

Capitol Network News

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

Weekly Edition, Friday, November 15, 1996

REPUBLICANS RENAME FERGUSON LEADER

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) House Republicans reelected Larry Ferguson to serve as House minority leader Friday, during a caucus of that branch's minority party.



Rep. Larry Ferguson
Minority Leader

Ferguson, D-Cleveland, said his fellow Republicans came into Friday's caucus in a "surprisingly good mood," despite seeing their hopes of significant gains in House membership being beaten back during last week's general election.

"When you look at what happened across the country," said Ferguson, "where there were so many states in which the Democrats gained seats, I think we had reason to feel good. While we didn't gain any seats in the House, we didn't lose any, and we picked up two seats in the Senate."

Additionally, Ferguson noted, Republican candidates won 45 percent of the vote or more in a significant number of elections.

"All across the country the Democrats

made a big push to get everyone to vote a straight party ticket," Ferguson added. "Obviously, that didn't happen here."

The newly reelected minority leader said the House Republican delegation "will continue to do what we were doing last session — fighting for the reforms we think we can get."

Specifically, Ferguson said, Republicans have their sights set on repealing the prison early release law, enacting truth in sentencing legislation and dealing with the corrections situation. Additionally, he said, tax cuts will be considered if projects show the state will have enough revenue to afford them.

"We're not out to get credit for passing everything," Ferguson said. "There's no

pride of authorship for us. What we will have to do is to get behind a Democrat with a good bill and push that legislation."

Other members of the minority leadership team selected Friday include:

- Assistant minority floor leaders Robert Worthen, of Oklahoma City; Fred Morgan, of Oklahoma City; and Ray Vaughn, of Edmond;

- Caucus chairman Forrest Claunch, of Midwest City;

- Assistant caucus chair John Bryant, of Tulsa;

- Caucus secretary Joan Greenwood, of Moore; and

- Whips Don Ramsey, of Chickasha; and Tim Pope, of Mustang.

MENTAL ILLNESS INSURANCE COVERAGE PARITY TASK FORCE MOVES TOWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Task Force on Parity for Mental Illness Insurance Coverage moved a step closer to making its recommendations to legislative leaders Friday after hearing from a series of speakers, many of whom expressed caution about mandating such coverage.

The legislatively-created task force is examining the idea of implementing a minimum standard of mental health insurance, comparable to that offered for physical illnesses and injuries, to be offered by those who provide group insurance plans, particularly businesses. In previous meetings, members of the task force, as well as those testifying before the panel, have expressed support for that idea.

The amount of support expressed Friday, however, was somewhat more limited.

Tom Laster, a regional representative for Rogers Benefit Group, a marketing and service organization for small group insurance plans, told the panel that by mandating certain types and amounts of coverage that they would likely force the cost of insurance to increase.

"From a small business perspective," said

Laster, "you have to remember that any increased cost that results from a mandate is like a tax on small business."

Additionally, Laster noted, such an effort might have an unintended consequence, causing some business, particularly small ones, to look toward self-insurance, which would not be covered by a state law.

Laster's position was supported by Roger Hicks, of Roger Hicks and Associates, a firm similar to Laster's that deals with smaller companies. Hicks said that while he and others in the insurance industry shared the goal of providing mental health insurance parity, many were concerned that such an effort would drive up costs, and in turn, reduce the amount of access to both mental health and physical health services.

Also expressing opposition to the mental health insurance parity idea were The State Chamber and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

In a letter to Sen. Angela Monson, D-Tulsa and chair of the task force, Ron Cupp, vice president of government affairs for The State Chamber, and State Chamber educa-

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MANAGED CARE TASK FORCE CONSIDERS QUALITY

By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer

■(GIT) One of the issues facing the Senate's Managed Care Task Force is the maintenance of the quality of care provided by managed care providers. On Friday, the panel heard details of a possible way of determining whether quality care is being delivered.

The question before the panel, task force chairman Mike Duncan said, is to what degree an instrument exists to address quality of care related issues, which is one of several issues identified for discussion and possible legislation by the task force's members.

To answer that question, the task force heard from Stephen Lamb, from the National Committee on Quality Assurance, a non-profit organization which accredits health plans and provides related information to the public.

The committee, Lamb explains, offers two methods for measuring quality — its accrediting services and HEDIS, health plan employer data and information set.

In the area of accreditation, Lamb explained, the committee "holds managed care plans accountable to their potential," not simply to an arbitrary set of standards.

"A health plan has to show us that it has improved and that it has a plan for the future," said Lamb.

In order to determine whether that is the case, he said, the committee looks at several factors, including:

- Quality improvement efforts;
- Utilization management;
- Credentialling;
- Members rights and responsibilities;
- Preventative health services; and

- Medical records.

"The biggest problem," Lamb said, "is that managed care has traditionally not thought in terms of quality."

Yet, he noted, approximately 55 percent of the nation's 630 managed care plans, including the eight in Oklahoma, have been accredited.

Members of the task force who have dealt with the committee's accreditation procedures praised the organization, calling its requirements stringent.

HEDIS, Lamb explained, is a tool designed to help consumers evaluate the various health plans available. A HEDIS report, he said, includes information on 75 reporting issues and 30 testing or research issues, focusing on areas such as efficiency of care, access and availability, cost of care, use of services and stability of the health plan.

Also addressing the task force Friday was Tony Caudill, director of the Oklahoma

Foundation for Medical Quality, an educational, non-profit organization interested in promoting quality health care.

Caudill told the panel that currently no effort is made to determine the outcomes of specific diagnoses, making it difficult to determine whether quality care was actually being delivered. To address that problem, Caudill suggested that the task force consider recommending to the legislature the funding of outcomes oriented research.

"That's the only way we are going to know that we are making progress in the public health arena," he said.

Whether the panel will adopt that idea or the standards of the National Committee on Quality Assurance was not addressed Friday. However, the task force will meet again Dec. 12, when it will hear from a representative of the National Governor's Association and begin preparations to draft its report for the legislature.

Mental Illness, continued from page 1

tion director Karen Leveridge wrote, "In 1985, The State Chamber's Board of Directors adopted the following policy position: 'The State Chamber will oppose attempts to mandate coverage of alcohol, drug abuse and mental illness in health care policies in Oklahoma. Such coverages at best are left to the option of the individual employer purchasing insurance.' That policy was reaffirmed in 1992.

"A corollary policy was added in 1987: 'The State Chamber will oppose attempts to unfairly shift the burden of societal health care costs to business.'

"Nothing has transpired in the past several years that would lead the Chamber to moderate these policies. We encourage the task force to look closely at this issue and consider the ramifications on our state's employers. The State Chamber will oppose any legislation in the upcoming session which proposes mandated increases in health care coverage."

A similar position was expressed by Matt Robison, government relations manager for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

"As Oklahoma already has one of the highest rates of uninsured in the nation, the legislation being considered by this task force could have serious implications. and repercussions on our state's workers and their dependents," Robison wrote. "We recognize the

proponents of mental health parity are sincere and well-meaning; however, as representatives of employers who try to offer affordable health care packages to their employees, we must resist any effort to legislative additional health insurance benefit coverage."

Expressing the opposite view was Sharron Boehler, commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services, who reiterated to the committee that research of the past several years had identified mental illness to be a biologically based disorder.

"That means those with mental illnesses should be able to seek treatment as they would any other physical illness and that it should be funded accordingly," said Boehler.

Dr. Jorg Pahl, psychiatrist and president of the Pahl Brain Institute, reviewed for the committee some of the recent research which has redefined mental illnesses as biologically based diseases, removing from them the mystery and stigma once associated with them.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the panel was asked by Monson to identify what type of parity — full or partial — they believed could be approved legislatively. The group split fairly equally between the two options.

During the task force's next meeting, set for Dec. 16 at 10 a.m., Monson said the panel will focus its attention on completing its recommendations to the legislature, addressing specifically the type of parity to be sought and other related issues.

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FOSTER CARE: THE WILL TO ACT

By Brandon Webb
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Late Friday afternoon Governor Keating sat down with a task force to discuss the increasing problems with Oklahoma's child foster care program. Last May the five member panel met at the governors request to make a report and recommendations on the future of Oklahoma's foster care. Michael Sanders, executive director of Citizens Caring for Children chaired the task force. Members for Oklahoma's DHS, Juvenile affairs and the governor's office all participated in the task force.

The panel's findings are now complete and the report entitled "Children First: The Will to Act," is in the hands of the Governor. The report appears to be both timely and needed. Coming on the heels of six foster children being removed from a Lincoln County foster home after a child welfare worker discovered what were described as deplorable conditions.

Secretary of Human Services Ken Lackey, who compiled the task force report, said that foster care is a very critical issue to Oklahoma. Lackey believes that foster care is an answer to problems the state is having with child abuse and the juvenile system. Oklahoma has only 1,600 foster care families, responsible for the welfare of 3,500 children. Unfortunately the number of foster care families is nearly the same as were participating 12 years ago.

Lackey acknowledges that we need more foster care families today than we needed several years ago in order to implement some of the recommended solutions. When asked what some of those solutions were Lackey deferred the answer until after the Governor had time to look at the report. The Governor did declare his intention of asking state churches to help recruit new foster care families.

Governor Keating intends to digest the information, with the goal of discovering what goes on in foster care, why it goes on, how it occurs and how to keep it from recurring. The Governor plans to review the report with the committee members and determine what regulatory and statutory changes are needed to see that the task force recommendations are implemented.

When the new laws go on the books, Keating wants to make sure foster children are nurtured, cared for, and educated. Sanders stated, "It is bad enough when the state has to take a child away from a real family, but it's even worse when the foster family is

poor."

Keating responded, "If we are falling down on that responsibility it is unsatisfactory. We have children that need to be protected."

Sanders commented "You can have all the policies and legislation in the world but if you don't make a conscious decision to improve the system from the bottom level up, not the top level down, then you're not looking out for your mission. And that is the

best interests of the child."

Lackey said "The real story on the report is not that there are some great recommendations. The story here is that we have had great recommendations many times before but they haven't been acted on. Hopefully they will be acted on so we can build a foster care base in Oklahoma."

To which Keating emphatically replied, "This administration has the will to act!"

INTERIM STUDY LOOKS AT TRUTH IN SENTENCING

By Michelle Boyd Waters
Staff Writer

■(GIT) The Truth in Sentencing Policy Advisory Commission and interim studies plan to reintroduce legislation to insure prisoners serve most of their sentences, to give judges control of sentencing in non-capital cases and to find alternative ways to punish first-time, non-violent offenders, said Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, and House chairman of the joint interim study.

A special subcommittee within the commission is working on a fiscal impact study to present to the legislature while another interim study is focusing on educating the legislators about the issues involved in the proposed legislation, Paul O'Connell, executive director of the TIS commission, said.

The commission finalized a bill proposal in April 1996 and gave it to the legislature, but by the time HB1138 was introduced, it was too late for it to get full consideration during the 45th legislature.

Capitol Network News reported that HB1138 — which was combined with another initiative to create SB1200, the Rozell Community Corrections Act Bill — was defeated in the last hours of the 45th legislature. Some legislators commented that, though they supported the initiative, they could not pass a bill they did not have time to study in depth.

"Our hope is that the bill will be considered and eventually passed this session," O'Connell said. He also said that the defeated bill bore little resemblance to the original proposal created by the commission. Key items such as the sentencing matrices and the stipulation that 85 percent of the sentence be served in all but five felonies were dropped from the final bill.

The interim studies are also looking at community corrections issues in conjunction with the main truth in sentencing issue, Steidley said. The key issues in truth in sen-

tencing include managing and prioritizing available prison space, ensuring the length of time served, giving judges control of sentencing and seeking alternative punishments for first-time, non-violent offenders.

"We want to keep prison space open for violent, repeat offenders," Steidley said. "We're trying to prioritize space for upper-level felonies."

The proposed bill will also seek to establish rules that will allow offenders to serve no less than 85 percent of their sentences before becoming eligible for parole or other community corrections programs. Oklahoma's prisoners only serve 15 percent of their terms under current laws.

Steidley also said that the bill currently allows for consideration of aggravating or mitigating circumstances.

The bill seeks to eliminate jury sentencing in non-capital punishment cases, the representative said. Under the proposed bill, a judge would refer to four grids or matrices, which clearly outline punishments based on the severity of the crime and the offenders criminal record, to determine the appropriate sentence.

Each of the four matrices cover an area of crime, including general felonies, drug crimes, sex crimes and driving while under the influence. Each matrix is also divided into levels, which determine the length and type of punishment and schedules, which determine the severity of the crime.

The bill would also allow for judges to be involved in the plea bargaining process, which traditionally has involved only prosecution and defense attorneys.

Community corrections issues under consideration include providing communities with additional resources for lower-level felonies, finding ways to rehabilitate people with behavioral or drug problems and providing early intervention.

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911 EMERGENCY SYSTEM GEARING UP

By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Realizing the need for fast response to emergencies in Oklahoma, HB1382 was passed by the Legislature in April 1995, creating a "Statewide Emergency 911 Advisory Committee." Principal authors Rep. Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, and Sen. Ben Robinson, D-Muskogee, established guidelines for committee personnel and activities.

The committee, composed of 18 appointed members, was to "develop minimum performance standards for equipment and operation of a statewide 911 emergency telephone service, including automatic number identification . . . and any other features the committee considers appropriate."

The advisory committee was also charged with determining an assessment amount and sources for a statewide system, and make recommendations about distribution of the fee. The committee issued a final report to Gov. Keating, Speaker of the House Glen Johnson and President Pro Tempore of the Senate Stratton Taylor.

Committee members are also mandated to set a timetable for implementation of a

statewide 911 system by September 1, 1998.

During the second session of the 45th Legislature, Sen. Lewis Long Jr, D-Glenpool, and Rep. Shelby Satterfield, D-Tulsa, introduced SB1270. The bill directs the Statewide 911 Emergency Advisory Committee to "consider the presumption that all providers of dial tone are obligated to participate in the provision of 911 service and its funding." The bill passed with an emergency clause and Gov. Keating signed it May 20, 1996.

Oklahoma has approximately 80 emergency 911 systems, in some form, covering 25 percent of the state, said Rebecca Leikheim, president of the Oklahoma chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). Through her organization, Oklahoma was 38th to apply for chapter recognition. The group will celebrate their first anniversary, Dec. 26.

NENA is dedicated to public education regarding the 911 system, Leikheim said, and is now 5,000 members strong, composed of law enforcement professionals, fire fighters, emergency medical personnel and the "people who run 911 centers."

A statewide public education program is underway to assist in resolving existing service problems, Leikheim said. "There are a lot of problems nationally with the 911 system because of changes in technology," Leikheim said. Basic, and oldest, 911 service displays the phone number on the emergency receiver. Until recently, Oklahoma's best system displayed the phone number, name and address, only. "Caller ID provides more information than that," Leikheim said.

But one area of Oklahoma has established a state-of-the-art 911 emergency system, and two more are on the way. Muldrow, in Sequoyah County utilizes a system enhanced by computer mapping and the satellite global positioning system — in emergency vehicles. Complete computer demographics for some areas, delivered by residents and businesses on a voluntary basis, give emergency crews information about possible hazardous materials nearby or residents on respirators if the electricity fails. Information about oxygen tanks in homes is available to firefighters, when residents give them the information to add to the computer base.

Choctaw County is setting up the same type system, funded by a federal grant after the area was declared an enterprise zone.

In western Sequoyah County, Sallisaw

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TINKER RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

By Michelle Boyd Waters
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Tinker Air Force Base won top honors for its federal energy activities project in the National Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Awards competition, said Sherwood Washington, director of the Community Affairs and Development Division of the Oklahoma Department of Commerce. Central & South West Corporation of Tulsa and the City of Guymon were also recognized.

These awards recognize individuals, institutions, companies and government agencies that implement energy-related measures that benefit the nation's environment, economy and security. Top winners were recognized at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. by Assistant Energy Secretary Christine Ervin.

"We're proud of the accomplishments of our state winners who were recognized by the Department of Energy with these prestigious awards," said Leo Presley, executive director of the Commerce Department. "These programs demonstrate how committed Oklahoma is to preserving precious energy resources through the development and promotion of responsible energy use."

Tinker was recognized for promoting the use of clean renewable energy resources in the design of large-scale systems. Tinker also introduced new technologies into the marketplace such as photovoltaics and wind turbines.

Tinker received an etched glass trophy from the DOE for its efforts.

A Tulsa company, Central & South West Corporation, the parent company of Public Service Company of Oklahoma, won special recognition in the utility technology category and the City of Guymon received a certificate of recognition in the transportation technology category, Washington said.

Central & South West Corporation received special recognition for a \$17 million effort to construct, operate, evaluate and promote the use of renewable energy sources and state-of-the-art renewable energy technologies.

The Tulsa company received a mounted four-color certificate for its special recognition.

The City of Guymon converted its municipal vehicles to natural gas and built its own fueling station. The conversion of each vehicle cost \$2,500. However, the city will save enough money to pay for the conversion.

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Communities also would be allowed to establish local boards to coordinate and administer sentencing options and assess long-term needs under the auspices of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

Paulk said the interim studies have not met yet.

