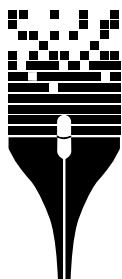


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I’d like to know if there was a quid pro quo. Maybe there wasn’t. I’d like to find out...”

- U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, to CNN on Wednesday on his coming investigation of President Clinton’s pardon of Marc Rich

Leadership crucible has lingering doubts

‘Doing nothing may be safest path...’

“Doing nothing may be the safest path; it certainly is the easiest path. Doing nothing will cost us nothing monetarily speaking, but for our community, doing nothing is a path that will lead us to nowhere.”

- Columbus Mayor Fred Armstrong

“All the mayors are wimps. I guess I wonder why you run for an office if you’re scared to do what needs to be done when you get there.”

- Indianapolis Councilor Beulah Coughenour

* * *

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

This state, at a variety of levels, is bearing witness to what could be called the “Leadership Crucible,” or the lack thereof.

The playing fields of leadership are established at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, where Hoosiers are watching U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh stake out a course that could make him conciliator on President Bush’s ambitious tax cut proposal, or a candidate for the White House himself.

There’s the Statehouse, where there seems to be an almost complete leadership void, with the slippery football of revenue and tax structure akin to a punt landing among three cautious players - Gov. Frank O’Bannon, Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer, and Senate Finance Chair Larry Borst - none of them wanting to get their uniforms soiled.

And it’s playing out in a variety of city halls, where the mayoral class of ‘99 is now confronted with an array of tough decisions once fought out in Washington now set

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SEN. RICHARD LUGAR'S STATEMENT ON ASHCROFT: "John Ashcroft has the experience and qualifications to serve as attorney general. His career has included being Missouri attorney general, governor and U.S. senator. Democrats and Republicans have emphasized that they believe Sen. Ashcroft is honest, capable and a dedicated public official. He has stated unequivocally that as attorney general he would enforce the law of the land. I am confident that he understands the centrality of the rule of law and the importance of his conduct as attorney general to all Americans."

SEN. EVAN BAYH'S STATEMENT ON ASHCROFT: "I rise as someone who deplores the gridlock of recent years and the politics of personal destruction, and yearns for a return to bipartisanship and principled compromise for the sake of the United States of America. Because of all of these things and all we can accomplish together, I also rise to express my opposition to the President's nomination of John Ashcroft to be the next Attorney General. He will bring some of his more strident views to bear in that office in ways that will cause great confrontation and controversy for this President and the

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Leadership, from page 1

ting down on Main Street. Mayor Armstrong of Columbus, speaking in his annual state of the city address, was in the opening stages of coaxing his city council into improving the city's senior center.

Councilor Coughenour's quote at the top of this story was her reaction in the *Indianapolis Star* to Mayor Bart Peterson refusing to endorse an annual \$35 user fee to pay for storm sewer updates.

State of Denial

Nowhere is the lack of leadership, not too long ago a distant echo from the David McIntosh for governor campaign, more vividly revealing than at the Statehouse.

It was ignited by Pat Kiely, the former Ways and Means Chairman who is now president of the Indiana Manufacturers Association. Saying that "Indiana looks more like a dot.com than a government," Kiely warned that the state could be facing a major financial crisis. "I was amazed at the last forecast when there was no surplus statement. That was unusual. Then during the governor's State of the

State, he said, 'We have managed the state's finances well.' After our analysis, we've decided the state is broke."

Meeting with a dozen reporters on Jan. 26, Kiely said that the state can expect \$9.447 billion in revenues with a 2000-01 budget of \$10.143 billion, creating a \$696 million shortfall. "We are no longer a state of progress, we are a state of denial," Kiely said. "This is not for a lack of understanding, we're just not getting the full picture."

Kiely said that Medicaid is "eating up half the growth and that's in a low unemployment environment." He said that caseworkers "don't have a chance, they're just shuffling paperwork and nobody's watching. The feds are going to have to come in and whack it." Kiely added, "The reality is the economy is not going to take care of our policy problems," suggesting that the only way out of the mess will be a tax increase.

