chronic nature of the complaints involving this family."

According to the task force's findings, "An overview of the Shane Coffman case spans at least three generations, at least one mother and four father figures, several homes, both in Oklahoma and out-of-state, and multiple interactions with the family by DHS, law enforcement, medical professionals, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges and school personnel. It also involves citizens who failed to see what must have been a chaotic and painful environment for the Coffman children."

To address what Keating, Lackey and task force member John Foley said repeatedly was a failure of the system to work in the Coffman child's best interest, the task force made the following recommendations:

- The establishment of interdisciplinary teams in all areas of the state "in order to secure the advice and recommendations of multiple professionals in the area of child abuse and neglect, including members of the medical and mental health professions, law enforcement, child welfare and prosecution;"

- Removal of "all perceived legal and procedural barriers and restrictions which hinder meaningful, rapid and full exchanges of information between agencies and individuals therein;"

- Eliminating "institutional barriers which prevent investigators from accessing records of other agencies and/or states" and implementing a process by which cases of families for which reports have previously been received and closed are reviewed and, if warranted by the severity of the allegations, reassigned for investigation;

- The development of protocol and prac-

tice "to assess the totality of all risk factors involved, including the recognition that "[a] family's multiple referrals must be recognized as risk factors for serious and persistent family problems requiring a high priority response and a multidisciplinary review;"

- Requiring "members of each discipline involved with investigations, prosecutions and treatments" to, without fail, "read the entire case file regarding the family before making recommendations or decisions regarding filings, placement of disposition;"

- Coordination of prosecution of deprived cases with related criminal cases involving the same family;

- The elimination of the "many legal and economic barriers" that "defeat proper and timely access to medical and mental health professionals;" and

- The creation of a public policy which allows for oversight of home schooling.

"DHS needs to reshape its systems," said Keating, who faced intense questioning from reporters in light of his February statement that the state should be outraged by the death and that every effort would be made to find and address problems within the child welfare system.

Keating characterized the breakdown involved in the human services department handling of the case as a "gross failure," calling that "an indictment of the system."

Lackey agreed, saying, "The system fell down on the job."

Lackey also pointed his finger at law enforcement officials, who, like the Department of Human Services, had received a number of referrals involving in the Coffman family.

Had all that information been shared, Keating and Lackey repeatedly stressed, the outcome might have been different.

Ironically, the release of the report coincides with the effective date of HB2053, the so-called Ryan Luke bill, an attempt reform the child welfare system. That bill, Lackey said, would have had no affect on the Coffman case.

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STATE QUESTIONS MAY SURPRISE SOME VOTERS

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Some voters may be surprised on Tuesday when they receive their general election ballot.

In addition to deciding races for national and state offices, voters will be asked to consider approving a total of six state questions, three related to property tax reform and three others that have garnered much less attention.

State Question 670 would increase the number of signatures mandated by the state constitution to call a grand jury. Under current law, the number of signatures on a grand jury petition must equal one percent of the population of the county with a minimum of

200 signatures being required and a maximum of 500.

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.

The proposal was placed on the ballot in 1996 by SB651, by Sen. Larry Dickerson, D-Poteau, and Rep. Mike Mass, D-Hartshorne.

Speaking on the floor of the Senate, Dickerson called the proposed requirements "reasonable," saying that if the need for a grand jury is real that the petition circulators should not have a problem obtaining the additional signatures. Additionally, he said, the proposal might serve as a deterrent to what might be frivolous efforts to convene grand juries.

State Question 671, which arose from HJR1010, by Rep. Betty Boyd, D-Tulsa, and Sen. Angela Monson, D-Tulsa, would amend the state constitution to allow multi-year contracts not to exceed three years for school superintendents. Currently, school districts are limited to one-year contracts with their superintendents.

The problem, Boyd said on the House floor, is that school districts run the risk of losing good superintendents when they can employ them for only one-year at a time. An extended contract, the Tulsa lawmaker said, would help ensure continuity and would give

districts a way to protect their employment of highly sought after superintendents.

State Question 674 would establish constitutional rights for the victims of crime and the family members of victims of crime, including:

- The right to know the status of prosecution and investigation;
- The right to know the location of the defendant from arrest through the serving of a sentence;
- The right to be present at proceedings where the defendant has a right to be present;
- The right to be informed when a defendant escapes or is released; and
- The right to be heard at sentencing and parole hearings.

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 right guaranteed to victims by the constitutional amendment, including the authority to extend any of the rights to juvenile proceedings and, if enacted by the legislature, youthful offender proceedings.

Rep. Wayne Pettigrew, R-Edmond, and Sen. Brooks Douglass, R-Oklahoma City, proposed the question in SJR24.

Many of the provisions included in the questions, Douglass has said, resulted from his own experiences as a victim of crime. Douglass' parents were killed and he and his sister were shot during a 1979 burglary of his parents' home. One of the perpetrators of that attack, Steven Hatch, was executed earlier this year. Douglass witnessed the execution under the terms of another bill he authored.

Passage of the questions requires majority approval by the voters.

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dren and families.

- "Federal funding sources are typically viewed as the domain of the state agency through which they pass, resulting in a loss of federal tax revenues returned to the state.

- "Oklahoma has some cutting-edge initiatives," the report said, "but public agencies are not always involved in them.

- "Fragmentation of services at the local level results in inefficiencies. Families involved with more than one state agency" are sometimes "required to meet mandates of agencies that are duplicative" or conflicting."

RECOMMENDATIONS

To solve some of the problems keeping Oklahoma from utilizing more federal funds for children and youth, the plan recommends:

- "All interagency planning and collaboration efforts should be coordinated through a single body. . . which should spearhead the planning process for each interagency effort.

- "Oklahoma should encourage local planning, collaboration and integration efforts through flexible funding for children and families, rather than categorical funding tied to specific program models.

- "Contract funding across agencies could be merged into a single pot," with constraints on the funds set into the contract between state and regional or district entity, the report said.

The recommendations concluded with, "With one out of five Oklahoma children living in poverty, federal fund maximization should be vigorously pursued.

"In conclusion, there is significant room for maneuvering within the current managed care waivers."

TAX REFORM FILLS THREE BALLOT SLOTS

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Oklahoma voters will end 1996 much the same way they began it — Talking about and voting on property tax reform initiatives.

On Tuesday, voters will decide the fate of three state questions — 675, 676 and 677 — proposed by the legislature and designed to provide what many say is much need property tax relief.

The questions' proposal, contained in HB2198, by Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore and Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko, developed from a series of recommendations

made by the Citizens Task Force on Property Taxation. Created in 1995, the 30-member citizens task force met for nearly a year and formulated a series of recommendations for legislative consideration.

The questions' consideration by voters comes after a heated campaign over another property tax initiative, SQ669. The proposal, which would have rolled back property taxes to 1993 levels, was soundly defeated in all 77 Oklahoma counties, thanks in large part to an aggressive campaign against the measure by some business and industry leaders.

Eight months later, the two sides that

See Tax Reform, page 6

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) State Republican leaders were brimming with optimism in July when the number of Republican candidates outpaced the number of Democratic candidates filing for office.

As the general election neared, however, some of that optimism faded. Gone now is the claim that the GOP might wrest control of the state House of Representatives from the Democrats (a claim some Republicans

AND THE WINNER IS ... ?

were reluctant to make even in July). In its place is the assertion that the state's minority party will retain control of the veto in the House of Representatives and the prediction that the party will gain some seats in both the House and the Senate.

Democrats currently hold a 35 to 32 seat advantage over Republicans in the state legislature, including an 18 to 6 advantage in seats not up for election in the Senate and a 3 to 1 advantage in Senate races already decided. In the House, where this year's big

campaign trail battles are being waged, Republicans hold a one seat advantage, 15 to 14, among the seats already decided.

Quinita Wylie, executive director of the Oklahoma Republican Party, and Pat Hall, executive director of the Oklahoma Democratic Party, each expressed confidence about their respective party's chances in Tuesday election, as one might expect. Here's how they see it.

STATE SENATE

"We'll keep the seats we have without any problem," said Wylie of races for the state Senate. "Beyond that, I think we have a shot at picking up maybe as many as four seats.

"I would say we have a real good shot at two of those, and there are two others in which our campaigns are going really well."

Pressed for information about which seats she was speaking, Wylie joked, "We don't want to give away our game plan."

Hall expressed much the same reluctance about talking in specifics, although he said some GOP claims that certain Democrats were in danger of losing their seats are exaggerated. Without prompting, Hall said Republicans had talked about picking up as many as five or six seats, including two which were vacated, District 33 held by Penny Williams, of Tulsa, and districts 15, 37 and 49, held by Trish Weedn, of Duncan; Lewis Long, of Glenpool; and Don Williams, of Balco, respectively.

"We're going to keep our super majority in the Senate," said Hall, "and in my opinion, we will either pick up one or lose one."

Democrats outnumbered Republicans 32 to 13 at the end of the 45th Legislature.

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wylie said she and her fellow Republicans are feeling good about their races for the state House of Representatives, where Democrats outnumbered Republicans 64 to 36 with one vacancy.

"We're feeling good, very good," Wylie said. "We've got a real good shot at 20 seats, I believe, and I sincerely think we will pick up eight to 10 seats at the minimum."

Wylie attributed that potential success to the efforts put forth by the candidates, both on the campaign trail and in fundraising efforts.

"These folks are out there doing everything right," said Wylie. "They're working hard and they're working smart."

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Tax Reform, continued from page 5

fought so bitterly over SQ669 have joined forces in support of the three new questions. Calling themselves Oklahomans for Property Tax Relief, the major players from both sides of the SQ669 debate have endorsed the passage of the questions on Tuesday's ballot.

Marion Garber, co-chair of the group and an opponent of SQ669, said in Sept. that the new state questions are "clearly in the best interest of the taxpayers of Oklahoma." Passage of the questions, said Garber and other members of the group, will provide financial stability, particularly for small businesses; increase economic development opportunities; and increase local control of property tax issues.

Members of the new coalition include the Oklahoma Association of Realtors; Oklahoma Farm Bureau; Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association; Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce; Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce; Tulsa Chamber of Commerce; National Federation of Independent Businesses; Oklahoma Business Council and the Oklahoma United Business Coalition.

While the battle over SQ669 was a bitter fight, no organized opposition has developed to the questions on the general election ballot. Additionally, newspaper endorsements have been numerous for the questions' passage, with only a few exceptions.

Following is a brief analysis of each question.

SQ 675

If approved by the voters, SQ675 would cap locally assessed real property tax ratios at 13.5 percent with a floor of 11 percent and place 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.

SQ 676

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 would 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 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.

SQ677

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. 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.

All of the proposed state questions have a Jan. 1, 1997, effective date if approved.

FARM BUREAU DRAFTS RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNTIES

By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Members of the resolutions committee of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau this week drafted resolutions and recommendations for action at the annual conference in Tulsa, Nov. 17-19.

Scott Bulling, director of governmental relations, said nearly 600 resolutions were approved at the county level and studied by the committee. "Every resolution that passed a county annual meeting can be brought up on the floor" at the annual meeting, Bulling said.

Tax relief and effective programs to combat rural crime were high on the list for Farm Bureau members this year. Other often-mentioned issues included private property rights, predator species of wildlife, estate tax exemption and lobbying with tax dollars.

Specifically, Bulling said, taxes are on the minds of county members, who want a complete elimination of the federal capital gains tax, or a \$500,000 capital gains exemption. Another tax burden members want eased is the estate tax. Although a \$600,000 exemption for farms and businesses became law today, members want the national limit raised to \$2 million.

The spending of tax dollars is closely watched. Many counties brought up the practice of public institutions using tax dollars to pay membership dues in organizations. County Farm Bureaus recommended measures be passed on the state level to ban the practice.

Farmers and ranchers are opposed to the state or national introduction or release of predators in rural areas. Bulling mentioned pet cougars and mountain lions which get too big to be pets being released into the wild, causing problems for ranchers with their livestock. The recommendation, Bulling said, covers all predators, including, wolves released in western states.

Committee members had a few ideas about programs to combat rural crime. They recommend all releases of prisoners, whether early or not, go through the state parole board. About rural crime, Bulling said members are worried about the increase in crime in rural areas of Oklahoma. The subject will be discussed at the annual meeting, he said.

Committee members sorted and processed the resolutions Tuesday and Wednesday, and came up with these and other recommendations for the state meeting. Delegates from all 77 counties will participate in determining organizational policy for 1977.

All proposals were studied at the county level, where individual members voiced concerns and possible solutions. Voting delegates at the annual meeting will decide the fate of many issues.

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For his part, Hall is confident the House will remain in the control of Democrats.

"Back at filing," he said, "Republicans were talking about getting control of the House, then they cut the number of seats they thought they might pick up to around 15, and now they're talking about six."

"I don't think we'll see movement in more than six seats," Hall added, "meaning we'll pick up three."

CORPORATION COMMISSION

One seat on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission is up for grabs — Literally.

Wylie is confident that incumbent Ed Apple, R-Duncan, will reclaim the seat, while Hall is certain challenger Wanda Jo Peltier, D-Oklahoma City, has the post locked up.

But neither Apple nor Peltier have shown a substantial lead in either partisan or non-partisan polls conducted since the July filing period.

The race has been one of the most hotly contested in the state this year, particularly in the waning days of the campaign. In press conferences, news releases and radio and television advertising, Apple has accused Peltier of attempting to mislead the public and of hiding the source of some of her campaign funding. Peltier has charged that Apple is controlled by special interest groups, evidenced by both his votes and campaign finances.

It is the impression left by those messages, particularly those being aired in the last week of the campaign, that will likely be the deciding factor when voters step into the voting booth on Tuesday.

Peltier surprised some observers when she threw her hat into the ring. Others, however, noting her position was a consumer advocate, say it's a natural progression for the lawmaker.

Apple, who was appointed by Governor Frank Keating to fill the post when J.C. Watts was elected to Congress, seemed assured reelection until Peltier joined the race.

COMMISSION REVIEWS APPLICANTS

By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The State Fire Marshal Commission met Friday to review finances and discuss hiring of a State Fire Marshal. Of the 16 original candidates for the position, Chairperson Kelley Mattocks said "the field has been narrowed to 25 percent of those and resume acceptance has been closed. All were qualified," she noted. "We had a very good field of candidates from which to choose." A decision could be made as early as December, Mattocks said.

To save money, the commission made the following personnel decisions, which eliminated pay for three FTEs:

- Leave the assistant fire marshal's position unfilled;
- Do not fill the investigator position in Elk City; and
- Do not fill the public education position.

These decisions were necessary to keep the budget in line with the 19 percent shortfall in funds requested for the fiscal year. The 1997 budget request was \$1,213,035; funds actually appropriated were \$985,709.

