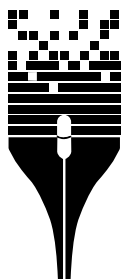


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Let’s face it. The American Dream is not always available to a lot of people, even when they do everything they’re supposed to do.”

- Jeff Vincent, director of IU’s Institute for the Study of Labor in Society

Statehouse smudge pots belching away

Leadership missing as challenges arise

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**, in Indianapolis

At a time when the good citizens of Indiana begin looking for the enlightened torch of leadership in an era of swirling uncertainty, what they are finding is nothing more than a collection of croaking Statehouse smudge pots, belching out acrid rhetoric and hypocrisy.

This past week brought the collective Hoosier political establishment to a virtual all-time low just as the state is faced with a bleeding economy, the loss of 30,000 manufacturing jobs with more layoffs looming, and a property tax reassessment that could sucker punch home owners.

It all began two weeks when Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, R-Indianapolis, and Gov. Frank O’Bannon had this exchange, reported by Kevin Corcoran of the *Indianapolis Star*: “The guy ran for governor. He’s gonna have to figure it out. He can’t sit back like he has the last five years,” Borst said. O’Bannon responded, “I don’t know how to get the message across.”

Last week, Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan appeared in Bloomington and likened the reassessment to a “speeding train” out of control. When *Bloomington Herald-Times* reporter Steve Hinnefeld got Senate President Pro Tempore Bob Garton for a comment, Garton rebuked O’Bannon saying the budget crisis and tax restructuring could not be considered separately. Garton went on to say he’s not convinced the issue even needs to be addressed this fall or in the 2002 legislative session. Reassessment won’t be done by then, he noted, so it will be mere speculation to say how taxpayers will be affected. If it turns out to be as bad as some expect, he said, legislators can adjust in 2003. That despite the fact

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CBS POLL PUTS BUSH APPROVAL AT 50 PERCENT; 51 PERCENT IN ZOGBY: A CBS News poll of 850 adults, conducted over August 28-31, (+/- 3%), shows: 50% approve "of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President"; 38% disapprove; 12% don't know. 43% are "satisfied...with the way things are going in this country"; 52% are dissatisfied. 8% said the economy is "getting better"; 48% said "getting worse"; 42% said "staying the same." A Zogby America poll of 1,006 likely voters conducted from Aug. 28-30 (+/-3.2%) found: 51% approve of the job President Bush is doing; 49% disapproved.

QUAYLE MAY RUN FOR GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA: Several Indiana friends of former Vice President Dan Quayle tell HPR he is seriously considering a run for governor of Arizona in 2002. Gov. Jane Dee Hull (R) is term-limited.

NEESE TO SEEK MOCK'S HOUSE SEAT: Republican Tim Neese, a four-term Elkhart city councilman, will run for the Indiana House of Representatives nomination in next May's primary election (Trevor Wendzonka, Elkhart Truth). The district has been served by Republican Dean Mock for all but two of the last 25

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that homeowners will begin receiving their new property tax bills that May with the potential of setting off a wave of dissatisfaction not seen since autumn 1994.

As for Kernan, Garton said, "We didn't put him in that position, the governor did. And I think it's somewhat disingenuous to say, if we don't favor it, it's politics."

Remodeling? Good Lord!

While tax restructuring has been a pending issue since sine die, the insider joke at the Statehouse is that Senate Republicans were putting more consideration into the remodeling of their offices than a plan to assist Hoosier property owners.

Reporter Terry Burns' story in the *Times of Northwest Indiana* about the \$750,000 remodeling of the Senate Finance Committee room (GOP Senate staff says it will be \$200,000) and Borst's offices lent credibility to a bad joke.

Burns wrote, "Although the costly project still awaits review Friday by the State Budget Committee, renovation work on the Senate Finance Committee hearing room and Borst's office actually began weeks ago. When the project is finally

completed, the committee room and Borst's office will boast fresh paint and plaster, new carpeting and furniture, as well as an upgraded heating and air conditioning system. In addition, the committee room will feature tiered seating for committee members and be adorned with two chandeliers costing \$6,500 each, two fire-place sconces at \$350 apiece and seven wall sconces carrying a price tag of \$980 each. The final bill -- which could end up accounting for the bulk of the Senate's \$750,000 renovation budget for this biennium -- will be picked up by Indiana taxpayers." Borst said, "Gee whiz, it's that much? Good Lord." The work, he quickly added, was being done at the urging of Garton. "He never really talked it over with me so I don't know. It's an awful lot of money for a cosmetic situation. We were able to function pretty good the way we were."