Members of the Truth in Sentencing Commission include John Wampler, District 3 district attorney; Sam Gonzales, Oklahoma City chief of police; Susan Loving, Pardon and Parole Board representative; the Honorable Daniel L. Owens, Oklahoma County district court judge; Robert "Bob" Ravitz, Oklahoma County chief public defender; Michael Roark, chairman of the Board of Corrections; Steidley; Richard Wintory, chief deputy attorney general of the criminal division; Weldon Stout, Muskogee; the Honorable Gary Lumpkin, Court of Criminal Appeals judge; Sheriff Doug Powell, Logan County; Charles Richardson, Trial Lawyers Association representative; Cliff Sandel, Oklahoma Department of Corrections; the Honorable Joseph M. Watt, Oklahoma Supreme Court justice and Paul O'Connell, executive director of the commission.

U.S. LEGISLATORS WILL SPEAK AT OFB CONVENTION

From Oklahoma Farm Bureau

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahoma's senior U.S. Sen. Don Nickles and three members of the House of Representatives will speak at Oklahoma Farm Bureau's 55th annual convention in Tulsa.

The 55th annual meeting, Nov. 17-19 at the Southern Hills Marriott in Tulsa, also features U.S. Representatives Frank Lucas, Steve Largent and Bill Brewster along with a video message from Congressman-Elect Wes Watkins.

Sen. Nickles will be featured during the afternoon general session, Monday, Nov. 18. Lucas, the sixth district office holder and a member of the House Agriculture committee, follows Nickles during that same session.

Watkins, who regained his third district seat in Congress, will address the morning general session on Nov. 18 via a videotaped message. Also scheduled at that session are Oklahoma Speaker-Elect of the House Loyd Benson and Dennis Howard, Oklahoma Commissioner of Agriculture.

Largent, the first district office holder, will be the featured speaker during the Tuesday, Nov. 19 morning general session.

Brewster, the current third district office holder, will speak during the Sunday, Nov.

17 awards and recognition program.

"We are proud to welcome this outstanding group of lawmakers to our annual convention," said Matt Wilson, OFB Executive Director. "Oklahoma Farm Bureau is proud of the state's entire Congressional delegation, the work they do on behalf of our state and the strong support they show for Farm Bureau policy in their respective chambers."

He also pointed out that Oklahoma's lawmakers were one of the few, if not only, state delegations officially recognized with "Friend of Farm Bureau Awards." Those awards recognize lawmakers who had at least a 60 percent voting record on Farm Bureau priority issues during the 104th Congress.

The OFB board of directors nominated Oklahoma's entire delegation for the award. The American Farm Bureau Federation board of directors approved the nomination. Nationally, 253 of the 535 Members of Congress qualified for the Friend of Farm Bureau Award.

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sion in two years, said Gordon Gore, a representative of the Commerce Department.

Gore said that when gasoline costs \$1.20 per gallon, natural gas only costs 46 cents. Natural gas is also a cleaner burning fuel. Vehicles which burn natural gas require less maintenance than gasoline-burning vehicles, Gore said. The oil in the natural gas vehicles also stays cleaner and the vehicles release fewer pollutants into the air.

The City of Guymon also has its own natural gas site, Gore said.

A joint project, called the Texas Windpower Project, submitted by the Texas General Land Office and the Lower Colorado River Authority won Best in Category for utility technology, said Betsy Bird, project manager for Renew America, a non-profit organization contracted by the U.S. Department of Energy to organize the awards program.

The Massachusetts Port Authority won Best in Category in the transportation area with its alternative fuel infrastructure developments and vehicle procurement program, Bird said.

According to Renew America records, 225 projects were submitted in the competition in six categories. The categories include building technology, energy technology and education, federal energy activities, industrial technology, transportation technology and utility technology.

Along with the lawmakers, there will be a full slate of business at the annual meeting.

Delegates will determine OFB policy for 1997 when they tackle resolutions submitted by county Farm Bureaus.

Delegates from districts one, four and seven will caucus to elect state directors. Farm Bureau Women also will caucus for state committee members from those districts. The women also will elect a state FBW chairman.

The Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee will caucus during the meeting and elect state committee officers.

Two educational workshops are scheduled Nov. 18. "Forecasts for the '97 Livestock and Grain Markets," and "The Farm Bill and CRP Implementation" will be repeated to allow everyone interested to attend both programs.

Political commentators Burns Hargis and Mike Turpen will speak in their popular "Flashpoint" venue Monday afternoon.

911 Service, cont. from page 4

will be the headquarters for a regional system. Adair County has expressed interest in becoming part of the emergency 911 region.

All other existing 911 systems are due for replacement as soon as possible Leikheim said, because the older technology doesn't recognize 10-digit dialing, wireless calling or number portability.

The Oklahoma Chapter will celebrate their first year of service with an anniversary meeting January 30 in Tulsa. Exhibits will be set up to demonstrate the newest technology for rural and urban areas. The meeting begins at 10 a.m., and will be followed by a banquet, featuring guest speaker Laverne Hogan, of Houston.

Legislature Swearing In Tuesday, November 19

Senate 11 am
Senate Chamber

House at noon
House Chamber

Projects are evaluated on the basis of the following criteria: program effectiveness, natural resource conservation, economic progress and energy education and awareness. Projects must be operational for at least one year to allow documentation of the projected energy savings or the program results.

One Best in Category award is given in each area, Bird said. Eight special recognitions can be given in each category. Thirty-five special recognition awards were given this year. Each project entered receives a certificate of recognition.

Renew America, Washington, D.C., promotes successful environmental protection programs and also hosts its own national awards competition.

"A professional politician's first duty is to appeal to the forces that unite us, and to channel the forces that divide us into paths where a democratic solution is possible. It is our obligation to resolve issues — not to create them."

Lyndon Baines Johnson
Life
Nov. 29, 1963

GOVERNOR ENCOURAGES OKLAHOMANS TO WATCH NATIONAL TELECAST OF STATE'S HISTORY

By Brandon Webb
Staff Writer

■(GIT) At a Friday afternoon press conference, Governor Frank Keating encouraged teachers, students, business leaders and all Oklahomans to watch the historic national premier of "Oklahoma: Native America." Saturday, November 16 is Oklahoma's Statehood Day and The Nashville Network will televise the hour-long Statehood Day presentation that evening from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. TNN reaches over 65 million homes in the United States and 6 million homes in Canada. Governor Keating hopes each of these households turn on to see the hour-long tribute to Oklahoma's heritage and achievements.

Developed as a part of the "Oklahoma: Native America" tourism campaign, the show debuted one year ago on Oklahoma's 1995 Statehood Day. Ten television stations statewide including OETA have broadcast the program. The special celebrates the state's diverse and scenic terrain, its unique heritage and character, and many nationally acclaimed native sons and daughters. Four years in the making, the presentation draws on more than 400 hours of footage, and recognizes about 100 hometowns.

"This is a great opportunity for the rest of the nation, as well as those Oklahomans who missed seeing it last year, to see and hear about our magnificent state and the wonderful heritage of Oklahoma," Keating said. "Now the rest of the nation will know what we already know about our state — Oklahoma is a great state. I want to congratulate all those involved for their hard work and dedication to this project. It is a wonderful tribute to them that the rest of the country will now see the fruits of their labor."

Brian Hughes, TNN vice president of programming added, "Whatever mental image a person may have of this region, many people will be pleasantly surprised at what they see in this special. Oklahoma has made some enormous contributions to the history, leadership, and quality of life in our country."

"The best blood will sometimes get into a fool or a mosquito."

Austin O'Malley

DOT TO PIONEER FEDERAL USE OF PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL ADVICE AND MANAGEMENT

From U.S. Dept. of Transportation

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Transportation has asked for comment on a draft request for proposals (RFP) which would make DOT the first federal agency to establish a fee-based arrangement with its travel services contractor and use incentives for improving the quality of travel services.

Relying on the professional knowledge and skill of contract travel managers, DOT will improve accommodations for its employees on official travel and at the same time cut costs, the department said.

"This innovation will save costs, improve travel services and make the department operate more like a private business," Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena said. "I applaud our staff for moving forward on this important project."

First conceived a year ago, the draft RFP incorporates rapidly evolving travel reservation automation technology and a flexible fee structure. The fee structure is designed to promote the traveler's use of automation by setting lower fees for automated self-made reservations.

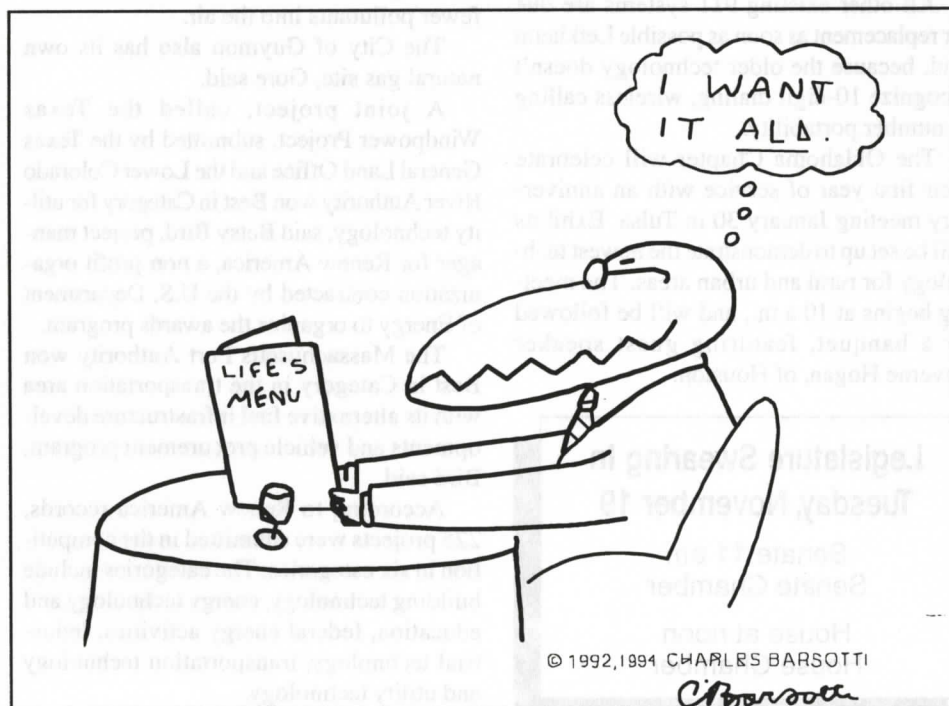
A pace-setting incentive system is designed to award bonuses to DOT's professional contract travel managers who manage DOT's trips efficiently, improving the quality of a traveler's accommodations while reducing overall costs. This moves DOT away from the conventional rebate/commis-

sion structure which rewards travel agencies when more is spent on travel, not less.

The department said that it wants to transform transaction-oriented travel services into a dynamic ensemble of professional contract travel advisers dedicated to educating DOT travelers and negotiating arrangements that maximize the use of federal funds. Under this system, contract travel managers will be compensated for their expertise and results, creating for the first time a relationship that aligns the interest of the taxpayers and travel agencies.

The contractor will be rewarded for achieving costs savings from air fares that are lower than government rates, including the use of restricted tickets, fare sales, group travel opportunities, coupon offerings and consolidator fares. They also will be encouraged to increase the use of negotiated hotel, car and airline rates and to take advantage of frequent traveler programs for high-frequency travelers. DOT and the contractor will share cost savings.

The draft RFP is available electronically via the Internet at <http://www.dot.gov/ost/m60/dotrft.htm>. A pre-solicitation meeting will be held Nov. 22 in room 2230 of the DOT headquarters, 400 7th St., S.W., Washington, D.C., from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Offerors are limited to three representatives. Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, call Pat Hanson at (202) 366-4976.



That's Good for Oklahoma!®

NEOMC SERVES IMPORTANT ROLE FOR OKLAHOMA MANUFACTURERS

(GIT) When your business is repairing antique reciprocating engines for aircraft and you need a part that hasn't been manufactured since the 1940s, you could be grounded if a ready source of parts isn't found. In northeast Oklahoma a unique affiliation of manufacturers, businesses, and educators have pioneered an innovative and profitable approach to providing solutions for manufacturers and consumers alike.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, federal and state government entities focused greater attention on the economic vitality of manufacturing firms. Despite the declining percentage of people working in the sector, government leaders began to realize that a healthy economy depended on manufacturing. At the same time, added emphasis was beginning to be placed on increasing the performance of small and medium-sized firms. Oklahoma quickly embraced this new direction, authorizing a strategic plan to help support extension efforts for manufacturing.

A cornerstone of the strategic plan was providing greater access to training and technical assistance to small manufacturers. One of the best ways to achieve this was through cooperative networking among many firms. OSU-Okmulgee eagerly embraced the better education philosophy. Regional Technology Strategies, Inc., under an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant, awarded OSU-Okmulgee a subcontract to create the Northeast Oklahoma Manufacturing Council (NEOMC).

In 1993, NEOMC was born. The non-profit organization began with 33 members. Today, membership stands at 58 manufacturers, Creek Nation, Green Country Vo-Tech, the Okmulgee Chamber of

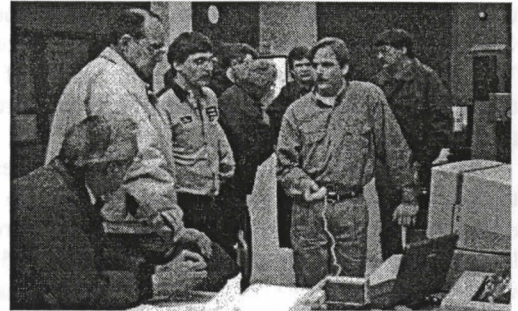
Commerce, Okmulgee Public Schools, and OSU-Okmulgee. Bob Goodloe who acts as the college's liaison with the manufacturers, sees NEOMC serving a vital function for state manufacturers. Goodloe describes NEOMC's diverse manufacturing membership as the beauty of the organization. "It's an excellent opportunity for firms to network together and come up with solutions to common problems," Goodloe said.

"Although our manufacturers produce many different types of products we have very similar concerns. NEOMC has proven that when our manu-

facturers work together, there are no goals that cannot be accomplished," said Don Freeman of Anchor Glass Co.

Todd Klabenes, director of corporate projects for Penn Well Printing, is chair of NEOMC and has been involved with the organization since day one. NEOMC members have the opportunity to form partnerships with the goal of continually improving manufacturing operations. "There are a lot of situations that are not unique to a particular manufacturer. In that respect, this organization provides a great opportunity to manufacturers in Northeast Oklahoma to put their minds to work to solve problems together," Klabenes said.

A key member of NEOMC is the Muskogee Creek Nation. Tribal members benefit from NEOMC's training programs and add to the tribe's and the state's skilled labor pool. And, the tribal manufacturing concerns also benefit from the combined strength of the NEOMC members. On the other hand, the other member entities benefit from the tribe's participation in NEOMC — it adds even more strength to their numbers, and provides important benefits unique to partnering with sovereign nations.



NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA MANUFACTURER'S COUNCIL

Acme Engineering	Electronic Counter Corp.	Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center
Air-X-Changers	Escort Trailer Corp.	Okmulgee Chamber of Commerce
Alliance Ceramicsteel	First National Bank	OMNI Manufacturing
Alpha Investment Casing	G & H Decoy	OSU-Okmulgee
Anchor Glass Corp.	General MFG	P-W Manufacturing
Beeline Products	Great Plains Coca Cola	Parker Filtration
Bennett Engineering	Green Country Vo-Tech	Pennwell Printing Co.
Braden/Carco	H.O.F. Enterprises Inc.	Public Service Co.
Callidus Technology	Henryetta Chamber of Commerce	Quality Machine & Mfg.
Charles Machine Works	Industrial Machine Repair	Rockwell International
Circuits, Inc.	J & M Machine Shop	Southwestern Wire Cloth
Citizens National Bank	Kelco	T.D. Williamson Co.
Coburn Optical Inc.	LODESTAR	Tubular Corp of America
Copeland Manufacturing Corp.	McElroy Manufacturers Inc.	Van Schaik Associates
Covington Aircraft	Metal Dynamics	W.E.M. Industries
Da-Pro Rubber Inc.	Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Ward Tool, Inc.
Darr Equipment Co.	National Oilwell	Warren Manufacturing
Eaton Corp.	OAME	Wheatley Gaso
Eaton Hydraulics	OCIDM	Zebco

NEOMC was formed with the mission to provide leadership in fashioning partnerships to continually improve manufacturing operations. Likewise, NEOMC set out to address manufacturing concerns, foster employee development, modernize technology, support industrial education and promote corporate citizenship throughout eastern Oklahoma. Through its partnerships NEOMC has accomplished many of those initiatives.

Every June a manufacturing academy for junior high students is offered. This past summer more than 50 students took part. Many were introduced to the manufacturing industry for the very first time. NEOMC was also instrumental in developing a joint venture with Green Country Vo-Tech to establish technol-

ogy oriented programs for secondary students.

In addition, an internship program has been developed for OSU-Okmulgee students to gain manufacturing experience working with NEOMC firms. The internship program provides opportunities for a student to do concentrated research or project development in their field of training under the leadership and direction of a mentor, the student's employer, and the internship coordinator.

Students are required to keep thorough daily logs, plus prepare and give a final summary presentation. Mentors provide direction, assistance, and leadership, and meet with interns and the coordinators regularly. They also provide evaluations, reports, and time schedules throughout the experience to the coordinator.