Other cost-cutting measures approved included cutting:

- all travel for training and most training;
- all protective clothing;
- safety supplies;
- computers and software; and
- microfilming.

Expenditures from the following accounts are to be reduced as much as possible: PikePass, postage, telephone, office supplies, printing, motor pool and equipment.

A change in operating policy includes:

- Increasing turn-around time on plans review from 10 to 20 working days;
- Restricting the 800 number calls to requests for help from fire chiefs, sheriffs and arson hot line calls. All others will need to pay for the call to this office.
- Monitoring request calls and responding only to fire deaths and known suspects after hours; and
- Stopping agents from receiving requests for service at home.

"It is not enough to do good; one must do it in the right way."

John Morley
Rousseau, 1876

COMMERCE MOVES TO NEW HOME

From Okla. Dept. of Commerce

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) An historic Oklahoma City building has become the new home of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. The move to the building at 900 N. Stiles, which was built during Oklahoma's first years of statehood, was completed Oct. 31.

"We believe this facility is an ideal showcase that makes a bold statement both about Oklahoma's strong heritage and our outlook toward the future," Commerce Executive Director Leo Presley, said. "Having a nearly ninety-year-old building harmoniously and functionally converted and expanded into an ultramodern office makes this building very unique, while also making a positive statement about where we've been and where we're going."

The facility was originally constructed as the 7,000 square foot home of the Maywood Presbyterian Church. During its first 70 years, the building served at least one other church congregation. In the 1980s, the structure was abandoned and derelict, in a blighted urban residential area.

The property and building were purchased by an Oklahoma City architectural firm which expanded the complex into 39,750 square feet, while retaining much of the original 1907 church structure and character. The result is a highly visible and striking center for the state's lead economic development efforts.

Several factors facilitated the new Commerce home. The opportunity to purchase the building and site rather than continuing to lease office space was a major consideration. According to department numbers, the acquisition will effectively lower Commerce's operating costs. The location—close to downtown Oklahoma City, the state capitol complex and the growing Oklahoma Health Center—was also a major factor in the decision.

Cost of the acquisition—structure, site, additional contiguous land plus previous owner furnishings in the building—totaled \$3 million. Commerce Secretary Rosenfeld said, "The new building and related property will be paid for by general obligation bonds issued by the state and sold to investors." Rosenfeld indicated total annual principal and interest payments for the bonds, operating costs and maintenance and repair budgets of the new location are estimated to be \$7,000 less than the annual lease cost of the building the department vacated.

BTR ANNOUNCES MAJOR EXPANSION

From Okla. Dept. of Commerce

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) BTR Sealing Systems North America announced a major expansion recently, to their Oklahoma operations. A \$3 million expansion to buy new equipment and the hiring of approximately 55 new employees was announced by company officials. The expansion at the company's plant in Frederick is an economic boom to the community of 5,500.

BTR began operating in Oklahoma in 1979, and currently employs 425. The plant manufactures products for the automotive industry, primarily rubber seals, which are used in a variety of applications for many vehicles manufactured by some of the major automakers in the U.S.

Plant Manager James Beane said, "We're obviously very pleased that business is going so well it necessitates an expansion of this nature. It's good business for BTR and the town of Frederick as well."

"When you have a firm that employs 10

percent of your population, you realize how important it is to maintain that relationship," said Frederick Mayor Leo Fallon.

The expansion has been a joint effort, said Chamber of Commerce Industrial Committee chairman William Crawford. "The city has been instrumental in the BTR expansion by assisting in upgrading electrical service to the plant, which will cost \$100,000. Since Frederick owns its own electric system, those costs will be recouped through electrical usage," he added. "In addition, the city helped secure a \$300,000 grant for the company through the Department of Urban Housing and Rural Development," Crawford said. "Those monies will be used to purchase additional equipment used in the manufacturing of seals."

The company will also benefit by taking advantage of Oklahoma's Investment/New Jobs tax credit. The program will provide a tax credit applied to their Oklahoma income tax each year for five years.

IMPROVE PAY SCALES FOR AMERICA'S WORKING WOMEN

From U.S. Dept. of Labor

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau has launched the Fair Pay Clearinghouse, a new initiative created in response to concerns voiced by over 250,000 working women in the Bureau's 1994 national Working Women Count! survey.

The Fair Pay Clearinghouse provides information and resources to working women and men, employers and other organizations who are concerned about fair pay. You can find out what organizations are working for fair pay in your state and nationally; get information on pay adjustments by employers who have implemented fair pay in traditionally female jobs; and review current data on the wage gap between women and men.

"Women across the country told the Labor Department they are not getting paid what they deserve—or what they need to support their families," says Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich. "Working women want their true value reflected in their paychecks, but all too often feel it is not. The Clearinghouse offers important resources to working women and others who are concerned about the way women's work is valued."

Access to the Fair Pay Clearinghouse is FREE. Workers, employers and organizations should call 1-800-347-3741. The Women's Bureau also strongly encourages

employers who have made pay adjustments and organizations working on the fair pay issue to call and share information on their efforts in traditionally female jobs.

"Improving pay scales is a top concern of America's working women and a top priority for the Women's Bureau," says Bureau head Ida L. Castro.

- Three out of four American women working full and part time get paid less than \$25,000 a year;

- About half of all women work in traditionally female, relatively-low paid jobs, as clerical workers, nurses, and child care workers; and

- Women retirees receive only one-half the average pension benefit received by men, in part because of a lifetime of unequal pay.

The Clearinghouse has information on traditionally female occupations; how working women of different races, ethnic origins, ages and educational backgrounds are paid; and how women who are represented by a union are paid.

Callers can also request two Fair Pay Clearinghouse publications. "Worth More Than We Earn: Fair Pay for Working Women," is an introduction to the wage gap, what causes it, how it increases over a working woman's lifespan and what employers, unions and working women are doing to

See Pay Scales, page 8

INDUSTRIES ANNOUNCE VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE TO REDUCE LEAD EXPOSURE

From U.S. Dept. of Labor

■(WASHINGTON) Two industry organizations have voluntarily lowered lead exposure limits, reducing health hazards to thousands of American workers.

The voluntary lead industry initiative was jointly announced this week by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Lead Industries Association, Inc. (LIA) and the Batter Council International (BCI), the two organizations that developed the program.

"Industry should better protect the health of its own workers," said Robert B. Reich, secretary of labor. "This is exactly the type of initiative and cooperation we want to foster between OSHA and American business."

Representatives of 33 companies, the vast majority of members of the two associations, have agreed to the program. The companies have 20,000 workers in such industries as battery manufacturing, lead smelting, lead chemicals, fabrication using lead, and solder manufacturing. Lead poisoning can have reproductive and neurological effects on workers.

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Joseph A. Dear, who administers OSHA, said the program responds to OSHA's efforts to find ways of improving worker health through voluntary industry action.

"This initiative by the lead industry will contribute to improving the health of exposed workers and to foster an atmosphere of cooperation between the industry and OSHA. OSHA supports its implementation," Dear said.

Robert J. Muth, chairman of the LIA and vice president of ASARCO, Inc., said, "The program represents an effort by the lead industry to take a leadership role in worker protection in cooperation with OSHA."

"Within five years, we aim to have 100 percent of our battery workers' blood lead levels below 40 ug/100g," said Graham G.

Spurling, president of BCI and president and CEO of GNB Technologies. "The industry will aggressively pursue these program objectives because our goal is not just to meet regulations, but to go beyond what's required."

John Baranski, chairman of the BCI Health Committee and vice president of Exide Corp., said, "The program will not be easy to implement and will involve the need for additional resources from the lead industry, including battery companies, but we feel the extra margin of safety provided to employees will justify the effort of those com-

panies participating."

The industry groups will give OSHA annual data indicating the progress made by their members in achieving the target levels set forth in the proposal. The plant-specific data will include pre-proposal baseline data and annual blood lead data and zinc protoporphyrin levels for each work position and work shift monitored. It also will include the number of workers placed on medical removal during the reporting period, the number returned to work during the period, and a brief description of the lead operations performed by reported workers.

GRANTS TO WORKPLACE LITERACY PARTNERS

From U.S. Dept. of Education

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley this week announced the award of \$12.4 million in grants to continue support for 45 projects in 27 states to help workers retool their skills to keep pace with changes in the workplace.

The grants will provide workers with literacy, English as a second language, computation, problem solving and other skills needed to perform job tasks effectively.

"We must ensure that every adult possesses the knowledge and literacy skills needed to succeed in the 21st century," Riley said. "These grants promote continuous learning through local partnerships that enable workers to acquire the job literacy skills that result in new employment, job retention, career advancement and increased productivity."

The grants, for example, have enabled First Chicago Corp., the city's largest employer, to provide some 4,000 employees with basic skills training programs to support quality initiatives and enhance employee performance, service accuracy, timeliness, reliability and customer satisfaction. Employees including clerks in remittance, payroll, research and adjustment, accounts payable and mail distribution have received training to enable them to work in teams and handle more responsibility in response to major technological changes in cash management, administrative functions and bank card processes. Grant funds also will be used to instruct tellers and customer personnel in the basic reading and math skills needed to handle increasingly complex financial services.

Another grant recipient, the Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System, is providing customized in-

struction leading to new employment and training opportunities and improved job performance for more than 2,000 workers in manufacturing, health care and electronics employed by 15 of the system's business partners. In addition, the consortium has published source books for workplace learning and a newsletter for workplace learning professionals, produced workplace learning videos and made presentations at conferences attended by workplace education professionals.

The National Workplace Literacy Program awards, authorized by the Adult Education Act, provide funding to partnerships involving at least one educational institution and one business or labor organization. Awards have been made to a variety of partnerships involving state education agencies, local schools, universities, community colleges, businesses, community based organizations, industries, labor unions and private industry councils.

The current awards are for the last year of a three year project period. Originally 18 months in duration, the National Workplace Literacy Program grant awards were lengthened to a three year period to develop and demonstrate work based curriculum and teaching methods, such as simulations and team learning approaches.

Pay Scales, cont. from page 7

close this gap. "What Works: Fair Pay for Working Women," profiles employers across the country — including states, counties, cities and private employers who have improved pay scales for women (and men) in traditionally female jobs by reducing or eliminating the role of gender and of race in wage-setting.

"Reformers can be as bigoted and sectarian and as ready to malign each other, as the Church in its darkest periods has been to persecute its dissenters."

*Elizabeth Cady Stanton—
speech on "The Kansas Campaign of
1867"*

That's Good for Oklahoma!®

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDUCATES CITIZENS, LAWMAKERS ON CORRECTIONS ISSUES

■(GIT) If there is anything on which lawmakers, the governor, other officials and the public agree, it is that corrections issues will be on the front-burner during the next legislative session.

In keeping with its goal of providing citizens and lawmakers with facts free of partisan or other influences, the League of Women Voters of Oklahoma launched a series of discussion groups to address the corrections crisis.

"We did this because we felt the citizens of Oklahoma needed to be involved in the understanding of the issue and in providing input for solutions," said Trish Frazier, executive director of the Oklahoma league.

The discussion series found immediate success in some 16 communities, drawing in hundreds of participants. "The response," Frazier said, "was simply overwhelming."

PROVIDING A FORUM

Everybody has an opinion about corrections, said Frazier, and most people are more than willing to share. The League's study circle program provided just the forum for that exchange of ideas.

"We had more than 80 people turn out in Weatherford," Frazier said. "That, by far, is the largest representation for a community that size. In Muskogee, there are 50 to 60 people involved and in Tulsa and Oklahoma City there are literally hundreds."

The format of the study circles has been simple, Frazier said. During the groups' first meetings, discussions focused on what those participating felt and believed the goals of the state's criminal justice system should be. From there, the groups were led into a discussion of how those goals compared to the facts about the corrections system. The final study circle meetings will focus on various alternatives that could be implemented to reach those goals.

"It's interesting sometimes," Frazier said, "because during a meeting you'll see an average citizen sitting beside a police officer who is sitting beside a judge. They're each listening to what the other has to say, so you have the police officer and the judge learning what the public wants and you have citizens learning what the police and judicial system are doing. It can be extremely educational."

Such exchanges are important in light of anticipated changes in the criminal justice and corrections systems, Frazier said.

"I think everyone agrees that we are going to see some major changes over the next few years, and that those changes are going to come at the state level, as well as the local level. Involvement like this, this kind of dialogue, gives local authorities the chance to see what their citizens think they should be doing."

PRESENTING THE FACTS

Frazier laughs when she talks of the nonpartisan approach utilized by the League in its presentation of information. Facts, she said, rather than interpretation or manipulation, are the cornerstone of the League's efforts.

It was that belief that led Frazier and another member of the League to write a 40-plus-page book called *Balancing Justice: A Citizen Fact-Book on Oklahoma's Corrections System*.

The League started out with the idea of doing a fact sheet about the corrections system. "That developed into a pamphlet and the more work we did and the more information that we gathered, it became apparent that we were looking at much more information."

The book, which is presented to study circle participants after their first meeting focusing on the goals of the criminal justice system, addresses every aspect of the state's corrections program, including.

"After the study circle participants discuss the goals of the criminal justice system and have had time to review the fact book," Frazier explained, "we want them to compare that information to what they said the goals should be and see how the system stacks up."

The information contained in the book, Frazier stressed, is nonbiased, based on work with the Department of Corrections and others involved in the corrections system.

AIDING THE LEGISLATURE AND THE PUBLIC

Ultimately, Frazier said, the point of the study circle effort on corrections is simple: To influence public policy.

"It's not that we want any one particular plan adopted," she explained, "but it's that we want our lawmakers, as well as our citizens, to take a serious look at the system and give serious consideration to ways to address its problems."

Frazier points to the opening question posed to the panels as an example — What are the goals of the criminal justice system?

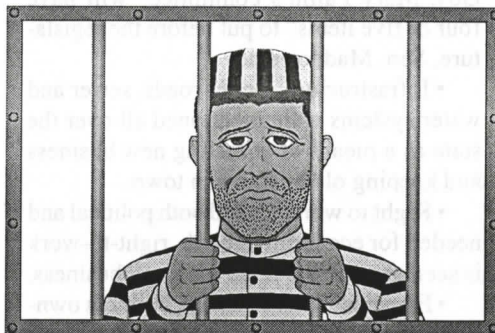
"When was the last time you heard a legislature ask that question or make a statement about the system's goals?" she asked. "It doesn't happen very often. Instead, you have one law passed one year and another passed another year and neither of them may be considered with a specific goal or plan in mind."

Frazier said the recommendations generated by the study circles will be passed on to lawmakers for their consideration. That, however, is not the most important aspect of the program, Frazier added.

