

**State of the State  
Governor Dewey Bartlett  
January 6, 1970**

GOVERNOR NIGH, PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE SMITH, SPEAKER PRIVETT, HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE 32ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, GUEST, MY FELLOW OKIES:

WELCOME BACK TO OKLAHOMA CITY FOR THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION OF THE OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE.

LAS YEAR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE WHEN THEY VOTED ANNUAL SESSIONS, YOU ADJOURNED ON APRIL 29TH, THE SHORTEST LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN RECENT HISTORY. THIS YEAR, I CHALLENGE YOU TO DO EVEN BETTER.

IN MY OPINION, THE WORK OF THIS SESSION CAN -- AND SHOULD -- BE COMPLETED IN NOT MORE THAN 90 CALENDAR DAYS. I PLEDGE YOU MY SUPPORT IN ACHIEVING THAT GOAL.

LET US IMMEDIATELY TACKLE THE WORK AT HAND. ACCOMPLISH IT IN A RESPONSIBLE MANNER, AND CONTINUE TO RESTORE OUR CITIZENS' CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ELECTED LEADERS.

WE HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO DO THE JOB.

DURING GOVERNOR EDMONDSON'S ADMINISTRATION, FOR FISCAL 1960-1963, APPROPRIATED REVENUES WERE \$466,585,237.

DURING GOVERNOR BELLMON'S ADMINISTRATION, FOR FISCAL 1964-1967, APPROPRIATED REVENUES WERE \$585,494,637.

FOR THE FOUR YEAR PERIOD OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, FISCAL 1968-1971, APPROPRIATED REVENUES WILL BE AT LEAST \$875,715,755. THIS REPRESENTS AN INCREASE OF 49 PER CENT OVER 1964-67, AND AN INCREASE OF 87.69 PER CENT OVER 1960-63.

THERE ARE SEVERAL REASONS FOR THIS IMMENSE INCREASE, BUT A GENERAL TAX INCREASE IS NOT ONE OF THEM. THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT REASONS ARE (1) THE GENERAL GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY, AND (2) MORE VIGOROUS COLLECTION OF TAXES DUE THE STATE.

THE STATE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA IS EXCELLENT. THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE IS OPTIMISTIC.

OKLAHOMA HAS HAD PHENOMENAL SUCCESS IN ITS ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS, NEW OR EXPANDED INDUSTRIES HAVE OCCURRED IN 67 OF OUR 77 COUNTIES. IN 1969, INDUSTRIAL GROWTH PROGRESSED MORE THAN ANY PREVIOUS YEAR.

PRELIMINARY FIGURES FOR 1969 SHOW THAT CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXCEEDED \$242 MILLION DOLLARS, WHICH WILL (ACCORDING TO THE COMPANIES INVOLVED) CREATE 12,290 NEW JOBS. THESE TOTALS ARE INCOMPLETE, YET THEY SHOW THAT OKLAHOMA'S INDUSTRIAL GROWTH, ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH, HAS REACHED NEW LEVELS.

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS, \$492 MILLION DOLLARS HAS BEEN OR WILL BE INVESTED BY INDUSTRY AND 28,600 NEW JOBS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE CREATED (ACCORDING TO THE COMPANIES INVOLVED.)

IN OCTOBER, 1969, OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT WAS UP 18,500 OVER OCTOBER, 1968, DESPITE A 1,000 JOB LOSS IN AGRICULTURE.

IN 1969, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT REACHED ONE MILLION FOR THE FIRST TIME.

WE ALREADY HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR 1970, WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY WILL INVEST IN EXCESS OF \$100 MILLION DOLLARS IN SOUTHEASTERN OKLAHOMA.

THIS ACHIEVEMENT HAS BEEN NO ONE-MAN SHOW.

IT IS THE RESULT OF A COORDINATED, COOPERATIVE EFFORT, FROM CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS TO INDUSTRIAL LEADERS TO INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS, TO OUR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, AND TO YOU, THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, WHO HAVE PROVIDED LAWS -- AND MONEY -- TO MAKE OKLAHOMA MORE ATTRACTIVE TO INDUSTRY.

THE GOAL OF MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN "MORE AND BETTER JOBS." IT WILL BE MY GOAL IN THE FUTURE.

