

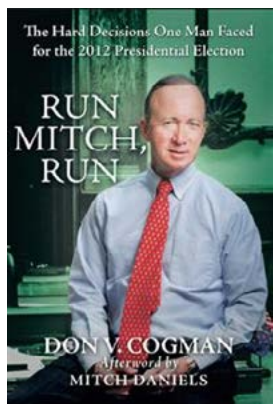


‘Run Mitch, Run’: The inside story

Don Cogman’s book delivers a primer on presidential politics just in time for Gov. Pence

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – One of the more interesting news nuggets of the past week was the story of the Koch Brothers building a parallel political data mine, with a former Mike Pence opera-



tive named Marc Short at the helm. While Gov. Pence’s political team insists that a reelection bid is the current top priority, the Koch data project provides the theoretical logistic and finance elements to launch a 2016 presidential bid next spring.

The other stream of information comes from the last potential presidential campaign



Gov. Mitch Daniels introduces his family at his 2005 inaugural ball. It was family considerations that kept him out of the 2012 presidential race.

involving a Hoosier, in this case Pence’s predecessor, Purdue President Mitch Daniels. Don V. Cogman, a long-time friend and member of “The Group” which conceived a Daniels 2012 presidential bid that eventually produced an 80-percent buy-in from the two-term Indiana governor before reaching a definitive barrier with the family “female caucus,” has written the book “Run Mitch, Run.”

Cogman describes it as an inside look at the “nuts

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The Duke of the cities

By **MAUREEN HAYDEN**
 CNHI Statehouse Bureau

INDIANAPOLIS – Duke Bennett made history in 2011 when he was the first Republican to be reelected mayor of Terre Haute since 1925.



Four years earlier, his narrow win over a Democrat in that blue part of red Indiana was significant, too, given that no Republican had won the mayor’s office since 1967. Gov. Mike Pence, a congressman at the time, endorsed Bennett and helped him raise dollars, calling him a pro-business conservative who championed sound fiscal policies.

Despite those Republi-



“Hoosiers have cherished our relationship with the people of Israel for generations. Deepening our ties with the people, businesses and state of Israel remains a commitment.”

- Gov. Mike Pence, announcing his 9-day trip to Israel



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405 Massachusetts Ave.,
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Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington
Jack E. Howey, Editor
Mary Lou Howey, Editor
Maureen Hayden, Statehouse
Matthew Butler, Daily Wire
Mark Curry, ad director

Subscriptions

HPI, HPI Daily Wire \$599
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Ray Volpe, Account Manager
317.602.3620
email: HoweyInfo@gmail.com

Contact HPI

www.howeypolitics.com
bhowey2@gmail.com
Howey's cell: 317.506.0883
Washington: 202.256.5822
Business Office: 317.602.3620

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can bona fides, Bennett has become increasingly wary of members of his party at the Statehouse, worried that their work may not be so good for cities, including his.

On Jan. 1 – days before the Republican-controlled General Assembly convenes – Mayor Bennett will take over as president of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns. His non-partisan message, on behalf 470 cities and towns, is a request to lawmakers: Please resist passing more laws that cut into local government revenues.

"I know legislators are looking at things through their view of the world, trying to make Indiana more competitive and making sure citizens here not have burdensome government," he said.

"But," he added, "I hope they know when you get down to the local level, there are certain things we have to deliver, just like the state does." Bennett actively resisted a major Republican initiative that emerged in the last session, a Pence-led push to eliminate the business personal property tax, which generates about \$1 billion a year for local governments and schools.

The noise from Bennett and other local leaders reverberated. The result was a minor piece of legislation that only gave counties the option to eliminate the tax, an option that none has taken so far.

This time around, Bennett is worried about measures that limit cities' ability to grow through annexation and curb their power to boost economic development with a funding tool known as tax increment financing.

He also worries that lawmakers won't let go of their long-held power to grant individual cities and towns a much-coveted food-and-beverage tax. Bennett and his as-

sociation want the option of giving local voters the choice instead. And he's concerned that his schools may lose money under a Republican plan to divert dollars to growing suburban districts, and away from urban ones with higher poverty rates.

Bennett's worries spring from his experience as mayor of a city that's already lost significant revenues from legislative action. A year after he took office, property tax caps approved by the General Assembly kicked in.

A legislative analysis had predicted Terre Haute would lose about \$3 million every year from the caps. Its loss has been closer to \$10 million a year, about one-third of the city's budget. That has

driven Bennett to get more engaged in the legislative process.

"I just want to make Terre Haute a better place, I think any mayor will tell you that," he said. "As mayor, you want to take your city to the next level up." Instead, he said, "It feels like I'm just trying to keep the ship floating."

If next year in the Legislature is like the last biennial budget session, there will be about 1,000 bills filed, with many tied to local government. Bennett and local leaders will have their work cut out for them, monitoring a fast-paced session with many decisions made behind closed doors.

What he wants those lawmakers to know: Like many of them, he also likes small and efficient government: "But you can't make it smaller than what's needed." ❖

Maureen Hayden covers the Statehouse for the CNHI newspapers in Indiana. Reach her at maureen.hayden@indianamedia-group.com. Follow her on Twitter @MaureenHayden.



Run Mitch, Run, from page 1

and bolts" of a potential presidential campaign and the financial, logistical and emotional stew such an endeavor involves. "I think it's an interesting story," Cogman said in an HPI interview earlier this week. "It's the nuts and bolts of what it takes to run for president. Political junkies are going to like that. It's about Mitch, his approach and his philosophy which was very different than what we've seen today. But it's also about the emotional toll it takes on the family as they go through the process. It's a lesson for anyone today who's going through it."

It wouldn't be a stretch to believe that Gov. Pence, his family and his tight political and personal inner circle might be poring through "Run, Mitch, Run."

In 2009, it was "The Group" that included Al Hubbard, Daniels deputy chief of staff Eric Holcomb, Mark Lubbers from Indiana and Washington/New York axis members Tom Bell, Rick Powell, Bob Perkins and presidential campaign warrior Charlie Black, who envisioned a Daniels presidential bid. It was based on the policy-heavy Daniels administration that brought the state out of a smoke and mirrors budget generation, leveraged assets like the Indiana Toll Road to create America's grandest state road building program, reformed telecommunications as well as the social safety net, and induced sprawling health care and education reforms.

"There was an interest on behalf of many people that this was a perfect time for someone like him who had a great deal of substance, whose issue was fiscal discipline," said Cogman, who first met Daniels on Capitol Hill in their roles as Senate chiefs of staff back in the late 1970s. "The issue of the day back then was our debt, fiscal discipline, and Mitch Daniels had proven he knew how to handle that."

"We had two challenges," Cogman explained. "One was to convince Mitch. That was something he had never contemplated. He didn't intend to run for office again. Our first challenge was to convince him this was something he really needed to think about. The country needs you. You have a different approach. You have a uniqueness. I must say, it took about a year, and finally because so many people were interested in him and the momentum really soared, at the end of 2010, he was really about 80% there. He thought he could do this. He thought he had an opportunity.

"The second challenge was to convince the family that this was something we should do," Cogman said.



Mitch Daniels served President Reagan as his political director and President Bush43 as budget director.

"That one we weren't so successful at."

The Augusta National conversation

The Group first approached Daniels about a run in October 2009 on the fairways at Augusta National Golf Course. Bell, who had served with Daniels at the Hudson Institute, approached the governor. "I have two questions that will determine if we continue this conversation at all," Bell said. "One, do you think you could do the job of president? Not do you want to do it, or do you think you could win, or would you want to go through a campaign, but do you think you could be president? Secondly, do you want to be president?"

Cogman writes, "Mitch basically said he thought he could do the job. He had been in the Oval Offices many times, both with Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush. He knew many of the challenges of the job and understood the complexities of being president. All in all, he believed he had the basic capability.

"The second question was a bit more difficult," Cogman continued. "Yes, there were things he thought he could contribute to the country, and he had many concerns about the direction which we were headed. But the personal sacrifice and toll on his family were a major concern, and he wasn't certain this was a hurdle that could be handled. Mitch then expanded on the subject by saying he just didn't think it was possible for someone like him to do this. He had never even considered the possibility. He felt like his political career was over after his term as governor. He reiterated he was pretty certain Cheri and the girls would not be enthusiastic, particularly about going through a national campaign. He was also concerned about going back on his statement to the Indiana press that his reelection bid for governor was his last campaign."

After returning from Augusta, Daniels wrote a note to The Group: "It was unforgettable. Huge thanks to TB and everyone from coming. My daughters, who knew nothing of the Augusta trip, are petrified at what they are reading and hearing about a national effort. But there is lots of time for us all to marinate on this idea, maybe even enough time to realize how dumb it is!!!!!"

Cogman writes, "Clearly, there was still a long way to go."

Similarities and contrasts

Daniels and Obama brought a set of fascinating similarities and jarring contrasts. Both could and would write their own speeches and TV ads. They had the rhetorical ability to inspire and excelled in retail politics. They built high-tech, metric-based political campaigns. They

were from adjoining Midwestern states. As chief executives, both would establish broad parameters while allowing the people's representatives to thrash out legislative details on far-reaching social reengineering. Both inspired bases and prompted loathing and consternation from opponents. Both did not hesitate to use maximum doses of political capital to achieve historic policy goals. Both won Indiana in 2008, Daniels with a solid 58% reelection, while Obama became the first Democrat in 44 years to carry Indiana's Electoral College votes, albeit by a scant 1% plurality. Tens of thousands of Hoosiers voted for both, with yard signs for the two often appearing side by side in unlikely places like Carmel and Goshen. Obama's first term hallmark was the Affordable Care Act, which passed by a partisan vote, as did Daniels' historic Major Moves.