"More than anything, the point of this is to inform the public about the situation involving the corrections system and to inform them about the alternatives that exist. That way when a proposal is advanced at the legislature, whether the citizen is for it or against it, they will feel comfortable calling their representative or senator and expressing their opinion. That is the most important thing that we can do."

The League of Women Voters of Oklahoma has long established itself as a nonbiased and nonpartisan source of information about important issues facing the state and its citizens. By embarking on a major program to educate the public, lawmakers and other leaders about the criminal justice and corrections system of the state — a likely area of intense consideration during the next legislative session — the League is once again living up to that long established standard.

THAT'S GOOD FOR OKLAHOMA!!



STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY

BUSINESS & LABOR

SENATE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE HEARS NEEDS

■(GIT) After a number of meetings across the state, Sen. Jim Maddox, D-Lawton, and his Senate Small Business Committee have a pretty good idea what small business owners want in the way of legislation.

Wednesday, lawmakers listened to another group of business owners in a public hearing at MetroTech in Oklahoma City.

Agreeing the legislature can help small business, Senator Dave Herbert, D-Midwest, spoke briefly on what small business owners can do to help themselves. "It's a copout," Herbert said, "to say you're too busy making a living to become political. I got in politics because government got involved in my business, and I decided I wanted to be the one to make the decisions.

Jack Moore, a small business owner in Norman, said, "it's true. Business people don't have time to get involved. A simple boy like me can't track a bill. You could help small business by simplifying the bill process. We operate under a different dynamic. Small business survives by the absence of laws," he concluded.

Senator Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City, responded. "It doesn't take all day, every day. Take the time to make a simple phone call or send a letter or fax. Let us know how you feel. Be informed. Let us know your position, not the position of your association."

Requests from those present added to the fund of knowledge already available. One of the new ideas mentioned was expansion of the Training for Industry Program (TIPS), which is designed to help pay for training for new employees in the manufacturing sector. One business owner requested that TIPS also be available for re-training employees to new technology and keep current with requirements for various licenses. The TIPS program is funded by the state and training is done by the vo-tech schools.

"We need to hear about programs that work," Herbert said. "I've never seen the

legislature fail to respond when we have documented evidence a program works."

Another business owner wants the legislature to consider tax credits to employers for training employees.

Over the last months, small businesses have repeatedly requested help with the following issues:

- Worker's compensation reform: Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin's committee "will have four or five items" to put before the legislature, Sen. Maddox said.

- Infrastructure: Better roads, sewer and water systems were mentioned all over the state as a means of attracting new business and keeping old business in town.

- Right to work: Called both political and needed for economic growth, right-to-work is seen as a central issue for small business.

- Franchise tax: Abolish it, business owners said. "It is more of a hassle than anything," one business owner said.

- High-tech incentives: Promote training for high-tech small businesses, enhance incentives for companies to come to Oklahoma.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/30/96

LEGISLATION PASSED IN THE 45th SESSION THAT BENEFITS SMALL BUSINESS

■(GIT) Sixteen bills passed last session will be of benefit to small business, indeed all business. They are bills geared to economic development. Following are the bill numbers and a short explanation:

SB679: Includes electric motor vehicle property for purposes of the income tax credit for converting vehicles powered by conventional fuels. Also extends the amount of credit at 50 percent of the conversion expense, and provides an effective tax credit until 2002.

SB689: Continues the Quality Jobs Program, Saving Quality Jobs and Former Military Facility Development Acts, by removing their sunset provisions. The bill requires the Oklahoma Dept. of Commerce to submit a report every three years documenting the results of these programs and their cost effectiveness.

SB711: Creates a Master Business License System Task Force to study business licensing process in Oklahoma. Members of state agencies who deal with business licenses and permits and business people are on the task force. Recommendations to

streamline the process must be presented to the Governor and legislature by January 1, 1998. The report will include a design for creating a one-stop computerized business license system and a cost-benefits analysis of the design.

SB730: Provides that if improvements, other than buildings, are made in anticipation of residential or commercial development and the property is not conveyed before January 1 of the first assessment year, the property will be valued at the lower of the fair cash value with improvements or the fair cash value before improvements.

SB907: Adds establishments which provide adjustment and collection services for loans made primarily by out of state debtors to the definition of a basic industry which qualifies for the Quality Jobs Program Act.

SB911: Includes tax credits for extending the life of marginal oil wells. The bill provides a six-seventh gross production tax credit for certified "economically at-risk oil leases." The tax commission certifies the leases according to requirements of the act and the exemption applies only if the price of oil is under \$20.00 per barrel. The bill was called Project ALARM, for Adding Life to At-Risk Marginal Wells.

SB921: Omnibus tax bill exempts many heretofore taxed entities from sales tax.

SB982: Requires the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce to jointly establish a strategic plan for promoting and marketing value-added agricultural products processed in Oklahoma.

SB1111: Increases the estate tax exemption for lineal heirs of a farm or business from \$175,000 to \$600,000.

SB1310: The prime vehicle for amendments to the Worker's Compensation Act.

HB1434: Called the Rural Economic Action Plan of 1996, the bill establishes three grant programs for local infrastructure projects to municipalities with a population of 7,000 or less.

HB1947: Authorizes interstate branching of state-chartered and national banks into and out of Oklahoma, beginning May 31, 1997.

HB2146: Omnibus economic development bill which reserves 25 percent of the Qualified Small Issue Pool for bond issuers providing financing for small business equipment, among other provisions.

HB2798: Amends the Small Business Linked Deposit Act to allow an increase in

Continued on next page

"Change is not made without inconvenience, even from worse to better."

Richard Hooker

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

the principal of a linked small business loan when the loan is renewed if the business is expanding and additional jobs will be created.

HB2959: Provides three separate tax incentives for agriculture-related investments.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/30/96

CORRECTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS RECOUNTING PRISON BEDS

■(GIT) The number of available beds in Oklahoma's prison system will effectively increase or decrease within the next two months when the Board of Corrections accepts a new board legal capacity number.

"It has been some time since the capacity number was certified by the board," corrections board chairman Mike Roark said in an interview with *Capitol Network News*.

Roark said the number has fluctuated because of decisions to add to and subtract from the previously accepted number. Some of those decisions resulted from added space, while other decisions were based on changing health and fire safety codes and requirements of the American Corrections Association, which accredits prison systems.

The new number is expected to be determined sometime this week or next, said Jerry Massie, public information officer for the Department of Corrections.

Massie said the issue will likely be before the board no later than its scheduled meeting in December, although the possibility exists that a special meeting could be called in November to discuss the issue and other corrections matters.

Currently, the board certified legal capacity is 11,369 inmates, Massie said. Nearly 15,000 inmates are currently incarcerated in the prison system, Massie added, putting the state prison system at 131 percent of capacity, its highest ever.

Asked how the new number will compare with a private consultant's review of the state's prison system, Roark said, "I think it will dovetail into that effort. We don't know what conclusions that review is going to come to and we don't know that specific capacity numbers will be a part of that. If anything, I think the two efforts will complement one another and will be more enlightening."

Another reason underlies the effort, too, Roark said: His desire to build confidence

in the Department of Corrections, which has been the subject of heated discussions as of late.

"When I became chairman of the Board of Corrections," Roark explained, "that was one of my primary goals. I wanted the department to improve on its credibility with state leaders and with the public. I think we're doing that."

"I think it's important that we renew the confidence of everyone we work with."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/29/96

EDUCATION

GARRETT DISPUTES KEATING ON EDUCATION ISSUES

■(GIT) Oklahoma's Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor continue to have differing opinions over the state of public education and ways it might be made better.

Speaking to members of the Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators earlier this month, Governor Frank Keating again criticized the state of public education in Oklahoma, rattling off a lengthy list of statistics to prove his point, and renewed his call for education's improvement through school choice, charter schools, and tougher curriculum.

The governor's assessment of public schools, however, is not shared by Sandy Garrett, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Speaking to reporters last week, the state superintendent was reluctant to openly criticize Keating's ideas, but stopped short of fully embracing them, saying that in many respects the governor's goals were already being pursued.

On the issue of school choice, which the governor said would allow parents to remove their children from poorly performing schools and to place them in higher performing ones, Garrett said, "We are a state of public school choice, but it's a local choice."

Specifically, the superintendent noted, some 28,000 public school students were allowed to move from one school to another during the current academic year. The only barrier to such transfers, she said, was the number of students already attending some schools.

Garrett's position on charter schools, institutions which implement new teaching techniques, was similar. The superintendent

said she "stands in support of charter schools," but added, "I'm not certain we need a law to do it."

During Thursday's state school board meeting, Garrett pointed to the alternative school system as another example of charter school efforts. Calling it "the most promising program the state has ever invested in," Garrett said, "It is similar to what other states are doing in the area of charter schools, because it gives the students involved a greater chance for success."

The issue on which Garrett and Keating appear closest to agreement is that of tougher academic standards and curriculum. Earlier this year, the governor advanced what he calls his "4x4" proposal, requiring high school students to take four years of math, science, English and social studies.

Garrett, however, said the state already has a similar proposal in place that requires school districts to offer four years of instruction in each of the identified subject areas. The only difference, Garrett explained, is that students are not required to take the courses.

"It is something," Garrett said, "that we can talk about."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/29/96

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION EXPECTED SOON ON EDUCATION FUNDS

■(GIT) State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sandy Garrett told members of the state school board that she expects the state's attorney general will soon release his opinion on the expenditure of certain funds currently being withheld from the education department.

While explaining a \$2.6 million proposed budget item for professional development, Garrett told the board that her request for an attorney general's opinion on whether money appropriated for the 1997 fiscal year could be spent despite the governor's veto of a bill directing the funds' expenditure was scheduled for discussion last week by the attorney general and his staff, possibly setting the stage for its release.

The opinion is expected to determine the fate of \$4.3 million allocated for staff development, as well as other funds.

At issue is a move by the Office of State Finance to withhold from the state educa-

Continued on next page

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



tion department some \$6 million of the \$116.5 million appropriated in SB800. Citing the governor's veto of SB1100, which provided the mechanism for the expenditure of some of the funds appropriated in SB800, the Office of State Finance "has closed that money off to us. We don't have access to it," Garrett explained in June.

The veto affected not only the expenditure of the \$4.3 million allocated to staff development, but also \$900,000 for teacher stipends, \$500,000 for arts and humanities institutions and \$250,000 for Great Expectations grants.

The governor's veto of SB1100 also affected the proposed pay raises for career teachers, which the governor has said he supports. Like the continuing teacher training programs, SB1100 outlined the way in which the money appropriated for the salaries was to be spent at the district level, adding steps 16 to 25 to the teacher salary ladder with each step accompanied by a \$332 annual raise. The governor's veto effectively eliminated the additional steps.

State Finance Director Tom Daxon, however, said the \$13 million appropriated for career teachers' salaries in SB800 is not directed at the state level by SB1100.

"It goes to the school districts," Daxon said. "It's a form of deregulation because their hands are not tied as to how they can spend it."

During his appearance before the Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators, several career teachers in the audience complained to Keating that they had not received raises, despite the appropriation of funds to their local districts.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/30/96

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

REFORM PARTY SUES STATE ELECTION BOARD

■(GIT) The Reform Party of Oklahoma filed suit in federal district court on Monday against the state election board, alleging that the board and its members acted illegally when they failed to have new voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications printed that included the party as a recognized party.

The suit accuses the defendants of unlawful, discriminatory, arbitrary and capricious

behavior in relationship to the Republican and Democratic parties by failing to print proper voter registration forms and for failure to properly instruct Oklahoma tag agents, their employees and other voter registrars on how to assist voters in registering as members of the Reform Party of Oklahoma. Named as defendants in the suit are Oklahoma State Election Board Secretary Lance Ward; board chairwoman Glo Henley, board vice chair Kenneth Monroe, board member Mona Lambird and the state election board.

Specifically, the suit, which is based on state and federal equal protection statutes, alleges that the defendants failed to inform tag agents and other voter registrars that the Reform Party of Oklahoma existed under the law, failed to list the Reform Party on official voter registration application forms, failed to list the Reform Party on absentee ballot application forms, failed to inform voters of their right to register as Reform Party members and failed to amend public notices in places of voter registration to list the Reform Party as a legal party in Oklahoma.

"The underlying issue related to this suit is that, with the failure of the State Election Board to even notify tag agencies and other state registrars of the legal existence of the Reform Party, let alone to provide them with the necessary forms and instructions on how people could actually register, it was impossible for us to begin to build our party rolls even though last spring nearly 78,000 Oklahomans signed a petition that made the Reform Party legal, said Dale Barlow, chairwoman of the Reform Party of Oklahoma. "These actions by established politicians who control registration procedures have resulted in the ability for Republicans and Democrats to call all their members to get out the vote when we, the Reformers — their new competition — have been denied the same ability because we have been left with virtually no one to call."

The suit, which is being handled by Tulsa attorney Jim Linger, who was described by one Reform Party member as a "ballot access specialist," asks the court to:

- ✓ Declare the election board's actions unconstitutional;
- ✓ Issue preliminary and permanent injunctions as may be necessary to end the unconstitutional actions;

✓ Issue writs of prohibition and mandamus against state election board officials and personnel, requiring that voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications and voter registration notices that fail to identify the Reform Party as a recognized party in Oklahoma be destroyed and replaced;

✓ Award reasonable costs and expenses to the party, including attorneys' fees; and

✓ Provide further relief to which the party is deemed to be entitled and is found to be equitable by the court.

A hearing date for the suit had not been set at presstime. Additionally, Ward said he had not yet been served notice of the suit's filing. As a result, Ward withheld comment until he had time to review the suit.

Earlier this month, Ward explained to *Capitol Network News* the reason the forms did not contain the two parties' names.

First, he said, the parties were recognized in June, when only a few days would be open for new voters to register. Voter registry books were then closed from late August to early October because of ongoing elections, including the Aug. 27 statewide primary and the Sept. 17 primary runoff. The longest time during which new voters could register since the parties' recognition lasted two weeks, beginning in late September and ending Oct. 11. Secondly, Ward said, more than one million voter registration forms were already printed and in the hands of voter registrars, including not only tag agents, but also party officials, student groups, civic groups and others.

Those factors, combined with the fact that each party's presidential candidate must capture at least 10 percent of the vote in the general election to remain on the ballot as recognized political parties, made it impractical to reprint the forms, Ward said.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/28/96

HOUSE STAFF REPORT SAYS GOVERNOR'S REIMBURSEMENT RATE TOO LOW

■(GIT) A study conducted by the fiscal director of the Oklahoma House of Representatives concludes that the rate of reimbursement for Governor Frank Keating's use of a state-owned airplane for political events may be too low.

