

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“The regime of Saddam Hussein is doomed. The conclusion of this war will mark one of the most historic military campaigns ever conducted.”

- Vice President Dick Cheney, this morning

Best case Iraq war scenario emerges

But Lugar warns Bush administration

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

If you were President Bush watching CNN at 9:50 a.m. today, the best case scenario in his three-week-old invasion of Iraq seemed to fall into place.

As millions of Americans and perhaps billions around the world watched the day after Lance Cpl. David Fribley was buried in Etna Green, Ind., U.S. Marines and a crowd of jubilant Iraqis braving sporadic gunfire pulled down the statue of Saddam Hussein in Firdos Square after others had assaulted its pedestal with sledge hammers. Other Iraqis paraded around the square with a sign that told “human shields” to go home. It came about two hours after U.S. forces entered Baghdad’s central square, prompting ABC *Good Morning America* anchor Charlie Gibson to observe, “We may be at that tipping point.”

Moments before Richard Engel, the ABC correspondent on the ground, declared with emotion as U.S. troops streamed into the square, “The tables have turned!” Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld noted this afternoon, “We have said that Saddam is finished and now many Iraqis are daring to believe it.”

The images from Baghdad this morning are ones that define an era every 10 or 12 years, akin to the terror pilots spearing the World Trade Center; the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy rooftop in Saigon in 1975; John F. Kennedy Jr.’s funeral salute in 1963; Harry Truman holding the *Chicago Daily Tribune* declaring “Dewey Wins” in 1948; Alfred Eisenstaedt’s photo of the sailor kissing the nurse on V-J Day in 1945; or Joe Rosenthal’s photo of the Marine flag-raising on Mount

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EVANSVILLE VOTERS REJECT TAX INCREASE FOR SCHOOLS: Although voters overwhelmingly defeated a referendum for a property tax increase Tuesday, school officials said they would continue doing their best to educate children and would "stretch every dollar." Opponents of the referendum had 71 percent of the vote (Evansville Courier & Press). There were 23,760 "no" votes and 9,735 "yes" votes. That's 28.5 percent of the registered voters, a heavy turnout for Vanderburgh County. In the last primary election, only 8 percent voted. And in November, with congressional, state and county offices on the ballot, 39 percent cast ballots. "I think the people have spoken, and they've spoken loudly," said David Coker, organizer of the Vanderburgh County Taxpayers Association, a group that actively fought the referendum's passage. "I'd like to give God the glory because he's been with us all along." Supt. Bart McCandless said, "We have to make adjustments." The first "adjustment" will be sending out pink slips to more than 100 EVSC employees - 22 elementary and middle school media specialists (librarians), 11 driver's education instructors, nine elementary instrumental music teachers, at

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Suribachi. They are images that sear a moment of history in the minds of millions. That's what we witnessed today. Iraqis were shown kissing photos of President Bush and greeting American soldiers as "liberators," something U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar had warned might not happen.

It could be the beginning of a political motherlode for President Bush and the Republicans and Democrats who supported him in Congress. While officials at the Pentagon winced when Marines put the U.S. flag over Saddam's statuesque head and cautioned against imperialistic celebrations, Vice President Dick Cheney said in a speech before newspaper editors this morning, "Across Iraq, we are getting senior religious leaders to support the coalition. The regime of Saddam Hussein is doomed. The conclusion of this war will mark one of the most historic military campaigns ever conducted."

And Cheney jabbed at news correspondents such as Peter Arnett who declared a week ago in Kristolesque fashion a "failed" military strategy as well as doubting senior military commentators who the vice president described as "embedded in TV studios."

The grip of fear and war eased not only in Iraq, also domestically. Wall Street rebounded last week, gasoline prices fell into the \$1.40 range, American military fatalities were below 100 (with almost half coming in friendly fire incidents), and there was no terror response from Al Qaeda.

The *Washington Times* reported this morning that "multiple U.S. intelligence sources saw Saddam Hussein enter a building in Baghdad on Monday and not emerge before four one-ton Air Force bombs destroyed it.. One official said some analysts believe the multiple eyewitness accounts suggest the Iraqi dictator is dead.

Polls put President Bush's popularity in the upper 70th percentile. The latest *Washington Post-ABC News* Poll shows

that 77 percent of Americans say they support the decision to go to war, a figure that has increased as news of the war turned positive. Just 16 percent say they oppose having gone to war.