The contrasts were obvious: One black, one white. Tall and short. Republican and Democrat. Conservative and liberal. One strikingly engaged, the other compellingly aloof. Market oriented and government based.

Indiana polling consistently showed most Hoosiers in the 60th percentile believed the state was heading in the "right direction" while national polling showed a universal "wrong direction" sentiment. The jobless rate for a president seeking reelection was historically high and should have been an ominous precursor.

Lubbers told HPI that idea from The Group began stirring in 2009, and Daniels' first response was that he would think about. Lubbers said that Daniels essentially told them, "You guys need to understand, if we do this, I'm going to be a candidate who will act like I have to do the job." And you get his meaning, Lubbers added, "He wasn't going to pander."

They all knew that a Daniels candidacy had the potential to crash on a Des Moines debate stage when the candidates might face the hypothetical "grand bargain" that might require 75% in cuts and 25% in tax hikes. "You know I'll do a deal," Lubbers recalls Daniels saying. "If we do this, I'm not going to pander to the moment. I'm going to attack."

Holcomb and Lubbers ended up rendezvousing with Daniels in Kansas in the winter of 2010, where the governor was giving a speech to Republicans on the precipice of a political range war as a blizzard approached. The pilot had the plane warming in a hangar and called the group saying they needed to take off in 25 minutes, which prompted a harrowing drive to the airport so the plane could take off for Scottsdale, Ariz. Lubbers, who had managed Sen. Dick Lugar's 1996 presidential campaign, remembered looking at Holcomb and telling him, "Drink all of this in. This is going to be like every day of your life."

There, The Group gathered at Cogman's house for what would be a 10-hour marathon meeting. "It was clear that Mitch Daniels had thought a lot about it," Lubbers said. "He was very deliberative." Daniels was also aware of Lugar's dilemma. His former boss knew why he wanted to be president, "but couldn't figure out how to get there," Lubbers said. "Mitch knew he had to know why he wanted to be president and how to get there."

Obama, Daniels family decisions

The 2010-11 sequence for Daniels was also significantly different than the one confronting Sen. Obama in late 2006. Michelle Obama was involved in the early sequence of the deliberations. Cheri Daniels was not.

The Indiana First Lady knew that Indiana confidants like Holcomb, Hubbard and Lubbers were talking about a White House bid. She wasn't aware of Black, Bell and the others in the New York/Washington axis.

In David Plouffe's 2009 book, "The Audacity to Win," he described Mrs. Obama raising an array of questions. What would it mean for the family? How often would Barack be out of town campaigning? Could they still have weekends together? Would the family campaign together? Who would look after the daughters?

"I was impressed by her directness and the non-nonsense focus of her questioning," Plouffe wrote of his first encounter with her. "She clearly wanted all the facts, and I could tell that running was not going to be solely Barack's decision; they would decide together." Shortly after that meeting, it was Michelle Obama who opened the next discussion declaring interest in the campaign "if they thought they could mount a credible effort."

The Daniels effort would be the opposite. The wife/family decision came at the end of the process. Republican strategist Mike Murphy said on NBC's Meet the Press in late May 2011 that there's "an old rule of politics. If you're going to run, make sure your wife is going to vote for you."

A tale of 3 speeches in 2011

The Group was successful in positioning Gov. Daniels for a presidential bid. It culminated in a February Washington speech by Daniels before CPAC. "I've told several people, I hope you read the book, but read it from the end and read the CPAC speech first," Cogman explained. "I think reading that speech you can see clearly how strongly we felt in what we were trying to do. The CPAC speech, there were comments and a suggestion or two, but it really was his words. It was just a home run. Once again, it started everybody's feeling, 'We've really got to get this guy to do this.'"

Washington Post columnist George Will introduced Daniels, and Cogman writes, he had suggested the CPAC speech months before. On the dais, Will described Daniels by saying, "Never has there been a higher ratio between mind and mass."

Daniels did not disappoint. He proceeded to tell a not-so-pliant crowd the ominous signs facing the republic. "We cannot deter it; there is no countervailing danger we can pose. We cannot negotiate with it, any more than with an iceberg or a Great White. I refer, of course, to the debts our nation has amassed for itself over decades of indulgence. It is the new Red Menace, this time consisting of ink. We can debate its origins endlessly and search for villains on ideological grounds, but the reality is pure arithmetic. No enterprise, small or large, public or private, can remain self-governing, let alone successful, so deeply in hock to others as we are about to be."

Daniels spoke of a "morbidly obese" American government in need of "bariatric surgery." And less than a year after he suggested a "truce" on social issues, Daniels provided tough love. "An affectionate 'thank you' to the major social welfare programs of the last century, but their sunset when those currently or soon-to-be enrolled have passed off the scene," is the way the governor described entitlements. "The creation of new Social Security and Medicare compacts with the young people who will pay for their elders and who deserve to have a backstop available to them in their own retirement. These programs should reserve their funds for those most in need of them. They should be updated to catch up to Americans increasing longevity and good health. They should protect benefits against inflation but not overprotect them. Medicare 2.0 should restore to the next generation the dignity of making their own decisions, by delivering its dollars directly to the individual."

"This was a speech he had been invited to before and had declined," Cogman said. "He had accepted this several months before. He looked upon it as an opportunity to lay down some of his themes and be very open and honest with a crowd that weren't necessarily falling over to embrace him because of the social truce he had laid out. He felt this was just a chance to see if you could have an adult conversation. The response to it was really heart warming in a lot of ways. It was such a success."

Daniels acknowledged the social truce, saying, "Purity in martyrdom is for suicide bombers. King Pyrrhus is remembered, but his nation disappeared. Winston



Gov. Daniels received a standing ovation at CPAC. In the lower photo, he is seen with CBS anchor Katie Couric and Susan Rice.

Churchill set aside his lifetime loathing of Communism in order to fight World War II. Challenged as a hypocrite, he said that when the safety of Britain was at stake, his 'conscience became a good girl.' We are at such a moment. I for one have no interest in standing in the wreckage of our Republic saying 'I told you so' or 'You should've done it my way.'"

The day after, the Drudge Report led with a photo of Daniels with his hand across his heart and the headline read: "Who? Mitch Daniels wows CPAC." The Washington Post's Chris Cillizza observed, "The Indiana governor's

sobering speech about the danger of the country's growing debt was a sharp contrast to the red-meat heavy addresses of his potential rivals for the 2012 nomination." Time magazine's Joe Klein wrote that Daniels "courageously offered zero red meat to the crowd, just a grown-up exposition of what it would actually take to cut the deficit."

It was followed by Daniels keynoting the Washington Gridiron along with President Obama and potential 2012 GOP candidates the next month.

Daniels had torn a rotator cuff and was in an arm sling, which prompted him to say, "I can't wait to heal up, because this is frightening too. Until this thing comes off, I can cling to my gun or my Bible, but not both."

"If anyone is good for jockeying, it's me," said the 5-foot-7 governor who was once a young fly-weight boxer. "The truth is, I broke a rib traveling to the governors' conference. I drew a middle seat between Chris Christie and Haley Barbour."

And Daniels added, "Mr. President, we often disagree, but sometimes I think you get a bum rap. For instance, after watching our Indiana House Democrats hide out in your home state the last three weeks, people who vote 'present' are starting to look like real statesmen to me."

President Obama observed, "Of course, there's our outstanding speaker for the evening, Mitch Daniels. Did a great job. Mitch, I heard your friends over at FOX News told you that you don't look like a President. But I wouldn't worry about it; they say the same thing about me every single day. (Laughter.) I know some people discount Mitch because he's not — as they say in the NBA — long enough. (Laughter.) But they don't realize how scrappy he is. I watched him during dinner. He tore into that fillet like it was a public employee. (Laughter and applause.) And

Mitch is experienced. Before he was governor Mitch was a pharmaceutical executive and he was George W. Bush's budget director. I don't have a joke here. I just want to point it out."

With the two Washington speeches stoking the speculation of a bid, along came the most bizarre sequence, First Lady Cheri Daniels' keynote before the Indiana Republican spring dinner in Indianapolis.

The First Lady's speech

Cogman remembers asking Daniels about the First Lady's speech. "He basically said, 'We were sitting around the breakfast table and Eric had been after me to find a speaker, and I thought, Yeah! Why don't I ask Cheri?' He did and she said yes and that was as simple as it was."

When Lubbers learned of the First Lady's looming keynote, he said, "I looked at Mitch and said, 'Are we going? You realize everyone is going to think this is the sign.'"

Lubbers believed that if Cheri Daniels "had fun with this," she might warm up to a campaign. Holcomb decided to seize the moment and had the state party print up hundreds of "Run Mitch Run" signs. There were young Republicans from about 50 college campuses attending.

"That was the last best hope," Lubbers told HPI. ". . . if Cheri enjoyed it."

The national and Indiana press corps assembled at the JW Marriott, and there were hundreds of green and white "Run Mitch Run" signs on the seats, with the disclaimer "Printed by the Indiana Republican Party." The First Lady spent about a half hour recounting her experiences at the Indiana State Fair, from pancake flipping to cow milking. "I think this speaks for itself, but I am an honorary Hooters girl," Mrs. Daniels said at one point. "I truly appreciate the encouragement you have given Mitch," she told the crowd. But missing was the line everyone was waiting to hear ". . . for his run for president."

It turned out to be the most non-political speech ever given to a GOP dinner.