The study, conducted at the request of Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, by House fiscal

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



director Greg Sawyer, examines not only the governor's use of state-owned and state-leased aircraft for political purposes, but also examines the use of such aircraft by others not employed by the state and by the governor and his family members, among other things.

According to the report, "The average actual fuel cost of operating the Governor's aircraft is \$202.24 per hour. This is based upon the information in the logs for actual flights of the KingAir new aircraft from July 19, 1996, through Sept. 28, 1996," Sawyer wrote in a four-page report to Roach. "Secondly, a commercial charter firm quoted staff a price of \$820.94 plus \$40 per hour ground time for a round trip to Lawton (approximately 1 hour round trip) on aircraft identical to the Governor's. Therefore, it appears that the Governor's quoted operating cost of \$175 is understated. Moreover, his reimbursement rates also appear to be less than sufficient to cover actual costs."

Sawyer cautions that additional information, some of which has been requested but not provided by the Department of Public Safety or the governor's office, "is needed to ascertain the appropriate reimbursement costs."

Keating put the \$175 per hour price tag on the cost of operating the state-owned aircraft earlier this month when he admitted that he used state-owned aircraft to travel to 23 GOP candidates' fund-raisers. According to the governor and his staff, as many as 10 of those candidates and one county political group will be asked to reimburse the state for the fuel costs associated with traveling to the events because the events were "strictly political."

An Aug. 6 memorandum from the Department of Public Safety's executive security division, on which the governor's office indicated it will base its reimbursement requests after the Nov. 5 general election, states, "The cost of fuel for the new state plane could be calculated at \$168 per flying hour. Use this amount when determining reimbursement for plane usage."

The date of the memorandum coincides with Keating's trip to San Diego to attend the Republican National Convention, a trip for which the state was reimbursed, according to the governor's office.

Other conclusions of the report include:

- There were at least nine instances of

non-state officials being on the aircraft, including one particular flight when the governor was not present;

- There were seven flights that included only members of the governor's family and for which flight logs have not been provided to House staffers by the Department of Public Safety;

- The governor's wife has used the aircraft alone at least 17 times;

- On more than 45 occasions, the plane was flown without passengers, including trips where the sole purpose appears to have been to pick up either the governor or his wife; and

- There were several instances where the airplane was flown very short distances to provide transport services, such as flying from Wiley Post Airport to Will Rogers Airport, Tulsa Riverside to Tulsa International, Sand Springs to Tulsa Riverside and Tulsa to Claremore.

Roach is one of several lawmakers who have been critical of the governor's use of state-owned or leased aircraft and has pledged to propose legislation to set guidelines for the aircraft's usage.

In a modification of his previous position, Keating said last week that he would be willing to meet with the legislative leadership to set what he called "a fair compensation schedule" for the plane's usage on political trips.

On Friday, Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Stratton Taylor, D-Claremore, voiced his concern about the trips, saying, "I haven't seen all the facts in the case, but I must admit I was surprised to learn the state plane was being used to transport Governor Keating to partisan political events."

Like Roach and other lawmakers, Taylor said he believes the governor should have a plane for official business trips, "but clearly there need to be some specific ground rules in place to ensure the transportation privileges aren't abused. I'm eager to meet with Governor Keating as soon as possible to discuss this matter."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/28/96

"Talents are best nurtured in solitude: character is best formed in the stormy billows of the world."

Goethe

ATTORNEY GENERAL, AUDITOR ASKED TO PROBE PLANE'S PURCHASE, USE

■(GIT) Oklahoma's attorney general and its state auditor and inspector were asked Tuesday to investigate the state's purchase of an airplane for the governor's office and the governor's use of that aircraft.

Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa, made the request after nearly a month of criticism leveled against Governor Frank Keating and his use of a recently purchased state airplane.

"After a tip last Thursday, we uncovered and confirmed evidence which indicated that the bidding process for the airplane was highly suspicious and apparently deceptive, if not illegal," said Roach.

Roach has asked Attorney General Drew Edmondson to:

- Examine the administrative process by which the Department of Public Safety bought a Beech 1990 King Air 350 for the governor in a \$2.9 million lease/purchase that appears to have been manipulated; and

- Determine whether personal and political flights Keating has taken aboard the plane were improper.

Of State Auditor and Inspector Clifton Scott, Roach asked that a fair and equitable reimbursement rate that Republican candidates should pay for flights Keating has taken this year to GOP fund-raisers throughout the state be determined and whether the first family should reimburse the state for personal trips aboard the aircraft.

Roach's so-called "tip" may have originated from Keating's press conference last week. Following a question from *Capitol Network News* concerning a civilian pilot who either piloted or co-piloted the state-owned plane on at least five occasions this year, Keating said, "I know a number of the people" affiliated with the company from which the plane was purchased, TulsAir Beechcraft, identifying the company's president, Tom G. Clark, by first name.

Clark, Roach said citing Ethics Commission reports, contributed at least \$2,450 to Keating's gubernatorial campaign in 1994, including cash and air travel in-kind services. Additionally Roach said, state ledgers show the company has been paid almost \$12,500 this year by the state, including at least \$4,000 of business prior to the state's purchase of the airplane and \$8,488 of business since the plane's purchase.

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

Roach takes particular issue with the specifications in the Department of Public Safety's invitation to bid, saying they "were written so tightly that they obviously referred to one particular airplane owned by one particular company."

An inspection procedure performed on the plane was word-for-word with the one demanded in the bid specifications and the plane's inventory of avionics equipment was identical to that required in the specifications, Roach said.

According to Roach, a Department of Public Safety official reportedly told a House staffer, "The governor knew what airplane he wanted, and we got it for him."

Such actions, if true, Roach said, seem to have violated the spirit if not the letter of the law.

By comparison, Roach added, an easily accessible Internet home page lists more than two dozen similar planes that were on the market for sale last week. One of those planes, a 1990 King Air 350, similar to the one purchased by the state, was priced at \$2,450,000, one-quarter of a million dollars less than the \$2.9 million the state paid for its new aircraft.

The plane was offered for sale to the state, Roach noted, but was rejected.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/29/96

ATTORNEY GENERAL WAITS, AUDITOR BEGINS WORK ON PLANE PROBE

■(GIT) Additional information is needed by Oklahoma's attorney general before the office can consider launching a probe into the governor's use of a state-owned airplane for political and personal trips. Meanwhile, the state auditor said his office will begin limited work on calculating a reimbursement rate for such usage of the plane.

In letters to Attorney General Drew Edmondson and State Auditor and Inspector Clifton Scott, Roach wrote, "This letter will be followed with a more detailed request."

It is that "more detailed request," attorney general's office spokesman Gerald Adams said, which will help to determine whether an investigation is launched and a formal legal opinion rendered.

Whether the attorney general's office proceeds with its review of the matter may also affect the state auditor's work.

"We'll do this, but before we crunch those many numbers," explained Scott, "the legal-

ity of all this is going to have to be determined. It's hard to hold someone accountable for something which may or may not be enforceable."

According to a Sept. 12 legal memorandum prepared by the governor's deputy chief counsel, Keating can use the state-owned airplane and other means of transportation to attend political events, as well as to make personal trips, because "... the law requires that the governor be provided with state transportation, no matter where he goes."

Keating, who has maintained the position expressed in the memorandum, has said he set a new ethical standard by requiring that candidates to whose events he traveled be required to reimburse the state for the fuel cost associated with the trip.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Department of Public Safety said the agency will cooperate with any investigation into that agency's handling of the plane's purchase.

Department of Public Safety Spokesman Lt. Gerald Davidson said, "The department is confident that we conducted a fair process. We were not pressured by anyone. We made our selection on the basis of the lowest and best bid."

In a related development, Sen. Charles Ford, R-Tulsa, criticized Roach for his tactics on Wednesday, saying his fellow Tulsan was locked in a campaign designed to draw attention away from his race for reelection.

Joining Ford in his criticism of Roach was Rep. Wayne Cozort, D-Tulsa, who urged his fellow lawmaker "to get serious."

"It sure smells like politics because Rep. Roach, a Democrat, has focused all his energy on Governor Keating's travel," said Cozort. "There is plenty of room for criticism throughout the state for its liberal travel policy."

Cozort said that he and House GOP leader Larry Ferguson, R-Cleveland, revealed in July 1995, and again in December that state travel claims were climbing. Expenditures soared to \$55 million in fiscal year 1995, ledgers in the Office of State Finance show.

Ironically, it was Cozort who joined with Roach in August to criticize the amount of

state funds spent for travel. At that time, Cozort noted, Roach said putting reasonable restrictions on state travel "is not a partisan issue."

On Wednesday, Cozort said, "Russ Roach by himself turned state travel into a partisan issue."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/30/96

REPS. WANT WATCHDOG ON TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR LEGISLATURE

■(GIT) The real problem, Reps. Wayne Pettigrew, R-Edmond, and Jim Reese, R-Nardin, said, isn't the governor's travel expenses. The real problem, they said, is the travel expenses of the House of Representatives.

Pettigrew and Reese will author legislation, they said, to require state legislators to report travel and other expenses annually in much the same way campaign contributions are reported.

The bill would require all travel and other "perks" legislators receive be submitted annually and open to public inspection. Reports would be submitted to the Ethics Commission, in a similar way that campaign reports are submitted.

Asked if this legislative initiative was a way to take the heat off the governor's airplane, Reese and Pettigrew said the governor has made no attempt to conceal the truth.

A meeting of legislative leaders is expected after the Nov. 5 election to discuss guidelines for new legislation concerning travel by public officials.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/31/96

CHURCHES AND POLITICS DON'T MIX, IRS SAYS

■(GIT) Religious groups are treading where the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) says they cannot go, Jim Huff, spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the Oklahoma Interfaith Council, said at a press conference at the Capitol Thursday.

"Churches cannot draw a position on candidates or parties," Huff said. "If they get into politics, they give up their tax exemption."

"Religious groups are not prohibited from taking positions on moral or spiritual issues," Huff continued, "but they cannot act as PACs."

Voter's guides being prepared by the
Continued on next page

"With luck on your side, you can do without brains."

Giordano Bruno

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Christian Coalition "could get churches and church officials into serious trouble with the IRS," according to Milton Cerny and Albert Lauber Jr., attorneys in Washington, D.C., in a memorandum prepared at the request of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Citing IRS Tax Code Statute 501c-3, Huff said non-profit tax status is given to churches because they are charitable organizations. Forbidden are activities such as:

- endorsing/opposing candidates in state-ments to members.
- giving financial contributions to candi-dates in the religious group's name, collect-ing money on behalf of a candidate or pro-viding in-kind services.
- distributing campaign literature.

Huff also remarked the above actions ap-ply only to religious groups, not individu-als. Pastors and church members can put bumper stickers on their cars and actively work for a candidate's election, conduct voter registration drives, hold non-partisan forums or debates and send questionnaires to candidates to determine where they stand on issues.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/31/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

COMMISSION GETS DRAFT PLAN FOR MAJOR REVAMPING

■(GIT) Agency Directors of the Commis-sion on Children and Youth (OCCY) re-ceived a massive draft plan Tuesday for a complete change in the way Medicaid dol-lars are divided for youth services in Okla-homa.

Developed over two years by the Insti-tute for Human Services Management of Bethesda, MD, the plan was funded by a grant and requested by the Needsmet Com-mittee of OCCY with the consent of other state agencies providing child services. Pre-sented by Hansine Fisher and Tracey Feild, the goal of the plan is to make the service system more community based, family cen-tered and client driven, hence more efficient.

The plan calls for state children's advoca-cy agencies to match federal funds for monies to deliver services to Oklahoma's children. Currently, state Medicaid matches federal dollars and is responsible for admin-istration of the programs run by the agen-

cies. Research found "significant opportu-nities" for getting more federal Medicaid dollars in Oklahoma within the current man-aged care waivers.

Three requirements to make the plan work are:

- Cooperation among agencies, includ-ing a workable, written plan signed by par-ticipants, before the money is received from the federal government Feild and Fisher said.
- Legislation to change how state agen-cies receive Medicaid monies, and
- A willingness on the part of agencies and the legislature to turn funds over to com-munity programs for administration, be-cause, as Fisher said, people in the commu-nities know what's needed. Feild and Fisher cited Tulsa and Enid as communities with workable, community-based programs which really do put the dollars where the children's needs are. As for children in in-stitutional care, 20 percent could go home tomorrow Feild said, if local collaborators could pull together with the goal of keeping the child in the community.

In presenting the program, Feild and Fisher said there's a lot of money that could be captured through federal Medicaid pro-grams which require only meeting the crite-ria established for that program and match-ing funds.

State agencies, Feild said, could design their systems so that the cost of providing the service is already provided by federal dollars. "Limit the service to people you can afford to serve," Feild said, and "eliminate those people who don't fit the criteria of your service."

The key, Feild said, is to "let the controls be at the door of the state agencies already providing services." For instance, let the Department of Human Services (DHS) match federal funds to obtain medicaid dol-lars and subcontract with whomever they want as service providers.

According to Feild and Fisher, none of these ideas are untried. Oregon, Ohio, Florida and other states already have plans in place to maximize the federal dollars re-ceived by their states.

As a result of the state agency responsi-bility for matching the federal funds, the state agency would then be liable for meeting all audit responsibilities and paying any bills due for exceptions to the audits.

The bottom line, Fisher said, is "the chil-dren served with public dollars belong to all of you. The goal is to make sure the money goes into local services."

The 70-page draft document was pre-sented to representatives of the departments of mental health, education, juvenile affairs, DHS and health, as well as appointees of the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Other statewide children's advocacy agencies are also represented on the OCCY.

Ken Lackey, executive director of the office of juvenile affairs, wondered if it is a good idea to run funds through the local agencies at all. "Why not let the legislature appropriate the money to local entities?" he asked.

"In a lot of states," Field replied, "we're spending a lot of money on kids and we don't know what we're getting. Some states finally began asking, 'Are we spending our dollars wisely? What are we buying here? Is it worth paying for?' In Ohio, for instance, kids were passed around to the different agencies," depending on what was happening in their lives, Fisher said.

Lackey agreed the benefits would be to provide administrative expenses at the local level, and provide more comprehensive ben-efits to the children.

"You are poised in Oklahoma to do some-thing very exciting at the local level. State agencies have to want it and say this is how we're going to do it," Fisher said. "Reinvest the money back into children's services. Agree the money will be set aside for inno-vative, community-based programs and give the dollars to the community to design their service system."