Shift in fortunes

Hoosiers could sense the fortunes of the war shift not only via the news media, but with some public officials. U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, D-Seymour, who was ambivalent about invading Iraq, had a different take on the conflict 11 days in. The *Bloomington Herald-Times* reported that Hill was far more vocal in support of it, and severe in his assessment of an Iraqi regime staging suicide attacks, faking surrenders to get within close firing range and, according to some media reports last week, summarily executing four captured U.S. soldiers.

"They are thugs," Hill said of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his supporters. "They have no human dignity whatsoever." Hill said he believed the Bush administration was a victim of unrealistic expectations of a war that would be "quick, swift and decisive." He also said most Americans likewise initially expected a war that would last two weeks, not six months. Hill said that "I have noticed a shift in public opinion in response to the way they are treating our troops."

The war produced a couple of thorny moments for two other Indiana congressmen. The *Muncie Star Press* reported that U.S. Rep. Mike Pence had expressed support of expanding the military operation in Syria and Iran after reports that those counties were aiding and abetting the Saddam regime.

Pence quickly issued a denial, saying, "Let me be clear -- at no point did I suggest that we should expand the war effort into Syria or Iran."

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer was also caught in some controversy. After critics such as filmmaker Michael Moore complained that only one Member of Congress had a son or daughter involved

in the war, Buyer announced on the House floor on March 20 that he had been mobilized. Last week, Buyer issued a statement saying, "This evening, the U.S. Army informed me that I would not be deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom due to my high profile status as a U.S. Representative. I will now immediately return to Congress."

Buyer told *USA Today*, "I understand the rationale," but inwardly, he was seething. "You don't pick and choose like that," Buyer complained. "My respect for the civilian leadership has been lowered."

Danger ahead?

The euphoria of this morning could be a dangerous state. While President Bush seems to have avoided a combat "quagmire," deadly urban warfare, chemical attacks, Israeli and Turkish entry into the war, and severe unrest on the Arab street, there are other potential dangers.

One will be the occupation and whether U.S. forces will face guerilla ambushes and an imperialistic impression in the Arab world. There is still the question about the war's pretext: Saddam's

weapons of mass destruction that were never used in the war and are still hidden.

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar said today that the Bush Administration's explanation to the Congress and the American people about their plan for post-war Iraq has "not been good enough."

"The thought that all this planning can spin on forever without our intervention is nonsense. It won't," Lugar said. "We are going to have to bring this to some cohesion even if we have to deliberate among ourselves. My hope is that there will be responsible administration officials who will come before the committee and who will inform us and the American people on what we are going to do. So we can debate these things, and then understand the gravity of it, the expense, the things in our domestic economy that have to be delayed, postpone or substituted."

The expectation is that as coalition forces begin their inventory of Saddam's regime of horrors, the weapons, torture chambers, mass graves and links to terrorist organizations, the justification for the war will be resolutely defined. ❖

John R. Nixon helped found HPR

John R. Nixon, who was instrumental in the creation of *The Howey Political Report* in 1994, died on April 4 and was buried in Peru Tuesday. He was 74 years old, and for much of his life he was an important figure in newspaper journalism in Indiana. Sadly, most of the people involved in newspaper journalism in Indiana today wouldn't even recognize his name.

Until it was sold to Paxton Newspapers in 1966, Nixon was president and CEO of Nixon Newspapers Inc., a group of 11 newspapers in three states with headquarters in Peru. He had the usual professional credits attached to his name: President of Inland Press Association, president of Hoosier State Press Association, and founder of the Group Executives Conference, which grew from a small number to more than 100 executives today.

But his principal influence was felt through the news personnel who worked at his newspapers because of his expectations that they would perform their jobs with fairness, accuracy and integrity, and be supportive of the communities in which they were based.

Nixon also was an avid sailor and had a penchant for concocting elaborate practical jokes. He was a good friend and boss to those who worked for him.

- Jack E. Howey ❖

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least half the 35 nurses, and a large number of custodians. School Board President Mike Duckworth said he was "extremely disappointed" in a headline in the *Courier & Press* Tuesday that said many residents would be "shocked" by the size of their increased property taxes. "I think the headline was inappropriate. The job of the news media is to report the news, not to make it," he said.

SCHOOLS BRACING FOR CUTS: As lawmakers debate how to divvy up what little state money is available, the budget ax is already falling in local schools (Carole Carlson, *Post-Tribune*).

