

**State of the State**  
**Governor Raymond Gary**  
**January 6, 1959**

Mr. Lieutenant Governor  
Mr. President of the Senate  
Mr. Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
Members of the Joint Session:

Four years ago I appeared here before you and outlined a program that I wanted enacted into law. Two years later I supplemented that program with another message. You responded very favorably to my recommendations, enacting into law practically everything I recommended. In the process, you improved upon many of my recommendations. Now I appear before you to make a final report, to give an accounting of my four years of stewardship as Governor of the people of this great state.

I feel, as outgoing Governor, that it is my duty to make this report to you and let you know exactly how the people have fared under the program you enacted into law in 1955 and 1957. I would be out of order here today, however, in recommending to you another program for the future. That is my successor's obligation and he will, at the proper time, present his program to you. I know from past experience with Oklahoma legislatures that it is your desire to consider a Chief Executive's program very seriously and approve every bit of it that you feel will help bring improvements in the government of our state.

During my tenure as Governor, I was privileged to appoint many conscientious citizens to important boards and commissions which help operate the executive branch of government. Much of the credit for carrying out the program enacted by the legislatures of 1955 and 1957 is due these conscientious people. Of course, I know, and they know, that had it not been for two progressive-minded legislatures with vision, we couldn't have reached the goals we set for ourselves.

### **Education**

The three major services provided by the government of Oklahoma are education, welfare, and roads and highways. The Constitution requires the State of Oklahoma to provide a common school education for every child of school age. In carrying out this obligation, it is necessary for the State to supplement the school programs in the various districts. In looking back on the past four years, I would like to remind you that one of the first steps taken by this administration was referring to the people, in April of 1955, the Better Schools Amendment, which provided for a bond issue to build more buildings for the higher institutions of learning. It provided for consolidation of negro and white school budgets. This was the first step taken by the Oklahoma Legislature, and approved of by the people, which made it possible for our state to peacefully integrate common schools in accordance with the Supreme Court mandate. This same amendment authorized school districts to vote additional money for school buildings and school rooms, and to further enrich their school programs. The amendment enabled most school districts of the state to solve school room shortages. During the past four years, we have constructed in Oklahoma 4,200 new school rooms.

In 1957 you passed another school bill. This one eliminated a few of our smaller schools, considered ineffecient because of the small numbers of children in attendance. As a result of this law, the number of Oklahoma school districts has been reduced during the past four years, from 1,802 to 1,371, a reduction of 431.

As a result of the Better Schools Amendment of 1955, the elimination of a number of school districts by the '57 Act, tightening up of the automobile license tag collections, and a gradual improvement in the overall economy of the state – we have given our children the best school program they ever had. We have been able to increase school teachers' salaries, from \$3,570 to an average of \$4,700 per year. We have set the pattern which will lead to making the teacher retirement program actuarially sound. We have made progress in improving professors' and instructors' salary schedules in our higher institutions of learning.

I am not saying this progress we have made is adequate. It is not. I am only giving to you a report so you can see the results of the legislation you enacted into law in 1955 and 1957. Although it is not adequate, everyone will have to admit that much progress has been made, and all of it without increasing state taxes.

### **Health and Welfare**

The largest item of expense under of welfare program is assistance for aged citizens, the blind, physically handicapped, and orphan children. We improved operation of the Welfare Department by consolidating the Emergency Relief Department with the Department of Public Welfare. We saved thousands of dollars through consolidation of these two departments. In addition, we are providing more efficient service, thus eliminating those ineligible for payment.

During the past four years, due to increased sales tax collections and increased grants from the federal government, we have boosted average monthly payments to aged citizens of Oklahoma from \$58.22 to \$72.84. Included in the \$72.84 is a \$6.00 per month premium for medical care. Oklahoma was one of the first states to take advantage of the hospitalization program enacted by Congress in 1956. Under this program, our aged citizens are eligible for a definite amount of hospitalization care each year. About one-fourth of our aged citizens now take advantage of this program by using the hospital facilities for their care and treatment.

Next in dollars and cents cost under the welfare program financed by the state is care and treatment of our mentally ill. According to all surveys and reports I have been able to familiarize myself with, Oklahoma ranks well above the average in care and treatment of mentally ill people. Yet we rank way down the list of average per-patient per-patient cost of caring for these people. You may have already noticed a number of our institutions for the mentally ill have been singled out and given special recognition for outstanding service the past four years.