Kiely said that options include the "gum and bandaids" approach of patching things up, or forging ahead with a major restructuring of the state's tax code. "The governor gets one shot in eight years," Kiely said. "This is it. It will require more fortitude than analysis."

A week later, the Indianapolis Star reported that an "unlikely coalition of business and labor leaders" was talking with the O'Bannon administration about tax restructuring.

But between Kiely's pronouncement last Friday that the "governor gets one shot" and any plan would have to "come from his lips," the Democrats were hardly stepping up to the plate. The Star reported O'Bannon as saying, "I think I've got to see that the legislature will really come up with a plan that's bipartisan. There's always that chance."

Bauer told The Star, "Neither party has the will do do it." The Associated Press reported Bauer as saying, "I think they have come to the table too late with any proposal that increases any taxes."

Borst told the Associated Press that it was "too early to hit the panic button" and added, "The problem around here is eventually we get to the point where we equate good education with the amount of money we spend."

Governor's will

In the past, any restructuring or revenue increases always came from the governor. Doc Bowen campaigned on his tax plan throughout 1972 and used his victory to push the plan through the following year. Gov. Robert Orr shielded the state's dire fiscal straits until after the 1982 election, then called a special session to enact the largest tax increase in state history that December.

During the 1996 campaign, both O'Bannon and vanquished Republican Stephen Goldsmith talked about restructuring the tax code. Goldsmith had legions of lawyers with brief cases packed with reforms ready to pounce on the Statehouse, but was upset by O'Bannon. During the governor's first term, there were more than a billion in peripheral tax cuts, including the unintended and disastrous personal property tax exemption, but nothing approaching the kind of restruc-

ture that Michigan Gov. John Engler did a half decade ago.

Kiely makes a compelling case that since Michigan restructured, it now maintains a competitive advantage over Indiana. The IMA noted 140,000 Indiana employers contributed \$1.4 billion in personal property taxes (1998 payable in 1999), compared to 250,000 Michigan employers paying \$1.1 billion. Personal property tax dependence in Michigan accounts for 12.7 percent of all property taxes, compared to 30.79 percent in Indiana.

Meanwhile, there are fears that Indiana-based companies such as American Trans Air are looking at pulling out, with ATA reportedly looking at moving its headquarters to Chicago.

Playing the end-game

Kiely says the talks between the unholy business/labor alliance "are ongoing. People are still trying to sort out the base issues."

Meanwhile, the most compelling parlor game in Indiana is whether O'Bannon will use his mandate. O'Bannon has a propensity for playing the end-game in any given legislative session. That worked when he tied Colt and Pacer stadium plans to workers compensation increases in 1997.

It could be a different ballgame when it comes to the complexity of restructuring the state's entire tax code. Governors in the past laid out the issues, lined up the constituencies, talked about the issues, got public input, and then rammed their plans through.

Kiely said that with a part-time legislature operating in an environment of a complex global economy, the end-game is "doable," but that the governor is still the linchpin because "he's the guy with the knowledge. The governor is key to everything. It's an interesting way to govern," Kiely observed. ❖

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people of this country. As attorney general he will have to enforce the law. But what does he consider the law to be? Law is not carved in stone or immune to dispute. In the Justice Department, hundreds of decisions will be made every day, about which there are varying interpretations of the law. It will be Mr. Ashcroft's law that will be put into effect for the American people."

GILROY SEEKS D.C. FUNDING FOR ELECTION REFORM: Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy was in Washington this week exploring federal support for election reform in Indiana. Gilroy wants Washington to help pay part of the estimated \$30 million it will take to upgrade punch card and lever voting machines through which about 61 percent of Hoosiers cast their ballots. Gilroy attended a meeting of the National Association of Secretaries of State, whose agenda is dominated by election reform in the aftermath of the Florida recount. The group is putting together a set of principles to guide the reform process in each state. "We all agree that we want fair and open elections," said Gilroy. "What I want to avoid is a disorderly discussion." The secretaries of state organization recommendations

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will "provide a structure from which we can work to bring election reform to Indiana."