Each student thrives under a one-to-one teacher ratio and the experience and knowledge of a mentor. In addition, it's an excellent preparation for the student's school-to-work transition.

"From an employer's standpoint, it gives us our future workers. The youth are the people who are going to be out there making our future," said Lee Wagner, Plant Manager of Paccar Winch, Okmulgee Division.

"We all understand and value the importance of developing a qualified and competitive work force. NEOMC is facilitating that process by encouraging these partnerships and internships," Klabenes proudly remarked.

Local manufacturers are quick to acknowledge the importance of NEOMC in their day-to-day operations. Covington Aircraft Engines, an Oklahoma company, searched three years for a company to manufacture the Bosch magneto cam, an engine part used primarily in crop dusting planes. During the 1930s, several companies were manufacturing the part. However, by the 1940s, no one was making the cam anymore forcing pilots to use the same parts over and over.

Covington's search finally came to an end when Bob Goodloe contacted Omni Manufacturing in Drumright. Clarence Harrelson's Omni corporation had not been a member

of NEOMC for long before reaping the rewards. "The last new cam was manufactured sometime around 1940, so the only available print showed length but not the degree or radius of angles," said Harrelson. Using some old existing magneto cams, Omini had a working prototype within six weeks. Covington was so pleased with the results he signed a four-year contract with Omni.

Goodloe helped Omni apply for a special certification, designating the Drumright firm as the only company in the world certified to make this part. This will have unending benefits for Omni. Besides Covington, there are roughly 20 other companies throughout the country working on this type of engine. Many of these companies will soon be using parts produced at Harrelson's plant.

Goodloe also helped write a Small Business Innovation Research grant application to seek funds for the reverse engineering project. Omni hopes to receive almost \$50,000 for the developing, testing, and manufacturing of prototypes.

Even larger companies, like Tulsa's Zebco Corp. see the benefits of NEOMC. Zebco Industrial Relations Manager Don Freeman has also been involved with the organization since its inception. Freeman could feel the synergy among the participating manufacturers in their very first meeting.

"People discovered they could accomplish more if they pooled their resources. It's also a known fact that there's strength in numbers. I think our voice is much stronger on issues including workers compensation that are of concern to the manufacturing industry," Freeman proclaimed.

Hugh Garrison, owner of Quality Machine, is another member and strong advocate of NEOMC. "It's a great network of manufacturers in terms of exchanging information," Garrison professes. Quality Machine generates 90 percent of their business from manufacturing parts for oil-related equipment. Due to Garrison's association with NEOMC, Quality Machine has been able to trade out work with other companies.

Garrison states, "There have been times

when I've needed to buy in great volume. We're working out an arrangement now where smaller companies like mine can buy the steel we need from firms that are buying in greater quantity. In essence, I can buy it cheaper that way." Garrison went on to add that, "None of the small businesses I'm familiar with have all the expertise they need. We can work together however, and make a lot of contacts with others who do have the expertise. As members of NEOMC, we have access to a lot of information, and that's been invaluable."

Garrison said, "As an active member of the NEOMC organization, I can unequivocally say that the greatest benefit realized by its membership is in the sharing of knowledge pertinent and unique to our industry. With the resources available through our organization, one can reach beyond boundaries seemingly inherent, but only limited by those imposed. It is for these reasons that I take pride in my membership."

NEOMC has cultivated a strong network of expertise to discover new solutions, increase productivity and create opportunities for companies to bid on contracts. "It is an organization that is a strong advocate for manufacturers because of our ability to unite various companies. Besides the many other advantages through networking resources, NEOMC provides members a forum to voice concerns along with providing avenues for action," Klabenes said.

All Oklahoma manufacturers and the state's economy share in the benefits derived by NEOMC. The cultivation of local vendors affects the entire state economy. And the state's labor pool is increased and enriched through the early and on-going training programs of NEOMC.

Today's "global economy" isn't just a buzzword. It's reality. The implications are that businesses must gear their efforts to compete — ultimately — in that global economy. But how can smaller businesses compete effectively against a veritable world of industry giants? By joining forces. Which is exactly what was in mind when this group of northeast Oklahoma manufacturers and concerned institutions got together in the fall of 1993. Their mission is to determine how they can strengthen their own manufacturing community to more effectively compete in this part of the country. In the entire United States. In the world. As one member said, NEOMC has proven that when manufacturers work together, there are no goals that cannot be accomplished. That's good for manufacturers; that's good for our young people; and that's good for Oklahoma.

Members can expect their partnering experiences within NEOMC to result in:

- A stronger network of expertise to formulate their own solutions.
- Increased opportunities to bid on projects, via joint bidding.
- Increased productivity and local economic growth through cultivation of local vendors.
- An advocacy, increasing power and leverage for voicing opinions on issues, mandates, legislation, through the uniting of multiple companies and organizations.
- Cost savings due to shared use of expertise, services, and consultants.
- Cost savings from shared expenses for employee education and other joint ventures.
- A larger, more dedicated pool of skilled labor/employees.

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



AGRICULTURE

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE MUST CONDUCT HEARINGS ON LAND

■(GIT) The Oklahoma Board of Agriculture must conduct hearings for protesting landowners who present factual allegations showing that proposed feed yard operations may be a direct impact on their property, according to an attorney general's opinion released Friday.

The opinion, requested by Sen. Ben. Brown, D-Oklahoma City, says, in part, "When written comments received by landowners within the vicinity of the proposed feed yard operation present specific factual allegations showing that the proposed feed yard operation may have a direct, substantial and immediate affect upon their property or legal interest, the Board of Agriculture must hold an individual proceeding for the protesting landowner."

The opinion also says that landowners living within one-half mile of a proposed feed lot operation must receive notice when an application for a feedlot permit is received. The landowner also has the right to supply written comments to the board, protesting the permitting of the operation.

"A number of Oklahomans have raised serious concerns about the impact of hog farms and feedlot operations on their property and water sources," said Attorney General Drew Edmondson. "The law clearly states that feed yards must meet specific requirements to avoid pollution of ground and surface water and other types of pollution. As these lots are permitted for operation, there must be a careful review by the Board of Agriculture as to the impact on property owners and other residents in the vicinity."

The opinion, No. 96-76, was prepared by senior assistant attorney general Neal Leader.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/12/96

"As long as war is regarded as wicked, it will always have its fascination. When it is looked upon as vulgar, it will cease to be popular."

Oscar Wilde
"Intentions"

The Critic as Artist
1891

ARTS

OKLAHOMA CONSIDERS OPEN STUDIO PROJECT

■(GIT) Oklahoma Arts Council representatives are working with the National Endowment for the Arts to put 10 local artists and local cultural organizations on the Internet through a project called Open Studio, said Nancy Huff, Arts Council public information director.

"We will know more when we return from the state arts conference in Memphis, Nov. 21-24," Huff said.

The representatives will discuss the state's eligibility to participate in the project at the conference in Memphis.

"Open Studio is a groundbreaking project that will increase cultural and arts resources on the information superhighway and make the Internet a reality for people everywhere," NEA Chairman Jane Alexander said.

The NEA is working with the Benton Foundation on the nation's first initiative to provide community access to the arts on the Internet at sites in all 50 states as well as propel the nonprofit arts online by helping them to become effective information providers on the World Wide Web.

This \$1 million initiative, called Open Studio — The Arts Online, is a collaboration between the NEA and the Benton Foundation to help nonprofit arts organizations and artists go online, increase the arts and cultural presence on the Internet, expand the online arts audience, and provide public Internet access at arts and community institutions. Open Studio is funded through an NEA Leadership Initiative award of \$500,000, which the Benton Foundation is committed to matching as part of a cooperative agreement.

Fourteen pilot sites were launched October 22. Kansas and Texas are participating as pilot sites, along with California, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Minnesota, New York, Massachusetts, Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Colorado and Illinois. Remaining sites will be selected through a competitive process, with awards announced in February 1997.

A national advisory group will guide Open Studio. The Benton Foundation has recently hired Anne Green as the project coordinator for Open Studio. Green, who has a law degree from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, was most recently the

coordinator of People For the American Way's Artsave Project, a nationwide research and public education project in the visual and performing arts.

—MICHELLE BOYD WATERS
11/12/96

BUSINESS & LABOR

FALLIN GIVES COMMISSION LESSON IN LAW MAKING

■(GIT) Lt. Governor Mary Fallin gave her commission on workers' compensation reform members a lesson in law making Wednesday, emphasizing that passage of the panel's proposed recommendations would likely draw some opposition.

Fallin, who formed the so-called Fallin Commission on Workers' Compensation Reform earlier this year, said some shots had already been fired at her and the commission, ranging from the claim that she was planning to use the commission's work as a springboard to seek the governor's office to accusations that the panel was dominated by big business and excluded lawyers. None of those claims, Fallin stressed, were true.

Those claims and others, Fallin said, would be part of the plan of attack launched by those she said support the status quo. That attack, she added, would be aimed at defeating the commission's efforts before the legislature.

Fallin has reiterated since the commission's start that her reason for calling together those involved, which include representatives of small and large employers, as well as representatives of the medical, legal and insurance industries, was the result of her discussions with state business people who complained that the workers' compensation system was too costly and cumbersome.

Fallin also outlined Wednesday some of the components to be included in the legislation resulting from the commission's work and introduced Sen. Jim Maddox, D-Lawton, who has agreed to carry the legislation during the 46th Legislature.

Recommendations for inclusion in the yet-to-be-written bill include:

- Legislative establishment of a clear statement of the intent of the purpose of the workers' compensation;
- Creation of a legislatively-sound, statewide mediation system;

Continued on next page

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

- Reduction of the temporary disability maximum limit to 104 weeks;
- Allowing employers to direct the medical treatment to be received by those claiming workplace injuries, except in emergency situations;
- Elimination of the ability to claim permanent disability from a soft tissue injury when an employee returns to the same job;
- Changing the method of appointing the court administrator;
- Allowing only treating physicians to determine that an injured worker is permanently impaired;
- Eliminating percentage payments of attorneys' fees and making attorneys' fees dependent on the number of hours involved in working a case;
- Elimination of lump sum settlements;
- Focusing on employer and employee education and safety;
- Criminalization of workers' compensation fraud as a felony punishable by prison time and a fine; and
- Amending current law to tighten the definition of compensable injuries in cases where the worker has ended their employment with a company and had neither previously reported a work-related injury nor sought medical treatment for such an injury.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/13/96

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS NAMED IN OKLAHOMA

■(GIT) The U.S. Department of Labor designated 19 counties and two cities in Oklahoma as labor surplus areas until Sept. 30, 1997. DOL designated a total of 1,370 areas across the United States as labor surplus areas because of high unemployment, said Cynthia Grindstaff, an Oklahoma Department of Commerce research analyst.

The nineteen Oklahoma counties include Choctaw, Coal, Haskell, Hughes, Kay less Ponca City, Latimer, Le Flore, McCurtain, McIntosh, Murray, Muskogee less the city of Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Pawnee, Pittsburg, Pushmataha, Seminole, Sequoyah and Stephens Counties.

The two Oklahoma cities that have been named surplus areas include Ponca City and Muskogee.

Labor surplus areas are eligible for federal procurement preference and are listed in a federal register. The areas are given priority over foreign bids when government entities are seeking bids for goods or services, Grindstaff said.

Labor surplus areas also automatically qualify for Enterprise Zone status, however, the areas must apply for the status. Companies within or relocating to an Enterprise Zone become eligible to receive doubled

longer lasting incentives given by the state. According to Grindstaff not all the areas in Oklahoma have applied for that status.

An area must have had an average unemployment rate of at least 7.1 percent for the two-year period 1994-1995 to be designated as a labor surplus area. The qualifying unemployment rate of 7.1 percent is a substantial decrease from the 7.8 percent qualifying rate for Fiscal Year 1996 and stems from a decline in the national unemployment rate.

Many observers look to this data as an indication whether the economic condition of a geographic area is improving or declining.

The labor surplus area classification list is effective October 1, 1996, through September 30, 1997.

The list of labor surplus areas and a complete description of the classification criteria—as well as updates to the annual list—are contained in "Area Trends in Employment and Unemployment," a monthly publication prepared by the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

The publication is available at a cost of \$41 for a 12-month subscription or \$4.50 for a single issue. To subscribe or receive a copy, contact the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (202-783-3238).

—MICHELLE BOYD WATERS
11/13/96

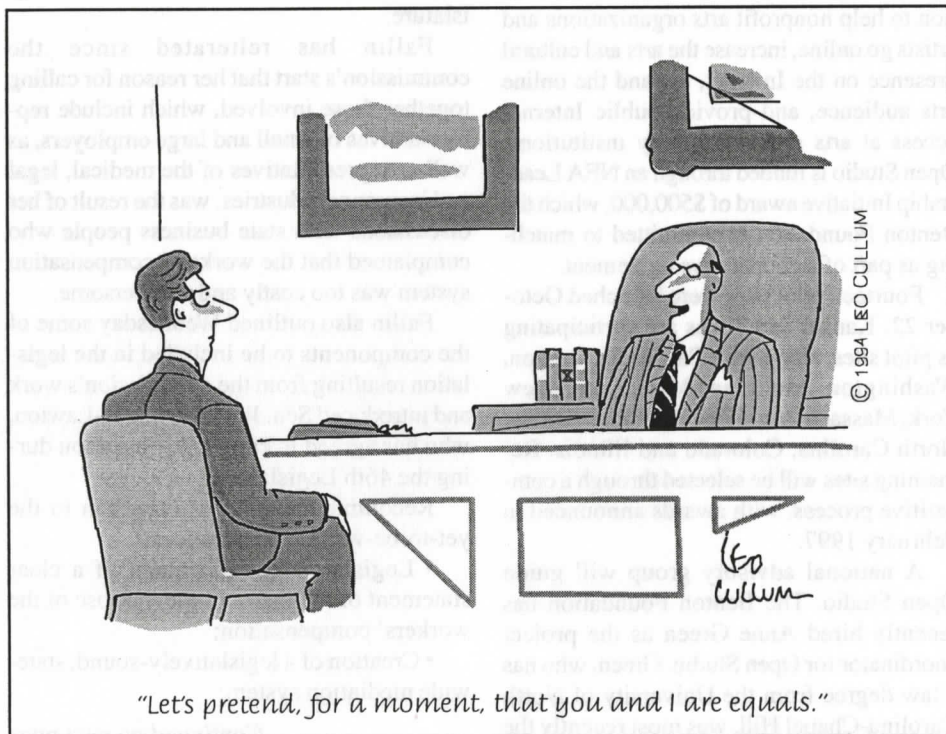
GROWING COMPANY HOLDS JOB FAIR

■(GIT) The search for qualified machinists to help their booming business expand finally led Pro-Fab, Inc. of Oklahoma City to set up a Job Fair. Hoping to fill 50 new positions to add to the work force of 100, Pro-Fab will introduce prospective employees to their facility Saturday. If the job fair is successful, other growing businesses in Oklahoma might adopt the strategy.

Coordinator Mickey Quoetone said a nationwide shortage of skilled machinists has left the firm shorthanded at a time when growth is only waiting for enough people to do the jobs. "We have enough work for 24-hours-a-day," she said, "but only enough people for one and one-half shifts."

After trying all the traditional ways to attract experienced workers—newspaper advertising, radio spots, and use of employ-

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

ment services in Oklahoma and other states — Quoetone said the Oklahoma Department of Commerce helped Pro-Fab come up with the idea of attracting potential employees with a job fair.

Jim Rice, founder of the company, started the business in his garage, with one machine, in 1987. Beginning with one machine, Rice built the company to its current status as a major supplier of parts for the GV jet, manufactured by Gulfstream Aerospace Technologies. Pro-Fab also has contracts with Rockwell International, Boeing, Cessna, Raytheon, British Aerospace and the U.S. Government.

Rice's first contracts were for machine gun parts. Today, one of Pro-Fab's defense contracts is the manufacture of the breech-lock on the M-2 machine gun and the bipod on the M-60 machine gun. They also manufacture the refueling boom for the KC-135 aerial tanker for the U.S. Air Force. The company has expanded eight times since it's founding, and sales are projected at \$10 million.

According to Rice, it is Pro-Fab's technical expertise as well as precision, simultaneous, five-axis machining centers, and CAD/CAM equipment, that sets the company apart.

This week, Pro-Fab, Inc. was named one of the 50 fastest-growing private companies in the area by *The Metro Journal*. Rice will be featured in the December issue.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/14/96

OESC ACCEPTS GRANT FOR CAREER CENTERS

■(GIT)The U.S. Department of Labor recently awarded the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission a \$3 million grant to launch One-Stop Career Center Systems, Glen Robards, OESC's One-Stop coordinator, said.

The OESC, with the aid of local Job Training Partnership Act grant recipients, has divided the state into several areas and will centralize the employment information and services in that area to one or more integrated facilities. The facilities will provide referrals, testing and assessment and information on job openings and labor markets and careers.

One-Stop will enable all partners involved in the program to access the One-Net system and to develop a common data depository.

Robards said partners in Bartlesville have already begun to integrate their services at the Tri-County Vo-tech. The OESC and Lawton JTPA recipients are also working together to coordinate information and services.

