

# The Howey Political Report



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**Brian A. Howey, publisher**

**Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington writer**

**Jack E. Howey, editor**

The Howey Political Report      Office: 317-254-1533  
PO Box 40265                      Fax: 317-968-0487  
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265      Mobile: 317-506-0883

**brianhowey@howeypolitics.com**  
**www.howeypolitics.com**

Washington office: 202-775-3242;  
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“The legislature, we’re weak sisters. We talk a good game, but we’re weak. We’re not willing what we need to do.”

- State Sen. Robert Meeks, to the *Indianapolis*

*Star*

## The Jurassic Age of Indiana politics

‘Weak sisters’ governing a lost state

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

Back in the mid-1990s, as Mike Pence was building his radio empire with the catch-phrase “conservative, but in a good mood about it,” I was developing HPR, a statewide newspaper column and a news magazine.

I countered Pence with the phrase, “*The golden age of Indiana politics.*”

It was coined because we had just had an American Vice President (Dan Quayle), two leading statesmen (Sen. Dick Lugar and Rep. Lee Hamilton), some rising stars in Congress (Reps. Ed Pease, David McIntosh, Steve Buyer and Tim Roemer), and a national party chairman (Joe Andrew). Indiana boasted several potential presidential candidates (Lugar, Evan Bayh, Stephen Goldsmith, Quayle). Paul Helmke was president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. We were inclusive with officeholders such as Attorney General Pamela Carter. There were two competitive political parties with annual battles for control of the legislature. There were a couple of political think tanks, the Indiana Policy Review and the Sycamore Institute, along with nationally-recognized Hudson Institute.

**Today, at this writing**, I must recant the “golden age of Indiana politics.” Fears expressed in my Dec. 20, 2000, essay, “*Political Vistas at the End of the 20th Century*,” have, unfortunately, come true.

State Sen. Robert Meeks, who chairs the Senate Budget Committee, tolled the death knell of what had been a prosperous, energetic era. “The legislature, we’re a bunch of weak sisters,” Meeks, the LaGrange Republican, said. “We talk a good game, but we’re weak. We’re not willing to do

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# TICKER

## T A P E

**LYTLE WILL RETURN; GIAQUINTA STILL IN DOUBT:** Two Democrats, Reps. Mark Lytle of Madison and Ben GiaQuinta of Fort Wayne, recently missed session days because of illness. Lytle, who was released from King's Daughters' Hospital in Madison yesterday after a bout with a digestive disorder, said he planned to return to Indianapolis today and might be available to vote if necessary (Leslie Stedman, Louisville Courier-Journal). But the return of GiaQuinta, who suffered a mild heart attack more than a week ago, is less certain, leaving Democrats with no choice but to work with Republicans on a deal for which they can provide at least one or two votes. That's one reason Bosma was cautiously optimistic yesterday that his caucus would play a key role in crafting the final package of economic development initiatives they have in exchange for votes on the budget.

**MEEKS BELIEVES BUDGET IS CLOSER:** Budget negotiators said Wednesday they are much closer to a compromise and still think they may get their work done this week (Jennifer Whitson, Evansville Courier & Press). "We hope to get this done, absolutely this week," said House Speaker B. Patrick

what we need to do."

Under Meeks' stewardship, Indiana is about to pass a budget that is out of balance; that flat-lines Medicaid as the number of elderly citizens are on the rise; and eaks out tiny education increases at a time of tougher new standards. The legislature is intent on sticking it to Gov. Frank O'Bannon, a man with no friends in the General Assembly.

### Wonder went out of Indiana

In my "Political Vistas" essay, I quoted John Bartlow Martin in his 1947 book, "Indiana: An Interpretation."

"Somewhere, somehow between the beginning of one world war and the end of another, the wonder went out of all the wonderful things of Indiana's past -- the magic of McCutcheon's Indian summer cartoon and Riley's poems, the boundless promise of natural gas and Elwood Haynes' wonderful machine," Martin wrote. "A suspicion had arisen that bigotry, ignorance, and hysteria were as much a part of the Hoosier character as were conservatism and steadfastness and common sense. One of Indiana's chief exports had long been ideas, but so many of these had turned out to be wrong-headed, wicked or useless. Indiana lost its friendly tolerance, its conviction that things would work out, and it by no means fulfilled its magnificent promise."