PENCE BECOMES 'YOUNG TURK' ON TAX CUTS: Fox News' Bill Kristol described U.S. Rep. Mike Pence as one of the "young turks" pushing the Bush tax cuts in the House GOP freshman class. Pence described for HPR a weekend Republican retreat meeting he had with President Bush. "When President Bush arrived Friday at noon, I had the opportunity for a brief but direct conversation with him on the subject of tax relief. I told the President that I was joining with other freshmen members of Congress who believed that an across-the-board tax cut must be our first bill and our top priority for economic growth. The President was enthusiastic about my comments and pledged to take on marginal cuts first and 'get it out of the way' before anything else. President Bush is a very warm and approachable person. After I spoke with him, I was struck by how common he seemed. I suspect few of his predecessors possessed this characteristic."

DANIELS SAYS BUSH AIMS TO SIGNIFICANTLY SLOW GROWTH: New OMB Director Mitch Daniels said that the Bush administration will significantly slow the rate of government growth.

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Bayh claims centrist mantle at DLC

By **MARK SCHOEFF Jr.**

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Politics, like nature, abhors a vacuum. After losing the presidency, Democrats may turn to several different people for leadership. One of them will be Sen. Evan Bayh, who has assumed a prominent national role in shaping his party's agenda.

On Wednesday, Bayh gave his inaugural speech as chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council (DLC). The organization, formed in 1985, has worked to move the Democratic Party to the middle of the political spectrum by generating centrist themes and policies. Former president Bill Clinton once served as DLC chair. Sen. Joseph Lieberman guided the group for six years before Bayh.

Since Clinton has been replaced in the White House by Republican President George W. Bush, the Democrats lack a universally acknowledged party leader. That situation increases the cachet of the DLC. "The role of the DLC chair becomes more important than it ever has before," said Joe Andrew, former Democratic National Committee and Indiana party chairman. "Each one of these groups inside the party is more high profile. It's very clear that (Bayh) is the centrist. It gives him a real ideological platform."

But the Democratic stage is crowded with politicians who want to sing arias. Clinton is not going quietly into retirement. He handpicked the new DNC chairman and will remain a force in the party. Former vice president Al Gore, who received more popular votes than Bush in the 2000 election, could run again in 2004. And former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is a freshman senator from New York, may have national ambitions.

Bayh, who refuses to engage in "finger pointing" over why Gore lost, said that it is natural for a party out of presi-

dential power to have a big roster of players. "We have no focal point, no unified voice. We are a cacophony of voices," he told reporters after his speech. The DLC's mandate is to ensure that Democrats sing from the "fiscal responsibility" and "pro growth" song sheet. "The DLC is very much the reform wing of the Democratic Party of my own generation."

Campaign Ambiance

Although Bayh will not say whether he plans to run for president in 2004, his Wednesday speech at the National Press Club had the ambiance of a campaign event. More than 150 people, including his wife, father, and many cur-

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rent and former aides packed the club ballroom.

Dozens of reporters, including national political columnists David Broder and Ron Brownstein, as well as six television cameras were present.

In his speech, Bayh reviewed his record as a two-term Indiana governor. He choked up while recalling an immigration ceremony he observed while serving as a law clerk to Southern District Court Judge Jim Nolan. "They'd be clutching a little flag the court had given. And the look of pride upon their faces, at the prospect of joining us in this country, is something that's very hard to describe."

Policy Priorities

In between, Bayh outlined his policy priorities. The litany includes education reform, retraining workers who lose their jobs in the changing economy, and welfare reform that focuses on the role of fathers.