The one-year grant will fund the purchase and coordination of technology and services among private and state job search and information organizations. Robards said Oklahoma employment organizations had discussed possible solutions to problems with coordinating employment information and services. Before One-Stop, people seeking employment or employees had to go to several places and through several organizations to locate information or services.

One-Stop will also provide easier access to information and services for disabled people.

The DOL plans to use nearly \$300,000 in funding across the nation to develop technical assistance on disability issues for One-Stop centers. DOL's Bureau of Labor Statistics is also conducting further studies with the Census Bureau to gather information on the employment experience of disabled people.

Oklahoma was one of eight states who competed for and won One-Stop grants this year. Twenty-four states now are in the process of implementing the program. When the program becomes fully operational next year, 80 percent of the nation's civilian labor force in 33 states will be able to access the One-Stop services.

—MICHELLE BOYD WATERS
11/14/96

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OKLAHOMA

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Secretary of Commerce Ronald Rosenfeld announced the appointment of Peter W. C. Mather as the new Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Technology Wednesday. In his new role, Mather will explore ways to maximize technological impact for economic and community growth across Oklahoma.

For the past 15 years, Mather was Vice President of Management Information Services for Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. a \$4 billion chemicals and industrial gases company, with operations in more than 30

countries. He reported to the chairman and was a member of this Fortune 200 company's management committee. His responsibilities included developing worldwide strategy, implementation and operation of the company's information resources involving an annual operating expense budget of \$150 million.

"The State of Oklahoma and the lead economic development agency should feel very fortunate to have Mather on board," Secretary Rosenfeld said. "His vast expertise will be an asset in encouraging future technology advancements for Oklahoma."

Mather holds an MBA from Lehigh University and is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program of the Harvard Business School. He has extensive experience in evaluating, transferring and assimilating advanced technologies. For the past 20 years, Mather has been a recognized leader and spokesman for the information technology community.

—OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF COMMERCE
11/13/96

CORRECTIONS

NEW PRIVATE PRISON NOT ENOUGH FOR DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

■(GIT) The opening of a new private prison in Sayre in 1998 likely won't be enough to offset the continued influx of inmates into the state prison system, according to a spokesman for the Department of Corrections.

Corrections Corporation of America, which is based in Nashville, announced last week that it has agreed to build a 960-bed, medium security prison in Sayre to house adult male inmates. The \$29 million facility, which is expected to be completed by February 1998, will be financed with tax-exempt bonds issued by the Sayre Industrial Authority, which has contracted with the company for the design, construction and operation of the facility.

"I think our needs will continue to outpace what is planned to be built in Oklahoma over the next year," said Jerry Massie, spokesman for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections.

The Board of Corrections gave its approval in September to the department's largest budget request ever — \$350.5 million

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



for operations and \$326.9 million for capital outlay, including the construction of additional prison space — and last month approved a \$25.3 million supplemental appropriations request, some \$6 million more than corrections officials had first indicated they would seek in August.

The Corrections Corporation announcement comes on the heels of two announcements concerning the construction of private women's facilities in the state, one to be located near Atoka and the other to be located near El Reno.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/12/96

LEGISLATORS OBSERVE JAIL CONDITIONS

■(GIT) Approximately \$48 million annually and additional personnel funding is required for Oklahoma sheriff departments to meet the national sheriff departments average, said Rep. C. Michael Thornbrugh, R-Tulsa.

Members of the Jail Task Force, a joint interim study, visited the Wagoner County Jail on Wednesday to observe conditions that John Walsh, executive director of the Oklahoma Sheriff's Association, said exemplified the disrepair of most of Oklahoma's county jails.

"I think (the tour) reaffirmed what we already suspected," Thornbrugh said. "The situation must be addressed financially from a state level. But the state can't afford to support all the county jails."

He said the members of the Jail Task Force, who are studying the problems associated with the jails, discussed possible options, but did not make any decisions.

One option included the possibility of setting up a jail trust authority or oversight committee. The task force also discussed community sentencing, problems the sheriffs had with the previous bill and regional jails.

Thornbrugh said that corrections would be the most dominate issue to be faced during next year's session.

*"In time of war the loudest patriots
are the greatest profiteers."*

August Bebel
speech to the Reichstag
Nov. 1870

Rep. Thornbrugh said that in 1993, the nationwide operational expenditure for sheriffs' departments was \$124.7 million while Oklahoma sheriffs' departments were underfunded \$84 million annually.

The national average for base starting salary for entry-level sheriff employees was \$19,393 while Oklahoma's starting salary was \$15,000, less than the average.

Fourteen percent of Oklahoma's elected sheriffs make less than \$20,000 per year and 45 percent make less than \$25,000 per year, Thornbrugh said.

He also added that two sheriffs were elected recently that had no law enforcement experience or CLEET certification.

Solutions to the problems faced by the county jail system that the legislature might consider include regional jails, privatization, the appropriation of more resources to the jail system and video arraignment. (Legislation is in place to provide for video arraignments, however, no funding was appropriated by the legislature to allow counties to buy the equipment.)

"The sheriffs didn't get the cost per diem they were promised last year," Thornbrugh said.

He said there would be a bipartisan approach this year to raise the cost per diem paid to the county jails from \$7.

Walsh said Oklahoma's county jails are suffering from a lack of funds for maintenance, personnel and alleviation of overcrowding.

"The buildings were built in the early part of the century," Walsh said. "We have totally outmoded facilities. Our system is incapable of dealing with today's inmates. The jails are drastically undermanned."

—MICHELLE BOYD WATERS
11/13/96

CRIME & JUDICIARY

DISTRICT ATTORNEYS' COUNCIL MEETS TO DISCUSS LAW ENFORCEMENT

■(GIT) The state of Oklahoma only spends a nickel — or 5 percent — of its annual revenue on police, prisons and prosecutors, said Bruce Walker, executive coordinator of the District Attorney's Council. The council and the Law Enforcement Alliance will hold a town meeting in Stillwater on Monday to discuss the problems associated with

Oklahoma's underfunded justice system.

"The Law Enforcement Alliance is trying to inform the public about what is truly happening in the criminal justice system, so that the public can decide how much public safety it wants," Walker said. "The cost to the average Oklahoman to make our criminal justice system funded at the national average level is fifteen pennies a day."

Each Oklahoman would be spending approximately \$55 on law enforcement per year. Currently, each person is spending just over \$18 per year. The additional money would go to funding agencies involved in investigating, arresting, prosecuting, defending appeals of, imprisoning and supervising criminals, Walker said.

Oklahoma came in 48th when its criminal justice spending per crime was compared to all 50 other states.

The council has planned several more meetings.

—MICHELLE BOYD WATERS
11/14/96

EDUCATION

FEE HIKE APPROVED FOR OSU

■(GIT) At a special meeting last Saturday, the Board of Regents for Oklahoma A&M Colleges approved a proposal for a \$2 per credit hour fee for the renovation of Oklahoma State University's Gallagher/Iba Arena, a sports facility on the university campus in Stillwater.

Total projected cost of the enlargement of the basketball arena is \$45 million, which will bring the seating from 8,000 to 12-14,000, Natalea Watkins, spokesperson for OSU President James Halligan's office, said Tuesday. The student fee will bring in \$15 million over the next 20 years Watkins said. The university hopes to tap the City of Stillwater for half of the remaining funds needed and private donors for the rest, she added.

The fee, which would charge students enrolled in six or more hours \$2 per credit hour, was supported by all members of the regents. The student government association also approved the measure Nov. 6 with a vote of 30-3 by student representatives. Promises were made to the students when they were notified of the pending proposal, Watkins said. "If they pay one-third of the cost, they

Continued on next page

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



will have one-third of the seats surrounding the floor," she said.

University officials hope to have the enlarged facility ready for the 1999 basketball season, Watkins said, but for every semester students pay the \$2 fee before the facility is ready, they will receive vouchers to buy tickets to the basketball games at student rates for the same length of time, even after they graduate.

If approved by the State Regents for Higher Education, the fee will first appear on student charges in the fall semester 1997. Students enrolled in five or fewer credit hours will not pay the fee. Students taking more than 18 hours will only be charged up to 18 credit hours for the fee.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/12/96

ENVIRONMENT

NEW LAW INCREASES NATIONAL FOREST ACREAGE IN OKLAHOMA

■(GIT) Tuesday, President Clinton signed HR4236 into law. The "Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996" profoundly affects Oklahoma's forests, as well as parks, forests, trails, rivers or historic sites in 40 other states.

A land swap between the U.S. Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, and Weyerhaeuser Corporation was part of the bill. "We were dealing right up to the last minute, trading value for value," Deputy Forest Supervisor Dave Hammond said Wednesday. Weyerhaeuser Corporation owns and manages pine forests for renewable sources of wood and paper products.

In the exchange 47,500 acres of National Forest land in southeast Oklahoma and Arkansas was traded to Weyerhaeuser for 180,500 acres of land in the same region. In Oklahoma, the Forest Service swapped 28,000 National Forest acres for 115,000 Weyerhaeuser acres, of "watershed around Broken Bow Lake, some pine plantations, 15 miles along the Glover River and some land in McCurtain County," Hammond said. The Glover River is southeast Oklahoma's last free-flowing river, he added.

One parcel in Arkansas, 24,000 acres along the Cossatot and Little Rivers will become the 501st National Wildlife Refuge.

Some of the land acquired by the U.S. Forest Service is cut-over; but Hammond

said some of it is already good wildlife habitat and foresters will be working to improve other newly-acquired parcels. "Our work is just beginning," Hammond added.

More than 100 resources are included in the new law, some natural, some manmade. On the west coast, provisions in the law would improve the management of the Presidio in San Francisco.

Another laudable provision, the President said, authorizes appropriations of \$17.5 million to help the New York-New Jersey Palisades Interstate Park Commission to acquire lands within the Sterling Forest Reserve, just 40 miles from midtown Manhattan. This is one of the last areas of pristine forest in the Northeast and the area is critical for supplying safe drinking water to northern New Jersey.

The Act also establishes the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Kansas.

The Act also provides for ten separate nonfederal national heritage areas in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, South Carolina, Iowa, Ohio, and New York. Other provisions would help to preserve the Nation's cultural heritage by authorizing memorials, protecting historic areas, designating the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail in Alabama, and authorizing the establishment of a Martin Luther King, Jr., memorial in the District of Columbia.

Park boundary adjustments, land exchanges (including the Arkansas/Oklahoma deal), and provisions to assist agencies in protecting national parks, forests, and public lands are also included in the new law.

Excluded from the bill, President Clinton said, were provisions "that would have adversely affected the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, the Shenandoah National Park and Richmond Battlefields National Park in Virginia, the Sequoia National Park in California, and other national parks and Federal lands.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/13/96

"The best frame of government is that which is most likely to prevent the greatest sum of evil."

James Monroe
"Observations of the Federal Government"
1789

WILLIAMS DONATES PIPE FOR HACKBERRY FLAT

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Williams Companies, Inc. has agreed to donate approximately 16 miles of steel pipe to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for use in its Hackberry Flat wetland restoration project. The pipe will be used to deliver 2,352 acre feet of water supplied by the Bureau of Reclamation and the Mountain Park Conservancy District of the Hackberry Flat basin in Tillman County, Oklahoma, from a supply source located approximately 16 miles north of the state.

"This generous pipe donation is an important link in our effort to restore these wetlands to their original prominence," said Greg Duffy, director, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. "Williams is a leader in pipe donations for wetlands conservation and an important partner in Oklahoma's efforts to provide habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds."

Hackberry Flat is a 3,750 acre natural basin in southwest Oklahoma that was at one time the largest isolated wetland in the state. Prior to its drainage and conversion to farmland, it was an important stopover for thousands of migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. Once the area is restored, it is expected to be used by more than 200,000 waterfowl and shorebirds, including the endangered whooping cranes.

—OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE
11/13/96

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

LAND COMMISSION HOLDS ROUTINE MEETING

■(GIT) The Commissioners of the Land held a routine meeting Tuesday, approving the appraisal of nine tracts of land for sale and authorizing the commission's general counsel to execute certificates of purchase in the absence of its secretary.

Leasees on nine tracts of land totaling more than 600 acres had asked that their land be appraised for possible sale. Those appraisals were approved by the commission without discussion. Also approved was the appraisal for a separate tract of land which will now be subject to sale.

Following a brief executive session, the commission directed its staff to proceed with participation in a settle conference in the

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

Commissioners of the Land Office v. Triton Oil Company lawsuit (CJ-95-170), currently pending in Beckham County. Specific information concerning the direction given the staff was not discussed under terms of the executive session provision of the Open Meeting Act.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/12/96

MILLENNIUM 2000 PROBLEM TO COST STATE MILLIONS

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The cost to the State of Oklahoma to modify software and replace hardware in the state's computers in anticipation of the "Millennium 2000" phenomenon could reach \$75 million, Rep. Fred Perry, a 16-year veteran of the computer industry said Friday.

"In the year 2000, date-dependent computer systems may cease operating correctly because those systems were not designed to consider the century change," the Tulsa Republican said.

The dilemma could affect pension benefits, bond and interest payments, security systems, defense systems and even elevators, Perry warned.

Initial estimates from most of 125 state government agencies are that it will cost \$41 million to upgrade equipment to accommodate the date change, Perry said after meeting with Bill Shafer, data processing manager for the Office of State Finance.

According to Perry, Shafer said the Department of Human Services had the highest computer conversion cost estimate at about \$20 million. "However, it is our hope that all of these figures come down as software companies develop new programs to automate the process," he said.

Preliminary cost estimates "don't include any of the educational institutions in the state, which have not yet compiled information to meet the requirements of House Concurrent Resolution 1108," Perry added.

"It is an easy and a vulgar thing to please the mob, and not a very arduous task to astonish them; but essentially to benefit and improve them is a work fraught with difficulty and teaming with danger."

Charles Caleb Cotton
"Lacon"
1825

In HCR 1108, the Legislature directed all state agencies and encouraged all schools, "to begin planning and budgeting for the conversion of legacy systems, programs, databases and security systems, and to begin the process of preparing all state computer systems for the millennium."

The resolution, authored by Perry, directed the Office of State Finance to summarize estimates and plans of the various agencies.

Assistant Vice Chancellor Mary Ann Maletz said the Regents' office distributed survey forms to state universities, colleges and other offices in order to complete estimates and plans for their institutions.

"This issue certainly is one that needs to be planned and budgeted for, to ensure state government functions properly in the future," said Rep. Dwayne Steidley, D-Claremore, vice chairman of the House Appropriations and Budget Committee.

The Office of State Finance is scheduled to deliver a formal report on the costs of Millennium 2000 on Nov. 19, to the House Science and Technology Committee, of which Perry is vice chairman.

—HOUSE MEDIA
11/12/96

FRESHMEN SENATORS TARGET AREAS OF INTEREST

■(GIT) After the swearing-in Nov. 19, Oklahoma's legislators will begin getting organized for the 46th Session. Seven freshmen senators will contribute their expertise and ideas to the legislative process. *Capitol Network News* talked with these seven new members of the senate this week to find out about their preliminary goals.

Sen.-Elect James R. Dunlap, R-Bartlesville, currently a Representative and a veteran of the House since 1989, will now represent senate district 29. He is the only legislator moving from the House to the Senate. Dunlap is a general contractor in the Bartlesville area. He ran for the Senate office, he said, for two reasons. "The current senator was retiring," Dunlap said, and while the "House of Representatives has been very friendly to small business, worker's compensation reform has stalled in the Senate. I want them to realize how small business is," he added.

Because of his business experience, Dunlap is most interested in legislation on small business issues and worker's compen-

sation reform. "I want Oklahoma to be as business-friendly as possible. I'm also interested in franchise issues."

Dunlap is looking for answers, not glory. He said he'll ask for help with small business legislation from more experienced senators, like Senator James Maddox, D-Lawton, whom Dunlap describes as "a true champion of the cause," of small business.

Sen.-Elect Owen Laughlin, R-Woodward, won over Democrat incumbent Don Williams for the district 49 seat. Laughlin, an attorney, ran for the senate post because, "I want to see a place where my children could and would come back to live. We've created an economic environment [in Oklahoma] that makes it difficult to survive."

Laughlin, too, believes worker's compensation reform is a major issue for the legislature.

As a former assistant district attorney, Laughlin was personally involved with the criminal justice system. "We shouldn't be releasing criminals early," he said, and offered a plan. "We've got to make inmates work and build prison space. We can't afford to build expensive penitentiaries. I hope to introduce legislation like that."

Sen.-Elect Robert Milacek, R-Waukomis, is a teacher and former Oklahoma representative. He served in the House from 1976 to 1982, and quit, he said, because his three daughters were growing up and he didn't have enough time with them. Now retired as a high school and college teacher, Milacek ran for the district 19 senate seat because he was, "dissatisfied with the basic philosophy of my opponent," (Senator Ed Long).

His target this legislative session is, "in one word — jobs. Jobs are the key to the welfare of any state. Jobs answer the education and criminal problems," he said. Milacek wants Oklahoma to make Oklahoma's business climate "more conducive for small business," with worker's compensation reform and tax incentives.

Sen.-Elect Mike Morgan, D-Stillwater, survived a challenge to his election by opponent Randy Wedel, R-Stillwater, for the district 21 senate seat, vacated by Bernice Shedrick. Morgan is an attorney who ran for the post because he felt, "Shedrick's leaving office would leave a void, and because friends and family wanted me to." Morgan said he has "no personal agenda to present at the Capitol."