Afterward, Hoosier Republicans were panting. Bob Grand told HPI he believed that Daniels was poised for a run. Al Hubbard expected a decision "by the end of the month" and appeared buoyant at the prospect. Mike Gentry of the Indiana House Republican Campaign Committee said that in circling back to donors, almost to a person "they are begging him to run." Indiana Senate President Pro Tempore David Long summed up the speech as "a little peek" into the future. "He didn't say no," Long said, noting that Daniels' "entire career has been about fiscal discipline. That's in his DNA. This is playing into his wheel-

house." Asked if he thought Daniels would run, Long said, "I think so." House Speaker Brian Bosma said that while Daniels had not told him definitively, "I think he'll run."

Cogman explained, "I think maybe in the back of his mind, again, and certainly in the back of others, the very response was so fabulous and all of the Run Mitch Run signs were going to be there, that it would have some influence on the family's decision."

"Ultimately it didn't," Cogman then said.

The national media and the bubble

Several elements surrounded the First Lady's speech. The national media began reporting about the Daniels divorce and remarriage. But instead of lasting for a couple of news cycles, it stretched on for more than a week in newspapers such as the New York Times, Washington Post and websites like Real Clear Politics. The word



was that Jon Huntsman's potential rival campaign had been seeding the story in the news media.

At the time, Howey Politics speculated the First Lady's speech was designed to test the incoming fire.

"I think there were really two issues in terms of the family," Cogman said. "We had obviously had talked about the divorce. I don't think anybody really thought it was going to be an issue, or one that would make one iota of difference. But I do think the reliving of it was not something anyone would want to go through. Particularly the girls. That was a factor in their mind. I think it would have eventually faded away. I don't think it would have had any impact on the campaign or election. It's just not something you want to go through."

When Daniels stunned the political world and his Hoosier allies at the end of May, announcing he would not run, he cited losing the vote in the "family female caucus." Some blamed the national media fixation on the divorce. Daniels would explain, "I was able to resolve every competing consideration but one, but that, the interests and wishes of my family, is the most important consideration of all."

"I think a greater factor, and I say this because I had this long conversation with Cheri myself, that's also in the book, I came away with the belief that they just didn't want to live the rest of their lives this way," Cogman said.

"It wasn't just the campaign. You go into any campaign expecting you're going to win. It was also in the White House and it really is a life-changing decision, for the rest of their lives. They would be in the limelight. They would have intrusion in their lives. That was just not the way they wanted to live the rest of their lives. And I say, we were disappointed, but we certainly understood."

Daniels told the press a couple days after his decision, "There was way too much attention paid here to this scrutiny business. It was just a total loss of privacy. I've got three daughters early in their married lives. Think about the disruption that would have meant. Yeah, sure, the scrutiny, but this is not the only scar tissue I've got by now. That might have been a part of it but not really the big part. It may be overstated in some of the coverage so far. It was disruption of young lives that are full of promise right now and they deserve a chance to build their families without security all over them all the time and being figures of public interest. That was a very large factor. The sense of duty was very large for me but I wasn't burning with a sense to do this."

In the afterwords

Daniels writes in the book's afterword, "My own best guess is that we would have captured the nomination but lost to an Obama campaign that had several powerful advantages: A monolithic, unpersuadable base of black and strongly liberal voters; an Electoral College head start through its ownership of a few big coastal states; a clear superiority in its grasp of the political uses of social media; and its track record of success in personally demonizing its opponents. Still, the thing had a shot."

Cogman said that after researching the book, he was somewhat surprised "at how much momentum he really had. A lot of it was driven by the media. They really thought he had a chance. People were looking for something different. I wrote it and I went back through all the press clippings and chronicled it. He had really built up a momentum that would have given him a real shot at this. There really was a chance."

Cogman said The Group was split on the prospects. "The people in our group thought the real tough battle would have been the primary and if he could have won the primary, he would have really had a great chance because of the climate and the incumbent," Cogman said.



Gov. Daniels meets with supporters and the state and national press following First Lady Cheri Daniels speech at the GOP spring dinner in May 2011. He would end the presidential speculation days after. (HPI Photos by Brian A. Howey)

"Others agree with Mitch he could have taken the primary but the incumbent's machine was just too much. I don't know."

HPI's take is that Daniels could have won the nomination. As governor, he had signed some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the nation, which could have brought in the evangelical right. He was the darling of the deficit hawks and entitlement reformers. He had run and won two excellent gubernatorial campaigns, unseating an incumbent Democrat, and had captured bigger than normal chunks of the Hoosier black and latino vote. He had a hand in national senatorial campaigns with Sen. Dick Lugar, and headed that committee in the mid-1980s. He had served in the White House twice. Eventual nominee Mitt Romney lost because of a tin ear and loose grip with the common man. And American voters thirsted for straight talk and deal makers.

Lubbers and Holcomb were with Daniels when the fateful conference call to The Group was made. "That's a pretty damn momentous fork in the road," Lubbers described the moment to HPI. "Eric and I were there and the pain on

his face was palpable. It was all there, ready to take off. I think it was his for the asking. Inside he must have known or thought it. It was a sweet pain because there wasn't a balloon full of ambition losing its air. It was personal. Mitch is a pretty spiritual guy, but he had two important options, keeping the family happy or realizing his destiny."

Lubbers said Daniels' late mother, Dottie, had "infused him with humility" and "it kept him at just the right place his whole life. That would have been a big contrast with Barack Obama. It would have been the RV again, but this time on social media. He just gets regular people. You cannot hide it." Lubbers added, "I never saw it in the terms of policy or issues. I think at the end of the day, it would have been a personality contest between a guy who was completely invented in Barack Obama versus a guy who was really nothing but genuine."

Cogman's final thoughts to HPI were these: "I had dinner with him last week and told him it's great you're president of Purdue, but I was hoping you'd be president of something else."

Later this month, Gov. Mike Pence heads to Israel for a nine-day trade and cultural mission, which is pretty much a prerequisite trip for a future presidential contender. He will meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

On the long flight over, Pence would be wise to read Cogman's book. ❖

What if Mitch had run for president?

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND – What if . . . ?

What if Oswald missed and John F. Kennedy continued as president? What if the Supreme Court didn't intervene and Al Gore became president?

And now, in Indiana at least, there is another "what if?" occasioned by a new book, "Run, Mitch, Run." The author, Don Cogman, a friend of former Gov. Mitch Daniels, tells the insider story of how Daniels campaigned toward, but never officially announced for, the 2012 Republican presidential nomination.



Although Daniels was urged to run by influential Republicans who found the field of nomination prospects to be underwhelming, and raising funds would not have been a serious obstacle, Daniels said "no" in May of 2011, explaining that his wife and four daughters were against a plunge into the stormy waters of presidential politics.

What if Mitch Daniels said "yes" and ran for president? What if Mitch Daniels won the Republican nomination? What if Mitch Daniels today was president of the United States?

First, would Daniels have defeated Mitt Romney for the Republican nomination? His supporters say he would have. Maybe so. But the reason his family "vetoed" a run would have been exploited by opponents for the GOP nomination, one reportedly already was exploiting it, and it would have been a subject of intense scrutiny by the national news media.

National attention already was beginning to focus on the marriage, divorce and remarriage of Cheri and Mitch Daniels, with Cheri Daniels between those marriages moving to California and marrying another man. Emerging details included a vicious denunciation by that man's former wife and hurtful suggestions about concern for the children.

In the highly acclaimed bestseller "Double Down: Game Change 2012," the authors report that GOP con-

tender Jon Huntsman leaked information about the Daniels' divorce and suggested sources to the news media.

Would further exploitation have derailed a Daniels campaign? The trouble with "what ifs?" is that we can't know for sure.

Daniels, a cut far above some of those "clown car" contenders for the nomination, would have talked issues. But were Republican primary voters in the key states interested in facts about issues or more likely to be swayed, as many were for awhile, by somebody spouting "9-9-9" nonsense.

Daniels would not have stressed emotional social issues. Would that have turned off a lot of primary voters?

While Daniels would have come across as an intellectual giant in comparison with the likes of Michele Bachmann, Herman Cain, Donald Trump and Rick Perry, could he have defeated Romney?

Romney made mistakes, but he also did well enough in his campaigning that some polls now put him first among candidates Republicans would like to see as the 2016 nominee. Romney was devastating in crushing each contender emerging to challenge him in the nomination battle. Maybe would have crushed Daniels. Maybe not.

What if Daniels won the nomination? Would he have defeated President Obama?

Doubtful, considering the near electoral landslide for Obama, whose campaign was so well funded and better equipped to reach voters and get them to the polls. Vulnerabilities for Daniels would have included being budget director for President George W. Bush and heading a pharmaceutical corporation. His claims of improving the Indiana economy would have faced tough scrutiny of the numbers by the national news media.

But what if Daniels won? What if he today was president of the United States rather than president of Purdue? Would the poisonous atmosphere in Washington be the same, only with Democrats in Congress retaliating by stalemating the agenda of Republican President Daniels?

Since a president gets the most blame for stalemate, would Democrats have been the big winners in the November elections? Or would Daniels have found magic to cure economic effects from the Great Recession, humble Putin, make everybody happy on immigration and stamp out ebola?



What if . . . ? ❖

Colwell has covered Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.

Weigh in on the 2015 HPI Power 50 List

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Since 1999, Howey Politics has presented the Power 50 list as a guide to who is most likely to shape events in the coming year.

As always, we hope it stirs a debate that lends to good governance and policy that creates a better Indiana for the 6.7 million of us who call Indiana home.

Please send us your nominees, or submit an entire list to me at bhowey2@gmail.com. We'll publish the 2015 list in our Jan. 15, 2015 edition.