"We must have a radical rethink on how we educate our children," Bayh said

in his speech. "And realize that we can no longer define success by what we spend, but instead on how much our children learn." Bayh has introduced an education bill, with Lieberman, that would streamline federal education programs, increase federal education spending by \$35 billion over five years, and hold states and local school districts accountable for results. Bayh opposes the use of vouchers.

For workers left behind by the high-tech and increasing global economy, Bayh advocates making permanent a tax deduction for training and retraining, creating a voucher system for worker training, targeting failing industries for productivity improvements, and restructuring unemployment insurance to prevent workers from losing their jobs in the first place. "I feel a real empathy for people who feel threatened by changes in the economy," Bayh said. "We have an obligation in our country to reach out to those people."

For his third priority, Bayh wants to move to a "second stage of welfare reform." The first focused on custodial parents, about 95 percent of whom are women. "But now the time has come to ask men to do their part. We have had an epidemic of fatherlessness in this country that has challenged women and children as never before."

Mixed Reviews

Although the thrust of his speech was on formulating a Democratic agenda, the buzz of presidential politics follows wherever Bayh goes. "It sounded like a presidential speech to me," said Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the *Rothenberg Political Report*, who attended the press club event. "The tenor and tone of it was Evan Bayh on a national stage."

But Rothenberg said Bayh needs to improve his delivery. "He still has a ways to go to become a truly effective communicator. He does a good job of saying the words, but I think he needs to show he really feels it."

The reviews from Bayh's Democratic Hoosier friends in the audi-

ence were, of course, boffo. "It's his first speech in a national forum," said Ann DeLaney, former Indiana Democratic Party chairman. "It was a powerful presentation of what the DLC can provide for our country."

Bayh made a point, both in his speech and in talking to reporters afterward, to emphasize his Midwestern roots. Perhaps it was in part an effort to distinguish himself from the New York and Los Angeles aura that surrounds the Clintons. "We don't want to become a party of bicoastal elites," he said. "There's a lot of common sense in Indiana. We need to speak for all Americans."

But Bayh's immediate task is to help distinguish the Democrats from the Republicans. He says he will lead the loyal opposition in a civilized debate. He cited his and 41 other Senate Democrats' opposition to the nomination of John Ashcroft for attorney general as an example. "When the president goes outside of the mainstream, we will respectfully disagree. We had a strong difference of opinion on (Ashcroft), but that's not going to prevent us from working together on other issues. Changing the tone in Washington is a necessary prerequisite, but changing the substance is what we need to accomplish."

Benefits Accrue to Indiana

Bayh's opposition to Ashcroft was seen by some as a way to curry favor with the liberal wing of the party. His DLC position moves him to the middle. "If you're going to run for president as a Democrat, you have to run from the center," said Larry Sabato, a University of Virginia political science professor. "He needs (the DLC chairmanship) after having voted against Ashcroft."

Ultimately, the benefits of Bayh's DLC leadership may accrue to his home state. "This does more for Indiana than for Evan Bayh," said Andrew. "It puts him in a position to have a broader range of influence with his colleagues and international leaders." ❖

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In his first major interview since taking over OMB, Daniels told Glenn Kessler of the *Washington Post* that every Cabinet agency experienced growth of between 1.5 and 5 times the rate of inflation over the past three years. Overall, the budget has grown by 6 percent a year in that period, which he said would add \$1.4 trillion to the budget above inflation if sustained and eat up a substantial chunk of the projected budget surplus. "The good news is that the nation's fiscal future looks strong enough to provide growth at a more moderate rate and meet major long-term goals" such as debt reduction and tax relief, Daniels said, adding that "in a \$1.867 trillion budget, an astonishing thing would be that everything stayed the same size."