Continued on next page

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Sen.-Elect Jeff Rabon, D-Hugo, defeated incumbent Jack Bell, D-Idabel, in the August 27 primary election, and had no other challengers for the district 5 seat. He knows how government works, having served as an aide to former Senator David Boren and former Representative Bill Brewster.

Rabon ran for the senate to help his corner of Oklahoma. "I'm a lifelong native of southeast Oklahoma," he said, "and I'm concerned we were getting left behind down here. Everyone wants to fish our lakes and hunt our deer, but we don't get our fair share up there [Oklahoma City]."

Considering the needs of his Senate district, Rabon said he will support legislation for better transportation in southeast Oklahoma.

Infrastructure requirements in southeast Oklahoma prompted Rabon to request membership on the appropriations, transportation and wildlife and tourism committees, "which reflect the needs of this district."

Sen.-Elect Kathleen Wilcoxson, R-Oklahoma City, is still teaching school this week.

Active in local politics since 1980, Wilcoxson "found that Senator Cole was retiring and decided to run" for the district 45 Senate seat.

Wilcoxson ran as a pro-business, pro-education candidate, she said, but doesn't plan to sponsor legislation this session. "I'm going up there and learn what's going on. I will support the Governor's economic plan.

Worker's compensation reform and education are also on Wilcoxson's support list.

Sen.-Elect James Williamson, R-Tulsa, is a former teacher, a former Oklahoma House member — District 76, 1981-1986 — and an attorney. He ran for the district 35 seat because he "wanted to keep the Senate district Republican, and to support Governor Keating in his proposals to move the state forward economically."

Williamson is interested in supporting economic legislation to "reduce worker's compensation costs to business," as well as improving education in Oklahoma, a goal he also sought as a House member. His other interest is in seeing that "transportation gets its fair share of the dollars, and that we continue to funnel resources into that area."

—GERRY CHERRY
11/13/96

JOHNSON BIDS FAREWELL TO STAFF, HOUSE

■(GIT) Outgoing Speaker of the House of Representatives Glen Johnson took the House floor one last time Thursday to bid his final farewell to members of the legislative staff.

A bipartisan group of approximately 80 staffers, including Johnson's own office staff, secretaries, House researchers and others, gathered in the House chamber for what Johnson described as his final thank you to those with whom he had worked since entering the House of Representatives 14 years ago. Greeted by a standing ovation, Johnson said, "I wish you all had been voters in the Second District on Nov. 5," referring to his unsuccessful effort to unseat Republican incumbent Congressman Tom Coburn.

The outgoing speaker opened his remarks with a story about the day in 1982 when he came to the House for the start of the legislative session. First, he said, then-Rep. Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, claimed the larger desk in the office the two men shared by explaining that House rules dictated that the member with the most seniority received the better facilities.

"I don't think he ever showed me that rule," Johnson joked.

He then related how Sen. Gene Stipe, D-McAlester, visited his office following Gov. George Nigh's state of the state address. According to Johnson, Stipe said he had followed his campaign closely and praised him for the race he had run, saying that he was looking forward to working with the then-freshman lawmaker. As Stipe left, Johnson said, he said, "We country lawyers have to stick together."

Johnson admitted being impressed by the visit and said that he shared that feeling with Haney, who had sat quietly at his desk reading during the visit. Haney then told Johnson of an identical visit when he first entered the legislature. According to Johnson, Haney

said the meeting concluded with Stipe saying, "We Indians have to stick together."

Speaking on behalf of himself and other representatives, Johnson said the dedication and sacrifices of those who work behind the scenes in the House were appreciated.

"I hope you all have a sincere appreciation for the fact that what you do here impacts on people's lives," said Johnson.

On behalf of many of the staffers present, chief clerk Larry Warden presented Johnson with a series of gifts, including a wagon, an umbrella and a statue of a golfer leaning against a club. Warden said the wagon would remind Johnson of the House's delivery system, that the umbrella would serve to remind the outgoing speaker of his discussions concerning the Rainy Day fund that the statue represented the staff's hopes that Johnson would "always have great fairways and greens."

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/14/96

VOSKUHL, MORGAN 'WIN' LEGISLATIVE SEATS

■(GIT) More than a week after the votes were originally counted, residents of state House District 41 and state Senate District 21 have duly elected legislators.

In a decision reached late Wednesday and a recount completed Thursday, incumbent Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, was declared the winner in the House District 21. Voskuhl's apparent 11-vote victory last week was challenged by his Republican opponent, Curt Roggow, of Enid.

Roggow demanded a recount of the ballots cast in the three counties in the district and also alleged irregularities in some of the votes cast for Voskuhl. In the recount, which was completed Thursday, Voskuhl gained seven additional votes, State Election Board Secretary Lance Ward said, while Roggow neither gained nor lost any, giving the incumbent an 18-vote advantage over his opponent. In a ruling issued Wednesday, the allegations of voter irregularities were dismissed, Ward said.

The conclusions mean Voskuhl remains the unofficial winner until Monday when the State Election Board will vote to certify the results.

Also on Thursday, a judge dismissed the allegations of Stillwater Republican Randy Wedel concerning some voting irregularities

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"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. More than that no man is entitled to, and less than that no man shall have."

*Theodore Roosevelt
speech in Springfield, Illinois
July 4, 1903*

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

in his race against Stillwater Democrat Mike Morgan in the Senate District 21 race. Morgan notched a 32-vote victory over Wedel in the general election, but like Roggow, Wedel alleged some of those who voted for his opponent were either registered in other counties or not registered at all. A Lincoln County judge, Ward said, dismissed the allegations related to those voters who may have been twice-registered and recognized that 11 Payne County voters appeared to have voted although they were not registered. The 11 voters were not enough to surmount the difference between the two men, and Morgan was declared the unofficial winner, pending action from the election board on Monday.

Either of the losing candidates, Ward noted, have one avenue remaining: An appeal to the Oklahoma Supreme Court, where they could seek a stay of the election board's action pending arguments concerning their cases.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/14/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

TASK FORCE HEARS REPORT ON CHILDREN'S SERVICES

■(GIT) Oklahoma's Advisory Task Force on Children's Services was asked repeatedly Wednesday to remember two words: home visitation.

Home visitation, the task force was told by Debbie Richardson, with the Healthy Families child abuse program, and representatives of the Department of Health, is a key component in the fight against child abuse and neglect.

Referring to a number of studies which identified early intervention as the most important factor in decreasing abuse rates and improving parenting skills, Richardson told the panel that home visitation, particularly for first-time parents, was key to initiating those intervention efforts.

That fact, combined with the findings of both public and private studies, Richardson said, led the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse to recommend in 1992 that a nationwide home visitation system be put in place. Called Healthy Families America, the initiative was based on the idea that first-time parents would participate voluntarily and would use those who visit their homes

as resources for help in a variety of areas, such as parenting skills and other areas of need. The proposed system, Richardson said, would also rely on community-based help organizations to provide the needed services to the families.

Currently, Richardson told the task force, some 200 programs in 36 states utilize the recommendations of the national committee, including eight in Oklahoma.

The current problem Richardson said, is that there is not the infrastructure that is needed to provide the training and technical assistance, evaluation, research and development of new programs and expansion of existing programs. Such an effort, she said, would require approximately \$33 million annually in Oklahoma.

Representatives of the Department of Health supported Richardson's claims before the task force, noting that the state's child abuse prevention program relied heavily on the idea of home visitation and early intervention in its efforts to combat child abuse.

Also appearing before the task force were Midge Woodard, who oversees the Department of Human Services foster care program, and Debi Farmer, department program administrator, who explained that the state's need for foster families currently outpaces the availability of such families. Specifically, Woodard said, some 3,500 children are now in foster care in the state, while only 1,600 foster families are available. Approximately 300 of those, she added, participated without the benefit of reimbursement normally associated with being a foster parent.

Additionally, she noted, the foster care division will ask the Commission on Human Service to approve the expenditure of up to \$800,000 to pay daycare costs for foster families in which both parents work as part of an effort "to tap into a new family base" for foster care placements.

The money, Farmer said, would cover the anticipated costs for the second-half of the 1997 fiscal year.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/13/96

"Progress is born of cooperation in the community—not from government restraints."

*Herbert Hoover
inaugural address
March 4, 1929*

LUKE BILL AUTHOR DISAGREES WITH LACKEY

■(GIT) The author of what is considered the state's most extensive child abuse reform legislation in recent memory disagrees with the governor's human services secretary over the possible impact her legislation could have had in the case of an eight-year-old boy believed murdered last year.

"The bill requires that multidisciplinary teams be established in each district attorney's district," explained Rep. Laura Boyd, D-Norman and author of HB2053, the so-called Ryan Luke Bill.

A report prepared by a special task force appointed by Governor Frank Keating to investigate the handling of the Shane Coffman case repeatedly recommended the implementation of multidisciplinary teams in child abuse investigations. Keating appointed the special task force, headed by Secretary of Human Services Ken Lackey, after reports that law enforcement agencies and the Department of Human Services had multiple contacts with the family prior to the boy's death, going so far in one case as to remove the little boy and his siblings from their mother's care.

During a Nov. 1 press conference, Lackey said he doubted any of the provisions of the Ryan Luke Bill, which ironically took effect the same day the task force released its report, would have benefited Coffman.

Boyd disagrees, saying some of the recommendations included in the task force's report address specific issues covered by her legislation, particularly the establishment of multidisciplinary teams.

Boyd stopped short of saying the presence of a multidisciplinary team would have prevented the Coffman child's death, explaining that it's impossible to speculate on how a case would have been handled if different procedures were in place.

Specifically, Boyd said, there may be a need to hire what she called part-time coordinators to work with the teams.

"I'm interested in seeing some uniformity in the way these teams work," she explained. "I would like to see everyone on the same page, doing things essentially the same way."

Boyd's suggestion bears a certain resemblance to a suggestion made by Governor Keating, who said a primary investigator should direct child abuse cases and make

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



sure every piece of information is properly investigated and processed.

"I could see (a chief investigator proposal) if it worked within the framework of the multidisciplinary teams," Boyd said. "I think I would be more comfortable with someone who was designated as a coordinator, rather than a chief investigator, simply because they could be responsible for coordinating the investigation, as well as ensuring compliance with any court orders involved in a case."

That, Boyd admits, may not be a popular position because it implies added costs.

Boyd said she plans to author more child abuse legislation to be considered by the 46th Legislature, much of which will focus on prevention efforts.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/13/96

HEPATITIS A EPIDEMIC CONTINUES

■(GIT)The State Health Department is drafting a budget proposal to request additional funding from the state legislature to develop a more comprehensive system for dealing with contagious disease outbreaks, said Lauri Smithee, director of Communicable Disease for the State Health Department.

Oklahoma is experiencing a rise in the number of cases of Hepatitis A, Salmonella and E. Coli 0157:H7 infections, Smithee said.

Hepatitis A has reached epidemic proportions in central and western Oklahoma counties — including Oklahoma, Stephens, Garfield and Pottawatomie counties. Cases of Salmonella and E.Coli. have significantly increased this year, also, the director said.

The first cases of Hepatitis A were reported in far eastern Oklahoma in 1994, said Dr. J.R. Nida, State Health Department Commissioner of Health. The average number of cases per year prior to 1994 was 345 cases of Hepatitis A. Smithee said 2,139 cases of Hepatitis A have been reported to date this year.

The director said that part of the epidemic can be attributed to natural processes. In the United States, the number of cases rise approximately every 10 years because the number of people who have never been infected has increased, she said.

Another contributing factor is the increase in 20- to 40-year-olds who participate in parties where drugs are used or

shared, Smithee said.

Hepatitis A can be contracted from intimate (and sexual) contact with people who are carrying the virus. Hepatitis A is carried in fecal material and people who do not wash their hands can spread it to foods, which people eat and ingest the virus. Carriers of the virus are contagious for as long as a month, she said.

Hepatitis A is a liver disease that can result in fever, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and generalized weakness, Nida said. These symptoms may be followed in a few days by darkened urine and yellow eyes and skin.

Nida also said that those with chronic liver disease are at increased risk for complications and death due to infection from this disease.

Those at high risk of acquiring hepatitis A are children who attend a child care setting such as day care, persons whose children attend a child care center or similar institution. Also, persons who live in or travel to counties with epidemic rates of hepatitis A or persons who travel internationally to developing countries where hepatitis A is endemic have increased risk or infection, Nida said.

The State Health Department has issued public health warnings. Also, Smithee said the department is currently working on a media campaign. Immune globulin can be effective in preventing the disease if it is administered within a short time after exposure.

Salmonella, on the other hand, is transmitted through the ingestion of contaminated food, such as chicken and eggs. The foods transmit the bacteria when they are not cooked properly, the director said.

"Tome the foundation of American life rests upon the home and the family. I read into these great economic forces, these intricate and delicate relations of the government with business and with our political and social life, but one supreme end ... that we strengthen the security, the happiness, and the independence of every home."

Herbert Hoover
speech at Palo Alto, California
Aug. 11, 1928

The best way to prevent Salmonella poisoning is to wash fruits and vegetables and to properly cook meats.

E.Coli 0157:H7 cases have increased since the United States began requiring that all cases be reported, Smithee said. She also added that laboratories have gotten better at identifying the bacteria.

The bacteria is transmitted through improperly cooked ground beef.

—MICHELLE BOYD WATERS
11/14/96

REVENUE & TAXATION

OKLAHOMA GENERAL REVENUES UP, AHEAD OF FORECAST

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) General Revenue collections for Oklahoma, including the four major tax sources, topped last year's figures, and last year's projection, for the first one-third of this fiscal year, Director of State Finance Tom Daxon said Tuesday. One key indicator, the sales tax, lagged behind the monthly estimate for October.

Collections for general revenue totaled \$288.8 million for October and \$1.197 billion for the first four months of the fiscal year ending October 31.

The October figure was up \$14.4 million, or 5.2 percent above a year ago, and exceeded the estimate by \$13.8 million, or five percent. The year-to-date total was up \$82.2 million, or 7.4 percent from the prior year and was \$55.5 million, or 4.9 percent above the estimate.

Estimates are based on historical collection patterns for the month and year to date as applied to the State Board of Equalization's certified estimate for the 1997 fiscal year.

More than two-thirds of the revenue above the estimate was in income and gross production taxes. Income tax collections for the four-month period topped last year's by 6.9 percent, even topping the estimate by 4.1 percent. Gross production tax receipts, reflecting higher oil and gas prices, were up 30 percent from last year and 40.6 percent above the estimate.

Sales taxes, the second largest source of general revenue, were up 4.8 percent from a year ago and two percent above the estimate in the cumulative total for the first four months, even though they trailed the estimate

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STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

by less than one percent in October. Motor vehicle tax receipts were up 8.5 percent for the four months and were 6.6 percent above the estimate.

The four major taxes combined produced \$239.2 million in October, 5.3 percent or \$11.9 million above the prior year, and \$8.9 million or 3.9 percent above the estimate. Year-to-date receipts from the four major taxes totaled \$1.009 billion, a whopping \$69.4 million (7.4 percent) above the prior year and \$49.6 million or 5.2 percent above the estimate.

The total October General Revenue receipts of \$288.8 million will be supplemented with half a million dollars from general revenue receipts from prior months to meet November allocations of \$289.3 million to state agencies. This will leave a cash-flow balance of \$202.4 million, including \$62.6 million from current year collections, plus \$139.8 million remaining in the general revenue cash flow reserve fund.

—OFFICE OF STATE FINANCE
11/12/96

STATE CHAMBER TO RELEASE GOVERNMENT REPORT

■(GIT) Oklahoma 2000, Inc., the research affiliate of The State Chamber, will release the results of its two-year study of the implications a citizen-imposed limit on tax increases on state government on Monday.

Entitled "In Search of Smaller Government: The Case of State Finance in Oklahoma," the study focuses on the impact of State Question 640, which was approved by voters in 1982 and is considered one of the most strict measures so far in placing limitations on the legislature to raise revenues.

The study also examines governmental responses to the limitation imposed by the constitutional amendment, which indicates that officials have adapted to the amendment by identifying alternative methods of increasing funding without invoking the amendment's requirements, and a survey of voter opinions indicates a conservative orientation of the public toward government and further limitations of the program reduction prospects and revenue raising alternatives available to state government officials.

An important question raised by the study, according to the chamber, is whether the amendment has created the condition for a structural or long term deficit and whether this is insufficient to maintain the existing

level of services. Although revenues will grow with economic expansion, the study concluded, the rigidity of the present tax structure is a further limiting factor. From a review of the tax structure and the changing program emphasis in Oklahoma, the study finds that it is most likely that revenue will grow less rapidly than both the overall economy and expenditure needs.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
11/14/96

WILDLIFE

HUNTER, ANGLER NUMBERS UP IN OKLAHOMA, CONSTANT IN U.S.

■(GIT) The number of hunters and anglers remained relatively constant during 1995 even as expenditures for licenses, tags, and other permits continued to rise, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced last week.

In Oklahoma, the price of a deer tag for fiscal 1996 went from \$14.75 to \$16.75, except for the new class of tag for youth under 18, who still pay the \$14.75 fee.