HPI's 2014 Power 50 List

1. Gov. Mike Pence
2. Speaker Brian Bosma
3. Senate President David Long
4. FSSA Commissioner Deb Minott
5. State Rep. Tom Dermody
6. Curt Smith, Micah Clark and Eric Miller
7. Megan Robertson
8. State Rep. Robert Behning
9. U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski and Joseph Bock
10. U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly
11. U.S. Sen. Dan Coats
12. U.S. Rep. Todd Young
13. U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks
14. Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard
15. Evan Bayh
16. Joe Hogsett
17. Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr.
18. Baron Hill
19. Senate Appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley and Ways & Means Chairman Tim Brown
20. Chief-of-Staff Bill Smith
21. Supt. Glenda Ritz
22. Lt. Gov. Sue Ellspermann
23. Claire Fiddian-Green
24. Attorney General Greg Zoeller
25. U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman
26. House Minority Leader Scott Pelath
27. Jim Bopp Jr.
28. Secretary of State Connie Lawson
29. Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold
30. State Rep. Ed Clere
31. State Rep. Ed DeLaney
32. Evansville Mayor Lloyd Winnecke
33. Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry
34. State Reps. Greg Steuerwald & Jud McMillin, Sen. Brent Steel, and David Powell
35. Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight
36. South Bend Mayor Peter Buttigieg
37. Richard Lugar
38. U.S. Rep. Luke Messer

39. U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita
40. Republican Chairman Tim Berry
41. Democrat Chairman John Zody
42. State Sen. Brandt Hershman and State Rep. Eric Turner
43. Goshen Mayor Allan Kauffman and Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett
44. State Sen. Jim Merritt
45. Purdue President Mitch Daniels
46. U.S. Rep. Larry Bucshon
47. Rod Ratcliff
48. Doug Brown
49. State Rep. Mike Karickhoff
50. Jennifer Hallowell



HPI Power 50 and HJR-6 consequences

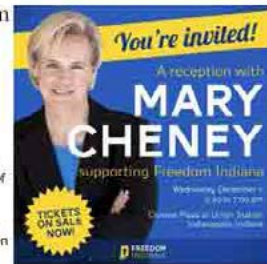
The most divisive referendum issue since the 1988 lottery will shape 2014 from the legislature to the election

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Ponder, if just for a moment before you delve into the 15th Annual Howey Politics Indiana Power 50 List, the law of unintended consequences.

Former Fortune Magazine economics editor Rob Norton gives a fascinating historical review. The most recent example was the Exxon Valdez oil spill disaster in 1989. In its messy wake, many American coastal states enacted laws placing unlimited liability on tanker companies. Royal Dutch/Shell responded by hiring independent shippers for its American lanes.

Norton explains: "Oil specialists fretted that other reputable shippers would flee as well rather than face such unquantifiable risk, leaving the field to fly-by-night tanker operators with leaky ships and lffy insurance. Thus, the probability of spills probably increased and the likelihood of



collecting damages probably decreased as a consequence of the new laws."

In 1592, John Locke urged defeat of a parliamentary bill designed to cut the maximum permissible rate of interest from 6 to 4%. Locke argued that instead of benefiting borrowers, as intended, it would hurt them, Norton observed. People would find ways to circumvent the law, with the costs of circumvention borne by borrowers. To

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Andy through war & peace

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – Scheduled to tape a public affairs program at WFYI-TV in downtown Indianapolis, I arrived promptly enough and stood at a spotlight on Meridian Street, waiting to cross. It was a windy day, and it was impossible not to notice one of the other scheduled



guests – Andrew Jacobs Jr. – just outside the studio doors, chasing down pieces of litter blowing down the sidewalk. And not just one errant gum wrapper. The former congressman was involved in a personal process, working diligently to clean up this one entire street corner.

Anyone acquainted with Indiana politics knows that in the scheme of things, U.S. Rep.



"No, they shouldn't get in. There shouldn't be cheating allowed to get into the Hall of Fame."

- Frank Thomas, the former Chicago White Sox slugger elected to the Hall of Fame, on steroid use by other stars of his era

Honorable Mention

Senate Minority Leader Tim Lanane, Policy Director Chris Atkins, INDOT Commissioner Karl Browning, Chris Chocola, Kevin Brinegar, Pat Kiely, U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky, Marilee Springer, Matt Greller, State Sen. John Waterman, Craig Hartzler, Bill Bailey, U.S. Rep. Andre Carson, Don Bates Jr., Sasheer Zamata, LaPorte Mayor Blair Milo, Marion County Clerk Beth White, Auditor Suzanne Crouch, State Sen. Carlin Yoder, State Sen. Jim Banks, State Rep. Christina Hale, State Rep. Milo Smith, State Rep. Jerry Torr, State Rep. Ed Soliday, Eric Holcomb, State Rep. Steve Braun, Jeff Cardwell, and Dan Elsener. ❖

Schaibley restores GOP House gender; Riecken eyes mayor

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS – Donna Schaibley won the Republican HD24 caucus to replace State Rep. Steve Braun on Tuesday evening.

Schaibley defeated Susana Suarez 27-22 on the third ballot in a Republican caucus. The two were tied at 22 votes on the second ballot. Schaibley is secretary of the Hamilton County Republican Party as well as the Carmel-Clay GOP Club. "I am honored that the community picked me," Schaibley said. "I do promise that I will be representative of all three communities of the entire district. That's something that I've spoken to. I do believe that our school funding issue is the number one issue in our district. And I'm just very grateful. I'm really just gratified."

Braun resigned after winning an uncontested race in November to become Gov. Mike Pence's commissioner for the Department of Workforce Development.

Schaibley's victory has restored the House Republican caucus on the gender count to 10 females. In the May primary, State Reps. Rebecca Kubaicki and Kathy Heuer were defeated by Curt Nisly and Christopher Judy. But Julie Olthoff defeated State Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh in November and now Schaibley takes HD24.

In HD32, former Hamilton Heights School Supt. Tony Cook appears to be the only Republican expressing interest in replacing State Rep. Eric Turner, who resigned last month. That caucus is scheduled for Monday.



Newly elected State Reps. Donna Schaibley (top) and Julie Olthoff restore the House GOP's gender balance to 10 females.

and liberal spending, excessive spending by the mayor," Riecken said. "I feel strongly we need somebody in there to manage this, a little bit more conservative view on how to spend our money." Riecken has represented Indiana House District 77 since 2009. She is a former city parks and recreation director and City Council member. She said Wednesday that "I'm putting feelers out," trying to determine if she would have support. A monthlong filing period for candidates in the 2015 city elections opens Jan. 7.

Riecken, asked about the race this November, said she was interested in continuing to work on state issues. She ran for mayor once before, in a Democratic primary in 1999, and doubted she would seek city office again. But she acknowledged Wednesday that local Democrats have continued to encourage her to enter the race. Local Democrats have been plagued by internal strife, and some party officials said Wednesday that Riecken could represent a unifying force. "I've opened the door quite a bit," Riecken said. "I've been talking with a lot of people and seeing what they think. I love Evansville, and I'm concerned." Winnecke said Wednesday night: "It's disappointing Rep. Riecken would side with the negative rhetoric of City Council. Each year I've been in office, we have crafted a budget with City Council that has passed, even if we did not agree on every line item. Rep. Riecken has not reached out to me or the controller about the condition of city finances." Winnecke pointed to "clean" state audits of city government for the last two years, as well as consistently positive reviews of city bonds by rating agencies.

Richmond: Republicans in the business community are beginning to rally around Kyle Ingram, an NCAA basketball referee and a high school softball coach. This business group has already demonstrated some clout, backing State Sen. Jeff Raatz, who won contested primary and general elections. Republican Diana Pappin has declared for the office that will be vacated by retiring three-term Democratic Mayor Sally Hutton. Pappin worked 27

years at Ivy Tech Community College in a variety of positions and was executive director of resource development when she retired in July. She also served on Richmond Common Council from 2004-11, including two years as president. Former Wayne County Sheriff Matthew Stritmatter and David Snow, a local radio personality, are also weighing a run. A new political action committee of local businessmen and industrialists have formed and are interviewing potential candidates.

Mayoral

Evansville: State Rep. Gail Riecken, an Evansville Democrat, said Wednesday she's strongly considering entering next year's mayoral election (Martin, Evansville Courier & Press). Riecken, who a month ago distanced herself from speculation about the race, said she now is taking a strong look at it. First-term Republican Mayor Lloyd Winnecke has said he is running for re-election. "I have been very concerned with the finances of the city

Indianapolis: Rev. Charles Harrison told HPI on Tuesday that he has not made a decision on whether to run as an independent or as a Libertarian. Some in the Harrison camp are concerned that Democrats will take extraordinary measures to contest the 3,000 or so signatures he would need to qualify for the ballot as an independent, while a Libertarian nomination would guarantee ballot access. There was no movement on the Republican side. State Sen. Jim Merritt had surgery last week and expects to make a decision by the end of the year. Democrat Ed



DeLaney dropped out of the race last week, leaving former Southern District Attorney Joe Hogsett as the likely nominee. Informed sources say that key Democrats are appealing to Harrison to stay out of the race. It wasn't the best week for Hogsett, as questions surrounding a 95-page Indiana Inspector General report on alleged campaign violations by Republican Supt. of Public Instruction Tony Bennett surfaced. Democratic Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry said he hadn't seen the report that appears to implicate Bennett and senior staffers with up to 100 alleged counts of federal wire fraud and ghost employment. At this writing, it's not clear whether Curry has unearthed a copy of the report IG David Thomas said he sent to his office. Hogsett, who had made prosecuting public corruption a priority, would not comment on the case, according to his campaign spokesman.