During my term as Governor, to my knowledge there hasn't been a single employee working for the mental hospitals of our state who either hired or dismissed because of political reasons. You members of the Legislature have stopped recommending people to work for the mental institutions. We have adopted a policy of leaving it up to the superintendents and business managers in charge to hire and fire all personnel. As a result, it can be truthfully said that the mental health program has been

removed as far from political influence and domination as it is possible to remove an organization financed with state-appropriated funds.

The Mental Health Board has full authority to hire doctors and other key personnel to administer the hospital program. These key people, in turn, have been granted full authority by the Mental Health Board to hire necessary personnel to operate the institutions. They must, of course, stay within the appropriation made by the Legislature.

We have good reasons for being proud of improvements made in recent years in the operation of our mental institutions. Prior to 1953, the number of patients gradually increased each year in these hospitals. So we inaugurated the new program of treatment and care – increasing the number of trained workers and professional people, as well as introducing new drugs. As a result, we have 800 fewer patients in our mental hospitals today than in 1953. Not only has this resulted in great savings to the taxpayers of Oklahoma, it has also brought happiness to many families whose loved ones are returning to normal life and resuming their roles in the affairs of home, community, and state.

Our two schools for mentally retarded children, at Enid and Pauls Valley, have made great strides during the past four years in giving better care and treatment to children cared for there. The greatest need in those institutions today is for more buildings and equipment. We have a waiting list for admissions. Some way should be found to meet this challenge.

Believing that the future mental health of our people can best be guaranteed if there are adequate number of trained personnel to serve the emotionally disturbed, mentally ill and mentally retarded – in both the community and state hospitals – the Mental Health Department has embarked upon an all-out program to train personnel in various mental health disciplines. To accomplish this mission it was necessary for the Department of Mental Health to develop many new programs and to expand other programs which, although underway, were not meeting required standards of effectiveness. Today, after developing new curriculum, teaching staff and programs within its Mental Health Department, Oklahoma now offers the following:

1. A three year fully approved residency training program for physicians in psychiatry. Oklahoma had never trained a psychiatrist prior to 1957.
2. A one year approved residency training program in Neurosurgery.
3. An approved one year internship for clinical psychologists, plus special programs for psychologists interested in the field of mental retardation.
4. Special field and case-work training programs for social workers.
5. An approved program in clinical pastoral training for ministers desiring to work in mental hospitals, or who wish to do counseling.
6. Approved internships in occupational therapy.
7. Approved training programs in psychiatry for student nurses.

8. Special training programs, on a continuing basis, for attendants and others who are charged with care and habilitation of pupils or patients.

This program is being financed out of our regular budget for the operation of mental hospitals.

As a result of the Wage Stabilization Act passed by the last session of the Legislature, we have increased base pay for wardkeepers and lower salaried employees, from \$130 to \$160 per month. We established a graded personnel system for employees. We formalized a uniform time, leave and holiday program. We instituted a workmen's compensation program for all attendants. This program has done much to strengthen the morale of lower salaried people in the hospitals.

During the past four years, we have, through appropriation by the Legislature and an allocation of bond money, built a new veterans' ward at Central State Hospital – one of the finest in the nation. You would be proud of this new addition. I urge you to visit it and talk with the men there.

Members of the 1955 and 1957 legislatures have gotten and deserve commendation for these improved services and facilities for the mentally ill, retarded children, and the veterans at Central State Hospital. Improvements have also been made in our general hospital program and in our tuberculosis sanitariums.

### **Roads and Highways**

If my first message to the Legislature in 1955, I told you that if you enacted the highway program I recommended, we would be able to build approximately 2,500 miles of new roads in Oklahoma. You enacted the program. In addition, Congress passed a bill to increase the federal apportionment to the states. As a result of this action by the Oklahoma Legislature, and the Congress of the United States, under the leadership of our own efficient Congressional Delegation, I am happy to report that we have completed, and have under contract, a total of 364.8 miles of four-lane roads, most of them of the expressway type. This compares with about 70 miles of four-lane roads on the system prior to 1955. We have completed, or have under contract, a total of 3,019.7 miles of modern type two-lane highways. In addition to these four-lane and two-lane highways, built under contract, we have constructed by force account another 577.4 miles. This makes a grand total of 3,961.9 miles of new and modernized roads. In addition, we have armor-coated and improved another 3,000 miles with our own state force account. We have built 709 new bridges and have under contract another 194 bridges. Our construction cost, by contract, amounted to \$229,000,000. We have also spent an average of about \$20,000,000 per year for modernization, maintenance, administration, engineering, right-of-way, and other contingencies.