.08 BAC SAILS THROUGH HOUSE: After a decade of failure, the Indiana House on Monday voted 89-6 to pass legislation that would lower the state's legal blood-alcohol level to 0.08 percent. The bill now goes to the Senate, where similar legislation is awaiting a second hearing. Rep. Peggy Welch, D-Bloomington, reminded her colleagues that the state would lose between \$9.5 million and \$14 million in 2004 if they don't pass a 0.08 percent law, and up to \$56 million in 2007. She also noted that

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while the money should be part of everyone's consideration, it is not the reason she authored the bill. "We need to pass this bill because it's good public policy and good for public health," she said (Nikki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette).

LAKE COUNTY MAY CUT 200 JOBS: At a breakfast meeting with legislative leaders Saturday, all but two Lake County Council members, who weren't in attendance, showed their support for a plan to cut 200 jobs -- or more than 10 percent of the county's workforce -- through attrition, starting May 1 (Times of Northwest Indiana).

NEW PRISON FUNDS UNLIKELY: State corrections officials have been told by key legislators that they are unlikely to open two new prisons on schedule later this year and next (Martin DeAgostino, South Bend Tribune). The corrections officials have been told to find alternative programs to new prisons. "You want us to build new prisons and we don't want to," said Rep. Jeffrey Espich, R-Uniondale, ranking minority member of the Ways and Means Committee. The DOC plans to open a new 1,600-bed Miami II Correctional Facility at Bunker Hill later this year, but so far the budget proposed by Rep. B.

How Goldsmith botched a top notch

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

So, what really did happen to Stephen Goldsmith on the way to the Bush cabinet, or at least the West Wing?

HPR deduced that the former Indianapolis mayor's legendary interpersonal skills did him in, thanks to comments made to us from influential people in the Bush campaign, the Republican National Committee and Members of Congress. When interviewed by the *Indianapolis Star* and told of HPR's reporting last week, Goldsmith deadpanned, "That surely means it's true."

Then came this week's edition of the *Weekly Standard*, where Fred Barnes reported an intriguing source for the Goldsmith demise: Vice President Cheney.

Barnes offered up this exchange as the reason: "Shortly after the inauguration, Vice President Dick Cheney explained to Stephen Goldsmith, the former mayor of Indianapolis, how the new White House office of faith-based initiatives would be set up. But Goldsmith, Bush's first choice to head the office, had his own ideas, a counterproposal that included bestowing cabinet status on the head of it. Cheney was surprised. 'You don't make a counterproposal to the president,' he said.

So John DiIulio, a Democrat, Catholic, scholar, and one-time adviser to Al Gore, became the assistant to the president in charge of faith-based initiatives. "This is a signature project of the Bush presidency, touted early and often by Bush during the campaign," Barnes reported. "And DiIulio seems perfectly suited to run it: He knows more about grass-roots programs run by churches than anyone and believes fervently in them. Goldsmith, the odd man out, will be an unpaid adviser and chairman of the Corporation for National Service, which runs Americorps and other volunteer programs."

The Barnes claim that Goldsmith was seeking cabinet level status echoed

what CNN reported during December and January after Goldsmith was bypassed for the HUD job.

The Goldsmith-DiIulio tandem was interesting in another way. Leading up to his 1996 run for governor, Mayor Goldsmith warned Hoosiers of a coming wave of "super predator" juvenile criminals that would stalk American cities. With DiIulio gaining national prominence, he also took some flak for using similar language while predicting an uptick in marauding crime in urban areas. Obviously, he and Goldsmith were speaking off the same page, even as violent crime began falling in big cities across America, including Indianapolis by 2000.

Barnes reported that Bush and DiIulio almost didn't meet and that it was Goldsmith who connected the two. "When an aide to then governor Bush tried to invite DiIulio to a meeting in Austin in early 1999, he didn't respond. A half-dozen calls went unanswered. Finally, Goldsmith called, and he agreed to come. Normally, DiIulio says, 'I don't hang with Republicans.' And his experience with politicians was unsatisfactory. "They invite you in, do 20 minutes, and hand you off." But, from their first meeting, he found Bush to be different. "He was engaged for the full two hours," DiIulio says."