—GERRY CHERRY
10/29/96

HIGHEST NATIONAL AWARD GIVEN OKLAHOMA ADOPTION PROGRAM

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahoma's One Church, One Child program received the "Father Clement" award at the 1996 One Church, One Child national conference held in September in Minneapolis. The award bears the name of Father George Clement, who founded the One Church, One Child program which promotes the adoption of black children by African-American fami-lies through black congregational churches.

One Church, One Child began in Okla-

Continued on next page

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

homa in 1988. Funded through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, it helped Oklahoma achieve a record number of adoptions last year. Through the program, 109 African-American children were given permanent homes. During that time, DHS placed 417 children in adoptive homes, an increase of 49 percent over the previous year.

DHS Programs Field Representative, Deborah Goodman, said, "We are very excited about receiving this award and the real credit goes to the dedicated child welfare specialists and volunteers who worked hard to find and encourage African-American families to come forward and share their lives with an adoptive child. As a result, One Church, One Child of Oklahoma was given this prestigious national tribute."

—OKLA. DEPT. OF HUMAN SERVICES
10/30/96

REPRESENTATIVE CALLS FOR HEALTH CHIEF'S RESIGNATION

■(GIT) Wednesday, Rep. Jim Reese, R-Nardin, called for the resignation of Dr. Jerry Nida, commissioner of the Oklahoma State Department of Health, in the wake of allegations that Nida authorized spending state funds to buy condoms and distribute them free to homosexual men.

Reese said Nida's office is using state funds to buy condoms for free distribution, and renting a motel room at the Habana Inn to distribute the condoms and safe-sex literature, a practice acknowledged by William Pierson, chief of the HIV/STD Service of the Health Department, but paid for, Nida said, "from taxpayer-funded federal grants to the Health Department."

"According to our records," Nida said, "no state funds were or have been utilized for the purpose of purchasing condoms during fiscal years 1994, 1995 or 1996 or to this date during 1997. Further," he continued in a letter to House Majority Leader Loyd Benson, "this agency has no plans to use state funds to purchase such items."

Pierson confirmed expenditures for condoms from 1994 through 1996, Reese said, and they are included in the 1997 budget.

Not only did the state buy condoms, Reese said, but also was picky about what kind officials bought, referring to a letter from Merritt D. Scales, director of the procurement division, in which he declined a type of condom. "We have experienced in

the past that the category of individuals this product is purchased for will not use a product that does not have a 'fancy' label or one they can identify with," the letter stated.

"Bottom line," Reese said, "is we only distribute the Cadillac of condoms to stop AIDS. . . That's outrageous and Jerry Nida ought to be held accountable for this irresponsible use of taxpayer money.

"Equally important, he should be removed from his position for trying to cover up the department's activities. . ." Reese concluded.

The requisition enclosed with Reese's statement shows a date of October 10, 1996 and a quantity ordered of 256,380 condoms, priced at \$14,685, a cost of 17 cents each.

—GERRY CHERRY
10/31/96

CHRISTIAN COALITION CHALLENGES CONDOM DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

■(GIT) The Oklahoma Christian Coalition called for a halt Wednesday to a State Health Department program that includes the distribution of free condoms, lubricants and what the group called "pornographic literature," a safe-sex comic, to homosexual men.

The state's Commissioner of Health, Dr. J.R. Nida, disputed some of the coalition's claims in an Oct. 25 letter to Rep. Loyd Benson, D-Frederick, and some other lawmakers, however.

Citing documents obtained from the Department of Health and the Office of Public Affairs, Christian Coalition executive director Kenneth Woods said the health department distributed 2.5 million condoms and nearly 100,000 lubricants to homosexual and bisexual men in 1991 and 1992. To help with distribution, Wood added, hotel rooms were rented at an Oklahoma City hotel and staffed with so-called out-reach workers.

"The State Department of Health has no business using the tax dollars from the people of Oklahoma to purchase condoms, lubricants and homoerotic literature to aid gay men in their homosexual activity," said

Wood. "Scientific studies have shown the AIDS virus, HIV, to be 40 times smaller than the holes found in the porous material of which condoms are made. This fact renders a condom virtually useless against the AIDS virus. Additionally, if these men can afford to pay for a hotel room at the Habana Inn, then they can also afford to pay for their own condoms should they decide to use them."

Funding for the program, which is ongoing, comes from federal funds not state funds, according to health department officials.

William Pierson, who oversees the health department's HIV/STD Services division, announced during a meeting of the House interim study committee on funding for AIDS research, 96H-69, Sept. 25, that the department plans to ask the legislature for more money for its drug assistance program education and treatment efforts.

The Christian Coalition's complaint became an issue earlier this month in a series of campaign ads. The ads, which target Democrats, say that the targeted candidates voted against an amendment that would have diverted funds from the condom distribution program and to breast cancer research. Such an amendment was proposed in 1994 by Rep. Tim Pope, R-Mustang. The amendment failed.

The ads drew the criticism of Debbie Clark, Oklahoma chair of the National Breast Cancer Coalition, who said, "Voters must not be fooled by this offensive use of a very serious women's issue."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
10/31/96

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

OSU TO RECEIVE GRANT TO EXPAND AGRICULTURE COMPUTER NETWORKS

■(WASHINGTON) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman Wednesday announced \$1.1 million in grants to help Oklahoma State University and 12 other universities build or expand telecommunications networks for agricultural information.

USDA received 55 proposals for the telecommunications grants, from universities across the country. These are competitive matching grants for projects including formal and non-formal courses, faculty and staff education, program delivery, and community-based access to education.

Continued on next page

"One of the uses of our system of justice is to warn others . . . We are reforming, not the hanged man, but everyone else."

Michel de Montaigne
'De l'art de conferer'
Essais
1580-88

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

Land-grant universities receiving the grants are: Cornell University (NY), the University of Idaho, the University of Arizona, Oklahoma State University, the University of Vermont, Mississippi State University, the University of Hawaii, New Mexico State University, the Ohio State University, Fort Valley State University (GA), the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Kansas State University, and North Carolina State University.

Oklahoma State University will receive \$81,700 for its project, the Delivery of Weather-based Management Aids Using the Oklahoma Mesonet and OneNet. The project will involve the integration of a network of Oklahoma weather stations (Mesonet) and a telecommunications network (OneNet), providing weather-based management information via the World Wide Web. This will allow farmers and ranchers to obtain and analyze detailed weather information via the Internet.

Oklahoma's neighbor to the north, Kansas State University, will receive \$101,410 for its Great Plains Inter-University Consortium. The Consortium will develop an inter-institutional graduate program in the human sciences at Iowa State University, Kansas State University, the University of Nebraska, North Dakota State University, and Oklahoma State University, to be delivered at a distance.

Glickman said, "Land-grant universities play a key role in providing farmers with information; and, these grants will enable the universities to use computer technology to better provide farmers with data and technical materials. With the grants, the universities will focus on developing information packages useful for farmers; reaching out to farmers and letting them know the resources available through computer networks; and training farmers in the use of computers and the applications for their daily work."

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
10/31/96

"Government is more than the sum of all the interests; it is the paramount interest, the public interest. It must be the efficient, effective agent of a responsible citizenry, not the shelter of the incompetent and the corrupt."

Adlai E. Stevenson, Jr.
speech in Bloomington, Illinois, 1948

UTILITIES

COMMENT PERIODS EXTENDED ON TWO PHONE INQUIRIES

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission has extended public comment deadlines and rescheduled technical conferences for two notices of inquiry concerning telephone matters.

The deadline for comments on whether the commission should require all telephone companies in Oklahoma to offer customers certain advanced-technology custom-calling features has been extended from Oct. 22 to Dec. 11. A technical conference scheduled for Oct. 24 was rescheduled for Jan. 8, 1997, and the deadline for reply comments was changed from Nov. 5 to Jan. 15, 1997.

The period for comments on how to encourage local-exchange telephone competition in areas of low profit potential was extended from Oct. 25 to Dec. 18. A technical conference scheduled for Nov. 7 was rescheduled for Jan. 15, 1997, and the deadline for reply comments was extended from Nov. 14 to Jan. 22, 1997.

A schedule revision order said a heavy Corporation Commission caseload made the changes necessary.

—OKLA. CORPORATION COMMISSION
10/28/96

WILDLIFE

KEY LEGISLATION COMES FROM CONGRESS

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Two key pieces of federal legislation passed by Congress before it adjourned, will both dramatically improve future hunting and fishing prospects for state sportsmen.

The first measure, Senate Bill 640, contains language which permanently guarantees water to maintain the Mountain Fork trout fishery.

The trout fishery, which began in 1988 on a trial basis as partial mitigation for the loss of the native stream fishery, has been tremendously successful. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers threatened to stop releasing water to support the fishery unless the Wildlife Department paid for the water, at a cost of about \$200,000 per year. The Wildlife Department contended the Corps should be providing the water as mitigation for the

loss of the downstream smallmouth bass fishery that occurred when the dam was constructed.

"Without Sen. Don Nickles' help, and support from concerned anglers, the entire fishery could have been lost," said Barry Bolton, assistant chief of fisheries in charge of management for the Wildlife Department. "We feel confident the lower Mountain Fork will develop into one of the premier trophy trout fisheries in the entire Mid-South."

Congress also approved legislation Oct. 3 which authorizes a land swap between the U.S. Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser Company, an exchange which will net hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts around 75,000 acres of public land in Oklahoma. President Clinton is expected to sign the bill.

The deal, which has been in the making for almost two years, provides for an equitable exchange of land based on appraised land values.

Sen. Don Nickles sponsored the legislation in the Senate and Rep. Bill Brewster sponsored the bill in the House. Both Nickles and Brewster were instrumental in getting the measure passed.

—OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE
10/28/96

HUNTERS CAN DONATE DEER TO NEEDY

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Station of Safari Club International and the Wildlife Department are again offering deer hunters an opportunity to help provide nutritious meals for needy people throughout the state.

The program is simple. Hunters who legally harvest a deer check the animal at a hunter check station then deliver it to a co-operating meat processor. Once the deer is processed, the Feed the Children organization picks it up and distributes it throughout the state.

A complete listing of cooperating meat processors will be posted at hunter check stations throughout the state or hunters can obtain a list of cooperators by calling the Wildlife Department's Game Division at (405) 521-2739.

—OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE
10/28/96

"Extreme justice is often unjust."

Jean Racine
'The Thebaids,' 1664

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



AWARDS & HONORS

TWO HAMMER AWARDS PRESENTED

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance (OTAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Compliance program for Compliance Assistance Centers Program each received Vice President Gore's Hammer Award last week.

OTAA, which helps workers in companies impacted by trade laws, adapted the "GE workout model" for process improvement as a vehicle for reinvention.

Self-managed work groups streamlined several significant work processes, allowing for more staff involvement and control. Staff members assigned workloads, developed performance standards, resolved case problems, and eliminated or revamped their work processes. The applicant processing procedure was consolidated and duplication of services was eliminated.

Customers can now access training quickly, and there is increased flexibility for participation in extended training programs. Investigation procedures were streamlined and a backlog of overdue cases was reduced from over 100 to 0. Staff reduced the average time to process a case from 85 to 48 days. The program also improved the State funding process so that training funds can now get from the Federal level to the States within 3 days instead of 3-4 weeks.

The Hammer Award was given to EPA's Office of Compliance for developing four national compliance assistance centers.

The four national assistance centers are for agriculture, automotive services, metal finishing and printing.

The Hammer Award is a special recognition to teams which have made significant contributions in support of the President's national Performance Review principles of

putting customers first, cutting red tape, empowering employees, and getting back to basics. More than 500 Hammer Awards have been presented nationally to teams comprised of federal, state, and local employees, and citizens who are working to build a better government.

—EPA & U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR
10/31/96

NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

■(WASHINGTON) President Clinton on Tuesday proclaimed November 1996 as National American Indian Heritage Month, saying, "Throughout our history, American Indian and Alaska Native peoples have been an integral part of the American character. Against the odds, America's first peoples have endured, and they remain a vital cultural, political, social, and moral presence."

"Let us rededicate ourselves to the principle that all Americans have the tools to make the most of their God-given potential. We must teach our children about our past — both the good and the bad — so that they may learn from our successes and mistakes," said President Clinton, adding "We must provide our children with the knowledge and skills to permit them to surpass our own achievements and create a stronger, more united American community. We must provide them greater opportunity. It was the Iroquois who taught that in every deliberation we should consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations."

—THE WHITE HOUSE
10/31/96

BUSINESS & LABOR

NATIONAL EFFORT LAUNCHED TO STREAMLINE EMPLOYMENT SYSTEM FOR DISABLED

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Education recently announced an agreement with the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation to streamline the system for placing people with disabilities into competitive employment.

The focus of the pact is the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, a 76-year-old federal state partnership that has helped millions of people with disabilities get jobs.

Under the agreement between the department's Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the council, both

sides will work toward reducing overly burdensome rules, regulations and reports in order to focus on the program's primary purpose — putting more people with disabilities in quality employment.

"I am excited about this plan and optimistic about what it means for people with disabilities," said RSA Commissioner Frederick K. Schroeder. "It has probably never been more important for a person with a disability to be competitive in the job market. Despite success in the voc rehab program, unemployment for persons with disabilities remains at an alarming rate of more than 60 percent."

Vocational rehabilitation programs offer services aimed at lessening the impact of a mental or physical disability in finding a meaningful job. Counseling, training, technology assistance and job placement are among those services. Each participant has an individual service plan to recognize and address the diversity of disabilities and personal needs.

The council and RSA plan to work toward a more responsive and interactive program, eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy, emphasizing consumer involvement and re-focusing on employment in good jobs.

—U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
10/28/96

OSHA CUTS PERMISSIBLE EXPOSURE LIMIT FOR CANCER-CAUSING BUTADIENE

■(WASHINGTON) Almost 10,000 workers will be better protected from cancer under a new standard for exposure to the chemical 1-3 butadiene announced last week by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The agency reduced the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for 1,3-butadiene (BD) from 1,000 parts per million parts of air (ppm) to 1 ppm to reduce workers' risk of developing cancer and other potential adverse health effects. About 9,700 workers at 255 facilities nationwide are potentially exposed to BD.

Butadiene is a colorless, odorless, flammable and highly reactive gas. In 1991, the U.S. produced 3.0 billion pounds of BD. About 60 percent is used in rubber manufacture. In addition to presenting an increased risk of such cancers as leukemia, BD has been shown to increase risk to the re-

Continued on next page

"I have always said that a conference was held for one reason only, to give everybody a chance to get sore at everybody else. Sometimes it takes two or three conferences to scare up a war, but generally one will do it."

Will Rogers
syndicated column
The New York Times
July 6, 1933

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



productive system of laboratory animals. About 7,600 workers face significant exposures, averaging as high as 10 ppm. (No U.S. workers are likely to be exposed at OSHA's former PEL of 1000 ppm.) Compliance with the BD standard is expected to cost employers about \$2.9 million per year.