ONE PORTION OF OUR SUCCESS FORMULA DEPENDS DIRECTLY UPON YOU AND THE CITIZENS, AND THAT IS THE SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF AN INCREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF DOLLARS THE OKLAHOMA INDUSTRIAL FINANCE AUTHORITY MAY USE TO ATTRACT NEW OR EXPANDED INDUSTRY. IT IS ESSENTIAL THIS BE ACCOMPLISHED AT A SPECIAL ELECTION DURING THIS SESSION.

AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 1969, THE AUTHORITY HAS MADE 82 LOANS TOTALING \$9.1 MILLION DOLLARS. OF THAT SUM, \$8.6 MILLION WAS TO INDUSTRY IN NON-METROPOLITAN AREAS.

THESE LOANS WILL CREATE (ACCORDING TO THE COMPANIES INVOLVED) 7,907 NEW JOBS, WITH AN ESTIMATED PAYROLL OF \$44 MILLION DOLLARS.

IN THE PAST NINE YEARS, THESE FUNDS HAVE HELPED FINANCE INDUSTRY IN 51 COUNTIES.

NEW AND EXPANDED INDUSTRY VALUED AT \$58.8 MILLION DOLLARS WAS LOCATED IN 50 RURAL COUNTIES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE AUTHORITY.

LOANS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING CLOSED TOTAL ANOTHER \$10 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH WILL COMPLETELY EXHAUST AVAILABLE FUNDS.

DURING 1969, 28 COUNTIES VOTED MORE THAN \$40 MILLION DOLLARS IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS BRINGS TO 52 THE NUMBER OF COUNTIES WITH SUCH BONDS.

PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN 1969 DONATED \$220,000 FOR AN IN-DEPT STUDY OF OKLAHOMA'S INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL. THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PARK DEPARTMENT IS IMPLEMENTING THIS STUDY, KNOWN AS THE FANTUS REPORT.

FIVE THOUSAND NAMES OF POTENTIAL PLANTS FOR OKLAHOMA WERE PROVIDED.

IN 1969, THE STATE'S INDUSTRIAL COORDINATORS VISITED APPROXIMATELY 200 OKLAHOMA COMMUNITES. CALLS WERE MADE IN 86 INDUSTRIAL CENTER IN 35 STATES.

THE OZARKS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ALLOCATED \$2 MILLION PUBLIC WORKS DOLLARS FOR PROJECTS IN 37 EASTERN OKLAHOMA COUNTIES. THESE PROJECTS INCLUDED VO-TECH SCHOOLS, AIRPORTS, AND SEWER AND WATER IMPROVEMENTS.

IN TOURISM -- ITSELF AN INDUSTRY -- 1969 PRODUCED MORE THAN \$380 MILLION DOLLARS, NEW DOLLARS FROM OUTSIDE THE STATE.

A VITAL FACTOR IN OUR INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IS EDUCATION.

MANY YARDSTICKS MAY BE USED TO MEASURE OKLAHOMA'S EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, BUT ONE ACCURATE YARDSTICK IS THE ABILITY OF THE SYSTEM TO PRODUCE A HIGHLY PROFICIENT AND PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICALLY-SKILLED LABOR FORCE TO SATISFY THE DEMANDS OF THE MOST SOPHISTICATED INDUSTRY.

AS MY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT INDICATES, WE ARE EDUCATING STUDENTS THAT CAN COMETE, AND BECAUSE OF OUR SYSTEM, OUR STATE IS ENJOYING AN UNPRECEDENTED GROWTH.

WE ARE ATTRACTING INDUSTRY BECAUSE WE HAVE A GOOD SCHOOL SYSTEM.

WE MUST STRIVE TO MAKE IT EVEN BETTER.

TOTAL STATE APPROPRIATIONS TO EDUCATION DURING THIS ADMINISTRATION WILL AMOUNT TO AT LEAST \$623,200,441.

UNDER MY PROPOSED BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS TO COMMON SCHOOLS WILL HAVE INCREASED 77 PER CENT DURING THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1971.

TEACHER SALARIES IN 1967-68 AVERAGED \$6,259. THIS YEAR, THE AVERAGE IS \$7,300. FOR FISCAL 1970-71, IF MY PROPOSED BUDGET IS ADOPTED, THE AVERAGE WILL EXCEED \$7,800.

ONE OF THE MOST DRAMATIC STEPS BEING MADE IN EDUCATION IN OKLAHOMA IS THE STATE-WIDE SYSTEM OF AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTERS.

HERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OKLAHOMA'S EDUCATIONAL HISTORY, YOUNG PEOPLE OF HIGH SCHOOL AGE ARE LEARNING THE SOPHISTICATED SKILLS NECESSARY TO HOLD TECHNOLOGICAL AND OTHER JOBS IN THE EXCITING DECADE WE FACE TODAY.

TO DATE, 17 AREA VO-TECH SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE BEEN FORMED. OUR STATE DEPARTMENT OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION HAS PLANNED FOR 22 SCHOOLS TO OFFER THIS TYPE OF EDUCATION WITHIN COMMUTING DISTANCE OF EVERY RESIDENT OF OKLAHOMA.

WE HAVE DEVELOPED WITHIN OUR VO-TECH SYSTEM THE SPECIAL SCHOOLS PROGRAM, WHICH ALLOWS US TO TRAIN WORKERS FOR SPECIFIC INDUSTRIES ANYWHERE IN THE STATE.

IN HIGHER EDUCATION, ACCORDING TO THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, OKLAHOMA RANKED 20TH OF THE 50 STATES IN PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE IN FISCAL 1968-69.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN THE OKLAHOMA STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION HAS INCREASED BY APPROXIMATELY 100 PER CENT OVER THE PAST TEN YEARS.

IN THAT SAME PERIOD, EDUCATIONAL AND GENERAL OPERATIONS BUDGETS OF STATE SYSTEM INSTITUTIONS HAVE INCREASED 166.8 PER CENT.

IT IS REVEALING THAT THE AVERAGE INCREASE FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS OF THIS PERIOD AMOUNTS TO \$11 MILLION PER YEAR, AS COMPARED TO \$5 MILLION THE PROCEEDING SEVEN YEARS.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN OKLAHOMA HIGHER EDUCATION NOW EQUALS THE COMBINED TOTAL OF 15 OKLAHOMA COUNTIES.

LATEST FIGURES COMPILED BY THE STATE REGENTS REVEAL THAT ABOUT 67 PER CENT OF OKLAHOMA'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES GO ON TO COLLEGE -- PLACING OKLAHOMA AT OR NEAR THE TOP AMONG THE 50 STATES.

OKLAHOMA RANKS SEVENTH AMONG THE 50 STATES IN THE RATIO OF STATE INSTITUTIONS TO POPULATION, WITH ONE STATE-SUPPORTED INSTITUTION FOR EACH 145,000 CITIZENS.

OKLAHOMA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION WILL EXPEND APPROXIMATELY \$235 MILLION IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ACADEMIC FACILITIES DURING THE DECADE 1965-75.

### **THE BUDGET**

BEFORE DISCUSSING THE MAJOR POINTS OF THE BUDGET, I WANT TO MAKE SEVERAL GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

YOU WILL FIND IN A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF MY PROPOSED BUDGET THAT THE TAX DOLLAR IS BEING STRETCHED.

THAT WILL COME AS NO SURPRISE TO YOU. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, YOU WILL BE BESIGED BY THOSE WHO SAY THAT THE TAX DOLLAR IS BEING STRETCHED TOO FAR.

BUT I SUBMIT TO YOU THAT THE TAX DOLLAR USED TO RUN STATE GOVERNMENT IS NOT STRETCHED AS FAR AS THE DOLLAR USED TO RUN THE HOSEHOLDS OF OKLAHOMA TAXPAYERS.

THE BUDGET INCLUDES SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO INCREASE THE MINIMUM SALARY FOR EVERY STATE EMPLOYEE TO \$310 PER MONTH.

IT INCLUDES SUFFICIENT FUND TO PROVIDE A ONE-STEP PAY INCREASE FOR EVERY STATE EMPLOYEE.

IT INCLUDES \$500,000 TO FUND A PROPOSED DISABILITY PROGRAM FOR STATE EMPLOYEES.

THESE THREE STEPS WILL. I BELIEVE, ELEVATE EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE TO THE LEVEL AFFORDED EMPLOYEES OF PRIVATE INDUSTRY. THESE STEPS ARE OVERDUE.

## **PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION**

IN PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION, I RECOMMEND A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$113,176,445, AN INCREASE OF \$16,839,945. THIS INCREASE PROVIDES SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO FINANCE THE PRESENT SCHOOL CODE, SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES FOR COUNSELING, SPECIAL EDUCATION, KINDERGARTENS, TRANSPORTATION, AND AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM SALARY OF TEACHER TO \$6,000 PER YEAR.