Barnes reported, "Later, in July 1999, Bush delivered a speech on compassionate conservatism in Indianapolis. That morning, he called DiIulio, who was vacationing at the Jersey shore, to thank him for his advice on the speech."

All this doesn't leave Goldsmith empty handed. This past week he became the Bush point man on the faith-based program on CBS's *Face the Nation* and on CNN's *Crossfire*. The *Weekly Standard* article served to show what could have been.

Surely, it must be true. ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Unholy alliances and property taxes

(Publisher's Note: *There's only one person I'd let wander for me and it's Curt Kovener, publisher of the Crothersville Times, who penned this piece).*

I attended a state newspaper conference Thursday and Friday in Indianapolis. I got to see a bunch of old friends I only get to see once or twice a year, but that wasn't the main reason for the gathering. It was to learn about what legislation is pending that will prevent you from learning about what governmental leaders apparently don't want you to know about until it is too late.

One of the bills to be considered will be to do away with publishing in local newspapers the annual school performance report-that is the school's report card to the taxpayers. Some large lobbying groups - usually at opposite ends of some issues - are joining together to tell you that the public's business is none of your business.

The Indiana State Teachers Association (of which our local teachers are a part), the **Indiana School Board Association** (of which our local school board is a member) and the **Indiana Association of School Superintendents** (of which our school superintendent is a member) are in favor of doing away with the law which says schools must publish the results of how they are faring.

It is too early to tell but with that trio trumping the merits that schools should be left alone to educate as they see fit without you knowing anything about the results, well, unless you tell your state legislator what you are thinking, you may be left in the dark on how schools are measuring up.

Another topic on everyone's lips that included our Thursday luncheon

speaker Morton Marcus, an economist with Indiana University (and a Crothersville Times columnist) as well as House Speaker John Gregg and Senate Pro Tem Robert Garton - was the looming revamping of Indiana assessment laws.

The part of our tax system which gets people's panties in a wad is 'guvment' telling us what our property is worth. Right away we are at odds.

There's an old comic which shows Joe Taxpayer getting his assessment and fuming, "My property isn't worth that much!" A friend looking over his shoulder at his assessment offers, "Hey, I'll pay you that amount." Only to have Joe reply, "Oh, no. It's worth more than that." Currently, someone's property may be worth \$100,000 but wouldn't sell for any less than \$150,000 and for tax purposes they think it is only worth \$50,000. So, who else knows better the value of our property but us. Let Indiana engage in self-assessment. We tell 'guvment' what our property is worth.

However, there is one large difference in this proposed self-assessment plan. We set our own property worth for tax purposes, but - and this is the BIG BUT - by telling 'guvment' what our property is worth we then would be obliged to sell our property for that amount to anyone who made an offer for that amount.

How more fair can you get?

This would prompt an annual re-assessment by property owners themselves. We couldn't argue with our assessment since we set it ourselves. And it would cause each of us to self-determine what that thin line between worth and selling price really is.

This too simple plan would never work, of course. It would remove our God given right to complain about our tax assessment. ❖

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Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, contains no money for the opening. The 1,800-bed New Castle Correctional Facility is scheduled to open in 2002. There's no money in the budget for it, either.

BUDGET WORRIES IPFW: Gov. Frank O'Bannon's initial budget request has no increase in funds for higher education, and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne officials are concerned (Tracy Turner, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). Chancellor Michael A. Wartell said the budget could result in loss of faculty because of low salaries, little new full-time faculty hiring, negligible pay increases and increased tuition.

STATUS QUO FOR ST. JOE DEMOS: Owen D. "Butch" Morgan is expected to be re-elected St. Joseph County chairman March 3, along with all of the other officers of the Democratic organization.