The final standard, which is expected to prevent at least 79 cancer deaths over a 45-year working lifetime, also includes a 15-minute short-term exposure limit (STEL) of 5 ppm and an action level of 0.5 ppm. Other provisions cover employee training, medical surveillance, record keeping, hazard communication and exposure monitoring.

A unique feature of the standard is an exposure goal program, which encourages employers to reduce exposures to below the action level.

—U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR
10/28/96

WORKERS, RETIREES URGED TO KNOW THEIR RIGHTS REGARDING HEALTH CARE BENEFITS IN RETIREMENT

■(WASHINGTON) Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich Monday issued an advisory aimed at helping workers and retirees protect their health care in retirement and he promised his agency would continue efforts to ensure that companies honor their pension promises.

Citing the threat of health benefit losses to thousands of former employees of General Motors and Pabst Brewing Co., Reich expressed concern for the plight of retirees when employer-promised health benefits evaporate.

Many people nearing retirement age or already retired may believe they have health coverage only to discover clauses in their benefit packages that allow employers to void that part of the agreement.

Labor Department statistics indicate a steady decline in retiree health coverage by U.S. companies. In many cases, the companies dropped retired workers who believed they had been promised benefits for life.

To help retirees and workers understand their health programs, the department's Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration unveiled an advisory which highlights things they need to know. Reich noted that the key to understanding health benefits rests in the documents governing benefit programs. Workers should:

- ✓ Get copies of their company's plan

documents to begin understanding what actually has been promised.

✓ Review the plan's summary plan description and other written plan documents with the following questions in mind: "Does my company promise health benefits after retirement? If so, for how long and at what level? Does the plan documents include language that allows my employer to reduce or terminate my benefits?"

Free copies of the advisory can be obtained by calling PWBA's Publication Hotline at 202/219-9247.

—U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR
10/29/96

THE EFFECT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

■(WASHINGTON) To help educate the public on the effects of "domestic violence" in the workplace, the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau has released a fact sheet on this devastating problem. "Domestic Violence: A Workplace Issue" details this underrecognized issue and provides women, employers, unions, and organizations with the latest sources for information and support.

"It used to be that when you heard the phrase 'domestic violence' you thought only of violence in the home," says Labor Secretary Robert B. Reich. "In fact, domestic violence follows thousands of women to work everyday, and the Labor Department wants to make sure that they know where to go for help."

Recent studies show that domestic violence can interfere with a woman's ability to get, perform or keep a job. These problems which range from tardiness, missing work, and poor performance can ultimately lead to strong reprimands or job dismissal.

For a copy of the fact sheet, contact the Women's Bureau at (800) 827-5335.

—U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR
10/29/96

"Trade and commerce, if they were not made of Indian rubber, would never manage to bounce over the obstacles which legislators are continually putting in their way."

Henry David Thoreau
Civil Disobedience
1849

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL TRANSPORT COMPANY PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSIFYING DRIVER WORK RECORDS

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General on Monday announced that on Oct. 10, Suburban Paraco Corporation (SPC), a subsidiary of Paraco Gas Corporation of Purchase, NY, a business that transports and sells propane, pleaded guilty in federal court in White Plains, NY, to falsifying daily driver logs in violation of federal safety regulations applicable to carriers of hazardous materials.

According to the one-count criminal information, approximately 93 driver daily logs prepared by SPC drivers from March 1992 through July 1994 and maintained at SPC offices were false. The driver daily logs are required by federal regulations to ensure drivers transporting hazardous materials are provided with adequate rest periods. The majority of the 93 SPC logs falsely stated that the drivers were off duty for the required rest periods, when, in fact, the drivers were on duty.

SPC, represented by its chief executive officer, Joseph Armentano, admitted that agents of the corporation falsified driver daily logs, knowing that it was unlawful to do so.

"This prosecution is part of on-going efforts by the Department of Transportation to combat criminal activity affecting the safety of the nation's highways," said Joyce N. Fleischman, Acting Inspector General for the Department of Transportation.

—U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
10/30/96

CLAIMS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASED SLIGHTLY

■(WASHINGTON) In the week ending Oct. 26, the advance figure for seasonally adjusted initial claims was 342,000, an increase of 23,000 from the previous week's revised figure of 319,000. The 4-week moving average was 331,250, an increase of 250 from the previous week's revised average of 331,000.

The advance seasonally adjusted insured unemployment rate was 2.1 percent for the week ending Oct. 19, unchanged from the prior week's unrevised rate of 2.1 percent.

The advance number for seasonally adjusted insured unemployment during the

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FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



week ending Oct. 19 was 2,450,000, an increase of 23,000 from the preceding week's revised level of 2,427,000. The 4-week moving average was 2,470,000, a decrease of 250 from the preceding week's revised average of 2,470,250.

Unadjusted Data

The advance number of actual initial claims under state programs, unadjusted, totaled 312,501 in the week ending Oct. 26, an increase of 40,563 from the previous week. There were 332,061 initial claims in the comparable week in 1995.

The advance unadjusted insured unemployment rate was 1.8 percent during the week ending Oct. 19, an increase of 0.1 percentage point from the prior week. The advance unadjusted number for persons claiming UI benefits in state programs totaled 2,053,203, an increase of 87,617 from the preceding week. A year earlier, the rate was 2.0 percent and the volume was 2,183,047.

Extended benefits were not available in any state during the week ending Oct. 12.

Initial claims for UI benefits by former Federal civilian employees totaled 2,108 in the week ending Oct. 19, a decrease of 975 from the prior week. There were 1,940 initial claims by newly discharged veterans, a decrease of 294 from the preceding week.

There were 29,074 former Federal civilian employees claiming UI benefits for the week ending Oct. 12, an increase of 2,925 from the previous week. Newly discharged veterans claiming benefits totaled 22,707, a decrease of 104 from the prior week.

—U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR
10/31/96

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CHALLENGES RADIO JOINT SALES AGREEMENT

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Justice last week reached a settlement with one of the nation's largest radio station owners—American Radio Systems Corp.—allowing

the company to purchase two Rochester, New York radio stations as long as it divests three other Rochester stations. The Department also required the company to terminate a joint sales agreement with another Rochester radio station. The state of New York joined in the case.

This marks the first time the Department has ever challenged a joint sales agreement, or JSA. A JSA gives one radio station the right to price and sell all of the advertising time of another station.

Since the Boston-based American Radio has agreed to restructure its deal, the company will be permitted to go forward with plans to acquire two out of the four stations it originally intended to purchase in Rochester.

The Department and the New York Attorney General's office said that American Radio's proposed acquisition of four Rochester radio stations owned by The Lincoln Group L.P., together with the joint sales agreement, would have given it control over more than 60 percent of the sales of radio advertising time in the city. This would have enabled American Radio to increase prices to advertisers and to substantially reduce competition in the \$32 million Rochester radio advertising market.

The restructured arrangement will preserve competition among Rochester radio stations, benefiting both advertisers and consumers.

The Department said that the radio industry is in the midst of rapid consolidation following passage of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996, which relaxed previous limits on radio station ownership. Although the Act removed certain limits, it explicitly acknowledged the role of antitrust enforcement, explaining that "nothing in this Act . . . shall be construed to modify, impair, or supersede the applicability of any of the antitrust laws."

As required by the Tunney Act, the proposed consent decree will be published in the Federal Register, together with the Department's competitive impact statement. Any person may submit written comments concerning the proposed consent decree during a 60-day comment period to Craig W. Conrath, Chief, Merger Task Force, Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Suite 4000, 1401 H Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005, telephone (202) 307-0001.

At the conclusion of the 60-day comment period, the federal district court in Washington, D.C. may enter the consent decree upon finding that it serves the public interest.

—U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
10/29/96

EDUCATION

USDA TO INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR HISPANIC STUDENTS

■(WASHINGTON) Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) revitalizing a partnership to promote agricultural careers and increase USDA employment opportunities for students attending HACU member institutions. The MOU is effective immediately.

New authorities under the 1996 Farm Bill provide for education grants programs for Hispanic serving institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs. \$1.5 million has been targeted for these education grants in FY 1997. Under the 1996 Farm Bill, the reach of the HACU National Internship Program extends to all Hispanic serving institutions.

The memorandum formally establishes the USDA-HACU Leadership Group to provide guidance, direction, and coordination for all future partnership initiatives or activities. Glickman named USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Administrator Bob Robinson as the USDA Co-Chair to the Leadership Group.

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
10/30/96

ENERGY

TINKER AFB ONE OF THE WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY AWARDS

■(WASHINGTON) In recognition of American Energy Month, celebrated annually in October, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced the 1996 winners of the National Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Awards. The annual awards recognize individuals, institutions and companies of all sizes who have implemented energy-related measures that benefit the nation's environment, economy and security.

Continued on next page

"The biggest corporation, like the humblest private citizen, must be held to strict compliance with the will of the people as expressed in the fundamental law."

Theodore Roosevelt
speech in Columbus, Ohio, 1902

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary presented six "Best in Category" awards in each of the following categories:

- Federal Energy Activities, Tinker Air Force Base Renewable Energy Program, Tinker AFB, Okla.;

- Building Technology, Renewable Energy Conservation Account, Utilities Department, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.;

- Industrial Technology, Praxair Oxy-Fuel Fired Glass Furnace Program, Praxair, Inc., Tarrytown, NY;

- Transportation Technology, Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Development and Vehicle Procurement Program, Massachusetts Port Authority-Aviation Department, Boston, Mass.;

- Utility Technology, Texas Wind Power Project, Texas General Land Office and Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin, Texas; and

- Energy Technology and Education, Partners in Environmental Science: Towards a Sustainable Energy Future, West Branch Middle School, West Branch, Iowa.

Projects were evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: program effectiveness, natural resource conservation, economic progress, and energy education and awareness. The projects must have been operational for one year to allow documentation of energy savings and program results. The projects are reviewed by State Energy Offices, as well as an independent panel of judges representing national energy-related organizations.

—U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY
10/29/96

UNDER-UTILIZED OIL RESERVE FACILITIES TURNED INTO FEDERAL REVENUES

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Energy (DOE) is turning under-utilized facilities at its Strategic Petroleum Reserve into a source of revenue for the U.S. Treasury.

DOE announced last week that it has signed agreements with two commercial pipeline companies to sell or lease Strategic

Petroleum Reserve oil pipelines and a government-owned marine terminal that it no longer needs or doesn't intend to use on a full-time basis.

The sale of one pipeline will generate \$22 million this fiscal year, while leasing a second pipeline and the marine terminal could ultimately provide revenue and cost savings totaling as much as \$16 million per year.

In one agreement, DOE will sell its 67-mile-long, 36-inch diameter Weeks Island pipeline to Louisiana Intrastate Gas Company L.L.C., an Equitable Resource Company, of Alexandria, LA, for \$22 million. Ownership of the pipeline will likely transfer within the next six to seven months as soon as DOE finishes transferring oil from its Weeks Island oil storage site near New Iberia, LA. The site is being taken out of service, and DOE will no longer need the pipeline.

In the other agreement, the department will lease its St. James Terminal on the Mississippi River and a 37-mile-long, 36-inch diameter pipeline to its Bayou Choctaw oil storage site in Louisiana to Shell Pipe Line Corporation of Houston, TX. The lease agreement will bring in approximately \$5 to \$8 million per year in payments to the Treasury within the next four years, based on Shell's usage projections. The arrangement also will save DOE approximately \$8 million per year in operation and maintenance costs.

The leases with Shell will contain provisions for the federal government to use the terminal and pipeline to distribute crude oil from the reserve in the event of an energy emergency.

—U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY
10/30/96

ENVIRONMENT

NEW LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR PESTICIDE PRODUCTS USED ON CATS AND DOGS

■(WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency is requiring improved label directions on pesticide products (such as flea and tick dips, sprays, powders and collars) used on cats and dogs to reduce risk to pets as well as the pet owners. The new requirements include more specific use directions aimed at ensuring that pet pesticide products are used safely, reducing potential

adverse effects on animals and people.

Reports of adverse effects from veterinarians, consumers and manufacturers of pet pesticide products have indicated that improved labeling is necessary. EPA's revised policies reflect comments received on a draft proposal issued last year. Since that time, EPA has been working with the Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association, public interest groups and other interested parties to improve the label language on these pet products.

The new regulations are contained in a notice issued to pesticide registrants, manufacturers and formulators (PR Notice 96-6). All cat and dog pesticide products released after Oct. 1, 1998 must include the additional statements outlined in the notice.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
10/29/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON BREAST CANCER INTERNET WEB SITE LAUNCHED

■(WASHINGTON) On Oct. 27, President Clinton launched the National Action Plan on Breast Cancer (NAPBC) Internet web site. The web site, developed by a public/private partnership and coordinated by the Department of Health and Human Services' Offices on Women's Health, is designed to serve as a gateway to information on breast cancer research, treatment, and prevention.

The NAPBC web site provides answers on frequently asked questions about breast cancer, as well as information on the NAPBC, breast cancer clinical trials and research, breast cancer organizations and advocacy groups, educational conferences, publications, and government and private resources.

The NAPBC is co-chaired by Susan J. Blumenthal, M.D., M.P.A., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health and Assistant Surgeon General, and Fran M. Visco, Esq., President of the National Breast Cancer Coalition.

"With the needs of consumers in mind, we designed a web site that is easy to navigate," Visco explained. "We hope that many people will use this site as a resource to learn about breast cancer and the many resources available to them."

Continued on next page

"Those who are fond of setting things to rights have no great objection to setting them wrong."

William Hazlitt

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



The NAPBC web site is available in both English and Spanish. The web site address is: <http://www.napbc.org>.

—U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
10/30/96

PUBLIC SAFETY

TWENTY YEARS OF TRAFFIC SAFETY DATA ON CD-ROM NOW AVAILABLE FROM DOT

■(WASHINGTON) U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena last week announced that updated information on traffic safety is now available on CD-ROM from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The data for the Traffic Safety CD-ROM, collected by DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), includes the 1988-94 General Estimates System (GES) data files, the 1975-94 Fatal Accident Reporting System (FARS) data files, the 1982-94 blood alcohol concentration files, the 1994 Traffic Safety Facts Annual Report, and the 1994 Traffic Safety Fact Sheets.

The data provides a comprehensive overview of fatal and non-fatal accidents in the United States, including information on vehicle, person, and environmental characteristics (road conditions, type of vehicle, weather, restraint usage, estimated speed, and so forth) of each accident. FARS data is based upon every fatal accident in the U.S., while GES is based upon a sample of all U.S. accidents. The BTS Transportation Data Sampler-3 issued in February contains the past 3 years of TIFA (Trucks Involved in Fatal Accidents), a complementary product focusing on fatal truck accidents and based upon FARS data.