I asked in 2000 and will ask again, Why did this happen?

Martin observed: "Many plain people in Indiana blame the politicians most of all for stunting Indiana's growth. Today, Indiana is full of people who never see the economic or social ends of politics but are fascinated merely by the day-to-day business of vote getting, buttonholing, horse trading, drink buying -- all the little trickeries that made president and ward heelers alike. To win a public office is the same as to make a touchdown or to hit a home run, and as devoid of meaning."

### Monday and Tuesday....

Earlier this week, school boards convened across the Hoosier state. In what has become an early week ritual, local communities heard the sour news.

Monroe County Schools cutting 28 teachers; Shenandoah Schools announcing a dozen teacher cuts; Highland Schools, two cuts; Muncie eliminates three administrators.

At Shenandoah, the *Muncie Star Press* reported that "350 people left the Shenandoah school board meeting shaking their heads and wondering what next will happen to their schools."

It took the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star's* Sue Loughlin to report on Tuesday that statewide, 193 school districts report that for the next school year, they will cut the equivalent of 926 full-time teachers, 76 administrators and 650 support staff. That's on top of a reduction of 1,200 full-time staff for this year: 547 teachers, 70 administrators and 586 support staff.

But this isn't just another ISTA vs. Chamber battle. Despite the warnings of education cuts from the Kevin Brinegars, David Goodriches and Randall Tobias of the Hoosier world, the axe is falling. "We all knew cuts were coming. We've known that all year," said Linda Richardson of the Monroe County Education Association. "The situation was pretty evident. It rests on the shoulders of the state legislature."

Said Shenandoah school board member Scott Trennepohl, "The problem isn't with this board, it's in Indianapolis."

With 2,000 teachers rallying at the Statehouse Tuesday, it prompted State Rep. Chet Dobis to say: "I think education is a priority for most of the 150 members. The pot is the same -- where we differ is how we divide it."

State government, from the Governor's Education Roundtable, to the legislature, had toughened academic standards at the demand of business and industry, and are now in the process of pulling the rug out from schools. It's cre-

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ating what has been a Republican anathema: Unfunded mandates. And it flies in the face of the party's generational patron, President Ronald Reagan, who asked Americans in 1982 to "stay the course."

Weak sisters do not stay the course.

In fact, Meeks began the week not only with what will be a legendary quote, but by broadsiding new Ways and Means Chairman Bill Crawford, the man presiding over budget conferees by suggesting in a Fort Wayne Journal Gazette article that the new chairman was on a learning curve.

Ranking Ways and Means Republican Jeff Espich added, "The new chairman hasn't even sat in the room before. Maybe he doesn't fully comprehend what it takes to get this done."

### Compassionate conservatives

Espich, despite his role in one of the most progressive postures in the legislature this year, the House Republican Economic plan, took HPR to task for a recent column on how flat-lining Medicaid didn't jibe with the GOP's search for its "compassionate conservatism."

"How could you possibly have not noticed that this proposal first was a part of the House Democrat budget *and then wrote that?* Instead you sought to blame this supposed wrong on the GOP," Espich said. "Good or bad, all have embraced this path in order to prioritize education funding."

Espich added, "If we are going to work smarter and do a better job of controlling the cost of medicaid growth, then we are going to need the help and expertise of the O'Bannon administration. He has not tried to be helpful."

It was further propagation of Meeks' "weak sisters" argument that flies in the face of the legislature, particularly Senate Republicans, who forged the historic tax restructuring in June 2002.

Meanwhile the staff of Gov. Frank O'Bannon was blaming the gathering

woes -- Medicaid, bad schools, sewers overflowing into rivers -- on a national recession. The flaw there is that if Indiana's economy had been restructured five or six years ago when Gov.

O'Bannon had ample political capital to do so, we would have weathered this recession much better.

### The Jurassic Age ...

Today, April 24, 2003, may it be officially proclaimed that we are living in the Jurassic Age of Indiana politics.

Our best brains and talents have receded on the national presidential scene. I count only two out of 150 in the legislature who could be called "governor" (Sens. Murray Clark and Vi Simpson). The state's big city mayors face an array of overwhelming needs but have handcuffed themselves on the 1980's style "no new taxes" sentiments.