Alaskan junkets!

Last Friday and then again on Tuesday, WTHR-TV reported that 42 Indiana legislators were going to the Council of State Governments' annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska. "By contrast, California is sending three, New

York has six and Florida is sending one," noted reporter Kevin Rader.

WTHR reported that State Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, a probable 2004 candidate for governor, has cancelled. By contrast, State Sen. Murray Clark, another gubernatorial contender, did not sign up. Garton, who is not attending, says lawmakers should be able to justify their attendance with new ideas, such as the Internet sales tax.

Gov. O'Bannon agreed, with the state spending \$500 million more than it's taking in, any new idea is welcome. But he added, "I respect the legislature as a separate branch of government. They make decisions when we're in tough economic times. You gotta make tough choices, just like we're doing on the administrative side of government. We're cutting everything 7 percent, and that means restricting travel."

WTHR observed that Republicans -- led by Garton -- were quick to criticize the new \$4 million State Police airplane. Garton responded by saying the current \$100,000 Alaska travel debate would only make one monthly payment on the airplane contract, which runs four years.

Ze plan! Ze plan!

Perhaps when the Indiana GOP legislative contingent gets off the plane in Anchorage and heads for the Love Boat, they'll find a dark-haired midget asking, "What's ze plan? What's ze plan?"

The answer is there isn't one.

One Republican financier told *HPR*, "The House is dysfunctional. The Senate is dysfunctional. We had the governor announce that property taxes would go up more than double what he said in the 2000 campaign, and there wasn't a Republican making any kind of response."

Clark had promised in an e-mail to supporters to speak out on the issues, but didn't at that golden opportunity.

The modern Hoosier Republican tendency will be to jerk the knee, shoot from the hip, and aim for their own feet

(or, perhaps, the broad side of a barn, missing). Legislative Republicans aren't for anything and against a lot.

They can almost certainly be counted on immediately dissing the Kernan plan when it is presented later this month or early in October. There appears to be no effort to produce an alternative plan where compromise might be forged. If they follow Garton's whistle stop past the graveyard, they might not even show up, leaving their own mayors in dire straits in 2003.

House Democrats: Disunite!

The backdrop to all the Republican hypocrisy and premature anti-Kernan hype was Democratic House fratricide aimed at Gov. O'Bannon, captured by Mary Beth Schneider of the *Indianapolis Star* last Sunday.

"He's in big trouble," said Rep. Chet Dobis. "It's pretty rocky," said Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer.

"Anyone with any reasonable degree of common sense will realize there is more tension now than has ever existed in the past," said Rep. William Crawford.

"The economy is in a mess. If our relationship also is a mess, we'll never solve the greater problem," said Rep. Mark Kruzan. "I just feel some of his outside advisers will do anything they can to make the legislature a target and make the legislature look bad," said House Speaker John Gregg.

A pox on your houses

There is an utter, profound lack of leadership and statesmanship on display at the Statehouse, where the emphasis in 2001 has been on passing (and passing along) unbalanced budgets, voting pay raises and ensuring their own re-elections.

If this continues, the Hoosier voter might follow the lead of the the legendary labor leader John L. Lewis, who once told Congress in a fit of frustration, "A pox on both your Houses!" ❖

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years. He said he would not announce his plans for the future until later this year.