Oklahoma hunters bought 64,884 resident annual hunting licenses in fiscal 1996, up from 60,923 for fiscal 1995. Fishermen bought 303,904 fishing licenses last fiscal year, up from 257,593 the previous year. Waterfowl hunters bought 11,551 stamps in fiscal 1996, up from 10,814 in fiscal 1995. The sale of tags was down last year, however, from 128,926 in fiscal 1995 to 120,100 in fiscal 1996. Deer gun tags accounted for 64,581 sales, and the new youth deer tag option was purchased by 7,699 people.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported 15.2 million hunters bought licenses

last year, a slight decrease from 15.3 million in 1994. Hunters bought 32.1 million licenses, tags, permits, and stamps compared to 31.6 million in 1994 — spending \$532.6 million compared with \$525.8 million in 1994.

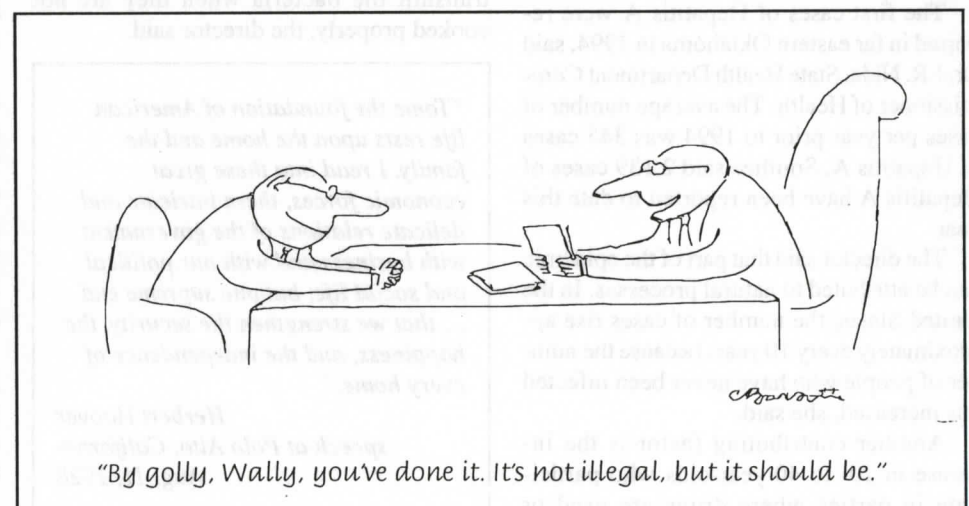
Meanwhile, the number of anglers rose slightly to 30.3 million last year from 30.2 million in 1994. Anglers bought 37.8 million licenses, tags, permits and stamps, about the same as in 1994, but spent considerably more to do so, \$448.6 million compared with \$424.7 million in 1994.

Revenues raised through license sales support state wildlife agencies, their conservation projects, and their hunting and fishing safety and education programs.

License sales figures are compiled annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from information submitted by state fish and wildlife agencies. The figures are part of a formula to determine the amount of funding each state receives through the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration programs, both administered by the Service. Under these programs, sportsmen and women pay an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment such as firearms, ammunition, and tackle. The money is, in turn, distributed to the states in the form of grants to conserve wildlife; teach hunter safety; and provide fishing, hunting, and boating opportunities.

The number of hunting license holders has declined in the past 13 years from a record high of 16.7 million in 1982. Meanwhile, the number of fishing license holders has been about the same for the past decade.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/12/96



FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY



AGRICULTURE

COMMENTS REQUESTED ON EXPORT SALES REPORTING FOR MEATS

■(WASHINGTON) The U.S. Department of Agriculture is requesting public comments on a proposal to begin collecting data on meat export sales. The proposal was first announced by Secretary Glickman in late July as one of a series of initiatives to improve competition in livestock markets.

Under the proposal, private firms involved in the export of U.S. meats and meat products, including poultry meats, could be required to report these sales to USDA on a weekly basis. USDA would compile and publish the aggregated data for individual meats, meat cuts, and export destinations.

"This proposed action," Glickman said, "responds to one of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Concentration, which investigated concentration in the livestock, poultry, and rail sectors. Among its findings was a strong endorsement of the view that widely accessible, timely, and accurate information is vital to an efficient and competitive marketplace that best serves the interests of producers, processors, and consumers."

The advisory committee reported that increased concentration within the livestock and poultry sectors has contributed to gaps and inequities in information flows to producers. Among the gaps identified was the lack of timely data on meat exports.

The formal request for public comment identifies the existing Export Sales Reporting Program of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service as one of the tools available for collecting the new information. Comments are invited on all aspects of the proposal and related issues, including the need for export sales data on meats, the benefits and costs of mandatory and voluntary reporting, and specific procedures regarding the frequency and content of the information to be collected and published. To be assured of consideration, comments on the proposal should be received within 60 days.

The complete Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking appears in Thursday's edition of the Federal Register (Nov. 14, 1996, Vol. 61, No. 221, page 58343). Copies of the Federal Register can be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S.

Government Printing Office (202-512-1800).

All comments on the proposal should be sent to: Export Sales Reporting Branch, Trade and Economic Analysis Division, Room 5959—Stop 1025, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1025. Written comments will be available for public inspection.

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
11/14/96

COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

■(WASHINGTON) This report presents initial lessons learned from the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure Assistance Program (TIIAP) projects funded in 1994 and 1995. The report looks at the community impacts of TIIAP projects, and presents examples of how specific projects are using advanced telecommunications and information technologies to provide better services, strengthen community ties, and provide increased access to information for thousands of Americans.

Lessons learned to date include insights into project planning, selecting the appropriate technologies, developing and maintaining productive community partnerships, and securing long-term financial support.

Material for the report was gathered from a workshop and focus group sessions conducted with TIIAP project directors in June 1996, and a review of TIIAP project reports and documents. The report is intended for community-based organizations and government agencies wishing to incorporate new information technologies into services they provide the community, as well as those who seek to better understand the TIIAP program.

The TIIAP program is administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). It is a competitive, merit-based grant program providing seed money for innovative, information infrastructure projects by state and local governments, schools and school districts, non-profit health care and community organizations, libraries, colleges, and public safety. In 1994 and 1995, TIIAP awarded 210 grants

in 48 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Approximately \$60 million in Federal grant funds were matched by \$100 million in non-federal funds. A significant amount went to rural areas generally underserved by information technologies; disadvantaged urban Americans also benefited from projects.

The Impact of TIIAP Projects

Two-thirds of the TIIAP projects are still underway, but in discussions with project directors and a review of project reports, significant impacts are beginning to emerge.

- **Innovations in Education.** Schools are using the Internet to provide teachers with new teaching tools and students with new educational opportunities.

- **Increased Access to Lifelong Learning Opportunities.** Rural public libraries are expanding services, schools are using networks to open doors to their communities, and adult learners are improving job skills by taking courses through distance learning networks.

- **More Responsive Public Institutions.** A number of government agencies, schools, libraries, and other community organizations that previously had limited means of reaching their constituencies now provide information over the Internet.

- **Enhanced Economic Development in Rural and Disadvantaged Areas.**

- **Increased Access to Health Care.**

- **Increased Sense of Community.** Workers in government agencies, students, health care providers and others are using e-mail and other electronic messaging to expand the network they reach, improve service delivery, and increase communication with others.

- **Replicable Models and Strategies for Introducing Information Infrastructure into the Public and Non-Profit Sectors.** TIIAP projects receive frequent inquiries from people all over the world interested in learning to implement similar projects.

Getting Started

Successful projects create a disciplined, business-like approach and foster communication with other groups, often leading to partnerships. TIIAP projects demonstrate how to plan the successful introduction of information technology into a public service setting.

In general, steps in the planning process include:

- **Gathering information about community needs, assets and resources, existing**

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information infrastructure, end-user training requirements, and related issues.

- Developing a business plan involves defining: project goals, specific problems or needs, potential partners and roles, staffing, marketing, detailed budget and timeline, and a plan for financially sustaining the project.

- Developing an evaluation plan identifies project goals and provides a means of measuring the extent to which goals are met. Such a plan provides important feedback during development of the project.

- Identifying potential sources of funding, including: corporate and foundation funding, third party in-kind donations of goods or services, fees for services rendered, other federal grants, or state, tribal, local and/or non-federal grants.

- Soliciting potential partners who can play a critical role in providing advice, leveraging financial support, and serving as powerful community advocates is vital.

- Planning for sustainability must begin at an early stage.

- Determining which technologies to use is complicated by the current pace of technological change. In general, project directors should follow technology trends, remain flexible, and be prepared to adapt to unplanned contingencies.

- Replicating models that can be adopted in other locales is a feature of TIAP programs.

Moving Forward

TIAP projects offer valuable lessons about implementing new information infrastructure projects and transforming a plan into a working project. Among the steps necessary to set a plan in motion are:

- Hiring and managing staff requires a clear organizational structure in mind, defining staff roles, and knowing what qualities are desirable in new employees.

- Developing and maintaining strong relationships with project partners requires time and effort, but such partnerships can be mutually beneficial when expectations and responsibilities are understood by each group.

- Marketing the project means non-profit organizations must think like businesses, which involves researching potential markets, targeting services and products to clearly defined groups, and following-up with strong customer service.

- Working with equipment vendors and technical consultants requires careful research, knowledge of the equipment and services needed, a realistic budget, and clear expectations regarding timelines and delivery schedules.

- Managing some project costs can be anticipated and built into a budget, but hidden costs can quickly escalate.

- Working with end-users is challenging, because they often have limited experience with new technologies. Overcoming this obstacle requires training and time.

Next Steps

Lessons learned to date suggest that TIAP is serving important needs in the community. First, the projects are helping cities, schools, libraries, economic development groups, police and other public safety departments, and social service organizations become anchor tenants on the National Information Infrastructure (NII), thereby attracting others to use the NII. Second, the role of many government agencies, libraries, schools, and other information agencies is changing from information repositories to customer-driven service providers. Third, it is raising the level of information technology skills in the community as TIAP projects train people, who in turn become trainers of others.

—U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE
11/14/96

EDUCATION

NATIONAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES

■ (WASHINGTON) Tennessee became the 28th state to receive 3rd-year funding under Goals 2000. During the second year, 115 grants supporting professional development for teachers and local education reform went to schools working with community and parent organizations, other schools, colleges and

universities, and business and industry.

School To Work

Last month, Labor Secretary Reich and Education Secretary Riley announced Mentor/Peer grants for five exemplary school-to-work (STW) partnerships, to share their successful methods with other STW partnerships around the country.

- Lane Community College (Eugene, OR) will help educators learn to use "best practices" through workshops, a "how to" manual, and technical assistance.

- The Napa County Office of Education (Napa, CA) will offer workshops in each of 15 states where community teams will develop plans for action.

- Rochester City School District (Rochester, NY) will provide teleconferences, workshops and site visits.

- Southern Alleghenies Tech Prep Consortium and Great Johnstown Career and Technology Center STW Partnership will share its manual for training school-based mentors, work-based mentors and students involved in job shadowing or other workplace experiences.

- Green River Community College (Auburn, WA) will organize teams of teachers to interview employers about future skills needed, sponsoring work-based learning, retraining needs and employee job assignments.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools

Last month, Secretary Riley announced grants to 28 two-year projects to: research efforts to prevent youth from using drugs; remove firearms from schools; prevent truancy and address the needs of youth out of the education mainstream; and prevent violent, aggressive, intimidating or other disruptive behavior.

Field-Initiated Research Grants

Grants to 47 research projects were announced recently under the 1996 program. Grant recipients will generate topics and methods. National Institute Grantees and projects include:

- Student Achievement, Curriculum and Assessment awarded 13 grants for projects on school violence prevention, educational technology, school organization and instruction in core content areas.

- Education of At-Risk Students awarded 15 grants in the areas of improved learning for Native American Students, for children with limited English proficiency and in

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"Nations have recently been led to borrow billions for war; no nation has ever borrowed largely for education. Probably, no nation is rich enough to pay for both war and civilization. We must make our choice; we cannot have both."

Abraham Flexner
Universities
1930

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schools where most students live in poverty.

- Early Childhood Development and Education awarded seven grants for studies of young children with disabilities, young children growing up in violent neighborhoods, and parenting and readiness of preschool children, among others.

- Educational Governance, Finance, Policymaking and Management awarded six grants for studies of professional development in low-achieving schools, charter schools and professional development schools, school choice policies and using math specialists in elementary schools.

- Post-secondary Education, Libraries and Lifelong Learning awarded six grants for studies that include: public libraries in low income areas, effective adult learning in museums, basic skill instruction through community networks and Internet to adults.

Adult Learning

Recently, grants were announced to continue support for 45 workplace literacy projects in 27 states, designed to help workers retool skills and keep pace with changes in the workplace. The grants support education and training in literacy, computation, problem solving, English as a second language and other skills.

—U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
11/12/96

UNIVERSAL ACCESS, A PLAN TO IMPLEMENT THE E-RATE

■(GIT) The Telecommunications Act of 1996 sailed through Congress, because both houses saw the need. Implementing the provisions of the broad plan will take years.

Briefly, the Act calls for access to the Internet for all schools, libraries and rural health care providers at a rate consistent with urban access, or lower, with the goal of being "hooked up" nationwide by the year 2000.

The E-rate, a free "education rate" will "advance our nation's long-standing goal of affordable access to telecommunications service for all Americans including schools, libraries and rural health care clinics," Secretary of Education Richard Riley said in a letter to Reed Hundt, chairman of the FCC.

"Technological literacy is a critical skill for America's students to succeed in the 21st century," Riley's letter said.

"Simply put, today's work force rewards those workers who possess computer literacy skills, and tomorrow's work force will de-

mand computer literacy skills. In order to prepare our children to meet the challenges of the 21st Century, universal access to the Information Superhighway will be critical. The Internet, in many ways, is the blackboard of the future. It is our strong belief that by advancing free basic access, we will increase the pace of classroom learning and continuing efforts to improve education."

The main drawback to users is the cost of access to telecommunications services. These costs prevent many of our teachers and children from using the educational resources of the Internet. The second drawback is the on-going monthly charges for access.

Across the U.S. today, only nine percent of the nation's classrooms are connected.

Schools and libraries are investing million of dollars on computers, software, and teacher training, a waste of money if schools and libraries cannot afford to pay the monthly access charges.

Last week, the Federal-State Joint Board reached another decision furthering universal access. "Almost 70 percent of all schools will get at least a 50 percent discount on a wide range of telecommunications services," Riley said. "By providing the deepest discounts to schools with the largest number of poor children — discounts of up to 90 percent — the Federal-State Joint Board begins to give these schools a real start to being part of the ongoing telecommunications revolution.

Recommendations from the FCC Telecommunications and Health Care Advisory Committee for implementing the plan include a flat-based pricing system for urban and rural users to eliminate the long-distance access charges so onerous to rural users today. The act specifically mandates telecommunications providers to sell access to rural health care providers at rates comparable to rates in urban areas. Companies providing access would be subsidized for profits lost in the transaction, at the same time gaining access to a much broader range of potential customers for service.

Oklahoma's First Steps

Josh O'Brien, Director of Media Relations for the Oklahoma Department of Education said the state has been waiting to see what "Washington, D.C. would do.

"We're interested in improving technology at this agency and all the school dis-

tricts," O'Brien said. Oklahoma has 549 school districts, some with more than one school. At this time, no static count of how many school districts are using the Internet can be made.

On Dec. 5 "Web Day" sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Education, will be held in 18 different locations simultaneously to familiarize school district officials with the state's web page and encourage individual school use of the Internet, O'Brien said.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/13/96

SATELLITE TOWN MEETING SET

■(WASHINGTON) Truancy is often the first sign a young person is in trouble. It can also be a gateway to crime. According to the Los Angeles County Office of Education, truancy is the most powerful predictor of juvenile delinquent behavior.

How big is the problem? While no national data exist, according to the "Manual to Combat Truancy" (available at <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/truancy/>), in some cities, unexcused absences number in the thousands each day. Pittsburgh and Milwaukee, for example, count 2,450 and 4,000 (respectively) absent without an excuse.

"When young people start skipping school," the report says, "they are telling their parents, school officials and the community at large they are in trouble and need our help if they are to keep moving forward in life."

"What can schools and communities do to keep students in school, challenged and learning?"

That question is the focus of this month's Satellite Town Meeting, at 7 p.m., Tuesday, November 19. Secretary Riley will host "Schools as Safe Havens: Discipline, Safety and Truancy Prevention."

Coming to you via satellite from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C., this teleconference features a panel of educators and juvenile justice officials from around the country who are creating community-wide partnerships to reduce truancy, including:

- Dr. Kelly F. Blanton, superintendent of Kern County Schools, Bakersfield, CA.

- Linda Hyler Harrill, president and state director of Communities in Schools, North Carolina.

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• Janet Ransom, supervisor of the Truancy Intervention Project in the Fulton County Juvenile Center, Atlanta, GA.

• Diane McCarthy, president of Western Maricopa Coalition/Save Kids Partnership, Glendale, AZ.

Topics include: involving parents in truancy prevention and school discipline; making sure students at risk are actively engaged in learning; ensuring students face consistent sanctions for truancy or disciplinary problems; and involving law enforcement and social services in truancy prevention.

How You Can Join the Meeting

You can participate in the Satellite Town Meeting by calling during the live teleconference and asking your questions of the Secretary and the panel.