Bloomington: The Herald-Times lists these Democrats as potential mayoral candidates: Rick Dietz, despite just winning re-election to Monroe County Council, Dietz said he's considering a mayoral race. John Whitehart, as Kruzan's no. 2 in city administration, moving up to mayor is the next logical step. Darryl Neher, serving his first term on the Bloomington City Council and current president of the body. Kruzan hinted that his pick is someone he's disagreed with before but believes would do a good job, and Neher and Kruzan have that history. John Hamilton, ran in the Democratic primary in 2011 against Kruzan and said Tuesday he hasn't thought about it yet. Susan Sandberg, joined the council in 2006 after Chris Gaal was elected prosecutor. Current vice chair for the Democratic Party, Shelli Yoder, also was just reelected to the county council, but has also been known to go for other offices like when she ran for the 9th Congressional District.

For Republicans: Paul White, lost a bid for a county council seat in the May primary, and ran in the general election for Perry Township board, has said he'll be running again in the future. Brian Ellison, also lost in the general election for county council but is well-liked by party leadership and we could see him trying for local office again. Pat Jeffries, former Monroe County treasurer, has put her name on the ballot several times in the past 10 years, including for auditor, county commissioner and

Perry Township board. Could toss her name in the mix for mayor. Sue West, former city controller who left the city earlier this year, has served on the county council, and is well-liked by many local politicians from both parties. Jason Banach, doubtful about how likely this is given his position as director of real estate for Indiana University, but he has been successful in city politics.

LaPorte: La Porte Mayor Blair Milo took to the podium late Thursday morning in front of around 100 people inside Jaeger-Unitek's new building on Koomler Drive and announced her campaign to run for reelection (Michigan City News-Dispatch). "I'm so grateful to be able to announce the plans for the next chapter in my leadership of this community in your new location," Milo said. "It's a great example of the opportunities our community team is building."



Milo was instrumental in helping Jaeger-Unitek decide to stay in La Porte, having even visited their corporate headquarters in Germany and speaking La Porte's praises. Now, Jaeger-Unitek provides 134 jobs to the area. One of Milo's goals has been to attract more jobs and businesses to La Porte, listing 330 new jobs coming to Alcoa Howmet, 37 to MonoSol, and 35 to American Licorice. "We will continue to support our local industries and businesses," Milo said. "We've diligently worked to build a great climate for business and economic development and are thrilled to celebrate the results with the team." Milo spoke of some of the successes she and her team have had over the last three years of her term, including stating recent data puts La Porte's unemployment rate at 3 percent. "With these achievements also comes the challenge of training and equipping a workforce able to meet the needs of our employers," Milo said.

Michigan City: Mayor Ron Meers launched his reelection campaign last week (Howey Politics Indiana). The Democrat is seeking his second term.

Hammond: Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. is moving forward with his bid for a historic fourth term in office with the opening of his campaign headquarters Thursday (Bierschenk, NWI Times). "I love it, I really do," McDermott said of running the city. "I think we are doing a great job. It's hard to walk away when things are going well." McDermott said as far back as May, when he stepped down as Lake County Democratic Party chairman, he intended to run for reelection. That month, Hammond City Councilman Homero "Chico" Hinojosa Jr. also filed paperwork to create an exploratory committee for a mayoral campaign. McDermott would become the city's longest-running mayor if he wins reelection next year. McDermott said being mayor is "the best job I've ever had." He spoke

of how he enjoyed the challenges he faces in what he described as complex job that, he said, allows a person to make a difference in people's lives. Saying it is not time to have a "rookie" take the reins of the city, he pointed to the financial challenges Hammond faces in light of declining gambling revenue and tax caps. "We need to look for ways to become more efficient, while providing the services the people expect, especially public safety," McDermott said, adding that Hammond has a good team in place to represent the city's interests before the legislature.

Goshen: City councilman at large and local business owner Jeremy Stutsman announced he will be running for Goshen mayor in 2015 (Hernandez, Elkhart Truth). Stutsman, surrounded by family and supporters, announced he will seek the Democratic Party's nomination next year. He held a small reception Dec. 4 at Rachel's Bread in Goshen. Mayor Allan Kauffman has made it publicly known throughout the year that he will not seek a fifth term. Kauffman was elected mayor on April 1, 1997, after former mayor Mike Puro's resignation. Before becoming mayor, Kauffman served as a council member for 16 years. He attended the reception Thursday evening and announced his endorsement of Stutsman.

"I would really have a hard time walking away from this job if I didn't know there was someone like Jeremy here to take my place," he said. "I love the job, I know I'm going to miss it, but we got a great person here that I think can take us from where we are to an even better place." Kauffman also said he will start working to take Stutsman's seat in city council. During his reception, Stutsman said he has been assembling an election committee that includes democrats, republicans and independents over the last several months and added Vince Turner will be his committee chairman. Turner, who opened Jeremy's announcement with his own speech, said he thinks Stutsman manages to balance honoring the city's values and looking into the future. The biggest challenge, Turner said, will be convincing people Stutsman has this balance. "For the first couple of months I envision a listening tour, where we do a lot more listening than we do speaking and give people a voice as Jeremy puts the shape for the campaign together," he said. Stutsman, 36, has served as city councilman at large and as a member of the redevelopment commission for seven years, two positions he said have helped him listen, study and discuss issues important to the community. "It is imperative to balance the needs of our business community with the needs of our neighborhoods. If this balance is lost, both would be negatively affected," Stutsman said.



Stutsman also mentioned his time working on the revitalization of downtown Goshen as something that helped him learn about the city processes. Stutsman is the owner of Lofty Ideas, a company that specializes in commercial and residential restoration and design. "I have spent the last 13 years working hard in downtown Goshen," he said. "In that time, I've been a part of 42 building projects, worked to help create the streetscaping design, volunteered countless hours and helped create the art alley among many other projects. I have learned with my own money what it is to be efficient and responsible when deciding how to maintain and grow a business." Though a Democrat, Stutsman said he comes from a family with strong Republican ties and considers himself a "mix of progressive and conservative views."

2016: Early U.S. Senate Crystal Ball

The most obvious Democratic Senate targets are three first-term Republicans elected from states that have all voted Democratic in at least the past six presidential elections: Sens. Mark Kirk of Illinois, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin. These races start as Toss-ups (Sabato, Crystal Ball). The next best Democratic targets are four Republicans who reside in states that are likely to be key pieces of the Electoral College map in 2016: Sens. Marco Rubio of Florida, Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, Richard Burr of North Carolina, and Rob Portman of Ohio. Four other seats, all rated as Likely Republican, merit quick mentions. If he's on the November ballot, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) will cruise, but maybe he retires or loses a primary. Missouri is often competitive even though it is trending away from being a presidential swing state, but Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) looks well-positioned in both a primary and a general election. After winning as write-in following her 2010 primary defeat, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) needs to decide whether she will run in the GOP primary this time or just give it another go as an independent.

Finally, Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN) probably can have another term if he wants it, assuming he doesn't face trouble from a GOP primary electorate that threw out long-time Sen. Richard Lugar (R) in 2012, a decision that allowed Sen. Joe Donnelly (D-IN) to grab the seat. The common thread: If all four of these senators are on the November ballot, it's hard to see any of them losing reelection. Sources close to Coats tell Howey Politics he has not made a final decision. **HPI's read:** Being back in the majority has to be a compelling reason for Coats to seek another term. On the flip, he has never been a big fan of raising money and he is coming into the sunset years of his political career. Our guess at this point is he seeks a final term. A Democratic opponent has not emerged, with most speculation centered on likely gubernatorial candidates John Gregg and Baron Hill, with one opting for the Senate race. ❖

Where does the education buck stop?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. – In the traditional Statehouse sense, sophomoric behavior has often resided in the two chambers we call the Indiana General Assembly.

But in this, the Republican super majority era of Hoosier governance, sophomorphism flourishes like an errant punt dropping among four entities, in this case Republican Gov. Mike Pence, Democrat and duly elected Supt. Glenda Ritz, the bipartisan State Board of Education, and a beast that Pence created shortly after taking office, something called the Center for Education and Career Innovation.



Pence said that CECI was designed to create cohesion, collaboration and transparency.

"The agency also will foster, identify, and scale innovative education and workforce models, tools and resources and ensure Hoosier educators have the freedom, support, and flexibility to succeed in the classroom," Pence said at its creation. Its "transparent" systems would hold all shareholders from students to educators "accountable."

But from its first minutes, CECI fostered division. Supt. Ritz, who had upset Republican incumbent Tony Bennett nine months prior, learned about its creation from the news media. And it ignited almost two years of some of the most juvenile policy behavior one normally witnesses in a junior high cafeteria. Critics saw it as a power grab, an end around the Department of Education.

Mature Republican legislative leaders like Speaker Brian Bosma and Senate President David Long were not amused by the months of infighting among Ritz, CECI and the Board of Education. For a year now, both vowed legislative intervention if the public flatulence didn't stop.

Last Thursday, Pence announced, "I am proud of the work that the Center for Education and Career Innovation and the talented men and women working there have done. But I am aware of the controversy that has surrounded the center since its creation. I'm also aware that we have too many entities with overlapping responsibilities in public education in Indiana. For education to work in our state, it has to work at the highest levels, and someone needs to take the first step to restore harmony and trust in education. In that spirit, later today, I will sign an executive order to dissolve the Center for Education and Career Innovation."

A few minutes later, Pence announced another change: The SBOE was to elect its own chair, which is now occupied by Supt. Ritz. "In the interest of restoring trust,

improving harmony and getting the job done for our kids . . . it is time to take the politics out of education in Indiana, or at least out of the State Board of Education."

Good!

Sometimes wise leadership is displayed when a chief executive acknowledges a mistake. Gov. Mitch Daniels did so when he brought in IBM to manage the state's welfare system. When it became clear that real people were falling through the safety net, he pulled the plug and devised a "hybrid" system that has since won the trust of policy makers across the political spectrum.

All of this begs the broader question, which is, where does the education buck stop in Indiana?