At the rate we are improving our highways in Oklahoma, if it were continued – and it can be continued without increasing taxes or a bond issue – within another eight years we could have an up-to-date highways system. Of course, highway building is a continuing process. As our economy expands and develops, needs for new roads are created. Our roads wear out with increasing heavy traffic. Therefore, our highway program should be stable. We should try to build as many miles of new highway as

possible each year, and keep the roads we have already constructed maintained in an adequate way.

In addition to improvement of roads on the State Highway System, I also recommend to County Commissioners that they try to blacktop or dustproof 2,500 miles of roads during the past four year period. According to available information at hand, I am happy to report to you that they have exceeded 3,300 miles. One reason for this is the fact County Commissioners are taking advantage of the federal secondary road money better than they did a few years ago. The act passed by the 26th Session, which earmarked 20% of the commercial vehicle license money to be used to match federal funds on county secondary roads, has helped to bring this about.

Two years ago I told you we had accumulated a backlog of secondary road money. I told you that if you would pass this 20% Act, it would enable us to reduce the backlog. As of today, we have used up all federal aid money for the county and state secondary road systems, except for a very small amount. This bears out what I recommend to you two years ago.

I am happy to be able to give you this report on the improvement of Oklahoma's highway system. I know the highway department has come in for more criticism than any other department of government. It usually does, under every administration. I am here to tell you today, however, that I will defend anywhere, whether I am in office or out of office, the Oklahoma Highway Commission under my administration. I will defend anywhere the actions of the head men of that Department – the Director, Bud Stoldt, who did an outstanding job putting this stepped-up program into operation. He has been very ably assisted by the Chief Engineer, Gomer Bittle, and by LeRoy Powers, John Stobaugh, Easman Gill, and many others who have been there for years and really learned the operation of the Highway Department. I can tell you truthfully that these top men, these trained men, have been hired on the basis of their abilities, not because of their political background. It would be very damaging to Oklahoma for many of these people to resign, or be forced to resign. To me, political interference is when you dismiss career people and replace them with people of your own choosing whose chief qualifications are past aid and assistance to you. I have steered clear of that. Naturally, I have resented some of the criticism that has been heaped upon the Highway Department. Every road that we have built was asked for by the people on a local level. Most of those requests were made through senators or house members, sometimes both. As a general rule, they were always backed up by the newspaper publishers, bankers, and other important business people. Because we have built a road program on the basis of need, as determined by our own engineering staff surveys and the request and demands of the people, we have been accused of having a political highway system. I have accepted this as a rightful accusation. It is political. This is a democratic political government. I see no wrong in it. Road projects in Caddo County, McCurtain County, Carter County, and Marshall County were developed the same way as the road projects in Tulsa and Oklahoma counties – the two great metropolitan centers. But for some reason beyond my understanding, some people find a difference between the road programs of the rural counties and metropolitan areas. They have labeled rural projects political roads, while roads in the metropolitan areas have been labeled non-political. We have tried to be fair in our road building program. We have placed to contract more dollars of roads in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties than all past administrations combined. Yet my

administration has received practically all of its criticism about roads from these two counties. This is hard for me to understand. It is hard for our rural people to understand. I have know some of you legislators felt I went too far in spending money in the metropolitan areas, in view of the criticism, but I felt an obligation to continue the program regardless of adverse criticism, and we did. I have no regrets. I will not apologize to anybody in the State of Oklahoma for any road we built, because we needed them all, and that goes for the road through my home town of Kingston.

### **Toll Roads**

The Will Rogers and Turner toll roads are doing better than most of the toll roads of the nation. During the past four years the Authority has been able to liquidate all outstanding claims for construction on the Turner toll road account and has paid off \$180,000 in Turner Turnpike bonds, and purchased an additional \$243,000 ahead of maturity date.