## **TEXTBOOKS**

I PROPOSE \$3,283,857 FOR TEXTBOOKS. THIS AMOUNT WILL RAISE OUR PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE FROM \$4.00 TO \$5.00.

## **TEACHER'S RETIREMENT**

I PROPOSE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3.5 MILLION DOLLARS FOR TEACHER RETIREMENT.

THIS PROPOSED EXPENDITURE COVERS ONLY WHAT IS REQUIRED BY PRESENT LAW.

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE COMMITTED TO AN INCREASE IN TEACHER RETIREMENT BENEFITS, AND WHILE I PERSONALLY FAVOR SUCH AN INCREASE. THE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION AS ESTIMATED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION ARE NOT SUFFICIENT TO FUND ANY INCREASED BENEFITS WITHOUT RETARDING THE GROWTH OF OTHER NEEDED FUNCTIONS.

HOWEVER, AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, OTHER FUNDS -- OVER AND ABOVE THE ESTIMATE BY THE EQUALIZATION BOARD -- ARE AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION BY YOU. THE INCOME TAX ADJUSTMENT FUND HAS MORE THAN \$1 MILLION DOLLARS WHICH YOU CAN -- AS YOU HAVE IN THE PAST -- APPROPRIATE.

I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT YOU HONOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO INCREASE TEACHER'S RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND THAT YOU FINANCE THE INCREASED BENEFITS FROM THE INCOME TAX ADJUSTMENT FUND.

IF THE INCREASED BENEFITS ARE REALISTIC. IF THE INCREASE IS FINANCED FROM THE INCOME TAX ADJUSTMENT FUND, AND IF THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED TO FINANCE THE INCREASED BENEFITS WILL ALLOW THE RETIREMENT FUND TO REMAIN ACTUARILY SOUND, THEN I PLEDGE YOU MY SUPPORT IN HONORING YOUR COMMITMENT.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION**

FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, I PROPOSE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$67,705,883, AN INCREASE OF \$8 MILLION DOLLARS. I RECOMMEND THAT \$50,000 BE SET ASIDE FOR A STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM AND THAT \$200,000 BE SET ASIDE FOR A TELEVISED INSTRUCTION PROGRAM WHICH WILL PROVIDE A METHOD OF TAKING THE CLASSROOM TO INDUSTRIAL COMMUNITIES WHERE ADVANCED COURSES IN HIGHER EDUCATION ARE NEEDED. INDUSTRY OF THE STATE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROGRAM BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO ESTABLISH THE SYSTEM AND TO HELP DEFRAY OPERATING COSTS.

### **VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

TO FURTHER IMPROVE OUR GROWING VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM. I PROPOSE A TOTAL OF \$4.3 MILLION DOLLARS, AN INCREASE OF \$750,000. THIS \$4.3 MILLION DOLLARS REPRESENTS AN AMOUNT THREE TIMES THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED IN 1967.

### **HIGHWAYS**

I PROPOSE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$62,690,298 FOR HIGHWAYS, AN INCREASE OF \$4.7 MILLION DOLLARS. THREE POINT SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS WILL COME FROM THE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE FUND AND \$1 MILLION FROM THE GENERAL REVENUE FUND.

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

I PROPOSE AN APPROPRIATION OF \$2,554,020 FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, AN INCREASE OF \$363,016. I REQUEST \$150,000 TO ASSIST LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS. I ALSO REQUEST \$50,000 BE ALLOCATED FOR A GUIDANCE CENTER PROGRAM AND \$50,000 FOR FAMILY PLANNING.



## **MENTAL HEALTH**

I PROPOSE AN APPROPRIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH OF \$13,874,864. THIS INCLUDES AN INCREASE OF \$17,735 FOR THE DEPARTMENT ITSELF.

I FURTHER PROPOSE AN INCREASE OF \$553,249 FOR CENTRAL STATE GRIFFIN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, AN INCREASE OF \$393,833 FOR EASTERN STATE HOSPITAL, AND AN INCREASE OF \$186,935 FOR WESTERN STATE HOSPITAL.

UPON THE STRONG RECOMMENDATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH, I RECOMMEND THAT TAFT STATE HOSPITAL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT AS AN INSTITUTION FOR ADULT MENTAL RETARDATEES.

OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS, THE RESIDENT PATIENTS IN THE FOUR STATE MENTAL HOSPITALS HAVE GRADUALLY DECREASED FROM APPROXIMATELY 6,300 TO 3,600. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE.