"You talk about capitalism and communism and all that sort of thing, but the important thing is the struggle everybody is engaged in to get better living conditions, and they are not interested too much in the form of government."

Bernard Baruch
press conference in
New York City
Aug. 18, 1964

The Traffic Safety CD is produced in ASCII and Statistical Analysis System (SAS) formats, with the information provided by NHTSA. To order a copy of the CD-ROM, contact the Bureau of Transportation Statistics by phone on (202) 366-DATA, by fax on (202) 366-3640, by Internet at www.bts.gov, or by writing the Bureau of Transportation Statistics at BTS/DOT, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590.

—U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
10/28/96

PUBLIC SAFETY IMPROVED WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Transportation and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) this week unveiled a technology system that virtually takes the police department and places it inside the police car.

Officials from the department's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) unveiled the new ALERT system during a special ceremony at the 103rd Conference of the IACP in Phoenix, Ariz. Dubbed the public safety technology for the 21st century, the ALERT (Advanced Law Enforcement Response Technology) system aims to help public safety personnel work more efficiently by automating the traffic data collection process.

The ALERT system uses components such as hand-held computers that link to on-board computers with touch-screen displays. The system makes data gathering and entry simpler, quicker and more reliable. Electronic data entry eliminates errors resulting from illegible handwriting and repetitious entry. New information is incorporated into a central database in a matter of hours instead of months.

In addition, the global positioning system (GPS) automatically transmits an officer's location to the law enforcement agency's headquarters so other emergency personnel can be dispatched if needed.

ALERT's clean cockpit approach provides an integrated control center, allowing an officer to control everything with the touch of a finger, including the radar, emergency lighting and siren, radio communications unit, GPS, video camera and display. The system also has applications in other areas of public safety.

In the future, ALERT technology also

may be used to enhance fire and emergency medical services and to help solve criminal investigations.

—U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
10/30/96

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

USDA RESEARCHES IMPROVED ETHANOL YIELD FROM CORN

■(PEORIA, IL) Cars in the 21st century could run on ethanol fermented from fiber-rich crop residues like wheat straw or corn stalks instead of corn. Agriculture Department scientists are moving in that direction with research that seeks to squeeze more ethanol from corn using the grain's fiber.

Microbiologist Rodney J. Bothast of USDA's Agricultural Research Service heads a research team that's now scaling up a process for converting grain fiber into sugars. Genetically engineered microbes convert these sugars into ethanol.

Modern ethanol plants ferment grain's starches and sugars to produce 2.5 gallons of ethanol per bushel of corn. Bothast's research team, based at the ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research here, aims to coax an extra three-tenths of a gallon of ethanol from the outer fibrous layer of every bushel of corn kernels.

"This technology could be applied to converting cellulose from other crops creating additional income and market opportunities for farmers," said Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman. "USDA analysis confirms that expanding ethanol production increases farm income and creates jobs in rural America."

According to USDA's Economic Research Service, the ethanol energy now produced from each bushel of corn is more than 25 percent greater than the amount of energy used to grow and harvest the corn and distill it into ethanol, thanks to today's higher corn yields, more energy-efficient fertilizer production and improved distillation technology.

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
10/28/96

"A government is not legitimate merely because it exists."

Jeane J. Kirkpatrick
on Sandinista government in
Nicaragua
Time, June 17, 1985

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



BATTERY TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GETS JUMP START

■(WASHINGTON) The development of advanced battery technology is about to get another boost from the Department of Energy and the Big Three automakers. Secretary of Energy Hazel R. O'Leary signed a \$106 million four-year cooperative agreement with the United States Advanced Battery Consortium (USABC). The agreement — in its second phase — continues research and development for a long-term battery that could make electric cars competitive with conventional vehicles that use gasoline and help improve air quality nationwide.

Goals of the partnership include:

- conducting safety, durability, and in-vehicle verification tests for mid-term batteries (development stage for batteries);
- developing manufacturing processes for mid-term batteries that focus on further cost reductions; and,
- taking long-term technologies through feasibility prove-out.

—U.S. DEPT. OF ENERGY
10/29/96

APPLICATIONS FOR 1997 SCIENCE RESEARCH GRANTS REQUESTED

■(WASHINGTON) The Environmental Protection Agency is requesting applications for its first round of 1997 research grants. The grants program is designed to promote a more comprehensive integration of research engaging the nation's best scientists in the areas of human and ecological risk, and includes the following topics: exploratory research; ecosystem indicators; complex exposures and human variability in risk assessment; endocrine disruptors; ambient air quality; health effects of particulate matter; drinking water and contaminated sediments.

Application due dates vary by topic from Jan. 15 - Feb. 15, 1997.

Application information is available by calling the EPA Grants and Fellowship Hotline at 1-800-490-9194.

—ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
10/29/96

"If I am a great man, then a good many of the great men of history are frauds."

Bonar Law

FAA SELECTS HUGHES FOR WAAS CONTRACT

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has signed a comprehensive contract for the development and implementation of the Wide Area Augmentation System (WAAS) with Hughes Information Technology Systems, Fullerton, CA.

The \$483.5 million contract with Hughes will lead to improvements in the accuracy, availability and integrity of the basic signal from the Global Positioning System satellites orbiting the Earth.

WAAS will be the first planned augmentation to GPS for aviation purposes. When operational, WAAS will allow aircraft to use GPS for all phases of flight from en route down to Category 1 precision approaches. It also will provide very important information about the status of the entire GPS satellite constellation and will be able to detect and ignore any corrupt or inaccurate signals.

For users of the U. S. aviation system, WAAS will mean more direct routing of aircraft, saving time, fuel and money. It will become the primary means of navigation in U.S. airspace, allowing the FAA to decommission much of the older, expensive-to-maintain equipment based on an earlier generation of technology. WAAS also will make precision approach capability available at nearly all airports in the nation.

—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
10/31/96

FCC PROPOSES RULES FOR LICENSING OF "LITTLE LEOS"

■(WASHINGTON) Tuesday, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that takes the next step toward licensing systems in the second processing round for the non-voice, non-geostationary mobile satellite ("Little LEO") service.

In this Notice, the Commission proposes technical rules that may make it possible to license at least one and up to three additional satellite systems in this round. Originally, it was thought that it would be possible to license only one additional system.

The Little LEO satellite service uses constellations of low-Earth orbiting satellites to provide low-cost data services to potential customers anywhere in the world. Ultimately, Little LEO systems may be used to provide a number of diverse services, including emergency location services in remote areas, en-

vironmental data collection, vehicle tracking and monitoring, and time-sensitive business and personal data.

This Notice proposes and seeks comments on the licensing of one to three applicants to provide service in certain spectrum blocks, limiting participation in the second processing round to "new" applicants, and holding an auction if there are mutually exclusive applicants.

The Commission expects to issue a final order on licensing rules in early 1997 and proceed to licensing immediately thereafter. Comments to this Notice are due November 29, 1996; Reply comments are due December 16, 1996.

—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
10/31/96

CAROL W. GREIDER NAMED TO NATIONAL BIOETHICS ADVISORY COMMISSION

■(WASHINGTON) President Clinton this week announced his intention to appoint Carol W. Greider, Ph.D. of Huntington, New York, to the National Bioethics Advisory Commission.

Established by Presidential Executive Order on Oct. 3, 1995, the National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) will provide guidance to federal agencies on the ethical conduct of current and future human biological and behavioral research.

Dr. Greider presently serves as senior staff scientist at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York. Dr. Greider is an internationally known expert in molecular biology whose research focuses on the structure and function of telomeres, chromosomal components whose role in aging and cancer is just beginning to become clear.

—THE WHITE HOUSE
10/31/96

TRANSPORTATION

AMERICAN, SABRE CHARGED WITH VIOLATIONS OF CRS RULES

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Transportation's Aviation Enforcement Office on Monday charged American Airlines and Sabre, its affiliated computer reservation system (CRS), with violations of regulations prohibiting bias in CRS displays and the law prohibiting unfair or deceptive prac-

Continued on next page

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



tices or unfair methods of competition.

In a complaint filed with the department, the enforcement office said that software distributed by American to travel agents who subscribe to Sabre biases CRS displays in favor of flights by American and its commuter affiliate, American Eagle. The software rearranges Sabre's display by listing American and American Eagle flights before those of other carriers and shows only those flights in certain markets during specific times, the complaint said.

According to the complaint, American provided the software, called "Preference MAAnager," to at least 650 travel agencies between April 1993 and February 1996.

The complaint seeks an order requiring the companies to cease and desist from further violations as well as assessment of civil penalties of \$500,000. The complaint will be heard by a DOT administrative law judge.

—U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
10/30/96

NATIONAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS SELECTED FOR AIRCRAFT CERTIFICATION

■(WASHINGTON) Tapping internationally recognized experts in their respective fields, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator David R. Hinson on Monday announced the selection of seven chief scientific and technical advisors dedicated to specific aircraft certification disciplines.

As part of the FAA's innovative national resource specialist (NRS) program, the experts — who will be on board by early November — will serve as advisors to U.S. and foreign industry; national, state and local government agencies; and international aviation authorities.

Located throughout the United States, the national resource specialists are part of the FAA's Office of Regulation and Certification.

The national resource specialists were selected for the following disciplines:

- Flight Environmental Icing. Eugene G. Hill is responsible for all phases of certification and research and development efforts to protect aircraft from ice, including plane deicing on the ground and ice formation during flight.

- Advanced Control Systems. Anthony A. Lambregts is responsible for providing expert scientific and technical guidance for all research and development programs and

their application to aircraft systems including flight controls, engine controls, advanced sensors, fiber optics, displays and processors.

- Propellers. Martin Buckman is responsible for defining and advancing new technologies in propeller design, materials and manufacturing techniques to keep pace with a highly sophisticated and changing propeller industry.

- Electromagnetic Interference. David B. Walen is responsible for providing scientific and technical guidance in all research and development programs involving external and internal electromagnetic interference caused by radar, radio, television, and other transmitters; lightning; electromagnetic pulse; precipitation static; aircraft systems; and portable electronic devices carried aboard aircraft.

- Manufacturing Quality Assurance Technology. Ben Pourbabai, Ph.D. is responsible for establishing manufacturing and quality assurance systems and processes, statistical quality methods and techniques for aircraft manufacturing including the airworthiness of aircraft engines, propellers, parts and appliances.

- Software Quality Assurance. Raghubansh Singh, Ph.D. is responsible for defining and advancing new software technologies, providing guidance for all software quality assurance research and development, and ensuring that all processes are performed in accordance with approved software plans and standards.

- Metallic Structural Materials and Processes. Tarek Khaled is responsible for ensuring the quality of structural materials and procedures used to manufacture aircraft, including engines, propellers, parts and appliances. He serves as the agency's expert on all existing and new advances in physical, chemical and metallurgical technologies and procedures.

—U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
10/30/96

UTILITIES

FCC RELIEVES LONG DISTANCE COMPANIES FROM TARIFF FILING REQUIREMENTS

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Communications Commission Tuesday, exercising its new forbearance authority, ruled that non-dominant interexchange carriers will no longer file tariffs for their interstate domestic long distance services. After a nine-month transition period, relationships between carriers and their customers will be set by contract. Carriers have the option immediately to cease filing tariffs. Tuesday's decision is the first major exercise of the new forbearance authority granted to the Commission in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Order will become effective 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

The Commission stated that its action Tuesday would promote the pro-competitive and deregulatory objectives of the 1996 Act by fostering increased competition in the long distance market. In addition, the Commission noted that its decision marks the end of the transformation of the regulatory regime governing interstate, domestic, interexchange services from one in which all interexchange carriers were subject to a broad range of pricing and other regulatory requirements to one that relies on market forces.

After complete detariffing is implemented, long distance companies will be subject to the same incentives and rewards that competitors in other unregulated markets confront. The Commission also stated that it seeks ultimately to accomplish the same result in every telecommunications market, because effectively competitive markets produce maximum benefits for consumers, carriers, and the nation's economy.

—FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION
10/31/96

"There are men — now in power in this country — who do not respect dissent, who cannot cope with turmoil, and who believe that the people of America are ready to support repression as long as it is done with a quiet voice and a business suit. And it is up to us to prove they are wrong."

John V. Lindsay
speech at the Univ. of California, Berkley
April 2, 1970

ELECTION '96 — CANDIDATES FOR NOVEMBER 5 GENERAL ELECTION

CONGRESS

U.S. Senate

Democrat

Jim Boren, Tahlequah

Independent

Bill Maguire, Edmond

Chris Nelbacek, Oklahoma City

Libertarian

Agnes Marie Regier, Norman

Republican

*Jim Inhofe, Tulsa

U.S. House of Representatives

DISTRICT 1

Democrat

Randolph John Amen, Tulsa

Independent

Karla Condray, Tulsa

Republican

*Steve Largent, Tulsa

DISTRICT 2

Democrat

Glen D. Johnson, Okemah

Republican

*Tom Coburn, Muskogee

DISTRICT 3

Democrat

Darryl Roberts, Ardmore

Independent

Scott Demaree, Glencoe

Republican

Wes Watkins, Stillwater

DISTRICT 4

Democrat

Ed Crocker, Norman

Independent

Meg Corn, Oklahoma City
(Candidacy Challenged)