The Will Rogers toll road, our newest, was completed on January 23, 1958. Due to the savings made and the under-run in construction cost, it was possible for the Authority to retain in the construction account sufficient funds to provide payment of outstanding construction costs and still transfer in excess of \$9,000,000 to the Sinking Fund Reserve Accounts. In addition, the Authority has purchase out of funds in the Redemption Account \$2,727,000 (par value) of 3 \_ % Interest Rate 1993 Maturity Bonds on the Will Rogers Turnpike thus reducing the outstanding bonds from %68,000,000 to \$65,273,000. These \$2,727,000 of bonds were purchased at a cost of \$2,709,463.75 or an additional cash savings amounting to \$17,036.25. In addition, the purchase of these 1993 Maturity Bonds which bear 3 \_ % interest, will result in a savings in interest amounting to \$102, 262.50 per year to the Authority until such time as all bonds have been retired.

I am inserting in the record information pertaining to the operation, expenses, and maintenance of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority as compared with other authorities of the nation:

OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY  
November 25, 1958

**Comparison of Annual Maintenance and Operation Costs  
on Major Toll Facilities**

FACILITY	Total Mileage of Turnpikes	Period Covered	Maintenance & Operation Costs Per Year	Maintenance & Operation Cost per Year per Mile	Approx. Age of Oldest Portion of Turnpikes at Date of Report
Florida Turnpike	109	1-26-57 to 12-31-57	\$1,062,568.20	\$9,748.33	1 year
Indiana Turnpike	156	1-1-57 to 12-31-57	2,784,457.76	17,849.08	1 _ years
Kansas Turnpike	236	7-1-57 to 6-30-58	1,603,125.57	6,792.90	2 years
Massachusetts Turnpike	123	6-1-57 to 5-31-58	3,219,070.11	26,171.30	1 year
New Jersey Turnpike	132	7-1-57 to 6-30-58	5,322,000.85	40,318.18	6 _ years
New Jersey Garden State Parkway	164	1-1-57 to 12-31-57	3,799,000.00	23,164.46	2 years
Ohio Turnpike	241	1-1-57 to 12-31-57	5,532,425.44	22,956.12	3 years
Oklahoma Turnpikes	175	7-1-57 to 6-30-58	1,206,525.25	6,894.43	5 years
Pennsylvania Turnpike	470	6-1-57 to 5-31-58	9,493,456.00	20,198.84	17 years
Texas Turnpike	30	10-1-57 to 9-30-58	761,000.00	25,366.66	1 year
West Virginia Turnpike (2 land roadway)	88	1-1-57 to 12-31-57	669,467.06	7,607.58	3 _ years

OKLAHOMA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY  
November 25, 1958

**Comparison of Annual Administration Costs on Major  
Toll Facilities**

FACILITY	Total Mileage of Turnpikes	Period Covered	Administration Cost Per Year	Administration Cost per Year per Mile of Turnpike Operated
Florida Turnpike	109	1-26-57 to 12-31-57	\$226,048.90	\$2,073.84
Indiana Turnpike	156	1-1-57 to 12-31-57	395,750.67	2,536.86
Kansas Turnpike	236	7-1-57 to 6-30-58	358,149.00	1,517.58
Massachusetts Turnpike	123	6-1-57 to 5-31-58	380,857.17	3,096.40
New Jersey Turnpike	132	7-1-57 to 6-30-58	905,505.48	6,859.89
New Jersey Garden State Parkway	164	1-1-56 to 12-31-56	585,677.00	3,571.20
Ohio Turnpike	241	1-1-57 to 12-31-57	795,140.20	3,299.33
Oklahoma Turnpikes	175	7-1-57 to 6-30-58	260,990.38	1,491.37
Pennsylvania Turnpike	470	6-1-57 to 5-31-58	1,579,835.00	3,361.35
West Virginia Turnpike	88	1-1-57 to 12-31-57	152,358.94	1,731.35



You can see from this report that the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority is doing quite well in operating the toll roads of Oklahoma. Eventually these roads will become a part of our free interstate highway system.