FOR REASONS OF ECONOMY AND UTILIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL, IT SEEMS LOGICAL TO EFFECT THIS TRANSFER, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE NEED EXISTING IN OKLAHOMA FOR AN INSTITUTION DEVOTED TO THE CARE AND REHABILITATION OF ADULT MENTAL RETARDATEES.

THERE ARE IN OUR FOUR MENTAL HOSPITALS APPROXIMATELY 350 ADULT RETARDATEES. I RECOMMEND THAT THEY BE PLACED IN TAFT STATE HOSPITAL AND THAT ALL MENTAL PATIENTS NOW CARED FOR AT THAT LOCATION BE ASSIGNED TO EASTERN, CENTRAL AND WESTERN STATE HOSPITALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR RESIDENCE OF ORIGIN.

BECAUSE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CARE AND REHABILITATION OF RETARDATEES RESTS WITH THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT, IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT TAFT BE TRANSFERRED TO THAT DEPARTMENT.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT**

IN LAW ENFORCEMENT, I HAVE FOUR RECOMMENDATIONS.

1 – THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OKLAHOMA CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM, AT A COST OF \$374,000.

2 – THE ADDITION OF FIVE AGENTS FOR THE OKLAHOMA BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

3 – THE ADDITION OF 85 HIGHWAY PATROLMEN -- WHICH WILL BRING PATROL STRENGTH TO 538, AN INCREASE OF 179 IN THE FOUR YEARS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. I ALSO RECOMMEND PAY INCREASES OF \$50 PER MONTH FOR UNIFORMED PERSONNEL, AND A \$40,000 APPROPRIATION FOR THE SOUTHWEST CENTER FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

4 – TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT FROM THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND PARK DEPARTMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

### **CORRECTIONS**

AS AN ADJUNCT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, I HAVE MADE RECOMMENDATIONS INVOLVING OUR CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM.

THEY ARE:

INCREASES OF \$600,000 FOR THE STATE PENITENTIARY AND \$72,141 FOR THE STATE REFORMATORY. THESE INCREASES ARE NECESSARY TO MEET RISING COSTS AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO HANDLE INCREASING PENAL POPULATION.

IN ADDITION, I RECOMMEND FUNDS BE APPROPRIATED TO THE CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE FOR HIRING SEVEN ADDITIONAL PROBATION OFFICERS AND AN ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PROBATION AND PAROLE.

### **OTHER BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

I RECOMMEND THE EXPENDITURE OF \$50,000 FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY IN PREPARING CAMP GRUBER FOR USE BY THE OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD.

I RECOMMEND \$30,000 FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INITIATE A SYSTEM OF PESTICIDE CONTROL.

I RECOMMEND \$24,000 AS THE FIRST APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY. WE HAVE ASSURANCES FROM THE FEDERAL O. E. O. OFFICE THAT IT WILL SUPPORT MEANINGFUL PROGRAMS BY THE STATE O. E. O. OFFICE FOR THE POOR OF OKLAHOMA.

I RECOMMEND A REDUCTION OF \$250,000 IN THE CORPORATION COMMISSION APPROPRIATION. THIS REDUCTION IS GRANTED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, CHARLES NESBITT.

I WANT TO COMPLIMENT CHAIRMAN NESBITT FOR REQUESTING THIS DECREASE IN APPROPRIATION. IT APPEARS TO ME AN INTELLIGENT AND REALISTIC REDUCTION, AND CONSTITUTES AN ATTITUDE THAT MIGHT WELL BE COPIED BY OTHER AGENCIES OF THE STATE.

### **PLANNING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

I RECOMMEND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH, TO ASSIST LOCAL OFFICIALS IN PLANNING, IN DEVELOPING LONG-RANGE GOALS AND TO INCREASE COORDINATION BETWEEN STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS.

### **OTHER LEGISLATION**

I STRONGLY URGE YOU TO ENACT LEGISLATION CALLING FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION TO UPGRADE AND UPDATE OUR EXISTING CONSTITUTION.

I RECOMMEND YOU REVIEW OUR EXISTING LAWS ON DRUGS AND NARCOTICS AND MAKE ANY NEEDED CHANGES. IN THIS REGARD, I REFER YOU TO THE REPORT OF THE RECENT GOVERNOR'S SEMINAR ON DRUGS AND NARCOTICS FOR RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS IN THIS AREA.