We are led by the generation incapable of doing what it takes to lead. The *Indianapolis Star* editorial writers have noted a "black hole has developed in the rotunda" and it is "sucking in vision, foresight and most of all, leadership."

In this, the Jurassic Age of Indiana politics, we find columnist Morton Marcus's fairy, Faye, emerging from the forest. "There is no leadership for higher taxes to support the programs that everyone agrees we need for economic development statewide," Faye says. "There is no leadership for cleaning up our environment, for rebuilding sewers, for better transit systems. Those goals do not appeal to powerful existing forces."

Marcus asks, "You think leaders could lead in new directions in Indiana?"

"Sure," Faye says, "but don't bet on a messianic candidate now in D.C. to take Indiana in a new direction. Anyone with overwhelming support from existing political powers is not going to do anything really valuable for the state."

And so saying, Faye fades into the forest. ❖

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Bauer, D-South Bend. "We're still hopeful for Thursday, but a week consists of Friday and Saturday." Sen. Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, also sounded upbeat. "We're closer," Meeks said. "A lot closer." Legislative leaders talked until about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday and said they made progress. "I'm really pleased with the way things went," Meeks said. The main shifts appear to be on funding for schools and higher education. While House Democratic leaders did not outline the details of the negotiations, Meeks did detail some of the offers made by Senate Republicans. Meeks said they agreed to restore the school funding cuts Gov. Frank O'Bannon made last year while trying to balance the budget. Meeks said his caucus also offered to guarantee that no school would see a funding cut and to allow schools to transfer some money from their building fund to cover operating costs. "I don't see how I can go any further," Meeks said. Meeks also said the sides are "pretty much in agreement on the dollars" for Medicaid and prisons. Meeks attributes the progress to Bauer's involvement (Niki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Flat-lining Medicaid financing while also giving the Office of Medicaid Policy and

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Planning some flexibility in finding program savings and no money to open new prison beds are a part of the compromise. Bauer was the longtime House fiscal leader and has experience negotiating budgets. "The speaker has been a lot more active in the last few days," Meeks said. "It is refreshing to negotiate with him. When the speaker got involved first-hand, it just made it easier. We made tremendous strides yesterday and today. There has been give and take from both sides of the aisle and both chambers."

**SIMPSON NOTES LACK OF CONTENTION:** "It's not as contentious as it's been in past years. Everybody is contributing," said Sen. Vi Simpson, the budget negotiator for Senate Democrats (Leslie Stedman, Louisville Courier-Journal). "There is just . . . more of a spirit that we all have to work together to get the job done." But Simpson warned that much work remains. "We've got a lot of details to work out," she said. "We're working hard on K-12 (public school) and higher education funding to get them off the table. Then there's a lot left to do." Republicans and Democrats in both chambers have also agreed that economic development is a priority, said House Republican Leader Brian Bosma. "That was not the case three months ago," he

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## It's still a dark and scary world out there

-By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS -- Hoosiers were confronted with a number of conflicting images from around the world.

Iraqis took to the streets by the tens of thousands, using chains and swords to bloody their heads and backs, and "Americans go home" cries erupted.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld suggested weapons of mass destruction may never be found. The *Washington Post* reported on Wednesday that "after 30 days, the Bush administration is losing confidence in its pre-war belief that it had strong clues pointing to the whereabouts of weapons of mass destruction concealed in Iraq."

More troubling, the *Post* reported, "Analysts said they believe that former Iraqi officials hope to conceal their culpability, barter for status with the U.S. military government or sell the technology for private gain. The war may prove to aggravate the proliferation threat that President Bush said he fought to forestall."

**And both Indiana Sens.** Dick Lugar and Evan Bayh had sobering observations. Lugar noted on NBC's *Meet the Press* that while the military execution was "brilliant," the nation building process "started very late." There is no estimate of cost or time, though Lugar said he believes it will take five years. More dicey is the thought of a theocracy taking root and governing Iraq. Asked if he could accept that, Lugar responded, "I just think we cannot." And, he said, "The thought of going to elections prematurely is disastrous."