### **Soil and Water Conservation**

Oklahoma is leading the nation in upstream flood control and land treatment programs. Since January, 1955, with money made available by the 25th and 26th legislatures, plus additional money from my contingency fund, we have been able to obtain \$6,500,000 for building to completion 189 low water dams. We have 517 planned, which will require another \$20,250,000 to complete. So, with a small amount of state money to pay for planning parties and some for easements, we are getting millions of dollars from the federal government to carry out this program to completion. I am completely sold on this program and so is everyone else who has had an opportunity to observe the results. This program will enable us, through a gradual process, to cause some of our streams to flow again, the year around, with crystal clear water – water that is usable by human beings, livestock, and for industrial purposes. It also is reducing flood damage in areas where the program has been completed. It is the desire of every person who loves nature and the soil to see this program completed, so one of these days our children, and our children's children, may have the same kind of outdoor recreation our forefathers enjoyed when they first settled this state. Those were times of many springs, much vegetation on the land, and plenty of game and fish – which we all want to see again.

You also created the Water Resources Board and gave it many powers. As a result of this Board's service to the people of our state and nation, we are starting to clean up our streams, locating water reserves for future use, protecting water rights of the people, and doing many other things for water conservation and future needs of the people of Oklahoma.

### **Grand River Dam Authority**

During the past four years, much has been said about the Grand River Dam Authority and its operation. I would like to give you this report. On January 1, 1955, the Grand River Dam Authority has reduced its reserve fund to \$68,000. The Authority had imposed a 20% surcharge on its customers which, in effect, means a 20% increase in the cost of power. Since that time, we have reduced the surcharge gradually until we now have completely eliminated it. We have increased the salaries of GRDA personnel by 19%. We have reduced the number of people employed. We have spent more than \$500,000 for capital improvements, and the Reserve Fund is now standing at more than \$2,300,000. I do not believe I need say any more concerning the operation of the Grand River Dam Authority. The record speaks for itself.

### **Penal Institutions**

During the past four years, we expanded our farm operations at both major penal institutions – McAlester and Granite. This has proven to be a very successful operation. As a result, we have kept the per capita appropriation down to a minimum. It is just about the same now as it was four years ago. Down at McAlester, we increased our canning operation. We installed a packing plant to process meats for the institutions. We put in a tag machine and improved the physical plants at both institutions. We granted

wardens of the penal institutions the right to hire and fire. They are the sole boss. During the past four years, the prisons have been operated on an efficient basis with a minimum of disturbances. Morale of the inmates, generally speaking, has been very good.

We moved the Boys Training School from Stringtown to Helena and made a prison trustee farm down at Stringtown. Up at Helena, we improved the buildings, installed a swimming pool, and have one of the finest gymnasiums in the country and one of the finest school system in the state. I believe if you will visit that institution, you will say we are doing an outstanding job caring for boys at the Helena institution. Morale of the boys is good. At this institution, as at the penitentiary, we have an outstanding man as its head. Very few changes have been made at the Girls School at Tecumseh, the Taft Institution, and the Orphan's Home at Pryor. All these institutions are running smoothly, with a very minimum of trouble. Heads of these institutions have been doing an outstanding job.

### **Department of Public Safety**

Much has been said about the Department of Public Safety being in politics, or being dominated by political pressure. The present Commissioner, Jim Lookabaugh, will tell you, under oath, that he has not been pressured by this administration to make any changes for political reasons, or do anything of a political nature in the operation of the Highway Patrol. He will also tell you that not a single member of the Legislature during the past four years has ever tried to influence him in any way. No one has meddled in policy or personnel matters, or tried to get a trooper transferred. This political talk has been grossly exaggerated. In my opinion, morale of the Highway Patrol is at one of the highest levels since its inception.

The policy of operating the Highway Patrol is formulated by career men and uniformed personnel. These are the people we feel are most capable of formulating the policy. The Commissioner sees that these policies are put into effect and carried out.