EVANSVILLE OFFICIALS SEEK WHEREABOUTS OF MAYOR'S KILLER: After Mayor Russ Lloyd Jr.

received a death threat last week, his office asked the Vanderburgh County prosecutor about the location of Julie Van Orden, the woman who killed Lloyd's father (Tim Starks, *Evansville Courier & Press*). "We were just doing some investigation because of the letter and because of his father's history," Lloyd's executive assistant, Joan David, said Tuesday, adding that Van Orden's name came up "casually" during a meeting with Vanderburgh County Prosecutor Stan Levco. Both David and Levco said they doubted any connection between Van Orden and the threatening letter. Levco said he had been given information that she was recently moved from Logansport State Hospital to a transitional care facility in Merrillville, Ind. And, Levco said, he only heard that information "third-hand." Pam Pattison, a spokeswoman with the Indiana Department of Correction, said once Marion Superior Court civilly committed Van Orden to the hospital from the Indiana Women's Prison last March, the department

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no longer had any jurisdiction over her. The state agency that would — the Family and Social Services Administration Mental Health Division — cannot provide any information about someone who might be under their jurisdiction for privacy reasons, said spokeswoman Michelle Swain. Van Orden shot Lloyd's father to death in 1980 because she was upset with city officials and believed he was still mayor. However, his term had ended three months earlier. Lloyd Jr. was asleep upstairs when Van Orden shot his father in their home.

RATING PLAN CONCERNS SCHOOL LEADERS: Public hearings in Indianapolis this week were expected to draw sharp objections to a proposed new school rating plan from many education organizations (Doug Wilson, Bloomington Times-Herald). A school accountability expert says the proposed rule would make it more confusing for the public to understand whether a school is improving. Under the rule, schools would receive an annual improvement rating for increases in the percentage of students passing the ISTEP exam compared to the previous year. Ratings would be on a five-point scale ranging from "exemplary" to "unsatisfactory." Thomas Kane of UCLA and Douglas Staiger

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PERHAPS... W E W A N D E R

By Brian Howey

Merit vs. spoils greet federal nominees

INDIANAPOLIS - Reliable and informed sources tell HPR that James Kennedy, currently assistant to the Vice President of Indiana University, will be named U.S. Marshal for the Southern Indiana District by President Bush later this month.

The two other finalists -- Perry Township Trustee and retired Indianapolis Deputy Police Chief Jack Sandlin of Indianapolis and retired Deputy Sheriff Peter Swaim of Vanderburgh County -- have received letters from the Justice Department telling them they will not receive the appointment.

The probable Kennedy appointment has several factions of the Indiana Republican establishment up in arms and uncharacteristically criticizing U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar.

Sources tell HPR that the intense U.S. Marshal lobbying went like this:

■ Former Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith was promoting Sandlin, and initially figured he would have considerable clout as a member of the Bush cabinet or as a senior adviser.

■ Steven Chancellor, president and CEO of Black Beauty Coal based in Evansville, was pressing hard for Swaim. It was Chancellor who raised a record \$1.4 million for Republicans in the 2000 election cycle and gave nearly a quarter-million dollars to Republican candidates, according to The Center for Responsive Politics.

The FEC reported that Chancellor ranked seventh among the 261 Bush-Cheney Transition Advisory Team members who contributed to federal candidates and national party committees and earned "face time" with Bush. The Center reported that Chancellor's wife gave \$20,000 to

the Republican National Committee.

Earlier this year, Chancellor went hunting in Spain with former President George H.W. Bush. "I think it is clear that these are people who will have Bush's ear throughout his administration," said Scott Weiss, communications director for the research group (*Associated Press*).

■ Finally, Kennedy had the backing of I.U. Board of Trustees President Jim Morris and Trustee Steve Ferguson.

What has some Republicans miffed are stories that Kennedy had not been a GOP contributor, would not confirm whether he voted for Bush last fall and acknowledged he has voted for some Democrats.

One agitated Republican told HPR, "That appointment was the equivalent of Frank O'Bannon appointing Mike McDaniel head of transportation."

Lugar's office insisted that he used the virtually unprecedented approach of forming two commissions - one each for Northern and Southern Indiana - and followed the commission recommendation on merit as opposed to political spoils. While most members of the commissions were Republicans, there were Democrats, such as former Northern DA Jim Richmond.

"He was the only senator who formed a committee for judicial nominees," said spokesman Andy Fisher. "Sen. Lugar's only involvement was to have the commissions. Many of the applicants were not actually involved in political circles so Sen. Lugar may not have known them. The White House did their own background checks."