As for Syria, Iran and North Korea, Lugar said that while the "United States is never going to rule out the military option," he talked about "extraordinary opportunities" if the U.S. "radiates its influence. We have extraordinary potential to change the governance of Syria and likewise to bring about peace with Palestine and Israel."

Bayh appeared on *Fox News*

*Sunday* and was asked about the length of stay for the U.S. military in Iraq. "I would expect that this would be an evolutionary process, where we'll have to maintain a significant presence here early on until things truly get settled down," Bayh said. "There's some momentum toward a civil society in Iraq. But we're going to have to be there for a while -- not permanently, but for a while -- because we don't want to win the war and then lose the peace."

**It's that "losing the peace" option** that sends that brief shiver down the spines of Republicans. Matthew Dowd, a Republican strategist, is telling Bush supporters to "expect the current high approval ratings to come down" to a more traditional level (*CNN*).

The \$200 million Bush re-election effort is expected to kick off with the latest Republican National Convention in history -- Aug. 30 to Sept. 2, 2004 in New York City -- which would poise Bush to take advantage of the coming Sept. 11 anniversary observations. The *Times* reported, "The back-to-back events would complete the framework for a general election campaign that is being built around national security and Mr. Bush's role in combatting terrorism." And they hope to deprive the Democratic nominee of critical news coverage during the opening weeks of the general election campaign."

**As for those all-important Bush** coattails, it's almost absurd to try to calculate those now, though many observers believe if Karl Rove plays Bush's cards right -- and he has a history of doing so-- 2004 is a scenario of landslide potential.

Stuart Rothenberg observed, "With the current House makeup standing at 229-206, the Democrats need a net gain of a dozen seats to get to 218 and control the body. That size gain is possible only if a partisan Democratic wave develops next year, which ought not be ruled out. Without it, the Republicans are likely to retain the majority." ❖

## Pastrick floats consolidation in the Region

The pronouncement from one of the most enduring Hoosier warhorses, East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick, was surprising.

"I believe strongly in consolidation," Pastrick said during a candidate endorsement interview with members of the *Times of Northwest Indiana* editorial board. "I know that sounds odd, running for mayor of one city."

It's an old idea, as old as Unigov, but it takes on new angles with talk in Indiana about a constitutional convention as a way of restructuring an antiquated Indiana government.

**Pastrick talked about** uniting East Chicago, Hammond, Whiting, Highland and Munster into "Metrolake, Indiana," which would supplant Fort Wayne as Indiana's second largest city. "The five communities would make a larger city with a lot of clout and would make for a whole community," Pastrick said.

The response was predictable. Munster Councilwoman Helen Brown told the *Post-Tribune*, "Change isn't something

that this area welcomes."

Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin said he is skeptical of institutional consolidation such as unigov (Carmen McCollom, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). "I share the objective of better government and smarter government, and I share the view of reinventing government," he said. "I favor consolidation of effort, consolidation of function, and that may be institutional and it may not be."

**Whiting Councilman** Steve Spebar said he doesn't think Pastrick's idea would benefit Whiting. "If the matter is researched or pursued so be it, but as a representative of the citizens of Whiting, I really don't think it's feasible or in our best interests," he said.

Hammond Mayor Duane Dedelow said, "I agree with cooperative efforts and saving money. I don't believe we are ready to take that quantum leap that Mayor Pastrick has suggested. I believe we need to take smaller bites out of the apple and work in that direction and see how things work for everyone's benefit."

❖

## 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:** Andrew protested Bill Moreau's decision to call him a "lobbyist." Andrew told HPR that throughout his entire career he has lobbied for only three entities, and they were charities or not-for-profits. Daniels bashed France and other European countries for their "willful self-denial of new technologies" in a speech Thursday night at the 10th anniversary of the Progress and Freedom Foundation, a Washington technology think tank (*Insight Magazine*). Speaking of the European Union's rejection of genetically modified grains, he cracked, "We created underarm deodorant, and the French turned that down too." To howls of laughter from the audience at Washington's Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, Daniels added that an American entrepreneur can dream up a new business, start it up, have it fail, and then start over in a shorter time "than it takes to get a [business] license in most European countries." **Status:** TOSSUP. ❖

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said. "That makes me a bit more optimistic."