"Nothing has passed down there and I have deadlines to meet," said Lake Central Superintendent Janet Emerick, whose district made more than \$1 million worth of personnel cuts, including eight teaching jobs, on Monday.

"Whatever school funding plan materializes, it isn't expected to provide much relief for public schools for the next two years. It's not how much we're spending but rather how we spend it," said Sen. Vi Simpson, D-Ellettsville, a budget committee conferee. East Porter Superintendent Roger Luekens said his district needs about \$369,000 just to break even over the next

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two years. Under the Senate budget, his district would get about \$255,000. It would fare a little better under the House budget. "It's definitely going to cut substantially into programs. The School Board has a choice on what those programs are," he said.

PORTER COUNTY EYES \$3 MILLION IN CUTS: Porter County officials need to begin chopping at least \$3 million from the county's budget, and they need to do it soon (Dustin Wunderlich, Post-Tribune). Dave Burrus, president of the commissioners, and County Council President Bill Carmichael announced the figure Tuesday as a base for this year. Though officials have known for some time that cuts would be made, it's the first time a target has been set. But the figure is also almost certain to grow. "This is the absolute best-case scenario," Burrus said. "At any time we could find another expense." The \$3 million figure was identified by the county auditor's office, based on the state allowing Porter County to send out tax bills for 70 percent of what it collected last year. But it assumes all taxpayers will pay their tax bills, and right now almost 20 percent of those bills aren't being paid in Porter County.

O'BANNON BEGINS SIGNING BILLS: With the large

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Andrew, Simpson spar; Kenley takes heat

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - At the beginning of last week, the stage for the gubernatorial race was firmly in the Indiana Senate, where Republican Sen. Luke Kenley had proposed a new education funding formula and Democrat Vi Simpson was sending out warnings on a flat-lined Medicaid budget.

By week's end and into this week, the Democratic race ended up in a skirmish after Simpson's "open book" campaign voluntarily released a fund-raising report, showing she had \$250,000 raised from 488 donors, including \$90,000 transferred from her Senate campaign. It was a critical benchmark for Simpson. She had to show she had money-raising prowess in addition to conveying the gubernatorial gravitas. She appears to be succeeding on both fronts.

The reaction from the Andrew campaign was combative. Dennis Lee, Andrew's campaign manager, said, "We will not react to political posturing, and that is exactly what the Simpson campaign is engaged in."

The *Indianapolis Star* reported Lee saying, "What voters should look at is the fact that the Simpson campaign is raising money directly from lobbyists who have business in front of the Legislature. While this may not be illegal, it certainly is unseemly. For her to turn around and take the high ground is laughable."

Lee said that Andrew had raised "significantly" more than Simpson in campaign contributions, but did not reveal the amount.

Monday, Simpson campaign co-chair Bill Moreau called Lee's statement "an insult to Sen. Simpson and a slap in the face of Hoosier voters."

Moreau said, "After Simpson made her challenge on Friday, Dennis Lee, a lobbyist and campaign manager for candidate Joe Andrew (also a lobbyist), responded to Simpson's disclosure with attacks on her character. It not only

mocked the idea of campaign finance reform, it fired off the first negative attack of the campaign. After promises to run a completely positive campaign, his campaign has launched the first attack before Joe has even officially declared his candidacy."

So the fears of a Democratic leaders of a primary race turning bitter appear to be coming true.

The Andrew campaign has been working largely in stealth mode, with Sally Kirkpatrick raising money and Andrew speaking to labor and Democratic clubs. There has been no formal declaration of candidacy, other than a letter Andrew sent to party activists in January.

Simpson, meanwhile, saw her disclosure challenge to other candidates go largely unheeded. "I repeat my call to my fellow candidates for full disclosure of their campaign contributions. Hoosier voters deserve it. And our electoral process will be better for it," she said. "I'm disappointed with my colleagues so far, especially those who responded by attacking me personally."

In the Senate

In the Senate, Kenley had a chance to show his legislative prowess when he announced last month he would rework the education funding formula. It seemed to be the perfect opportunity for Kenley to break out of what has been generally perceived him to be in the lowest tier of GOP candidates.

In revamping one of the most complicated funding formulas in the state -- education -- Kenley explained, "The money will be driven toward the corporations and children that need our support."

But under his plan, at least 70 of the state's 293 school corporations would receive no additional money, or perhaps lose funding. "That is a huge detriment to all of the kids in the rest of the state," Simpson observed.