Since Gov. Robert Orr pushed for education reforms in 1987, all of the following governors, Democrats Evan Bayh, Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan, and Republicans Daniels and Pence, look in a mirror and see a self-styled "education governor."

Yet, since 1988, the elected governors and superintendents have belonged to the same party for less than six years. The results of the era produced a state with a low ranking in college graduates and an embarrassing national high school drop out rate.

In 2008, when Republican Bennett was elected and forged an alliance with Gov. Daniels, for four years the two pushed and achieved sweeping education reforms. The problem there is that, much like Obamacare, the education reforms did not have a broad bipartisan coalition that's necessary with such social engineering, and teachers and school administrators united via Facebook, prompting Ritz's stunning upset of Bennett in 2012.

What we've learned since the Bennett reelection fiasco is that he and his executive staff allegedly committed an array of ghost employment, wire fraud instances involving the use of state computers and assets for political purposes. An Inspector General's report made public this week by the Associated Press concluded that Bennett and his senior staff, some of whom are now, incredibly, advising other legislative and mayoral campaigns, could have committed more than 100 federal wire fraud violations. Equally amazing is that this report apparently evaded Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry and then District Attorney Joe Hogsett, both Democrats, who took no prosecutorial action.

Pence is right on one key point: Politics doesn't have a place in education. The education buck should stop with the governor. It should be a streamlined process, and CECI's abolition is a good first step.

In 2012, both Indiana Republican and Democratic party platforms called for the superintendent of instruction to be a gubernatorial appointment. Voters should elect policymakers, not bureaucrats charged with implementing policy. This is not a criticism of Supt. Ritz, who in my estimation has been an earnest public servant.

But as in the classroom, the best results come when everyone is on the same page. ❖

Regional planning could overcome urban, rural divide

By **MATTHEW BUTLER**

INDIANAPOLIS – The panel was aptly titled “The Ongoing Tension Between State and Local Government.”

It was a component of the BGD Legislative Conference and it confronted one of the big policy rifts that surfaces almost annually during the Indiana General Assembly. The four-person panel included State Rep. John Price, chair of the Committee on Local Government, Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight, Matt Greller, executive director of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT), and Morgan County Councilman Jeffrey Quyle.



The funding mechanisms Indiana communities have at their disposal (and don't have) to fund economic development

projects as well as adequately cover basic services and infrastructure was the reoccurring theme. As with every budget session, a variety of tax reforms will be up for discussion including those directly affecting cities and towns, such as TIFs, local option income taxes, and other levies. Some in the legislature, for example, believe the usage of TIFs has gotten out of hand and needs stricter guidelines.

“As far as the legislature goes,” Greller said last week, “they play a vital role in our ability to do that. We have tools in place now that are extremely important in building these kinds of communities, whether it's TIFs, whether it's tax abatement, whether it's annexation, whether it's revenue from certain taxing streams, those are the tools we use on an every day basis to create quality of place. Leave those there. Don't take them away. Don't change them dramatically.”

Defending existing funding mechanisms for cities and towns is nothing new for IACT. Last session they led the charge opposing the proposed repeal of the business personal property tax (BPPT). The levy collects some \$1 billion per year statewide for local governments with many industrialized counties depending upon it heavily. Local officials pleaded with legislators that if the BPPT were to go, they must offer full revenue replacement. Instead, a compromise was reached in which counties in July will have the local option to waive the BPPT.

With Speaker Brian Bosma advocating for a pause on any major tax reforms, it appears there will be no major cuts in the offing. However, a commission was formed and sat this summer to consider additional BPPT reforms

and a proposed de minimis exemption for small businesses that will likely get serious consideration in 2015. Depending on the threshold, it raises only some \$15 million statewide.

“Hearing from outside, nonpartisan experts think that this is one area in which Indiana is not as competitive as we would like to be served was a bit of wake up call,” Senate Majority Floor Leader and Tax & Fiscal Policy Committee Chair Brandt Hershman told HPI. He also chaired the study committee. “I think in the last session there was a misplaced fear among many units of government and in candid conversations they were fearful what could come next, not the impact of what we were proposing,” he said. “I think there is a better understanding that this is not a precursor to a much broader move, at least in the short term.”

Many, however, would consider leaving the door open for counties to waive their BPPT could avalanche into cutthroat inter-county competition. Asked if he had heard of any counties seriously considering the local BPPT option, Hershman answered, “I have not. I think many of them were taking a wait-and-see attitude on what the commission was going to produce before they took any action. It may be more a timing issue more than anything.” HPI has asked IACT leadership and several important mayors the same question; they can name none, but they fear it only takes one to start a trend.

“I can see down the road some counties thinking lets try this [local BPPT elimination] and see what happens and that gets the ball rolling,” Duke Bennett told HPI in September. The Terre Haute mayor and 2015 IACT president-elect added, “I'm hoping nothing will happen.”

“It does pit counties against counties,” Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight told HPI. “But, we do compete with each other already, but we don't need more of that. We need more collaboration and cooperation and less divisiveness.”

“We really want to look at the bigger picture,” Bennett said on the topic, using his regional economy as an example. “There has been discussion about regional kinds of things and how that applies to Terre Haute and west central Indiana. We're trying to work with all the counties from a variety of perspectives and if we start competing with each other and try to draw business and industry from surrounding counties, it would have an effect on Vigo County.”

Bennett sat on the BPPT study commission with Hershman and thinks the piecemeal granting and withholding of various local option taxes makes for both poor and hypocritical policy. “What I'm looking for and the IACT is looking for is local control,” Bennett explained to HPI. “Let us put something on the ballot. They can put some restrictions in place, but give us some flexibility to fund local government.” IACT is already pushing the legislature to grant local government this autonomy this coming session. Already cash-strapped by property tax caps, they cite the imperative of experimenting with new

revenue streams.

As Maureen Hayden of CNHI reported in September, only 26 of Indiana's 658 cities, towns, and counties have been selectively granted the option by the legislature to adopt a food and beverage tax.

Why doesn't the legislature allow a local option food and beverage tax?

"I wish I knew why," Goodnight told HPI.

"What I hear back from legislators," Bennett said, "is that it will make it look like we're raising somebody's taxes, but not if we make it a referendum locally. To me, that removes them out of the equation. I would love to look at food and beverage tax, whether it's a piece of sales tax."

Rep. Price told the panel he thinks local governments should have control, within limits, over their food and beverage taxes. Along with his colleague Rep. Alan Morrison, he proposed legislation last session to grant the option to seven communities: Angola, Danville, Elkhart, Goshen, Greenwood, Rockville and Rushville. It failed because there remains strong opposition within both chambers.

Asked if it would be fair to grant cities and towns a local food and beverage tax option since they have recently been granted a BPPT local option, Hershman said, "No. There are a variety of reasons. One, the amount of money raised from a food and beverage tax would far outweigh the loss of revenue from a de minimis exemption. Second, I have sympathy to workers and commuters, particularly from rural communities, who would then face additional costs. They would be taxed for something they have no ability to influence the outcome; these are folks who would not be voting on it." The de minimis proposal aside, starting July 2015 counties will have the option to completely waive their full BPPT.

Hershman gave the example of a regional economy like Tippecanoe County. He said it draws commuting non-resident workers every day. If the county or city instituted a local option food and beverage tax, Hershman states, "They are subject to that tax but have no say."

HPI asked doesn't Tippecanoe County provide local services and infrastructure to those non-residents so that they have a job to commute to, Hershman replied, "I would have some level of disagreement with that."

On this very point the Indy Chamber is asking the legislature to grant communities a local income tax option to collect revenue from non-resident workers, a 'commuter tax.' Whereas Indianapolis and the doughnut counties' have been granted food and beverage taxes, other regional economic hubs have not, like Kokomo. Goodnight said his city and Howard County deal with is the dilemma of large numbers of commuters and workers using city services and roads but not contributing toward their upkeep.

Panelists generally agreed that a commuter tax would be politically impossible in the near term.

Considering their current tax collection tools, Goodnight and Greller said the most viable option open to cities and towns is to attract new people to live and pay taxes within their jurisdictions. "Our urban areas are the economic drivers," Goodnight told HPI. "Continuing to put the pinch on [the revenue of] cities and towns is not going to be good for the economy as a whole." He explained that suburban sprawl comes with unappreciated costs to regional economies and the entire state. He said the focus should be on "in-filling" existing urban areas.

The tension between the statehouse and local governments is partly political and some argue stems from the geographic makeup of legislators. "There is a disproportionate amount of rural representation compared to urban representation," Goodnight said. "They have taken urban areas, and Indianapolis is almost a perfect example, where they have almost pie-shaped it so that the districts



Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight (center) speaks as IACT's Matt Greller and Morgan County Councilman Jeff Quyle look on. (HPI Photo by Matthew Butler)

have taken parts of Indianapolis but they're overwhelmingly represented by the doughnut counties to dilute the urban representation. I think that's a big problem; it's not going to change until the next redistricting."

Without there being a strong urban or cities caucus within the legislature, many inner-city-specific problems have not gotten the attention local leaders think they deserve. "We don't have an urban policy in this state that promotes programs to fill some of the holes and redevelop our cities," Goodnight elaborated. "We've almost become a throwaway, disposable society when it comes to some of our inner cities. It would be nice if there were some state guidance and state programs that encouraged and helped do that. The only one I see in the foreseeable future that might help answer this what Eric Doden with IEDC. It gives me a little bit of optimism."

Goodnight is referring to the IEDC's Regional Cities Initiative HPI discussed in last week's edition. Taking a regional economic development approach, it hopes to use public and private monies to revitalize regional cities in order to attract talent and thus businesses. Gov. Mike Pence mentioned in the passing the Regional Cities Initia-

tive as one of his legislative priorities during an address that focused almost exclusively on education. Moreover, Steve Braun, who authored the bill creating the effort, has recently joined the Pence Administration to head workforce development.