Your local cable access station might broadcast the town meetings if you ask them to, or you can organize your own downlink site on the night of the program. Local PBS member stations, schools, community colleges and universities, and cable access stations are often willing to serve as downlink sites. Just gather a group of interested community members and join.

The Satellite Town Meeting broadcast is free and unrestricted. Use, duplication and distribution of these materials are encouraged. The program is closed captioned.

—U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
11/13/96

PARENTS LEARN GOOD LISTENING SKILLS

■(WASHINGTON) Brochures for parents are available from the U.S. Government (see box). Following is a summary of one brochure on listening to the child.

HOW CAN PARENTS MODEL GOOD LISTENING SKILLS? By Carl Smith, Director, ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading and Communication Skills Listen Better, Learn More

In one of the Family Circus cartoon strips, the little girl looks up at her father, reading the newspaper, and says, "Daddy, you have to listen to me with your eyes as well as your ears." That statement says almost all there is to say about listening, whether in personal conversations or in learning in school.

Do Listening Skills Affect Learning?

Listening is not a school subject like reading and writing. Many of us seem to feel it comes naturally, and as long as we can listen to directions to find the restroom, nothing

more need be said. The latest studies reveal that listening is a very large part of school learning and is one of our primary means of interacting with other people on a personal basis.

Can Parents Guide Their Children to Better Listening?

According to research on listening skills, being a good listener means focusing attention on the message and reviewing the important information. Parents can model good listening behavior for their children and advise them on ways to listen as an active learner, pick out highlights of a conversation, and ask relevant questions.

Guidelines for Modeling Good Listening Skills

• Be interested and attentive. Children can tell whether they have a parent's interest and attention by the way the parent replies or does not reply.

• Encourage talking. Some children need an invitation to start talking.

• Listen patiently. People think faster than they speak. With limited vocabulary and experience in talking, children often take longer than adults to find the right word.

• Hear children out. Avoid cutting children off before they have finished speaking.

• Listen to nonverbal messages. Many messages children send are communicated nonverbally—by tone of voice, facial expressions, energy level, posture, or changes in behavior patterns.

Suggestions for Improving Communication with Children

• Be interested. Ask about children's ideas and opinions regularly.

• Avoid dead-end questions. Questions that require a yes or no answer lead a conversation to a dead end.

• Extend conversation. Try to pick up a piece of your child's conversation.

• Share your thoughts.

• Observe signs. Watch the child for signs it is time to end a conversation.

"Let us by all wise and constitutional measures promote intelligence among the people as the best means of preserving our liberties."

James Monroe
first inaugural address
March 4, 1817

• Reflect feelings. A good listener can put themselves in the shoes of others and empathize with the speaker.

• Help clarify and relate experiences.

Why are Parents Important in Building Children's Communications Skills?

Parents play an essential role in building children's communication skills because children spend more time with their parents than any other adult. Children also have a deeper involvement with their parents than with any other adult, and the family as a unit has lifelong contact with its members.

The greatest audience children can have is an adult who is important to them and interested in them.

More than two dozen brochures for parents are available from the Education Department's "Parent Brochures" homepage at the ACCESS ERIC web site: <http://www.aspensys.com/eric/parent.html>

Paper copies may be ordered by calling 1-800-LET-ERIC.

—U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION
11/14/96

ENVIRONMENT

NEW MAPPING, SURVEYING METHODS UNDER STUDY

■(GIT) The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) awarded a contract to complete a study of the surveying and mapping activities of federal civilian agencies, state and local governments, and the private sector last week. The National Academy of Public Administration won the contract. The Academy's study will be a collaborative effort of the BLM, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Forest Service, all of which are funding the study. The study began in early October and is expected to be completed by June 1997.

"As an agency that manages 270 million acres of public lands on behalf of all Americans, the BLM is committed to finding better ways to meet the needs of the land and the people who depend on it," said BLM Acting Director Mike Dombeck.

Neil Suneson, a geologist with the Oklahoma Geological Survey, said the new techniques being studied involve satellite location mapping and sensitive aerial photography with infrared and ultraviolet camera

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techniques. Geographical Positioning Satellites (GPS) can pinpoint a specific location to within a three-inch circle Suneson said, and elevations can be determined with these satellites also. Use of these new technologies is being studied to see if there is a more accurate way to map and survey.

Other areas of concern in the study is who does the mapping and surveying and why. Could some current federal mapping and surveying activities be better handled at the state or local level? Could some of the work be turned over to private or commercial enterprises with cost-effective results? Should the federal government consolidate or restructure surveying and mapping activities? These and other issues will be addressed in the study.

The Academy will issue a final report on the study, which will be available through the Academy's publications office at (301) 617-7801.

The National Academy of Public Administration is a congressionally chartered, independent, non-profit, non-partisan organization that provides expert advice to government agencies on matters of public administration. The Academy will work with the participating Federal agencies and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping to carry out the study.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/14/96

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

105TH CONGRESS GREETSS NEW MEMBERS

■(GIT) When Congress convenes, the new House members — the oldest 65, the youngest 26 — will all scramble for seats on the prestigious committees — Ways and Means, Commerce or Appropriations.

Only freshman Rep.-elect Wes Watkins, R-Okla., a veteran of Congress who served 14 years in the House as a Democrat in the 1970s and 1980s, has an assurance from the GOP leadership that he will have a Ways and Means assignment.

Watkins is one of five old-new members. Another, Rep. Bob Smith, R-Ore., has been guaranteed the chairmanship of the Agriculture Committee — which lured him out of retirement.

This freshman representative class is smaller and more balanced along party lines than the class of 1994, which was full of anti-

politicians, including 35 men and women with no political background whatsoever.

There are seven ex-mayors, 25 practicing lawyers or at least graduates of law school, including the youngest, Rep. Harold Ford Jr., D-Tenn., son of retiring Rep. Harold Ford Sr., D-Tenn. The younger Ford is 26 and graduated from law school in May.

The next occupation mentioned most is businessperson, including both Ellen Tauscher, D-Calif., who at 25 had a seat on the New York Stock Exchange, and Mike Pappas, R-NJ, who left college to work in his family's insurance business.

Six freshmen representatives have been House or Senate aides and five worked in presidential administrations: one for President Bush, and two each for Presidents Reagan and Clinton.

Other professions are: nine academics, three physicians, a nurse, two psychologists, two farmers, a TV newscaster, a border patrol agent, a pilot, a social worker, a lobbyist, and a landscape architect.

The new class of representatives has nine women, a decline from 1994's freshmen class, which had 12 women. The number of African-American freshmen increased from three to four, all Democrats, and there are two new Hispanic Members.

Twenty-eight of the freshmen are in their 50s; Ford Jr. is the only new member in his twenties; 18 are in their 30s; 22 in their 40s, and, four freshmen are in their 60s, making the average age 46.

Senate freshmen average 48 years old, and the class is 13 percent (or two) female, similar to the House.

What did they do before they were elected? Most new Senators are currently House members — eight Senators came from the lower chamber, making that the most popular profession of the group.

Next most common profession is lawyer (seven); then comes businessman (four), ex-

ecutive branch official (four), state official (four), academic (two), and veterinarian (one).

Finally, a statistical anomaly sets off the freshmen of the 105th Congress. Six new members are parents of twins. That means 6.8 percent of freshman representatives and senators are parents of twins. In the population at large, only about 2.6 percent of births are multiple births.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/12/96

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

STATES TRY NEW MEDICAID PROGRAMS

■(GIT) Fourteen states, including Oklahoma, have been approved by the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct experimental comprehensive health care reform demonstration projects for Medicaid clients. These experiments are testing new and innovative ideas relating to benefits and services, eligibility requirements and processes, program payment and service delivery. The aim of the pilot programs is to serve more low-income and uninsured people, while saving money through more efficient delivery systems.

Section 1115 of the Social Security Act provides the Secretary of Health and Human Services broad discretion to waive certain laws pertaining to Medicaid, in order to conduct experimental, pilot or demonstration projects. Since January 1993, HHS has approved 14 demonstration projects, and the framework of one additional demonstration. In addition, 19 states have received Medicaid waivers since January 1993, as part of larger welfare reform projects. These complementary Medicaid waivers enable states to continue providing essential health care services while encouraging independence from welfare.

Oklahoma's project is called SoonerCare. Managers of the project, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, under the direction of Dr. Garth Splinter, hope the project will increase access to primary care for beneficiaries through a managed care program in urban and rural areas. To guarantee the development of managed care in rural areas, key incentives will be provided to urban plans who undertake linkage efforts with

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"I know nothing grander, better exercise, better disposition, more positive proof of the past, the triumphant result of faith in human kind, than a well-contested American national election."

Walt Whitman
"Democratic Vistas"
1871

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rural providers. A Managed Care Task Force, with Sen. Stratton Taylor as chairman, is following the program in an oversight capacity. This program was implemented on July 1, 1996, and increases in rates to Medicaid recipients are part of the experiment. HCFA will monitor implementation of this and other programs throughout the 5-year life of the demonstration projects.

A plan to increase federal participation for Medicaid and foster care funding was presented to agency heads who were members of the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, last month, which cited pilot programs in Oregon, Illinois and Florida as possible models for some funding practices.

—GERRY CHERRY
11/14/96

MILITARY & DEFENSE

PRESIDENT SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER ON WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

■ (WASHINGTON) "On November 14, 1994, by Executive Order 12938, I declared a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons ("weapons of mass destruction") and the means of delivering such weapons. Because the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared on November 14, 1994, and extended on November 14, 1995, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 1996. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National

Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938.

"This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress."

Signed by President William J. Clinton,
November 12, 1996.

—THE WHITE HOUSE
11/13/96

PROCLAMATIONS

NATIONAL FARM CITY WEEK 1996

In 1840 Daniel Webster said, "when tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers therefore are the founders of human civilization." We pause each year at this time to express our gratitude to American farmers and the millions of Americans working in agriculture-related jobs, and we recognize the importance of agriculture and the essential role that farmers play in our national life. Intertwined with our national history, culture, and economy, American farms continuously sustain us and people around the world with rich produce and crops. Thanks to the professionalism and care of American farmers, we enjoy an abundance of quality and affordable food.

American agriculture is among our Nation's most vital industries, alone generating more than 15 percent of our gross domestic product. Bolstering our economy with a bounty of healthful foods, American agriculture supports more than 21 million jobs, and agriculture-related industries continue to expand, producing good, high-paying jobs and creating \$1 trillion for the American economy each year.

The success of American agriculture is a testament to the benefits of farm-city partnerships that stretch all the way from the farmer to the consumer, with thousands of participants in between — researchers, extension agents, scientists, agribusiness companies, shippers, inspectors, processors, manufacturers, marketers, and retailers, all helping to guarantee Americans a safe, abundant food supply. For more than 40 years, Americans have observed National Farm City Week in celebration of these partnerships.

During National Farm City Week, we celebrate Thanksgiving when Americans will gather around the dinner table to count our

Nation's many blessings. Among them is America's agricultural richness and the collaboration between rural and urban communities that helps guarantee our rich quality of life.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 22 through November 28, 1996, as National Farm City Week. I call upon all Americans in rural and urban communities alike to join in recognizing the accomplishments of our farmers and all the hardworking individuals who cooperate to produce an abundance of affordable, quality agricultural goods that strengthen and enrich our country.

—THE WHITE HOUSE
11/12/96

National Family Caregivers Week 1996

At this special time each year, we give thanks for our many blessings. Among those blessings are the quiet but heartfelt contributions made on a daily basis by our Nation's caregivers, particularly on behalf of the elderly in our society.

The true value of the role that caregivers play in the lives of America's families is immeasurable. Providing physical comfort and emotional reassurance, these strong and selfless people care for loved ones who can no longer care for themselves. The vast majority of caregivers are family members — often older relatives — and women provide most of the informal care that their families receive. Of the millions of people who provide informal care to older adults, over half are spouses or children. While many caregivers experience stress and frustration in fulfilling their caregiving responsibilities, and many sacrifice personal opportunities to care for a loved one, most regard the challenges of caregiving as a rewarding and satisfying experience.

By the year 2030, one in five Americans will be at least 65 years old, compared to one in eight today. In addition, the number of older Americans will double, from the present 34 million to about 69 million. At the same time that our population is aging, more older persons are suffering from chronic illnesses and face potentially disabling conditions. Moreover, individuals with lifelong disabilities are living longer and

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"Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country."

Franklin D. Roosevelt
speech in Marietta, Ohio
July 8, 1938

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



may require assistance in caring for themselves as they age. The overwhelming majority of older Americans would prefer to remain in their homes while growing older — even when no coordinated system of home- and community-based care is available. As a result, more Americans are becoming involved in caring for family members who want to age with dignity and respect.

This week, as we celebrate the contributions of caregivers to their families and communities, let us recognize the challenges these generous individuals must confront on a daily basis — challenges that include fulfilling multiple and often conflicting roles of caregiving for their aging relatives, caring for young children, and working outside their homes. Let us promote community programs and encourage workplace policies that help to lighten or share the burden of their caregiving responsibilities. And let us, as a Nation, recognize and commend the vital role they play in ensuring that older Americans age with grace, dignity, and a precious measure of independence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 24 through November 30, 1996, as National Family Caregivers Week. I call upon Government officials, businesses, communities, volunteers, educators, and all the people of the United States to acknowledge the contributions made by caregivers this week and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-first.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

—THE WHITE HOUSE
11/13/96

"There is no indispensable man in a democracy. When a republic comes to a point where a man is indispensable, then we have a Caesar."

Harry S. Truman
interview
ca. 1946

THANKSGIVING DAY, 1996

America's oldest tradition, Thanksgiving is also a reaffirmation of our most deeply held values; a public recognition that, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, "God who gave us life gave us liberty." In gratitude for God's gift of freedom and "for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us," George Washington made Thanksgiving his first proclamation for the new Nation, and it is one we are privileged to renew each year.

Much has changed for America in the two centuries since that first Thanksgiving proclamation. Generations of hardworking men and women have cultivated our soil and worked the land, and today America's bounty helps feed the world. The promise of freedom that sustained our founders through the hardships of the Revolution and the first challenging days of nationhood has become a reality for millions of immigrants who left their homelands for a new life on these shores. And the light of that freedom now shines brightly in many nations that once lived in the shadows of tyranny and oppression.

But across the years, we still share an unbroken bond with the men and women who first proclaimed Thanksgiving in our land. Americans today still cherish the fresh air of freedom, in which we can raise our families and worship God as we choose without fear of persecution. We still rejoice in this great land and in the civil and religious liberty it offers to all. And we still — and always — raise our voices in prayer to God, thanking Him in humility for the countless blessings He has bestowed on our Nation and our people.

Let us now, this Thanksgiving Day, reawaken ourselves and our neighbors and our communities to the genius of our founders in daring to build the world's first constitutional democracy on the foundation of trust and thanks to God. Out of our right and proper rejoicing on Thanksgiving Day, let us give our own thanks to God and reaffirm our love of family, neighbor, and community. Each of us can be an instrument of blessing to those we touch this Thanksgiving Day — and every day of the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the

United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 28, 1996, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage all the people of the United States to assemble in their homes, places of worship, or community centers to share the spirit of goodwill and prayer; to express heartfelt gratitude for the blessings of life; and to reach out in friendship to our brothers and sisters in the larger family of mankind.

Signed by President William J. Clinton,
November 11, 1996.

—THE WHITE HOUSE
11/14/96

PUBLIC SAFETY

FAA TESTING NEW INFRARED SENSOR FOR AIRPORT USE

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is testing a new infrared sensor that will enhance safety and security at our nation's airports by helping airport personnel see better in darkness, smoke and bad weather.

The prototype sensors, which the FAA is evaluating at Washington Dulles International Airport and Greater Pittsburgh International Airport, will let airport security teams detect human or animal intruders in total darkness and in light to medium fog. Firefighters can use them to see through smoke to produce the fastest, safest response in airport fire situations. Infrared sensors also enhance the overall situation awareness of airport personnel in degraded weather conditions.

Texas Instruments, headquartered in Dallas, markets the low-cost infrared cameras under the NightSight name and is providing the units for the tests.

"Development of this sensor is an example of government-industry cooperation at its best," said George Donohue, FAA associate administrator for research and acquisitions. "For a minimal investment in this project, the FAA will reap great rewards. As part of the development team, the FAA provided expertise, advice and test facilities, and in return gains a product with immediate application."

This new technology is the result of a cooperative Technology Reinvestment Project created by the Night Vision Consortium. The group's industry members are

Continued on next page

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Texas Instruments; Marlow Industries, Dallas; and Delco Electronics, Kokomo, Ind. It also includes a government technical advisory board composed of representatives from the FAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the FBI, the Secret Service, the U.S. Army's Night Vision Electronic Sensors Directorate and the Department of Transportation's Research and Special Programs Administration.

—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
11/12/96

NEW AIRPORT RESCUE AND FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is deploying new technology that helps airport rescue and firefighting crews safely, quickly and effectively respond to emergency situations at night and in adverse weather conditions. The Driver's Enhanced Vision System (DEVS), developed by the FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center, Atlantic City, NJ, combines satellite navigation, digital data link and infrared technologies with easy-to-use software and onboard displays. The system lets emergency crews see through fog, rain, sleet and snow, as well as through smoke and flames.