At the beginning of this year, because of the continued increase in traffic fatalities on our highways, I felt some action should be taken to bring about a reduction in fatalities. I appointed a committee, representing a cross-section of interests, and asked this committee of citizens to work with the Legislative Council Committee to formulate a program for presentation to this Legislature. The committee has worked hard. Membership of the committee took its job seriously. They met regularly on a monthly basis for the past twelve months. I feel this committee, in addition to preparing a program to recommend to the Legislature, has served another good purpose – focusing public attention on the traffic problem in Oklahoma. Work of this committee has been a factor in bringing about a reduction of highway fatalities. During the year 1958, we had 41 fewer fatalities than in 1957, even though we had a substantial increase in road miles traveled, and more than 150,000 additional vehicles registered in Oklahoma. Roads patrolled by the Oklahoma Highway Patrol showed a 44 fatality decrease. Judge James P. Demopolos of Oklahoma City served as Chairman of this committee and Bruce Palmer as Vice-Chairman. These two men are due a pat on the back for their consistent efforts in bringing about a reduction of accidents. I also feel our newspapers and radio and television stations of Oklahoma are due a compliment for their constant efforts in calling attention to the slaughter on our highways.

## **General Government**

The state payroll for the month of October, 1958, showed that we had 16,116 full time employees who draw their salary from state appropriated or earmarked funds. It revealed that we had on the state payroll 4,470 part-time state employees, making a total of 20,186 state employees who draw their salary from state appropriated and earmarked funds. In addition, we carry on the state payroll student labor and trust fund employees. As of October, 1958, the number was 7,126. Even though these 7,126 students and trust fund employees receive a state warrant, just like the regular state employees, not one penny of their pay comes from state appropriated or state tax money. Prior to 1955, these student employees and trust fund employees were paid out of a separate fund, by separate voucher, and did not show on the state payroll. The federal law requiring the State to pay social security on state employees places the burden of the State Budget Officer to collect social security and withholding taxes from student labor and trust fund employees. He must remit it to the federal treasury. Collecting from the various institutions of higher learning became very complicated. The Budget Officer was constantly having trouble gathering the money from the various institutions and remitting to the national government. So, by Executive Order, I asked that the student employees and trust fund personnel be placed on the state payroll, to be paid by the State with a state warrant. This procedure simplified the Budget Officer's problem and enabled the higher institutions of learning to save, according to their estimate, in excess of \$30,000 a year in bookkeeping expenses. It enabled the Budget Officer to keep an accurate record of social security and withholding taxes, and remit on a monthly basis, without the headaches he had prior to this Executive Order. Since this new method was put into effect, his work has been much smoother. The only reason I mention this is because some misinformed people looked at the overall state payroll, without looking into the background and doing a little research to find the truth, and came out with statements to the effect that we had increased the state payroll by several thousand people since I became Governor. From a bookkeeping standpoint it does show an increase of several thousand, but from the standpoint of increasing the payroll of regular employees who draw their salary from state tax revenue, that just is not true. I feel the people of the state, and the Legislature in particular, are entitled to have, at all times, a true picture of the state payroll.

Now I want to give you the areas of state government where we have made an increase in state payroll. We increased the state payroll of the higher institutions of learning. The number of students increased and, in order to maintain our rating and standing with the North Central Association, it was necessary for the higher institutions of learning to employ additional personnel, such as Associate Professors and instructors, plus other personnel needed to operate an expanding system of higher education. The state certainly should not be criticized because of this necessity. We ought to be proud of our ability to meet this challenge, even though we have not met it on an entirely satisfactory basis because we lacked sufficient funds. But, to me, it is a good sign for our state. It shows more and more of our highschool graduates are entering the higher institutions of learning, thus becoming better equipped to combat the knotty problems of life and make better contributions to our American way of life.

In the Mental Health Department we found it necessary to increase personnel, and because of increased numbers of inmates in the mental institutions, but because we wanted to give these inmates better treatment and care. We increased the number of doctors, nurses, and wardkeepers. We decreased the number of hours for the wardkeepers, from a seven-day week to a six-day week. Now we are trying to reduce it

to a five-day week. I don't believe any right-thinking Oklahoman should criticize this administration for taking that step. Any person with a feeling for others, with kindness in his heart toward those who are inmates of the mental institutions, would be ashamed to criticize this. I'm proud to say that my administration placed a few extra people on the state payroll to give better care and treatment of these folks, who need it and deserve it.