**CONTROVERSY SUR-ROUNDS CHARTER SCHOOLS:** Tempers flared Wednesday as legislators tried to work out a compromise that would allow charter schools to continue growing while protecting the financial interests of conventional public schools (Niki Kelly, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Sen. Teresa Lubbers, R-Indianapolis, shifted substantially from her original bill in a deal offered Wednesday. But House Democrats, who want to cap the number of charter schools, were not enthusiastic about the compromise. "I think the proposal is reasonable, and it is not accurate to say this allows a proliferation of charter schools," Lubbers said. "This is a bitter, bitter pill for most of us charter school supporters. This is my best shot." Senate Bill 501 aims to resolve the problem by including charter schools in the state's basic school financing formula instead of taking money away from urban districts. Lubbers suggested each child would be paid for at the per-pupil average of the district where the charter school is located, in the poll I instead of the statewide average or average of the district where the child lives. The House

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Democrats prefer an overall cap of 25 charter schools statewide - including the existing 11.

**CONSUMER CONFIDENCE ON THE RISE:** An ABC News/Money magazine poll of 1,004 adults in the month ending April 20 (+/- 3%), shows: The ABC News/Money magazine Consumer Comfort Index "has gained 13 points, jumping from -28 to -15 on its scale of +100 to -100. Though much improved, and its best since Sept. 29, that's still below its average in this 17-year-old survey, -9." In the poll, 30% rated the national economy as excellent or good; 70% rated it as not good or poor. 60% rated their personal finances as excellent or good; 40% rated them as not good or poor. 37% said now was an excellent or a good time to buy the things they want and need; 63% said it was not a good time or a poor time.

**INDIANA'S TOP FBI AGENT APOLOGIZES TO ALBASTI:** The head of the FBI in Indiana publicly apologized Wednesday for the detention of eight Egyptian men from Evansville, who were held as part of a terrorism investigation just weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks (Evansville Courier & Press). Saying the secretive detentions came at a time of unprecedented fear

# 2003, 2004 Racing Form

**Anderson Mayoral:** **Republican:** Kevin Smith, John Blevins. **Democrat:** Robert W. Rock, Anderson Twp. Assessor Dorothy Manis, Irma Hampton Stewart. **Independent:** Linda Haynes. **1995 Results:** Lawler (D) 9,411, Graham (R) 8,817. **1999 Results:** Lawler (D) 8,395, Czarniecki (R) 7,002 Haynes (I) 1,950. **2003 Forecast:** Rock reported raising \$46,341 on top of the \$7,840 he began the year with (Anderson Herald-Bulletin). Manis reported raising \$14,921 and Stewart reported \$1,905. On the GOP side, Blevins raised \$23,278, compared to \$18,098 for Smith. **Primar Status:** *LIKELY ROCK; LIKELY BLEVINS.*

**Carmel Mayoral:** **Republican:** Mayor James Brainard, Council President Luci Snyder, Councilman Wayne Wilson. **2003 Outlook:** The Carmel City Council voted unanimously Monday night to waive the city's attorney-client privilege with Indianapolis law firm Ice Miller (*Indianapolis Star*). The Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission, which investigates complaints of attorney misconduct, sought the waiver in its investigation of a complaint against Mayor Jim Brainard, a licensed attorney. The complaint, filed in July by Councilman John Koven, a frequent critic of Brainard's, claims the mayor asked Ice Miller attorney Thomas K.

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"Buddy" Downs to overcharge the city \$5,000 for a bond issue and then funnel that money to Brainard's campaign. Downs has refused to speak to the commission, citing the attorney-client privilege. "The complaint of Mr. Koven is untrue, inaccurate, and alleges a conversation that did not occur," Brainard said in the letter. **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**Crown Point Mayoral:** **Republican:** Councilman Pam Roth, Gayle Van Sessen, Dan Klein. **Democrat:** Bill Wirtz, Wayne Isailovich. **1999 Results:** Metros (D) 3,005, Kemp (R) 2,671. **2003 Outlook:** Roth criticized Van Sessen, the local Chamber executive director, for never holding elective office. "At this time in our city's history, we do not have the luxury of waiting through a learning curve of a mayor who has never served in city government," Roth said (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Van Sessen fired back, saying that "12 years ago we had \$1 million in debt. Right now we have \$22 million in debt. And what do we have to show for it? Farm land and fire hydrants." **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP.*