The *Indianapolis Star* quoted Washington Township MSD Supt. Eugene White as saying, "This is criminal. This would destroy our school district. We would not sit back and let them play with us. We would have to take legal action."

"A flat line would have been disastrous, but this is horrendous," said Gary Public Schools Assistant Superintendent James Wooten. He said the cuts would mean a loss of about \$6 million next year (*Post-Tribune*).

The political problem for Kenley isn't whether his new formula will actually be adopted by conferees. Its proposal created a scenario of class warfare. While urban and rural districts would see flat-lined budgets or cuts, the suburban districts of Kenley and Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst would see big increases. Noblesville, Kenley's hometown, will get a 7.6 percent increase;

Hamilton Southeastern gets 8.8 percent; Westfield-Washington gets 7.9 percent. Down in Sen. Borst's district, Greenwood gets a 3.5-percent increase, Center Grove 3.6 percent, Franklin Township 7.7 percent, and Decatur Township 3.1 percent.

For Kenley, the opportunity for statesmanship may be lost in what looks to be a partisan budget that could result in waves of teacher lay-offs and a curtailing of classes and programs.

Conversely, Simpson is now cast in a role as a watchdog of the state's children and those less fortunate facing cuts in services on a flat-lined Medicaid budget. "I know we're all trying to make the Senate proposal look as good as we can," Simpson said. "But it still doesn't remove the big issue we have to deal with -- the big giant elephant of Medicaid. This budget doesn't solve it. The House budget doesn't solve it." ❖

Precursor to a property tax meltdown?

Are Senate Republicans simply adhering to the party's decade-long mantra of "no new taxes" with a dose of Earl Landgrebe's "don't confuse me with the facts" thrown in for good measure?

As Hoosier counties continue to raise income taxes, school districts prepare to lay off hundreds, if not thousands, of teachers and staff, and cities facing billions of dollars of combined sewer overflow costs, and no commitment for a long-range economic development plan, Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst was calling his budget "a pretty good bill."

But protests over cuts of service by Medicaid providers are popping up in places such as Elkhart and Sellersburg, where families are being warned of big cuts in home health care services. It prompted the *Indianapolis Star* to editorialize for a small income tax increase to prevent teacher layoffs and cuts to the vulnerable.

On Tuesday came the story in the *Evansville Courier & Press* predicting

homeowners are going to be "shocked" when they get their property tax bills.

Officials say the tax bills will vary -- some may see decreases -- but the overall news will not be good for many taxpayers despite the 2002 tax restructuring. Owners of older homes may see increases of hundreds of dollars. "I guess the outlook is kind of grim," said Vanderburgh County Assessor Cheryl Musgrave.

Part of the problem is the 17-year-old accounting mistake that had the state giving back too much to taxpayers on the homestead credit. The *Courier & Press* reported the state's homestead credit, which was expected to be 20 percent this year, ended up being 8.8 percent to 11.1 percent due to the error. Even the local 8 percent homestead credit was reduced to 3.5 percent to 4.4 percent by the state.

Key senators knew before the rest of us about a meltdown y. No wonder the legislature is talking about leaving town. a week early. ❖

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debates before the Indiana General Assembly still unresolved, including the state's two-year budget, Gov. Frank O'Bannon has begun signing into law smaller bills already passed (*Associated Press*). Twenty bills were sent to the governor yesterday; he has seven days to sign them into law. If the governor does not sign a bill, it becomes law without his signature. Last week, the governor signed five bills. One sent to the governor but not yet signed would require the Indiana Department of Commerce to develop a trademark logo by July 1, 2004, for products that are made or assembled in Indiana.

CROOKS WON'T RUN IN 8TH CD: State Rep. Dave Crooks, D-Washington, won't be running for a congressional seat, he said Monday (*Jennifer Whitson, Evansville Courier & Press*). Crooks was one of four Democrats vying within the party to gain support for a 2004 election bid against U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, a Republican who represents Indiana's 8th Congressional District. Last year's contender, Bryan Hartke, a Newburgh engineer; Jon Jennings, a Newburgh-based recruiter for the Boston Celtics; and Kevin Derr, a Boonville small businessman, are still considering a run. Crooks said he was getting out because his

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district needed him in Indianapolis to help tackle the state's budget difficulties and to focus on his two children, ages 8 and 11, and his fledgling radio station. "The amount of time that it would take to run a successful campaign is just more than I can handle at this time," he said. "That was the bottom line."