There is one other division of government where we made a slight increase of approximately 250 people in the payroll during the past four years. That is the Highway Department. This increase has been in the Surveying and Planning and Construction departments. It was brought about because of our expanded highway program. We hired, for three years in a row, all graduates majoring in drafting available to us from the higher institutions of learning. We hired engineers wherever we could find them. We had to place additional inspectors and engineering aides on the payroll, to plan and supervise this greatly expanded highway building program. For the first two years of my administration, the big bottleneck was in the Engineering Department. We have finally solved this problem and have a backlog of plans to provide the necessary engineers and expert personnel, we wouldn't have gotten the stepped-up road program we now have in Oklahoma.

In other departments of government, the payroll is just about the same as it was four years ago, except in general government. We have actually decreased the number of employees in general government, by about 10%. We have not decreased the dollars because we boosted the salaries of full-time personnel. But the number has decreased about 10%.

One reason Oklahoma's payroll shows up unfavorably with many other states is because we include student labor and trust fund personnel on our regular payroll. So far as I have been able to determine, we are the only state doing this. It appears to me that those who are trying to help the state should offer us compliments instead of criticism for combining our entire payroll into one, for efficiency purposes. They should explain to the people why our overall payroll appears, on paper, to be out of line. It may interest you to know that some officials of other states have been studying our methods and are now making recommendations to their governors and legislatures to adopt the procedure we have put into effect in Oklahoma.

We are continuing to stand out even more as the only state in the union which has not increased taxes during the past 14 years. As we hold the line on taxes, other states are increasing them all around us. We are gradually working ourselves into a much better position to attract industrial development. We have made much progress during the past four years in the industrial development program. A number of new industries have established in Oklahoma. The largest of these in the Western Electric Company, locating in Oklahoma City, which will provide employment for between 3,500 and 4,000 people. I have been told by the time this plant reaches its full potential, the Western Electric people will have invested approximately \$65,000,000.

The second largest industry was the Callery Chemical Company, established in Muskogee. It is estimated to cost in excess of \$38,000,000. We agreed to build a road, and did build it, to the plant. We built a force account road and spent about \$50,000, so labor and materials could be transported into the plant and out during the construction period. Since then we have contracted for a road leading to the plant which is now under construction. This was a requirement which had to be met before they would agree to establish this \$38,000,000 plant in our state.

Some other large new industries which have located in Oklahoma from outside the State during the past four years include:

- Aircraft – The Brantly Aircraft Company in Frederick.
- Chemical – Callery Chemical Company's \$12,000,000 helium plant at Keyes in the Oklahoma panhandle.
- Metallic Industries – Fansteel Metallurgical Corporation in Muskogee, \$6,500,000 investment with prospects for expansion.
- Leather Goods – Centra Leather Goods Company in Frederick.
- Containers and Packing – Gordon Carton, Lawton; Container Corporation of America, Muskogee; and Continental Can Company, Ada.
- Garment Manufacturing – Blue Bell, Inc., with two plants, Ada and Coalgate; Munsingwear, Vinita; Temple Manufacturing Company, Temple; Chelsea Manufacturing Company, Chelsea; Stephen Manufacturing Corporation, Frederick; Lillian Russell's Originals, Wewoka.
- Furniture Manufacturing – Mur-Mil of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City; Carthage Manufacturing Co., Hugo; Crown Manufacturing Co., Hugo.

Expansion of established industries during the past four years include:

- Seamprufe, Inc., McAlester, doubled plant capacity by moving accounting and most management personnel to McAlester from New York.
- Ideal Cement Company - \$20,000,000 addition to their plant at Ada.
- Dewey Portland Cement – A new \$12,000,000 plant at Tulsa
- Aero Design and Engineering – A new factory in Oklahoma City, \$6,650,000.
- Flint Steel Company, Tulsa - \$2,000,000 investment, large expansion.
- B. F. Goodrich Company, Miami – Sixth expansion now in progress.
- Expansion of the Jonco Aircraft Corporation in Shawnee, following purchase by the Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation.

Examples of large scale expansions include: Tinker Field and the Civil Aeronautics Administration in Oklahoma City and American Airlines in Tulsa (\$20,000,000).

Hundreds of other small plants have been expanded.

Industries which have located in Oklahoma in the past four years give various reasons for moving here. The quality and productivity of Oklahoma labor has been an important factor, also our favorable market location.