Kennedy, Fisher said, has "unbelievable credentials" in law enforcement and a law degree. As for political spoils, Fisher said, "That's not how this selection process worked. The three names forwarded were determined on merits." ❖

Russert v. Daniels (in the twisted wind)

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

Watching NBC *Meet the Press* moderator Tim Russert grill OMB Director Mitch Daniels last Sunday was to conjure images of John Ehrlichman softly saying that he was "twisting, twisting, twisting in the wind...."

Only Daniels seemed to consistently snap right back.

Russert began, "Mr. Daniels, we've had nearly a million layoffs since George Bush became president. The Dow Jones slipped below 10,000. The surplus is vanishing quickly. How long will we be in this recession?"

Daniels: "Hard telling, Tim. The slowdown started well over a year ago. In fact, the Dow peaked about 16, 17 months ago. And so one year of slowdown does suggest, along with some recent data, that perhaps we're nearing the turning point. But it remains the president's first concern and obviously was one motivation for the tax cuts that he pushed through Congress, which now we can all see were very, very well timed and well conceived.

Russert: "A week ago you used the word 'recession.' I just used it again and you didn't correct me. I assume you agree that we are in a recession?"

Daniels: "I'm sorry, Tim, I don't. I misspoke when I used it and I guess you did, too. We all know there's a technical definition of recession which we have not reached yet. But let's not parse semantics. This is a slowdown that we haven't seen in quite a long time. And it ought to be the first concern of members of both parties."

Russert then sprang onto the Social Security lockbox, complete with video of Lawrence Lindsey vowing a couple weeks ago that Bush would never use it. "A very simple question, Mr. Daniels, will President Bush ever use any part of the so-called Social Security surplus in any way, shape or form?"

Daniels responded, "What you mean to say, Tim -- and I have to throw a

penalty flag here. You used the word "reserves" a little while ago. We never used the reserves. They're going to grow by \$157 billion right on schedule this year, all regardless of the total size of the surplus. What I know you meant was 'Will it be used for any purpose other than debt reduction?' Which is the purpose we're now putting it to."

Undaunted, Russert pressed, "Well, what I asked Mr. Lindsey, 'Is the president committed to not touching the Social Security surplus?' I said, 'Period?' He said, 'Period.' So this president will never use the Social Security surplus for any other purpose, other than paying off the debt and ultimately Social Security?"

Daniels replied, "That's exactly the plan. That's what's been accomplished this year, based on our latest estimate. And it is what the '02 budget, which we're -- it is the public policy question we're really engaged on now, we'll do if Congress agrees with the president's proposed levels."

Russert forged on: "Bottom line, Mr. Daniels, where are you going to find a way to keep the budget out of deficit? Will defense go up less than you thought? Education less than you thought? Discretionary spending suggested by you and Congress is very, very similar. Where do you find the money?"

Daniels: "Tim, another penalty flag. You're a smart guy. When you take in \$158 billion more than it costs to pay all your bills, including interest, that's called a surplus. And we are going to run gigantic surpluses as far as the eye can see."

Even though U.S. Sen. John Kerry called Daniels' performance a "divorce from reality," Sunday's interview is ample reason why Hoosier Republicans would love to have the OMB director come back to run for governor. He's good, even when he's twisting. Perhaps after Ted Koppel gets hold of him, it'll be something he'd consider. ❖

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of Dartmouth College studied test scores for nearly 300,000 North Carolina elementary schools between 1992 and 1999 and found that more than 70 percent of the improvement in a school's test scores from one year to the next was temporary and caused by fluctuations that had nothing to do with long-term changes in learning and productivity.

BAYH SAYS EDUCATION IMPORTANT: It's okay to invest in schools at the federal level, Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Indiana, said in Anderson Friday, but there has to be accountability on how the tax dollars are spent (Ken de la Bastide, Anderson Herald Bulletin). Bayh is serving on a conference committee working on a federal education policy that focuses on raising educational achievement.