"I've been told he is supportive," Goodnight told HPI. "How supportive, I don't know. There are a lot of details to be worked out but we're having the right discussion."

Urban leaders are hopeful a regional approach that includes their concerns will get traction at the statehouse. Sen. Hershman said he had not yet read the full Regional Cities Initiative report but was generally very supportive of the effort. "I will say the general concept of regionalizing economic development," Hershman told HPI, "trying to identify our strongest metropolitan areas and encourage broad collaboration, breaking down some of the

political barriers in terms of political subdivisions, and work in a unified way, is a fantastic idea. I think it is integral to our future economic development success."

Asked what will be needed in terms of state outlays to seed and match local efforts, Democratic Senate Leader Tim Lanane said, "It will be a commitment. It will not be minor change thrown at them to get the process going. We have so many cities, especially second-class cities, that the cores do need to be reinvigorated and it's going to take major investment to do that. They don't have the money; the locals are cut to the bone and they need help."

"Obviously we'll have to have a lot of discussions on what the model looks like, but I think the overarching theme is a very good one," Hershman added. ❖

A Region NFL team is a Harris fantasy

By RICH JAMES

MERRILLVILLE – I love Northwest Indiana. But I don't see it becoming home to a National Football League franchise anytime soon. Probably never.

So, I think this is one time I wouldn't be terribly hurt if the General Assembly told the area to get lost.



State Rep. Earl Harris, D-East Chicago, has directed the Legislative Services Agency to craft legislation to establish a Northwest Indiana NFL Commission that would be charged with bringing a professional football team from another part of the country to the region.

The idea is for the commission to hire an executive director to organize NWI counties, economic development organizations and business and political groups to lure a team to the region. Yeah, sure, Earl.

While it would be wonderful, it isn't going to happen. Well, maybe when pigs fly. Because there is no hope, why should the state waste the money?

Harris doesn't buy that kind of attitude. Instead, Harris sees the effort to bring pro football to the regions as something that would unify the many cities and towns that call NWI home.

This isn't the first time Northwest Indiana has had illusions of grandeur when it comes to pro football.

Twenty years ago, the area tried to lure the Chicago Bears to a brownfield site along Cline Avenue. The local thinking was that the Bears could be had because the city of Chicago wasn't keen on the idea of renovating Soldier Field or financing a new stadium somewhere in the city. So, the biggest industries in the region came together with the intent of luring the Bears to NWI.

It was quite a show.

Thousands of dollars were spent by the local industries to develop plans for what would be known as Planet Park. Besides a stadium for the Bears, it would have included upscale shops, other athletic facilities and housing.

The Bears/NWI love affair played out over several months. It was highly visible. Gary Neale, the leader of NIPSCO at the time, headed up the local effort. Neale and friends were seen at Bears' games as guests of Michael McCaskey. And the Bears played Northwest Indiana like a fiddle, leading the local leaders to believe there really was a chance the team would forsake Chicago for a new stadium in the shadows of Northwest Indiana steel mills.

And all during this courtship, the Bears quietly continued negotiations with Chicago officials for a new stadium, or at the least, the renovation of Soldier Field. Always hanging over those talks was the threat that the Bears might actually leave.

The biggest catch in the whole thing was that the Lake County Council wouldn't approve a county income tax to serve as the seed money for the Planet Park development. That essentially killed the project and the rest is history.

I admire Harris' desire to bring NWI together, but there are more practical ways to do it. ❖

Rich James has been writing about state and local government and politics for more than 30 years.

Torture? To defend a wife or a child?

By **CRAIG DUNN**

KOKOMO – If it would prevent a terrorist from killing your wife or children, would you be willing to torture someone to stop the threat? This is a very simple and straightforward question. There is no ambiguity here, just a simple question. I don't know about you, but I would. I would do anything in my power to protect my family. I think you would too!

Why then all of the sissy squeals and indignation about the CIA treatment of prisoners during our War on Terror? Is this just a classic case of, in the words of Colonel Nathan Jessup from the movie "A Few Good Men," that you can't handle the truth?



I don't want to be walking through Times Square or on the Mall in Washington, D. C., and have public displays of torture being conducted right in front of me. Heck, that's why in medieval times they put all of the torture gear down in the dungeon. Dungeons weren't man caves where the knights popped a brewsky and watched the Royal Games. They were

a place for some serious interrogation. That's how I want our torture to be conducted, out of sight and out of mind.

This may seem like a horrible practice to condone, the concept of torture is okay as long as I don't know about it. It's not an unusual practice. There's lots of things that happen in life that I really don't want to know the details. For example, do I want to see a cute little cow have a spike shot through its head and all the nasty parts ground up to make my tasty chili dog? Not me, just bring on the sauce!

Don't agree with me? Let's consult reporter Danny Pearl for his opinion on the matter. Wait, we can't speak with Danny Pearl. He was decapitated by terrorists. I'm just guessing that Danny Pearl and his family would tend to side with me on this matter. It just sounds so bad when you say it out loud.

When did we become so squeamish when it comes to violence, torture or mean and dirty tricks to protect and defend our country and its citizens? As a devout student of history, I can tell you that history is not pretty. Make no mistake about it though, history is written by the winners. I would far rather engage in public introspective self-flagellation from the victor's position on the subject of torture than I would be the enslaved foe who holds his head high because he was a good loser.

Great countries and great leaders will do whatever is necessary to defend their citizens. Franklin Roosevelt is

a classic example of this. In the early, dark days of World War II, just after Japan had attacked Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt decided that it would be in the best interests of the United States to round up people of Japanese ancestry, citizen or not, and relocate them to detention camps in the American West. He issued the executive order for the internment of the Japanese to prevent any would be spy or saboteur from doing harm to our military and civilian infrastructure on the West Coast.

Was Roosevelt's order fair? Nope. Was Roosevelt's order constitutional? Not as decided by the United States Supreme Court in *Korematsu v. United States* in 1944. The Supremes decided that the part of the executive order dealing with exclusion zones was unconstitutional. However, the nine men in the black robes dodged the issue of the constitutionality of internment. Of course, by 1944, the United States was well on the way to winning the War in the Pacific and the threats to the West Coast of America had virtually disappeared. Roosevelt did what was expedient in necessary at the time to defend his country. Apparently, Roosevelt took his oath of office seriously.

Fast forward to the President who was formerly known as the worst president in our history, Jimmy Carter. In 1980, busying himself with picking fly excrement out of pepper while our economy and military crumbled, Carter formed a commission to retroactively determine whether the creation of the Japanese internment camps had been justified. To no one's surprise, the determination was that the internment camps was unnecessary. In 1988, federal legislation apologized to those who had been interned and paid them each \$20,000 as reparations. This was a wonderful thing and made us all feel so much better about our humanity and good manners as a nation. Of course, the survival of our nation and the apology and reparations were all made possible by the incineration of hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians at Hiroshima and Nagasaki thereby ending the war with Japan. But, that is an angst of a different color!

My point in this little diversion down memory lane is that President Roosevelt, a peace-loving, liberal Democrat, made the decision that it was in the vital interest of our country to ignore our traditional spirit of fairness and constitutional observance and intern thousands of innocent American citizens for the duration of World War Two. He did what he had to do and allowed the historians to sit in judgment.

I read the news in the Chicago Tribune with much interest and parental concern that the City of Chicago had conducted tests to determine the natural flow and drift of radiation that would occur in the event that a dirty suitcase bomb was exploded near the Willis Tower or Chicago Board of Trade. Although it was a valuable piece of information, I found that as a father of two daughters working in Chicago as attorneys, I was far more concerned about their personal safety. In other words, don't tell mom and dad about where the radiation will go after the bomb explodes, just make sure it never happens. I don't need to

know the nasty details about how you foil a plot, just do it.

In reading my own column I am struck by how callous and totally devoid of decency that I appear to be. That being said, I willingly restate that I would do anything to stop the murder of my wife and children. Anything! Because I feel this way, I would extend the same courtesy to other parents and spouses to advocate for the survival of their families. Unfortunately, this may necessitate enhanced interrogation techniques that are best

kept in the closet. Like sex during the Victorian age, some things should not be discussed.

I ask one final question. On September 10, 2001, if you had it in your power to torture a terrorist into revealing the 9/11 plot, would you? ❖

Dunn is chairman of the Howard County Republicans.

Marcus reaches a personal milestone

By **MORTON MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS – Permit me a personal moment. A few days ago was the 24th anniversary of this weekly newspaper column. It began with prompting from my wife and a few Hoosier editors and publishers who believed regular reporting and commentary on the Indiana economy was needed.



At that time, Indiana's newspapers, radio and TV broadcasts carried little statewide business and economic news. Today, they carry less. Today, if it isn't local or national, it is likely ignored.

For more than 1,200 weeks, whether from Angola, Evansville or Hammond, out of state or out of the country, an Eye

has been kept on the Pie.

Why that title? The Pie is the economy of which we all want a bigger piece. The column keeps an Eye on how large that Pie is, how fast it grows, and how it is distributed. Also, we ask "Which economic developments are beneficial or too costly for our communities?"

The column appears only in local Indiana newspapers, although many topics have wider applicability. There is no blog, any radio or TV version because I'm a newspaper fan. No matter how devoid of meaningful news, I place a high value on local newspapers. They tell us much about ourselves and the environment in which we live and work.

Two examples: Last week, the Indianapolis Star wrote about a firm seeking a six-year property tax abatement worth over \$800,000. The company wants to build an office building near the Fashion Mall (86th and Keystone).