Libertarian

Robert T. Murphy, Norman

Republican

*J. C. Watts, Jr., Norman

DISTRICT 5

Democrat

James L. Forsythe, Edmond

Independent

Ava Kennedy, Oklahoma City

Republican

*Ernest J. Istook, Warr Acres

DISTRICT 6

Democrat

Paul M. Barby, Woodward

Republican

*Frank Lucas, Cheyenne

CORPORATION COMMISSION

Democrat

Wanda Jo Peltier, Oklahoma City

Republican

*Ed Apple, Duncan

STATE SENATE

DISTRICT 1

Democrat

*Rick M. Littlefield, Grove

Republican

Bob McDowell, Afton

DISTRICT 3

Democrat

*Herb Rozell, Tahlequah

Republican

Tom Gann, Ft. Gibson

DISTRICT 7

Democrat

*Gene Stipe, McAlester

Republican

Pat Key, McAlester

DISTRICT 9

Democrat

*Ben Robinson, Muskogee

Republican

Debra A. Lienhart, Haskell

DISTRICT 13

Democrat

*Dick Wilkerson, Atwood

Republican

Barbara Young, Ada

DISTRICT 15

Democrat

*Trish Weedn, Purcell

Republican

Rod Cleveland, Norman

DISTRICT 17

Democrat

*Brad Henry, Shawnee

Republican

Jerrell Puckett, Norman

DISTRICT 19

Democrat

*Ed Long, Enid

Republican

Robert Milacek, Waukomis

DISTRICT 21

Democrat

Mike Morgan, Stillwater

Republican

Randy Wedel, Stillwater

DISTRICT 23

Democrat

*Bruce Price, Hinton

Republican

Lonnie John Paxton, Tuttle

DISTRICT 29

Democrat

Chuck Hoskin, Vinita

Republican

James R. Dunlap, Bartlesville

DISTRICT 33

Democrat

*Penny Williams, Tulsa

Republican

Brian Lehman, Tulsa

DISTRICT 35

Democrat

Pat Woodrum, Tulsa

Republican

James A. Williamson, Tulsa

DISTRICT 37

Democrat

*Lewis Long, Sapulpa

Republican

Tim Plinsky, Tulsa

DISTRICT 39

Democrat

John Zelis, Tulsa

Republican

*Jerry Smith, Tulsa

DISTRICT 43

Democrat

*Ben Brown, Oklahoma City

Republican

Jerry Kasprick, Del City

DISTRICT 45

Democrat

Karl Rysted, Moore

Republican

Kathleen Wilcoxson, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 47

Democrat

Jim Sturdy, Oklahoma City

Republican

*Mike Fair, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 49

Democrat

*Don Williams, Balko

Republican

Owen Laughlin, Woodward

DISTRICT 51

Democrat

Bill Brock, Broken Arrow

Republican

*Charles Ford, Tulsa

**STATE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES**

DISTRICT 2

Democrat

*J.T. Stites, Sallisaw

Republican

Joe F. Peters, Sallisaw

DISTRICT 5

Democrat

*Joe Hutchison, Jay

Republican

Carolyn Allen, Afton

DISTRICT 6

Democrat

*Joe Eddins, Vinita

Republican

Jay Franklin, Vinita

DISTRICT 7

Democrat

*Larry Roberts, Miami

Republican

Kim McLain, Miami

DISTRICT 9

Democrat

*Dwayne Steidley, Claremore

Republican

Bryan A. Birdsong, Claremore

DISTRICT 10

Democrat

*Gary S. Taylor, Dewey

Republican

Dave Neely, Nowata

DISTRICT 11

Democrat

Don Raley, Ramona

Republican

Mike Wilt, Bartlesville

DISTRICT 12

Democrat

*Jerry Hefner, Wagoner

Republican

Jerry Hill, Muskogee

DISTRICT 13

Democrat

*Bill Settle, Muskogee

Republican

Phyllis McLemore, Muskogee

DISTRICT 14

Democrat

*Barbara Staggs, Muskogee

Republican

Dan Chepkas, Muskogee

DISTRICT 15

Democrat

Bobby Frame, Checotah

Republican

George M. Hedrick, Stigler

DISTRICT 16

Democrat

*M.C. Leist, Morris

Republican

Brian Priegel, Okmulgee

DISTRICT 17

Democrat

*Mike Mass, Hartshorne

Republican

Larry Boggs, Wilburton

DISTRICT 18

Democrat

*Lloyd Fields, McAlester

Republican

David Attebury, McAlester

DISTRICT 22

Democrat

*Danny Hilliard, Sulphur

Republican

Ron Gordon, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 23

Democrat

*Betty Boyd, Tulsa

Republican

Jon Mullican, Tulsa

DISTRICT 24

Democrat

Dale Turner, Holdenville

Republican

Bruce Coker, Okemah

DISTRICT 25

Democrat

*Bob Plunk, Allen

Republican

Tom Bush, Ada

DISTRICT 26

Democrat

*Robert E. Weaver, Shawnee

Republican

Rickey Dale Crain, Shawnee

DISTRICT 27

Democrat

*Dale Smith, Saint Louis

Republican

Phil Hartoon, Tecumseh

DISTRICT 28

Democrat

*Mike Ervin, Wewoka

Republican

Mark Gwartney, Seminole

DISTRICT 29

Democrat

David L. Thompson, Bristol

Republican

*Todd Hiatt, Kellyville

DISTRICT 30

Democrat

*Mike Tyler, Sapulpa

Republican

Pam Ballard, Sapulpa

DISTRICT 31

Democrat

C.E. Jim Hunt, Jr., Guthrie

Republican

*Frank Davis, Guthrie

DISTRICT 32

Democrat

*Don Kinnamon, Stroud

Republican

Don E. Sporleder, Davenport

DISTRICT 34

Democrat

Bernice Mitchell, Stillwater

Republican

Terry Ingmire, Stillwater

DISTRICT 35

Democrat

Peggy Lucas Prewitt, Cleveland

Republican

*Larry Ferguson, Cleveland

DISTRICT 36

Democrat

*James Hager, Pawhuska

Republican

John Handshy, Skiatook

DISTRICT 37

Democrat

Bernie Jackson, Ponca City

Republican

Jim Newport, Ponca City

DISTRICT 39

Democrat

Bill Long, Piedmont

Republican

*Wayne Pettigrew, Edmond

DISTRICT 40

Democrat

Rick Lowery, Enid

Republican

*Mike O'Neal, Enid

DISTRICT 41

Democrat

*Sean Voskuhl, Marshall

Republican

Curt Roggow, Enid

DISTRICT 44

Democrat

*Laura Boyd, Norman

Republican

Kennette Hughes, Norman

DISTRICT 45

Democrat

Wallace Collins, Norman

Republican

Steve Byas, Norman

Libertarian

Randy L. Boyd, Norman

DISTRICT 46

Democrat

Jamie McAloon, Norman

Republican

*Doug Miller, Norman

DISTRICT 47

Democrat

Richard Allen, Chickasha

Republican

*Dan Ramsey, Chickasha

DISTRICT 48

Democrat

*Al Sadler, Ardmore

Republican

Greg Piatt, Ardmore

Reform

Mike Thompson, Ardmore

DISTRICT 50

Democrat

*Jari Askins, Duncan

Republican

Sam Holthe, Duncan

DISTRICT 51

Democrat

Raymond G. McCarter, Marlow

Republican

Lonnie A. Ward, Walters

DISTRICT 52

Democrat

David B. Braddock, Altus

Republican

Ronald D. Osterhout, Altus

DISTRICT 53

Democrat

Mary Sue Schnell, Norman

Republican

*Carolyn Coleman, Moore

DISTRICT 54

Democrat

Leigh Tucker, Moore

Republican

*Joan Greenwood, Moore

DISTRICT 56

Democrat

*Ron Langmacher, Carnegie

Republican

Brent Parmer, Apache

DISTRICT 57

Democrat

James Covey, Custer City

Republican

Rick Webb, Custer City

DISTRICT 59

Democrat

*Clay Pope, Loyal

Republican

Carolyn L. McLarty, Mutual

DISTRICT 61

Democrat

*Jack Begley, Goodwell

Republican

Carla Smalts, Keyes

DISTRICT 62

Democrat

*Abe Deutschendorf, Lawton

Republican

Douglas F. Bayless, Lawton

DISTRICT 63

Democrat

*Lloyd Benson, Frederick

Republican

Juliana Peyravay, Lawton

DISTRICT 64

Democrat

*Ron Kirby, Lawton

Republican

Tab Turner, Lawton

DISTRICT 65

Democrat

*Jim R. Glover, Elgin

Republican

Chris Smith, Canton

DISTRICT 66

Democrat

*Russ Roach, Tulsa

Republican

Shirley Forsythe, Tulsa

DISTRICT 68

Democrat

*Shelby Satterfield, Tulsa

Republican

Bradley Gaskins, Tulsa

DISTRICT 69

Democrat

Harold G. Wilmott, Jenks

Republican

*Fred Perry, Tulsa

DISTRICT 71

Democrat

Harry Shivery, Tulsa

Republican

*John Sullivan, Tulsa

DISTRICT 72

Democrat

Darrell Gilbert, Tulsa

Republican

Leo P. Burgard, Tulsa

DISTRICT 74

Democrat

Phil Ostrander, Collinsville

Republican

*John Smaligo, Owasso

DISTRICT 75

Democrat

Rudy DeBruin, Tulsa

Republican

*Mike Thornbrugh, Tulsa

DISTRICT 77

Democrat

*Gary Stottlemire, Tulsa

Republican

Mark Liotta, Tulsa

DISTRICT 78

Democrat

Mary Easley, Tulsa

Republican

*Flint Breckinridge, Tulsa

DISTRICT 79

Democrat

Bret A. Unterschuetz, Tulsa

Republican

*Chris Hastings, Tulsa

DISTRICT 84

Democrat

Herb Bradshaw, Bethany

Republican

*Bill Graves, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 86

Democrat

*Larry Adair, Stilwell

Republican

Bobby J. McAlpine, Stilwell

DISTRICT 87

Democrat

Coleen Woody, Oklahoma City

Republican

*Robert Worthen, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 88

Democrat

*Debbie Blackburn, Oklahoma City

Republican

Pat Smith, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 92

Democrat

*Bill Paulk, Oklahoma City

Republican

Eddie Cox, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 93

Democrat

Al Lindley, Oklahoma City

Republican

Steven J. Hammontree, Okla. City

DISTRICT 94

Democrat

*Gary Bastin, Del City

Republican

Kevin Calvey, Del City

DISTRICT 96

Democrat

*Mark Seikel, Harrah

Republican

Darlene Pointer, Choctaw

DISTRICT 97

Democrat

*Kevin Cox, Oklahoma City

Republican

Nan Miller, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 98

Democrat

Jack Perry, Yukon

Republican

*Tim Pope, Mustang

DISTRICT 99

Democrat

*Opio Toure, Oklahoma City

Republican

Denise Engle, Oklahoma City

DISTRICT 101

Democrat

J. Alex Greenwood, Midwest City

Republican

*Forrest Claunch, Midwest City

* = Incumbent

CANDIDATES ELECTED 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

* = Incumbent

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 reseeding 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 Sub-Committee; 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
671		303	HJR 1010	Legislature 5-18-95	This measure amends Section 26 of Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It would let school districts make contracts with school superintendents for more than one year, but not to exceed three years.	Set for Nov. 5, 1996
672	363		"BOOST" Better Opportunities for Oklahoma Students and Taxpayers 6-30-95		<p>This measure adds a new Article to the Oklahoma Constitution. The new Article deals with gambling. The new Article legalizes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Slot machines and roulette, Craps, keno and video gambling All gambling played with cards, dice, mechanical devices or computers, and Other forms of gambling. <p>For the first five years there could only be four non-Indian gambling facilities. Those facilities are:</p> <ol 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. State limits and standards would have limited or no effect on Indian gambling. The State could not tax Indian gambling.</p> <p>The measure makes gambling debts legal and enforceable.</p> <p>State taxes on the new gambling would fund the Commission, and help education prisons. Some tax funds would go to local governments where State licensed gambling is conducted.</p>	Pending in Supreme Court Appeals and Protest filed

State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
673	364			Joe Windes 9-29-95	<p>This measure amends the State Constitution. The amendment instructs State legislators. The amendment instructs legislators to request a National Constitutional Convention. The Convention would occur if thirty-four states request it. There has never been such a Convention. There are many unanswered questions about such a Convention's limits, membership and powers.</p> <p>The Convention's purpose is the setting of congressional term limits. This would be by proposing an Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Amendment would become law if thirty-eight states approved it.</p> <p>The suggested term limits would limit members of the United States House Representatives to three terms of office. Each House term is a two-year term. The suggested term limits would limit a United States Senator to two terms of office. Each Senate term is a six-year term.</p> <p>A notice would tell voters when a legislator failed to request a Convention. This notice would be on election ballots. The notice would be next to a legislator's name. The ballot notice would appear when an incumbent legislator sought a legislative office.</p>	Pending in Supreme Court Appeals and Protest filed
674		304	SJR 24	Legislature 4/25/96	<p>This measure adds a new section to the State Constitution. The measure deals with the rights of victims of crime. The measure seeks to protect victims' rights that exist under court decisions. It also seeks to insure that victims are treated with respect and dignity in the criminal justice process.</p> <p>To achieve these goals, crime victims and their families would have certain rights, including the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

State Questions

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

State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
677		307	HB 2198	Legislature 05/24/96	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.	Set for Nov. 5, 1996

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Monday, November 4, 1996

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 | Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation, Auditorium, First Floor
1801 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City |
| 11:00 | Transportation Commission
Okla. Dept. of Transportation, 200 NE 21, Commission Room, Oklahoma City |

Tuesday, November 5, 1996

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 am - 7 pm | General Election
See results in Nov. 5 edition of Capitol Network News |
| 9:00 | Oklahoma Center for Advancement of Science and Technology
Applied Research Committee
Special Meeting
301 N.W. 63rd, Suite 225B, Oklahoma City |

Wednesday, November 6, 1996

- | | |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2:00 | Interim Study 96H-8, Rural Water Programs — Training Assistance
House Appropriations & Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources
State Capitol, Room 412-C |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Thursday, November 7, 1996

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8:00 | Asset Forfeiture Seminar for CLEET Certified Local, State & Federal Law Enforcement
Oklahoma City Police Training Center, 800 N. Portland, Oklahoma City |
| 10:00 | Senate Committee on Small Business
Public hearing on small business issues and concerns
High Plains Institute of Technology, Seminar A Room, 3921 34th St., Woodward |
| | Interim Study 96H-50, Motor Vehicles and Insurance
House Public Safety Committee
State Capitol, House Lounge |
| | House Revenue & Taxation Committee
THIS MEETING OPEN TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS ONLY.
State Capitol, Room 512-A |
| 1:30 | Task Force to Study Fees for Indigent Legal Services
State Capitol, Room 419-C |
| 4:00 | Commission for Teacher Preparation
Reading Room of Oklahoma School of Science & Math, 1141 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City |

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Friday, November 8, 1996

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

2:00 **Law Enforcement Policy Study (Senate Proposal 96S-103)**
Third Meeting, Room 419-C, State Capitol

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

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

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

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

Thursday, November 21, 1996

9:00 **Horse Racing Commission**
Shepherd Mall Activity Center, 2426 Plaza Prom, Oklahoma City

Commission on Children & Youth
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 114, Oklahoma City

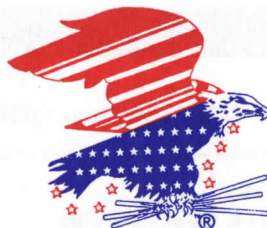
Monday, November 25, 1996

10:00 **Rehabilitation Services Commission**
3535 NW 58th Street, Second Floor Large Conference Room, Oklahoma City



*"If the jumper cables don't work,
I'll pour in some more anti-freeze."*

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