PRESIDENT CARTER COMING TO INDIANAPOLIS: Former President Jimmy Carter will be in Indianapolis this weekend at a Habitat for Humanity conference. Meanwhile, Indiana Democrats and Republicans in the Indiana House have a common goal. Beginning this week, many of the chamber's 100 members will gather near downtown Indianapolis to build a house for Ruthie Perkins and her four children (Associated Press). "I think

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it offers us an opportunity to work together on an apolitical, important community project. We don't have enough opportunities to do that," said House Minority Leader Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis.

BAYH OPPOSES SOCIAL SECURITY USE: U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., says a plan to tap Social Security reserves for \$9 billion to shore up the national budget won't get his vote (Susan Erler, Times of Northwest Indiana). Bayh was visiting Northwest Indiana last week. He said it takes 60 Senate votes to dip into the Social Security funds and his won't be one of them. He said siphoning Social Security funds would create a major problem in coming years.

BRAND CALLS GOLDEN HANDCUFF RETIREMENT PROGRAM 'NON-ISSUE': Indiana University's retirement policy for faculty is a drain on university resources, but not a crisis, according to IU President Myles Brand (John Meunier, Bloomington Herald-Times). An Associated Press story earlier this week raised new concerns that a generous retirement plan offered to faculty from the mid-1950s to 1988 would sap university resources. Obligations under the 18/20 plan will total more than \$2 billion over the next 30 years. The

Indiana 2002, 2004 Racing Form

Trendline: Both CBS and Zogby polling have President Bush's approval rating at 50 and 51 percent, numbers sinking from the 56 percent range after most Americans have received their \$300 to \$500 checks. Scripps Howard News Service reported the checks were actually "advances" on 2002, not 2001 "rebates," and could mean lower refunds or higher tax bills next year. As a U.S. Rep. Ricky Ricardo, R-Indiana, might have said, "I-yi-yi-yi-yi-yi!" Most Hoosiers *HPR* observed thought the checks were nice, but essentially meaningless. They helped ease the pressure on some of the bills for a month or paid for part of a vacation or bought school supplies for the kids, but folks would have been more impressed with something in the \$1,000 range. The perception was different than the 1981 Reagan tax cuts, when people watched their take-home pay grow a little bigger each week. It was something people saw as enduring, instead of a one-time pop while the news media was simultaneously filled with reports of sagging consumer confidence, massive layoffs, a disappearing surplus, potential deficits, the breaking of the Social Security "lockbox" and unfinished business. The networks were reporting that even Republican Congressional members were getting nervous. From the view of the ol' Horse in the Great American Midwest ... *they should be.*

HORSE RACE

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Randall Tobias, Paul Helmke, Eric Miller, George Witwer. **Democrat:** Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** Sunday's *Indianapolis Star* coverage of House Democrats gigging Gov. O'Bannon (see page 1 through 3) was not only unprecedented, but an unmitigated disaster going into what could be the most crucial era of Democratic executive governance in decades. Kernan must feel like he has his feet firmly planted in quicksand. Then there was the news that residential property taxes would be going up 13 percent instead of the 7 percent O'Bannon campaigned on in 2000. The only good news for Kernan was that the Indiana Republicans were still meandering about in predictable ways: Kenley signed up for the Alaskan junket (Earth to Luke! Earth to Luke!) and then pulled out; the futuristically outspoken Sen. Clark was ... silent; McIntosh was still in exile in Muncie now teaching at Ball State (and awaiting a new child); and Eric Miller's campaign signed on former Rep. David Lohr while putting out a promotional video that had a seeming endorsement from Sen. Lugar (who will not run for governor). The more this goes on, the more emboldened Tobias and Helmke will get. But both of them have their work cut out. Tobias is going to have to convince Republicans he's willing to eat a lot of Lincoln Day chicken dinners and county fair corndogs. Helmke, who looks like he's been eating rice instead of LD chicken and corndogs, will have to make an emphatic case that he'll hire the best talent available and work his butt off, which didn't happen in his 1998 run against Evan Bayh. Secret advice to the Kernan camp: Start a "Draft Garton" movement! That big ol' lumbering dinosaur just might buy into it. (*Horse Race Disclaimer:* We'll start getting serious again when the Republican field starts to.) **Status:** *Leans D.*

Secretary of State 2002: Republican: Mike Delph, Deputy Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Richard Mourdock, Dr. John McGoff, Paul Helmke. **Democrat:** Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez. **Libertarian:** Paul Hager. **1994 Results:** Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D)

542,539, Dillon (L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Results:** Gilroy 828,557, Little (D) 652,565, Dillon (L) 51,775. **2002 Forecast:** Rokita redesigns his campaign website - www.ToddRokita.com. McGoff was in Fort Wayne Wednesday night at an event hosted by Sens. Tom Wyss, Bud Meeks, Potch Wheeler and Reps. Phyllis Pond, Gary Dillon, Gloria Goglein and Allen County Councilman Michael Cunegin. **Status:** *Tossup*.