SENATE PASSES BUDGET BILL: The Indiana Senate approved a two-year, \$22 billion state budget yesterday, signaling the beginning of at least two weeks of intense negotiations on a final spending plan (Leslie Stedman, *Louisville Courier-Journal*). The vote was 28-21, with all 18 Democrats and three Republicans - Johnny Nugent, Brant Hershman and John Waterman and - voting no. One Republican, Sen. Ronnie Alting, was absent. The forthcoming negotiations -- in which House and Senate fiscal leaders look for a compromise between competing versions of the budget -- will focus largely on public school funding. "The issue is not how much we're spending. The bottom line for schools is very close in the House and the Senate" budgets, said Sen. Vi Simpson. "The issue is how the dollars are being distributed." Budget Chairman Bob Meeks asked, "Is it fair? It probably depends on whether you're

2003, 2004 Racing Form

Columbus Mayoral: Republican: David Mann. Democrat: Mayor Fred Armstrong. **1999 Results:** Armstrong (D) 6,278, Paris (R) 2,599. **2003 Outlook:** In the first intersection of foreign policy into an Indiana mayoral race, Mayor Armstrong asked the Columbus Area Arts Council to scrap its French theme in the annual unCommon Cause fund-raiser April 12. But the only thing French about the event is a play on words in this year's event title, "Tray Chic," said council President Melissa Fairbanks (*Columbus Republic*). "This is about art," she said. "It has nothing to do with France or with politics." It turns out that Armstrong's opponent, David Mann, is on the festival committee. "This is not David Mann's show," said Mann. Our guess is that the French will not be a predominant issue next fall in Columbus, Indiana. **General Status:** *Leans Armstrong.*

HORSE RACE

Evansville Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr. Democrat: State Rep. Jonathon Weinzapfel. **1995 Results:** McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. **1999 Results:** Lloyd (R) 15,980, Borries (D) 15,461. **2003 Forecast:** Mayor Lloyd pulled the plug on one of the crown jewels of his administration, the downtown baseball stadium, saying cost overruns would have meant property tax increases for homeowners. Downtown supporters, with a baseball stadium now dead, would like to fall back on Plan B, another major project for reviving the city's core, but there isn't one (Herb Marynell, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Lloyd said the latest estimates of construction costs projected overruns between \$1.5 million and \$3 million, an expense he wouldn't put on the backs of property taxpayers. Earlier this week, Council President Curt Johns was complaining that Lloyd had wasted \$1 million in planning costs, and that will likely be a theme heard this fall. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Gary Mayoral: Republican: Open. Democrat: Mayor Scott King, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Dozier Allen, Roosevelt Allen, Douglas Grimes. **1995 Results:** King (D) 23,588, Williams (I) 5,482, Boswell (R) 1,108, McCraney (I) 96. **1999 Results:** King (D) 11,467. **2003 Forecast:** It's an announcement that's been three years in the making, officials said: A school, community center and Boys & Girls Club on what is now Franklin Elementary School (Steve Patterson, *Post-Tribune*). They called it a progressive approach to education and use of city and school resources. But the timing of the announcement, just 35 days before the Democratic primary election, raises suspicions of some, primarily those challenging Mayor Scott King in the election. "He sure has been making a lot of announcements lately, hasn't he?" Roosevelt Allen asked. "It doesn't mean he'll follow through. I mean, he's had seven years, so now it's five weeks before the election. That tells me it's a political ploy." King defended the timing of his press conference with educational and business leaders from across the community. "If I don't do anything, they criticize me and if I do something, they criticize me," he said of challengers. "To suggest a three-year project was politically motivated, with so many people involved, is ridiculous." **General Status:** *Solid King.*

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Treasurer Greg Jordan. Democrat: Mayor Bart Peterson. Libertarian: Open. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Results:** Peterson (D) 102,870, Gilroy (R) 83,044, Horning (L) 7,772, Gibson (OP) 2,145. **2003 Forecast:** Jordan won an unofficial recount. Slating convention challenger Bob Parker alleged that the new voting system incorrectly counted the votes at the Feb. 14 event. In a hand recount conducted by the *Indianapolis Star*, Jordan received 325 votes, Parker took 194 and state Rep. Phil Hinkle, R-Indianapolis, came in third with 116, the exact tally recorded by the voting machines at the party's convention. Those votes were cast by GOP precinct and ward officials. "I have every confidence that everyone who worked at this convention was doing their level best to make it fair," said county GOP Chairman John Keeler. **General Status:** *Likely Peterson.*