Here are portions of some of the statements made by some of these firms, indicating a few of the reasons they located in Oklahoma.

*“ . . . markets, ample water supply, adequate fuel and power facilities, and road and rail transportation, and the availability of manpower . . . ”* – B. F. GOODRICH COMPANY

*“ . . . enthusiasm, confidence of the people and public officials in the area economy, a dynamic spirit that moves forward in science and industry, a dollar-for-dollar sense of values . . . ”* – WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY

*“ . . . employees are productive and cooperative. The available electric and water supplies, and the location in respect to national markets . . . ”* – MUNSINGWEAR, INC.

*“ . . . the available supply of labor has always been reliable and the performance of our workers, after training, has equalled or surpassed those of our plants in the East . . . We have found the regional location of Oklahoma most advantageous for supplying our customers all over the United States . . . ”* – SEAMPRUFE, INC.

*“ . . . Muskogee will be able to provide us with the kind of men and women . . . with the necessary level of education, inherent skills and records of integrity, industry and stability that will enable them to become valued members of the Fansteel family . . . ”* – FANSTEEL METAL-LURGICAL CORPORATION

*“ . . . The principal reason for locating our corrugated plant in Oklahoma is because of its proximity to markets . . . Another reason for locating in Oklahoma is the availability of skilled personnel. Worth mentioning is the fact that we have now gone 30 months without a lost time accident, which speaks highly of the native skills and dexterity we have found in our plant employees . . . ”* – CONTAINER CORPORATION OF AMERICA

As a result of this expanded manufacturing program in Oklahoma, per capita income of the people of this state has increased approximately \$200 during the past four years. The net result has been a state with a stronger economy and a more prosperous people, a better place to live.

Oil companies of Oklahoma have cooperated with the state government by following the Corporation Commission's recommendations to keep oil allowables at a higher level. They have gone the extra mile in this effort to maintain Oklahoma's oil economy at a fair level. As a result of their efforts, we are now producing and selling more oil than we were four years ago.

Through the development of our improved park system, we have increased tourist traffic consistently and that, too, has brought prosperity in certain areas and has been a help in boosting our per capita income over the state.

During the past four years, we have completed our lodges, opened them, and put them in operation. We built picnic grounds, roads, golf courses, swimming pools, boat docks, and many other facilities to accommodate the millions of people who visit our parks each year. We reduced our indebtedness by approximately \$1,000,000 and are now turning a going concern over to the incoming administration. The Planning and Resources Board has done an outstanding job carrying out the desires of the Oklahoma Legislature and the people in general.

We have celebrated our 50th anniversary and one of the members of this House, Mr. Lou Allard, served as the Chairman of the Semi-Centennial Commission. He did an outstanding job.

We introduced a new magazine, OKLAHOMA TODAY, that has won national recognition. It has been a great help to the State of Oklahoma.

Many other things have been accomplished, such as improved election laws and establishment of a constitutional Wildlife Commission. I know many of you have mixed emotions about the wisdom of a constitutional wildlife commission. All of these improvements have been made possible through the efforts of the people of this state in general. No one individual can take credit. We must give credit where it belongs.

As I close out 18 years of work in the government of Oklahoma, I leave with a very kind feeling toward the people of this state and with cherished memories of my work with members of the Oklahoma Legislature, elected state officials, and boards and commissions. It has been my privilege to work with you for the past 18 years. Some of you who are here today were here many years before I arrived.

I have watched you men work and plan for the benefit of the people of this state. I worked side by side with you and with other distinguished members of these two bodies in perfecting a program of better government for our people. As I leave, I do not apologize for any of my decisions or for any of my actions. I do not mean by this that

everything I have done has proven to be best. I have made my share of mistakes. But whenever I made a decision or cast a vote in the Legislature, I was convinced at the time that it was best for the people. When an individual does what he thinks is right, using his best judgment, I don't feel he owes an apology to anybody.

As Mrs. Gary and I go back to our farm home in Marshall County, we will leave here with a very kind and understanding feeling in our hearts toward each of you and our successors in the Governor's Mansion. I feel very confident that when the closing hour arrives for this 27th Oklahoma Legislative Session, all right-thinking people in this state will be able to say once again, "Well done."

## **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.