Using DEVS, rescue teams immediately get critical information such as the condition of the aircraft, location of passengers and crew, presence and location of spilled or burning fuel and the position of other emergency personnel at the scene.

Boston Logan International Airport is the pilot site for a full DEVS installation. Logan's system, operational since September, includes five mobile rescue vehicles, two in-water rescue boats, two airport management vehicles and one airport security vehicle. A command center contains vehicle tracking and communications installations in the airport tower emergency management center.

The new system uses computer displays driven by a differential Global Positioning

System (GPS), a Geographic Information System and a forward-looking infrared sensor mounted in the vehicle for locating and navigating to emergency sites. A central data and command radio link lets vehicles receive and transmit vital messages.

The FAA can provide up to 90 percent of the purchase cost of new rescue vehicles equipped with DEVS through Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants.

—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
11/12/96

RELIGION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ABROAD ESTABLISHED

■(WASHINGTON) The President welcomed the formation of a Special Advisory Committee to the Secretary of State on Religious Freedom Abroad. This "Advisory Committee," established by Secretary of State Christopher and chaired by Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor John Shattuck, will call attention to problems of religious persecution abroad. It is also expected to provide advice on how to bring about reconciliation in those areas where religious enmity is a threat to peace.

The establishment of the Advisory Committee, which is composed of representatives of the largest American religious groups, together with academic leaders and members of religious groups that have suffered persecution abroad, carries forward the commitment of the United States to advance religious freedom, help those suffering under repression, support the forces of tolerance and advance reconciliation among the many communities of faith.

—THE WHITE HOUSE
11/13/96

TRANSPORTATION

ENHANCED GROUND PROXIMITY WARNING SYSTEM USE BY AMERICAN AIRLINES APPROVED

■(WASHINGTON) The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has approved use of AlliedSignal's enhanced ground proximity warning system (EGPWS) on all American Airlines Boeing 757 aircraft. The FAA Supplemental Type Certificate, issued to AlliedSignal, follows 24 months of engineer-

ing analyses, simulator evaluations and actual flight tests.

The new EGPWS provides a detailed map of the terrain in the vicinity of the aircraft. Using an existing navigation system, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS), the aircraft's position is correlated with a database-driven terrain map which provides the pilot with real time awareness of the aircraft's position. The moving map, which is displayed on a cockpit screen, will aid the pilot in maintaining proper altitude and terrain clearance.

"The enhanced ground proximity warning system is the latest tool for avoiding controlled flight into terrain, typically mountains," said FAA Administrator David R. Hinson. "The approval granted to American Airlines demonstrates this agency's commitment to use new technology to enhance aviation safety."

—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION
11/12/96

REPORT ON OPERATING RESULTS OFTEN LARGEST BUS COMPANIES ISSUED

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) recently issued a report comparing the revenues, earnings, and ridership of ten of the nation's largest intercity and charter bus companies for the quarter ending March 31, 1996, with the same period for 1995.

The report is based primarily upon quarterly reports submitted by the carriers to the Bureau. These ten companies account for between 80 and 90 percent of the total intercity and charter revenues generated by Class I bus companies.

Greyhound — the only transcontinental bus company — showed a substantial loss in earnings for the quarter ending March 31, 1996, accompanied by a rise in revenues and ridership. While the regional carriers had slight increases in revenues, net operating income, and ridership for the quarter, they experienced a decline in ordinary income compared with the same period in 1995.

The nine regional carriers, on a composite basis, experienced a very slight decline in their operating ratio between the three months ending March 31, 1996, and the same period for 1995, as revenues increased at a fractionally higher rate than expenses. For

Continued on next page

"We have no greater asset than the willingness of a free and determined people, through its elected officials, to face all problems frankly and meet all dangers free from panic or fear."

*John F. Kennedy
State of the Union message
Jan. 29, 1961*

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



the same period, Greyhound reported a greater increase in its operating ratio. Because of Greyhound's size, compared with the nine regional carriers, its operating ratio increase resulted in a slight unfavorable increase for the ten carriers as a group.

To order a copy of any of the reports, contact the Bureau of Transportation Statistics by telephone on (202) 366-4383, Fax (202) 366-3383, or by writing to the Bureau at BTS/DOT, K-27, Room 4125, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590.

—U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
11/12/96

UNLIMITED LIABILITY LIMITS ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS APPROVED

■ (WASHINGTON) The Department of Transportation this week approved agreements to allow U.S. and foreign airlines to implement on an interim basis three agreements waiving the Warsaw Convention's liability limit for injury or death on international flights.

The department's decision, which is effective immediately, will permit passengers and their families to recover the full amount of damages incurred on international flights of signatory carriers without any limit. Under the previous standard they were limited to \$75,000 unless they could prove that the carrier was guilty of "willful misconduct," an extreme form of gross negligence.

The department deferred action on a number of conditions it proposed in its Oct. 3 show cause order tentatively approving the agreements. DOT said that it would allow passengers to benefit immediately from the carriers' voluntary waiver of the limits while it considers ways to enhance the agreement.

U.S. carriers signing the agreement are Alaska Airlines, Allegheny Airlines, American Airlines, American Trans Air, AM Eagle, AMR Combs BJS, Continental Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Hawaiian Airlines, Kiwi International Airlines, Midwest Express Airlines, Northwest Airlines, Piedmont Airlines, PSA Airlines, Reeve Aleutian Airways, Trans World Airlines, United Airlines, UPS Airlines and USAir.

Foreign carriers signing the agreement are Aer Lingus, Aeromexico, Aeromexico, Air Afrique, Air Aruba, Air Baltic, Air Canada, Air Exel Commuter, Air France, Air Mauritius, Air New Zealand, Air UK, Air Vanuatu, All Nippon Airways, Augsburg Airways, Austrian Airlines, Azerbaijan Hava

Vollary, British Airways, Canadian Airlines International, Cathay Pacific Airways, Cimber Air, Croatia Airlines, Crossair, Deutsche BA Luftfahrtgesellschaft, Deutsche Lufthansa, Egyptair, Finnair, Garuda Indonesia, GB Airways, Iberia, Icelandair, Japan Air System, Japan Airlines, Jet Airways (India), Kenya Airways, KLM Cityhopper, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Korean Air Lines, LAPSA Lineas Aereas Paraguayas, Luxair, Malaysia Airlines, Pakistan International Airlines, Qantas Airways Limited, Regional Airlines, Royal Air Maroc, SABENA, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Scandinavian Airlines System, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, Swissair, TACA, TAP Air Portugal, TAT European Airlines, Transavia Airlines, Trinidad & Tobago BWIA International, Varig and VIASA.

—U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
11/14/96

WILDLIFE

INPUT RECEIVED ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

■ (WASHINGTON) Working with landowners to improve fisheries habitat and access, compiling comprehensive data on the economic benefits of fishing, and increasing public awareness were major topics of discussion when more than 75 representatives of state natural resource agencies, conservation groups, Native American Tribes, and the fishing and boating industries met in Phoenix, Arizona, October 22, 1996.

"The group generated a lot of food for thought by identifying key fisheries issues around which America's angling interests can join hands and work together," said Acting Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Rogers. "I am encouraged by the strong consensus on conserving fish habitats that emerged during the meeting and look forward to great progress in rebuilding fisheries across America."

The National Fisheries Stakeholders Meeting was sponsored by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and the American Sportfishing Association. The Council serves as a Federal advisory panel on fishing and boating issues to the Secretary of the Interior through the Service director.

The meeting in Phoenix focused on four areas of fisheries management: habitat con-

servation, development and maintenance of access facilities, public education, and partnerships.

For habitat conservation, the group's top recommendations were to develop partnerships with private landowners to protect aquatic habitats, expand matching fund programs for habitat projects, and develop major watershed plans.

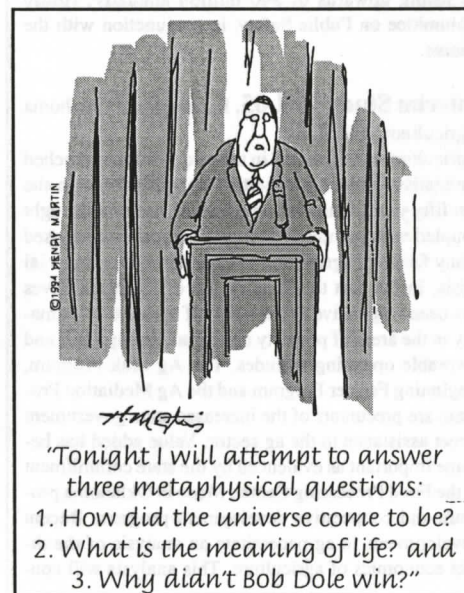
For fishing access, the group's top recommendations were to develop incentives for private landowners to provide access to fishing, dedicate a state marine fuel tax to finance access, and provide adequate access to urban fisheries.

For public education, the group's top recommendations were to establish more urban fishery enhancement programs; develop ways to measure the success of education and outreach programs; and increase partnerships among conservation organizations, sportfishing groups, and outdoor clubs.

For partnerships, the group's top recommendations included more industry promotion of the economic importance of fishing and continuing fisheries stakeholder meetings on a regular basis.

The group also recommended increased promotion of fishing benefits, adopting an "ecosystem approach" to fisheries management wherever possible, making common resources available through the Internet, and more cooperative work to control non-native species and fish diseases.

—U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
11/12/96



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 unequalled 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 Subcommittee; and **Interim Study 96H-60, OETA, James E. Hamilton.** Request a joint House and Interim Study Committee to study the operational and capital needs of OETA; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education in conjunction with the Senate.

Interim Study 96H-27, Final Disposition of Hissom, Russ Roach

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

Interim Study 96H-28, Managed Care, Tommy Thomas, Randall Erwin

To discuss implementation of managed care in the rural portions of Oklahoma; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Human Services.

Interim Study 96H-29, Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Randy Beutler, Terry Matlock

The purpose of this study is to discuss and review the rules promulgated by the Department of Agriculture on Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). This proposal would be the subject of a joint study by the House Agriculture Committee and the Senate interim study to be chaired by Sen. Lewis Long; Joint study of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees.

Interim Study 96H-30, Early Childhood, Joe Eddins

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

Interim Study 96H-31, CASA, Randall Erwin

To research all aspects of CASA including needs, merits, and possible funding; Appropriations and Budget Committee.

Interim Study 96H-32, Study of Community Action Agencies, Randall Erwin

Study the feasibility of the agencies merging with the State Insurance Department. Research on the impact of joint state retirement and insurance benefits; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

Interim Study 96H-33, Federal Discharge Permits and Concentrated Animal Feed Yard Operations, Elmer Maddux

Examination of requirements for state assumption of federal N.P.D.E.S. program for agricultural jurisdictional areas (State Department of Agriculture) and concentrated animal feeding operations; House Agriculture Committee.

Interim Study 96H-34, Ad Valorem, James Hager

Examine issues related to revision of the ad valorem funding system for schools and governmental entities; Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Education; Agriculture Committee.

Interim Study 96H-35, Education - Residency, James Hager

Study issues relating to student residency for school purposes; Education Committee.

Interim Study 96H-36, Education - Common Education, James Hager

Study current issues relating to Oklahoma common education system including issues related to curriculum; Education Committee.

Interim Study 96H-37, Education - Vo-Tech, James Hager

Study current issues relating to Oklahoma's vocational-technical education system; Education Committee.

Interim Study 96H-38, Education - Higher Education, James Hager

Study current issues relating to Oklahoma's Higher Education System; Education Committee

Interim Study 96H-39, Health Insurance Issues, Betty Boyd

A study to determine what new medical procedures and/or equipment should be included in health insurance coverage and attendant fiscal impact; House Committee on Insurance.

Interim Study 96H-40, Implementation of HCR1108, Abe Deutschendorf

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

Interim Study 96H-41, Reading Programs in Oklahoma, Abe Deutschendorf, Jack Begley

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

Interim Study 96H-42, Family Centered and Community Designed Services, Sean Voskuhl

Determine appropriate methods for coordinated delivery of family and early childhood development services; House Committee on Children, Youth and Family Services.

Interim Study 96H-43, Ostrich and Emu Processing Facilities, Bob Ed Culver

Study the creating and financing of ostrich meat processing and tanning facilities and of emu meat processing and oil extraction facilities. Review the experience of such facilities in the surrounding states; Agriculture Committee

Interim Study 96H-44, Review or Joint Rules, Dwayne Steidley, Don Kinnamon

Requesting a joint special committee to review procedures in the joint rules which relate to deadlines and other matters that impact the flow of legislation between the two houses; Assigned to a special joint committee whose House members are Benson, Adair, Askins, Bastin, Begley, Hamilton, Hilliard, Rice Thomas, Toure, Kinnamon and Steidley.

1996 Interim Studies - House

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Combined with Interim Study 96H-40.

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

Combined with Interim Study 96H-26.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Combined with Interim Study 96H-49.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee on Health and Social Services.

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

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

1996 Interim Studies - Senate

Interim Study 96S-004, Motor Vehicle Registration Avoidance

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

Interim Study 96S-006, Weather Modification

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

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

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

Interim Study 96S-014, Oklahoma Indigent Defense System

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interim Study 96S-064, Truth in Sentencing

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

Interim Study 96S-101, Agriculture Product Processing

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

Interim Study 96S-102, Tourism Infrastructure

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

Interim Study 96S-103, Law Enforcement Policy Study

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

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

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

Interim Study 96S-105, English as Official Language

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

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

Senate Deregulation Committee. Sen. Herb Rozell, Chairman.

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

Senate Transportation Committee. Sen. Gene Stipe, Chairman.

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

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

Interim Study 96S-110, Turnpikes

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

Interim Study 96S-111, Capitol Funding Needs

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

State Questions

State Question Number	Initiative Petition Number	Legislative Referendum Number	Resolution or Bill Number	Filed By and Date Filed	Subject	Election Date
670		302	SB 651	Legislature 7-14-94	This measure amends Section 18 of Article 2 of the State Constitution. It changes the procedure for calculating the number of persons who must sign a petition to call for a grand jury. It increases the minimum and maximum number required. It directs the Legislature to enact laws to prevent abuse.	Set For Nov. 5, 1996 Passed
671		303	HJR 1010	Legislature 5-18-95	This measure amends Section 26 of Article 10 of the Oklahoma Constitution. It would let school districts make contracts with school superintendents for more than one year, but not to exceed three years.	Set for Nov. 5, 1996 Passed
672	363			"BOOST" Better Opportunities for Oklahoma Students and Taxpayers 6-30-95	<p>This measure adds a new Article to the Oklahoma Constitution. The new Article deals with gambling. The new Article legalizes:</p> <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. The measure would allow Indian tribes to request an agreement to operate a gambling casino. State limits and standards would have limited or no effect on Indian gambling. The State could not tax Indian gambling.</p> <p>The measure makes gambling debts incurred at authorized casinos legal and enforceable.</p> <p>State taxes on the new gambling would fund the Commission, and help education prisons. Some tax funds would go to local governments where State licensed gambling is conducted.</p>	Okayed by Supreme Court on Nov. 5, 1996 to be placed on ballot

State Questions

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

State Questions

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

State Questions

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

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Monday, November 18, 1996

- 10:00** **Oklahoma Board of Corrections**
Special Meeting
Administration Building, North Conference Room, Oklahoma City
-
- 1:30** **Energy Administration Reform Task Force**
Created by SB 911
Auditorium, University Center at Tulsa/Rogers State College, 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
-
- Oklahoma State Banking Board**
Okla. State Banking Dept., Conference Room, 4545 N. Lincoln, Suite 164, 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
-
- Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Commission**
Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dept., Colcord Bldg., 15 N. Robinson,
First Floor Conference Room, Oklahoma City
-
- 9:30** **Joint Interim Committee on Electric Utility Task Force**
Created by SJR 37
State Capitol, Senate Chamber
-
- 10:00** **Interim Study 96H-03, Manufactured Homes**
State Capitol, Room 412-C
-
- 2:00** **Commission on Natural Gas Policy**
State Capitol, Room 432-A

Calendar of Meetings & Events

Monday, November 25, 1996

- 10:00** **Rehabilitation Services Commission**
3535 NW 58th Street, Second Floor Large Conference Room, Oklahoma City
-
- 2:00** **Senate Interim Study 96S-105, English as Official Language**
State Capitol, Room 419-C

Tuesday, November 26, 1996

- 10:00** **Commission on Children & Youth**
4545 N. Lincoln Blvd., Suite 114, Oklahoma City
-
- House Interim Study 96H-25, Ft. Sill State/National Cemetery Site**
State Capitol, House Chamber

Monday, December 2, 1996

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

Tuesday, December 3, 1996

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

Tuesday, December 10, 1996

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

Thursday, December 12, 1996

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

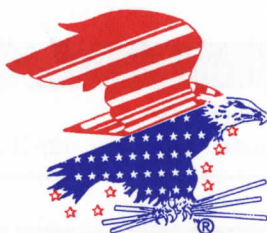
Friday, December 13, 1996

- 10:00** **War Veterans Commission**
Conference Room, Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, Oklahoma City
-
- 1:00** **Board of Corrections**
Lexington Correctional Center, Lexington, OK



"Can you settle a bet, Wellman? Herb says 53% of all statistics are meaningless and I say it's 56%."

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