If you live in or travel to Indianapolis, you know this location. It's where shoppers from all over the Hoosier state go to see clothing and other items they cannot af-

ford. It is the top of the Indiana retail pyramid.

Does a developer need an incentive to build there? This is not a depressed area wanting investment. The developer will add to the office building a 300-space parking garage plus nearly 200 apartments. This is a good case for a congestion impact fee, not a tax break.

Issues similar to this arise in your community regularly. Are appropriate questions being asked?

Second, the same day, The Star ran an insert from USA Today with this interesting juxtaposition: November auto sales were the best since 2001 while the Business Roundtable reported "The economy ended the year essentially where it started – performing below its potential."

Which are you willing to take seriously: A statement of fact (the auto sales) or the opinions of top business CEOs? Do business leaders pay attention to facts? The economy at the beginning of 2014 was hit by major weather traumas. In contrast, the year is ending with considerable strength in most sectors.

And what do CEOs know of the economy's "potential?"

Enough. I thank you for reading this column as frequently as you do and for supporting your local newspaper. In addition, my thanks to the editors of the 25 newspapers that carry Eye on the Pie, whether or not they agree with my views. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an economist, writer, and speaker who may be reached at mortonjmarcus@yahoo.com.

John Krull, Statehouse File: The Tony Bennett redemption tour has hit a roadblock. The former Indiana superintendent of public instruction has traveled a hard road the past couple of years. Bennett, a Republican, lost his bid for re-election in 2012, even though he outspent his Democratic opponent, current Superintendent Glenda Ritz, by a small fortune. Then a series of revelations completed the work of tearing his already tattered reputation completely to shreds. Some fine reporting by the Associated Press's Tom LoBianco revealed, among other things, that Bennett had ordered a grade improved for a charter school founded by a prominent supporter — a consideration he was not willing to extend to other, traditional public schools. Additional reporting showed he and his staffers had used government resources for political purposes. Those revelations prompted several things. Bennett had to resign from his position as Florida's education chief — the job to which he moved when he lost in the Hoosier state. Legislative leaders called for a review of his tenure as state superintendent and the state launched an ethics investigation of him and his office. Those investigations concluded Bennett and his crew had rushed their "accountability" reforms in such a hurried and haphazard fashion that they'd made real accountability almost impossible. What's more, the state's inspector general arrived at a settlement that cited minor violations and required Bennett to pay a \$5,000 fine. Bizarrely, Bennett and his partisans declared the report about his mishandling of the school grades and the settlement on ethics charges a "vindication."

After a few months had passed, Bennett began moving toward a kind of resurrection of political fortunes. He took a private meeting with Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, also a Republican. He began speaking at conservative education conferences. And, after avoiding reporters for months, he sat down for sympathetic interviews. Then along came another strong bit of reporting by the AP's LoBianco, who by now has been removed permanently from Bennett's holiday card list. LoBianco obtained the internal report prepared by the state inspector general's investigator, a 95-page detailing of likely violations of election law and other transgressions. The report called for Bennett to be prosecuted. The state's inspector general, David Thomas, apparently declined to do so and chose instead to accept the settlement that called for the \$5,000 fine and the slap on the wrist. It turns out that, if the inspector general's investigators are to be believed, there was a great deal of evidence that Bennett and his team used state time, state employees, state equipment and state money to help him run his doomed re-election campaign. Among the highlights, it appears Bennett routinely used state computers to store his campaign databases, traveled to campaign and political events using state vehicles and state drivers and made campaign fundraising phone calls on state time. Strangely, Bennett and his partisans actually seem to believe what they're saying. And the fact that



they can't see just how wrong they were may explain how they made such a mess of the state's education system and got themselves into so much trouble. ❖

Dave Bangert, Lafayette Journal & Courier:

Trailing in the wake of Monday's #PurdueCan'tBreathe march across campus — close enough to hear the chants of "Hands Up/Don't Shoot," but far enough to be out of earshot of demonstrators — the comments that accompanied the stares were revealing. There's a certain brand of honesty from those who feel they're as a safe distance that doesn't surface face-to-face with roughly 180 people demanding the end of racial injustice and what they see as biased and deadly police work across the country. "Don't they have better things to do?" "I'd take that more seriously if I knew everyone of them had voted." "Who do they think's going to listen?" By the end of the cross-campus rally that included blocking two busy West Lafayette streets during a soggy lunch hour, some demonstrators who squeezed into the lobby of Purdue University President Mitch Daniels' second-floor office wanted to know the same thing. Was Purdue listening? Monday's rally was as much about Purdue University and, by extension, Greater Lafayette as it was about national outrage. The question: Had much really changed since April 2013, when 250 students and faculty marched to Hovde Hall to call out the administration about a number of racially motivated incidents on campus? Students delivered a seven-point list of demands that day, ranging from doubling the number of minority faculty and students in the next 10 years to laying out a zero-tolerance message on racist acts on campus. Daniels and then-Provost Tim Sands said changes were in the works, but they agreed that things were creeping along too slowly for the university's good. ❖

Thomas Friedman, New York Times:

Why do people line up to come to this country? Why do they build boats from milk cartons to sail here? Why do they trust our diplomats and soldiers in ways true of no other country? It's because we are a beacon of opportunity and freedom, and also because these foreigners know in their bones that we do things differently from other big powers in history. One of the things we did was elect a black man whose grandfather was a Muslim as our president — after being hit on Sept. 11, 2001, by Muslim extremists. And one of the things we do we did on Tuesday: We published what appears to be an unblinking examination and exposition of how we tortured prisoners and suspected terrorists after 9/11. I'm glad we published it. It may endanger captured Americans in the future. That is not to be taken lightly. But this act of self-examination is not only what keeps our society as a whole healthy, it's what keeps us a model that others want to emulate, partner with and immigrate to — which is a different, but vital, source of our security as well. ❖

Donnelly suicide bill poised

WASHINGTON — Military groups and mental health advocates praised Wednesday the expected passage of legislation to require annual mental health screenings for service members (Groppe, Gannett News Service). Congress is expected to send to the president this week a defense policy bill that includes language authored by Indiana Sen.

Joe Donnelly in hopes of reducing the number of suicides by members of the military. "This is a terrific step forward," said Pete Duffy, director of legislation for the National Guard Association. The bill would require annual mental health assessments for all service members, including members of the National Guard and Reserve. The assessments are subject to privacy rules to prevent service members from worrying that the assessment could reflect badly on them. The Pentagon also has to evaluate its mental health practices and provide lawmakers with any recommendations for improvement. "We're losing hundreds of young men and women each year in the military to suicide," Donnelly said. Donnelly said 132 soldiers died in combat last year, compared to 475 who died by suicide.

Liberals rebel on spending bill

WASHINGTON — Congressional liberals rebelled Wednesday against a must-pass spending bill that would keep the government open past midnight Thursday, complaining that it would roll back critical limits on Wall Street and sharply increase the influence of wealthy campaign donors (Washington Post). Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), a popular figure on the left, led the insurrection with a speech on the Senate floor, call-

ing the \$1.01 trillion spending bill "the worst of government for the rich and powerful." Warren urged House Democrats to withhold their support from the measure in a vote scheduled for Thursday. But the fear of shutting down federal agencies for the second time in just over a year appeared to weigh more heavily on Democratic leaders than liberal outrage.



State, IBM turn to mediation

INDIANAPOLIS — IBM Corp. and the state of Indiana are turning to mediation in hopes of settling their dispute over IBM's failed attempt to privatize Indiana's welfare services (Associated Press). A Monday court filing with the Indiana Supreme Court says the two parties have agreed to mediation and have chosen a mediator who's now set to hear their differences Feb. 25. The state Supreme Court suggested that the parties consider mediation last month, days after hearing oral arguments in the welfare-privatization case. In 2009, then-Gov. Mitch Daniels canceled IBM's \$1.3 billion state contract to automate much of Indiana's welfare system amid complaints from welfare clients about long wait times, lost documents and improper rejections.

St. Joe abortion ordinance targeted

SOUTH BEND -- Local doctors and other residents have entered the debate on whether or not St. Joseph County government should institute a requirement for abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a local hospital (South Bend Tribune). The proposed ordinance would require doctors who provide abortions to get admitting privileges with a local hospital. They would also have to keep a copy of those privileges on file with the St. Joseph County Health Department, whose staff would be responsible for maintaining these records

and fielding complaints. At Tuesday's St. Joseph County Council meeting, those who oppose requiring doctors who provide abortions to have admitting privileges spoke during the public comment period. Two weeks ago, when the proposal was first presented to the St. Joseph County Council, supporters for the ordinance were allowed to speak at the invitation of the measure's sponsors, Mike Hamann and Dan Herbster, both council members. While those who opposed the proposal attended the meeting, there was no public comment period during which they could speak. The ordinance did not leave committee, which would be required for a vote of the full council. Dr. Elyn Stecker, a semi-retired local family physician, said, "This places an unnecessary burden on women in our community," she said.

Senate honors

Kassig

WASHINGTON — On Wednesday the Senate honored Hoosier native Abdul-Rahman Kassig by passing a resolution to extend condolences to Kassig's family and to condemn ISIS or ISIL (WISH-TV). The measure was unanimously passed. US Senators Joe Donnelly and Dan Coats introduced the measure. The resolution not only pays tribute to Kassig's work as a humanitarian, but also condemns the acts of ISIS and hopes the US and international community can come together to talk about the threat from ISIS.

Obama to boost manufacturing

WASHINGTON - President Obama on Thursday will announce some \$390 million in new public and private spending designed to boost manufacturing and apprenticeship programs during a meeting with his export council. The president will announce \$290 million in the opening competition for two new "manufacturing innovation hubs."