Jeffersonville Mayoral: Republican: Monty Snelling. Democrat: Mayor Tom Galligan, Councilman Rob Waiz, Kenneth Ogden, Glenn Muncy. **1999 Results:** Galligan (D)

3,194, Cook (I) 640, Cooper (R) 619. **2003 Outlook:** Republican Gary Drake pulled out of the race and endorsed Snelling. "He will bring an ethical life value to the office of mayor," Drake said of Snelling (*Jeffersonville Evening News*). "My biggest concern is the questionable ethics of government. The mayor's office should be above reproach." **Primary Status:** *LEANS GALLIGAN*.

Terre Haute Mayoral: Republican: Duke Bennett. **Democrat:** Mayor Judy Anderson, Jim Jenkins, Kevin Burke. **1999 Results:** Anderson (D) 6,791, Hooper (R) 2,608, Cronk (I) 1,178 Brour (I) 174. **2003 Forecast:** The four mayoral candidates met at the same forum for the first time last week. Jenkins, who was defeated by Anderson in the 1999 primary, told the audience, "I've gained a new perspective, a new sensitivity." Anderson defended her record in economic development, pointing to 600 new jobs created, reopened fire houses, new Fire Department equipment, and to a list of accomplishments she didn't have time to read. She offered to leave it on the table for attendees to read after the meeting. "We are going someplace," she said. **Primary Status:** *LEANS ANDERSON*.

Valparaiso Mayoral: Republican: Jon Costas. **Democrat:** Mayor David Butterfield. **1999 Results:** Butterfield (D) 3,532, Costas (R) 3,336. **2003 Forecast:** Costas took the first swing Monday, blasting the mayor for the condition of a downtown building Butterfield owns and where he has his law offices (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). In a release to the media laying out a four-point plan for improving the downtown, Costas concluded by criticizing Butterfield's building as "the most unsightly building in the downtown square" for many years. He said paint is peeling, the third floor windows are boarded up and the glass in one window has been broken for many months. Butterfield said, "I don't have the income Jon has, and it's going to cost in excess of \$20,000. That might not be a lot to the Costas family, but it is to me. We have made arrangements for both the replacement of the windows and the painting to take place as soon as the weather breaks." **General status:** *TOSSUP*.

Indiana 2004 Gubernatorial

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris. **Democrat:** Joe Andrew, State Sen. Vi Simpson. **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:** UPI out of Washington reported "rumors" that Daniels is about ready to make his move toward a gubernatorial run. Daniels told HPR on Tuesday, "Truth is, nothing new. I said I'd decide in first few months of the year, and I will. I said I wanted to see our rate of progress on the war, the war funding, and the budget resolution (on which the President's program for the year depends) before deciding, and all those things are pending this very week." Daniels is moving on another front: An Indiana Constitutional Convention He told HPR, "I commissioned a study of the Indiana Constitution and the issues surrounding its possible revision, which I just received and look forward to studying maybe this weekend. Sounds like there are large practical problems, but conceptually I'm very intrigued with the idea you've put in play." With this race heating up on the Democratic side and the GOP side awaiting Daniels' decision, which we believe will be one where he returns to Indiana to run, we move this race into the "tossup" zone. We believe that a candidate from either party can win the race, as evidenced by the heavy 1996 favorite, Stephen Goldsmith, losing to O'Bannon. It will be a race won by the candidate who can put together a compelling and executable vision and plan to bring Indiana back from the current mess it is in. It's a mess, we believe, brought on by the O'Bannon-Kernan administration as well as Senate Republicans who have occupied a critical position of power for most of the last three decades. A campaign relying on the "blame game" will find it to be a double-edged sword. **Status:** *TOSSUP*. ❖

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getting money or losing money." Simpson said the Medicaid budget will mean problems for those people most in need. "The best-case scenario is we have an unrealistic budget," Simpson said. "The worse-case scenario is we have a painful budget, painful to those we are supposed to serve, painful to those providing the services."