Congressional District 4: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns, State Sen. Mike Young. **Democrat:** Open. **Geography:** Tippecanoe, Clinton, Boone, Montgomery, Hendricks, Morgan, Lawrence and parts of Marion, Johnson, Monroe, Fountain and White counties. **Media Market:** Lafayette, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Evansville, Louisville. **2000 Results: Old 5th CD:** Buyer (R) 132,035, Goodnight (D) 81,423; **Old 7th CD:** Kerns 131,562, Graf (D) 65,174. **2002 Forecast:** Monroe County Airport has been awarded \$2 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for expansion and safety improvements. Monroe County Commissioner Joyce Poling cited Kerns, who was instrumental in shepherding the airport's grant request through Congress (*Bloomington Herald-Times*). Buyer spent August walking the district like he did in his 1992 upset win over Rep. Jim Jontz, earning him stimulating chatter from the "*Indiana Week in Review*" crews. **Status:** *LEANS BUYER*.

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Melina Ann Fox. **Geography:** Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **2000 results:** Pence (R) 106,023, Rock (D) 80,885, Frazier (I) 19,07. **2002 Forecast:** Fox did the Labor Day parade circuit in the district and was interviewed by Fox 59 out of Indianapolis. **Status:** *Leans R*.

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brose McVey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** McVey is preparing for his official entry into the race on Sept. 20 and will present endorsements from a literal "who's who" in Indianapolis GOP politics. McVey told HPR, "That will probably be enough to keep any opposition out of the primary." **Status:** *Leans D*.

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Paul Perry, Hal Johnston, Brian Hartke. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Results:** Hostettler 116,860, Perry (D) 100,461. **2002 Forecast:** The nephew of former U.S. senator and Evansville Mayor Vance Hartke is pondering a run, as HPR's Horse Race speculated last week. Brian Hartke, 51, of Newburgh, said he is forming an exploratory committee for a possible May 2002 primary run on the Democratic ticket (Susan Taylor, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Hartke was born in Evansville and graduated from Harrison High School. He also attended the University of Evansville and was a premed student at the University of Southern Indiana. Hartke is currently employed as an electrical engineer at Bristol-Myers Squibb. In that position he serves as the strategic improvement team leader. Boonville attorney and 8th District Democratic Party Chairman Anthony "Tony" Long said Perry, Hartke and Hal Johnston, a deputy Knox County prosecutor, have talked with him about possible runs. Former longtime Vanderburgh County Surveyor Bob Brenner is also said to be looking at an 8th District Democratic primary run. Hartke said he has talked with his uncle, Vance -- who was elected Evansville mayor in 1956 -- about a possible 8th District run. "I talk with him off and on," said Brian Hartke. Vance Hartke, now 82, served less than a full term as mayor. Hartke was elected senator in 1958 and served three terms until he was defeated by Sen. Richard Lugar in 1976. **Status:** *Tossup*.

- Brian A. Howey ❖

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IU Board of Trustees put in place several measures to manage the cost of the plan in 1998. Those measures included requiring departments to cover 20 percent of the cost of the plan and reducing retirement contributions for faculty hired since 1999. "It's a nonissue," said Brand. "It's been solved years ago. ... It's not draining the university." Brand said the university could not have built the faculty it has without the generous retirement plan put in place by then-President Herman B Wells. The program was underfunded, however, and had to be changed. While talking about retirements, Brand responded to long-circulating rumors that he might be thinking about leaving IU. "I'm not a candidate for any positions," he said. "I'm not interviewing for any position. I'm not putting out feelers about any position. ... I love living in this city and I love Indiana University."