MAYOR RICHARD BATTLES FLU, DELIVERS STATE OF CITY: Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard fought off the flu and a 102-degree temperature and delivered his second State of the City address, saying the local economy is softening while laying out plans to get and retain high-quality jobs last Thursday during his State of the City address (Carey

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Checca, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Richard stressed job training for residents and nearly 800 inmates who will be released from prisons and will re-enter the community during the next two years. He reiterated the theme of cooperation between city and Allen County officials from his 2000 address and asked businesses to help improve the city.

LAKE COUNTY GETS POOR AUDIT: The Indiana State Board of Accounts recently released the findings of its audit of Lake County government finances for 1999, documenting a litany of deficiencies in the auditor's office (Rich Bird, Times of Northwest Indiana). Auditor Peter Benjamin and other county financial advisers contend the results that were released last week are old news, and all the deficiencies have been addressed. Although the board compiled more than 150 pages documenting the deficiencies, it issued no opinion on the report. Because the county "does not have an accurate or complete accounting of financial activities and balances being reported, we were not able to apply auditing procedures to satisfy ourselves as to the validity of the balances and activity being reported," the state agency noted. ❖

COLUMNISTS

O N I N D I A N A

Max Jones, Terre Haute Tribune-Star

- Last week, I wrote about a proposed state law to allow surveillance cameras at traffic lights in order to catch motorists who run red lights. The column brought a response from Eric Brown, who wrote: "Once again we enter a stage where our police forces and our government feel it is necessary to authorize cameras recording public places. This is a complete violation of the right to privacy. Perhaps it has never occurred to our trusted leaders that perhaps we, their constituents, don't want them to know where we are at all times. However, in their quest for more money from petty violations of petty laws, they feel they can justify their actions. I do have a pressing question to our representatives: How on earth will you be able to determine that the person who owns the car is actually the person driving? Perhaps it is a family member or friend. Should I be punished because someone else broke the law? But, the biggest question of all is when will the all-knowing, all-seeing eyes, stop prying into our lives?" Well said, Mr. Brown. ❖

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - It will have to become much larger because it hasn't grown as much in population as some other districts and because there now will be only nine districts. Since it can't move north into Michigan, it must take in areas to the east, west or south. Most of those areas tend to be Republican. But there are ways of drawing a new district that would still leave it competitive. For example, eliminating the overwhelmingly Republican part of Kosciusko County in the expansion elsewhere could be a big help for a Democrat. Putting the eastern portion of Elkhart County in the 4th District also would be a plus for Democratic prospects, with the biggest plus being that it would also move Chocola, who lives in Bristol, out of the

3rd. Chocola still could run in the 3rd. There is no residency requirement for Congress. But realistically, after he made such a big deal of Roemer's family home not being in the district, that would be a tough sell. He could of course buy a home in the 3rd if his present home is moved into the 4th. Owen D. "Butch" Morgan, the St. Joseph County and 3rd District Democratic chairman, says he will urge the map makers representing his party to draw a 3rd District that will give a Democrat a chance to win, a darn good chance. Some Democrats worry, however, that the 3rd won't get as much attention now that there is no longer an incumbent congressman who could battle to keep his district competitive for re-election. State Democratic Chairman Robin Winston says that won't matter. The state chairman promises to "make it a priority." ❖

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - Rep. Mark Souder was one of the two House members asked to join Bush on the field trip - and he was thrilled by spending 25 minutes in a three-way conversation with Bush. Amid chat about fighting drugs, using religious groups to solve social problems and baseball - among Souder's favorite topics - Souder said he told Bush that the new president reminds him of former Presidents Clinton and Reagan. Although Souder never spent time alone with Reagan, he did have contact with Clinton in small groups. The similarity between Bush and Clinton, he said, is "that relaxed but passionate tone - everyone who came in contact with Clinton saw it." Souder said he told Bush that the difference between him and Clinton, however, is "you have character." Souder's point is a good one. Only the most rabid Clinton-haters refuse to acknowledge that the former president was brilliant in many areas of his presidential career. ❖