DOMINGUEZ DEFENDS BAYH: Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez wrote a Post-Tribune op-ed piece defending U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh and his vote on the Miguel Estrada appeals court nomination. "Indiana should be proud of Bayh's principled approach to the nomination of Miguel Estrada. More diligent research of Bayh's voting record on judicial nominees would have revealed that he has supported President Bush's judicial nominees 110 of 111 times. Often he has been one of the few senators to cross party lines to support the president." Dominguez said that Bayh has supported all of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar's judicial recommendations for federal judges, magistrates and district attorneys. The sheriff took issue with former State Rep. Dan Dumezich, who said that Bayh has opposed Estrada because he "is a conservative Hispanic." Dominguez asked, "How, then, does he

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explain Bayh's support for all seven conservative Hispanics nominated by President Bush before Estrada?" And, Dominguez said, "Bayh and his colleagues simply seek to understand Estrada's judicial reasoning and possible judicial performance through past legal writings. However, Estrada and the White House have continually declined to share information that would shed light on his potential judicial reasoning and philosophy."

BAYH HAILS CARE ACT: U.S. Senator Evan Bayh today hailed Senate passage of a bipartisan bill - the CARE Act - that seeks to draw upon the good work of faith-based and community organizations by providing additional resources and eliminating bureaucratic barriers to federal aid. The bill will strengthen communities by supporting the work of faith-based and charitable groups, while at the same time providing tax relief to those who contribute to these organizations. "This is a tax cut with a heart," Bayh said. "Through the CARE Act, we will enlist thousands of Hoosiers in the urgent cause of making this country a better place, and the tax incentives will encourage more charitable giving and make a meaningful difference for Hoosier taxpayers."



COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Norm Ornstein, *Roll Call* - Dick Lugar. Keep that name in mind in the weeks and months ahead. He may prove to be one of the most significant Members of Congress in a pivotal time in American and world history. Here's why: When the war ends, probably very soon, Congress will have to consider the post-war problems of governing and reconstructing Iraq. The governance of Iraq is important in and of itself, but it has far more meaning: It will be the vehicle to establish a new world order, shaping governance and power in the age of terrorism, redefining the nexus of power and the dynamics of states and multilateral institutions for a long time to come. The temptation in Congress will be to take the sidelines on this one, save for the obligatory pot shots at the president and gestures to stick it to France, Turkey, etc. This would be a big mistake. Our leaders will be making huge decisions. The Indiana Republican has the experience, standing, breadth and toughness to be the point man. His committee spans the ideological spectrum and includes prominent presidential candidates, but has been a model of bipartisanship in a sea of partisan rancor, thanks to both Lugar and his Democratic counterpart, Sen. Joseph Biden (Del.). Lugar has the position, the credibility and the vision. He cannot and should not be passive, waiting for the administration's lead. ❖

Peter Rusthoven, *Indianapolis Eye* - President Bush's steely, unswerving determination to rid our nation and the world of the threat posed by Saddam Hussein has brought out the worst in many nationally prominent Democrats. It has brought out the best in Indiana's junior United States senator, Evan Bayh. Over the past several weeks, the country's most visible Democratic figures have been writing a sorry chapter in the history of the party once led by FDR and JFK. With our sol-

diers standing on the verge of battle, the nation's highest elected Democrat, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, publicly blamed the supposed "diplomatic failures" of the President for any lives lost in the impending conflict. With our soldiers now standing on the verge of victory, the putative frontrunner for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, has publicly accused the President of "breach of trust" and called for "regime change" in the United States. But a handful of other Democrats, who have stood apart and stood strong, merit equally widespread commendation. Among them is Evan Bayh. Here is what Sen. Bayh said right after our President delivered his final, 48-hour ultimatum to Saddam: "We learned from the tragedy of September 11 that the risk of inaction is greater than the risk of action. Saddam Hussein must be disarmed. We've given him every opportunity to do that peacefully, but he refuses. That leaves us with two alternatives: Either we live in the shadow of the threat he presents or we act to protect ourselves. Along with the President, I believe action is necessary." This is direct, incisive and dead-on-the-mark. It is uncluttered by any partisan caveat or qualification. And it preceded our subsequent, stunningly swift success on the battlefield.



Mike Leonard, *Bloomington Herald-Times* - There's been very little to smile about during the current war with Iraq, outside of Fox News hiring Geraldo Rivera and then having to defend him against the Pentagon's desire to ship him out of the war zone. Fox and Geraldo, comrades in the same trench. Somehow, it all makes sense. More amusing is the news that U.S. troops are begging for pantyhose. Well, it's not a pretty mental image. ❖