I RECOMMEND PASSAGE OF A SCENIC RIVERS BILL.

I AGAIN RECOMMEND EARLY PASSAGE OF A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE LENDING AUTHORITY OF THE OKLAHOMA INDUSTRIAL FINANCE AUTHORITY AND REQUEST AN ELECTION BE HELD ON THE RESOLUTION AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

## **ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY**

THE BUDGET WHICH I PROPOSE TO YOU IS, IN MY OPINION, ONE OF THE BEST BUDGETS EVER PRESENTED TO ANY LEGISLATURE IN THE HISTORY OF OKLAHOMA.

IT RECOMMENDS SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES I PRACTICALY ALL AREAS OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

IT FILLS THE NEEDS OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT, EVEN THOUGH IT FALLS SHORT OF FILLING THE REQUESTS AND DESIRES OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.

I AM PROUD OF THIS BUDGET, PROUD THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO FINANCE STATE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A GENERAL TAX INCREASE ON OUR ALREADY OVER-BURDENED TAXPAYER.

BUT, LAIDES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM DISAPPOINTED, TOO, DISAPPOINTED THAT THIS BUDGET IS NOT THE BEST BUDGET WHICH COULD BE WRITTEN IF ADEQUATE LAWS WERE ENACTED BY YOU TO INCREASE ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT, WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME INCREASING TAXES.

THERE ARE MANY MEASURES NOW PENDING BEFORE YOU WHICH, IF ENACTED INTO LAW, WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WHICH YOU COULD APPROPRIATE.

AMONG THESE ARE:

1. SB 38, WHICH WOULD ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.
2. SB 252, WHICH PLACES COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S PURCHASES UNDER CENTRAL PURCHASING.
3. SJR 3, WHICH ABOLISHES THE OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.
4. SJR 4, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE BOARD OF AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH AN INTERAGENCY MAIL SERVICE.
5. SJR 25, WHICH ABOLISHES THE OFFICE OF STATE AUDITOR.

6. HB 1062, WHICH ABOLISHES THE COTTON GIN UTILITIES DIVISION OF THE CORPORATION COMMISSION.

7. HB 1064, WHICH AUTHORIZES THE STATE DEPOSITORY BOARD TO EMPLOY AN INVESTMENT SPECIALIST.

IN ADDITON, WITH INTEREST RATES AT AN ALL TIME HIGH, YOU SHOULD ENACT A REALISTIC BILL FOR THE INVESTMENT OF IDLE STATE FUNDS.

I URGE YOU NOW, AS I HAVE REPEATEDLY URGED YOU IN THE PAST, TO ENACT THESE MEASURES INTO LAW, TO PROVE TO THE PEOPLE OF OKLAHOMA THAT WE CAN, AND WE WILL, DO EVERYTHING IN OUR POWER TO MAKE THE BEST POSSIBLE USE OF THEIR TAX DOLLAR.

## **About Digitizing the Governors' State of the State Addresses**

Section 9, Article 6 of the Constitution of Oklahoma provides as follows:

“At every session of the Legislature, and immediately upon its organization, the Governor shall communicate by message, delivered to joint session of the two houses, upon the condition of the State; and shall recommend such matters to the Legislature as he shall judge expedient.”

From statehood in 1907 to present, the state of the state addresses of Oklahoma's Governors have been recorded in pamphlets, booklets, and Senate Journals. One could not foresee the toll that time would take on the earliest of these documents. When these items first arrived at the Oklahoma State Archives, the leather bindings had dried considerably, cracking the spines significantly. Due to the acidity in the paper, many pages have darkened with age. Some of the more brittle pamphlets crumble at the slightest touch.

Thus when we decided to digitize these materials, we faced two challenges: the safety of the original documents and ease of viewing/reading for patrons. Our primary objective was that the unique and historic qualities of the documents should be reflected in the website. However, older fonts would not digitize clearly when scanned and even using a flatbed scanner could cause the bindings to worsen. An image of each page would increase download time considerably and any hand-written remarks or crooked pages could be lost. We decided to retype each document with every period, comma, and misspelled word to maintain the integrity of the document while placing some unique images of the documents online. Patrons can download the addresses quicker and view them clearer as well as save, print, and zoom with the Adobe Acrobat Reader. We have learned much from our efforts and we hope that our patrons are better served in their research on the state of the state addresses of Oklahoma's Governors.