LUGAR TOURS KAZAN BIOLOGICAL WEAPON FACILITY: On Wednesday, Aug. 29, U.S. Sen. Lugar visited the former Soviet biological weapons facility at Kazan. During the visit, he received a briefing on the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program's sponsorship of a joint U.S.-Russian research plan to develop a vaccine to fight brucellosis.

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BURTON CRITICIZES ASHCROFT OVER DOCUMENT RELEASE: CNN reported House Government Reform Committee Chairman Dan Burton is taking aim at a fellow Republican. Rep. Burton sent a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft demanding access to specific internal memos relating to three cases during the Clinton Administration. Burton "expressed great concern that his committee hasn't been allowed more access to Justice Department information," CNN's Judy Woodruff reported. Some Democrats on Burton's committee saying they are surprised that the chairman is leveling some of the same obstructionist charges at Ashcroft as he did at former Attorney General Janet Reno."

HOOSIER TO BECOME NATIONAL LIBERTARIAN VICE CHAIR: Dr. Ken Bisson of Angola has been selected to fill the open position of National Vice-Chairman for the Libertarian Party. Dr. Bisson was selected to fill the vacancy at the Libertarian National Committee meeting held in Las Vegas. Former Vice-Chairman Dan Flystra, who stepped down to devote more time to his business, created the vacancy. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Mike Leonard, *Bloomington Herald-Times* - Jeff Vincent likes to highlight the hopeful signs that labor might be gaining strength or momentum or something positive in the wake of clear setbacks, such as Otis Elevator's announcement last week that it would cut its Bloomington work force by more than half. But late last week, the research director for the Institute for the Study of Labor in Society at Indiana University couldn't mask his frustration. "There's not always a lot to celebrate on Labor Day, and that's a sad fact," he said. "It's depressing," he continued. "My pet peeve is the way that people tend to talk about what a wonderful economy we have and how we're going to be resilient and bounce back." Others praise the beauty of the fluid or flexible labor force in the United States that allows American companies to cut or add jobs more easily than European or Japanese counterparts who must adhere to laws designed to provide employee security and welfare. "That stuff rings pretty hollow for a lot of workers," Vincent argued. "We have a whole generation of workers out there who were told if you work hard and stick to it the system will reward them," he said. "The truth of the matter is that investors are rewarded for their patience and workers have to balance their risk on investments they don't make." ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - Voters in New Hampshire, Iowa, Tennessee and the other states that will have Senate elections in 2002 and 2004 will resolve the matter. Just a few seats have to shift from the D column to the R, and Lugar will get the gavel back. Lugar certainly can be expected to take an extra-special interest in those races, lending a hand to Republicans whenever he can. It may not be too late for Lugar to create a special campaign fund that he could use to

help fellow Republicans. Called a "leadership PAC," this sort of political action committee allows incumbent politicians to build up chits with each other. Leadership PACs are especially attractive because individuals can give them \$5,000 a year -- five times the limit to a candidate's campaign -- and the PAC can then funnel the money to chosen campaigns. Look at Sen. Evan Bayh's leadership PAC as an example. He established the fund in 1999 just after entering the Senate. With an eye on the Democratic presidential nomination campaign in 2004, he wanted to use the PAC to become a person other senators might be beholden to -- or at least thankful to. In its two years of operation, the Americans for Responsible Leadership took in more than \$1.5 million and gave out \$332,000 to select candidates, mostly fellow Democratic senators. There may be other things Lugar can do to bolster his party's chances of taking control of the Senate in the next or subsequent election. Needless to say, he and his advisers will be pondering the best of the list. ❖

Lesley Stedman, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - Because residential property will take on a greater share of the overall property tax load -- a result of bringing those older cost tables up to date -- most homeowners are likely to see some increase. That's the 13 percent average. The reassessment will create a sort of redistribution of the tax burden -- both among the various classes of payers including farmers, businesses and residents and within the residential class itself. Although predictions of that redistribution have been the topic of talk for years, assessors are only now in the field setting the values. By next spring, the state and the public will have a much better sense of the results and politicians a better sense of what -- if anything -- should be done in reaction. ❖