**East Chicago Mayoral:** **Republican:** None. **Democrat:** Mayor Robert Pastrick, Councilman George Pabey, Judge Lonnie Randolph. **1999 Primary Results:** Pastrick 5,772, Stephen Stiglich 3,790. **1999 General Results:** Pastrick (D) 3,027, Acost (R) 629. **2003 Forecast:** Six candidates in the May primary in East Chicago, including mayoral challenger George Pabey, are alleging widespread vote fraud in the city (Michael Puente, *Post-Tribune*) and a hearing is set for Friday. They want a judge to impound more than 1,600 absentee ballot applications that have been received so far by county election officials. The allegations and the request for a preliminary injunction were filed Monday in a lawsuit in Lake Superior Court. The lawsuit attempts to strike at the heart of the city's Democratic machine headed by Mayor Robert Pastrick by listing allegations of pressure tactics used to force city employees and their families to vote for him to keep their jobs. "All we want is a fair and honest election. That's all we want," Pabey said Monday. **General Status:** *Solid Pastrick.*

**Gary Mayoral:** **Republican:** Rev. Carl Dix. **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:** King says he considered Freeman-Wilson a friend and doesn't say much bad about her. Freeman-Wilson insists they were never friends and has little good to say about him. City records show their relationship at the very least included a trust that led to thousands of dollars going from King's control to Freeman-Wilson's pockets, even as recently last year. King admits he hired her husband Carmen Wilson to head the Gary Sanitary District in 2000 mostly as a favor to Freeman-Wilson. He said he gave her and her law firm city contracts because of his respect for her work and his relationship with her. But Freeman-Wilson says her

relationship with King was never one she considered close. And though they were political allies, talk that King did her any favors are lies, she said. "The mayor has always tried to be supportive of my endeavors outside the city," she said, "because he knew that I was in the best position to beat him." The Rev. Raymond Carl Dix Jr. owes more than \$18,000 in support payments to three children. **General Status:** *Solid King.*

**Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican:** Linda Buskirk, O. (Bro) Blye. **Democrat:** Mayor Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Results:** Richard (D) 21,607, Buskirk (R) 21,531. **2003 Forecast:** Richard leads the money race by more than 3-to-1 over Buskirk (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Each raised about \$112,000 between Jan. 1 and Monday, when state-required campaign finance reports were due, and both spent similar amounts. But the \$211,837 war chest Richard started with leaves him on the cusp of the Democratic primary with \$281,845 in the bank, while Republican Buskirk has only \$91,410. Richard officially began his campaign for re-election on Monday with about 50 supporters - many of them city employees and union members. "We're so close to accomplishing these very important initiatives," Richard said. "But it will take eight years to do the things we've begun to do." **General Status:** Tossup.

**Hammond Mayoral: Republican:** Mayor Duane Dedelow. **Democrat:** Tom McDermott Jr. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Results:** Dedelow (R) 10,192, Philpot (D) 8,527, Robinson (L) 278. **2003 Outlook:** Mayor Dedelow has yet to return \$14 million to city coffers despite a court order saying he had no right to negotiate a contract with Horseshoe Casino then spend the money without the City Council's approval (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). As a result, the council is pursuing several legal avenues to ensure Dedelow complies with the spirit of the ruling, handed down March 19 by a unanimous seven-judge panel of Lake Superior Court. Dedelow has said he will appeal the verdict. Council Attorney Robert Berger filed a motion April 10 asking the court to enforce its judgment through an injunction. Specifically, the council wants the court to restrain Dedelow and the Hammond Development Corp., which received \$8.7 million. **General Status:** *Tossup.*

**Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican:** Treasurer Greg Jordan. **Democrat:** Mayor Bart Peterson, Karen Sue Beck. **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:** As the city's police union continues to criticize Mayor Bart Peterson over stalled contract talks, five officers are vying for seats on the very City-County Council that determines whether his proposals live or die. "The fact we don't have a contract plays into it," said Sgt. Bruce Henry Sr., a 16-year veteran of the Indianapolis Police Department (*Indianapolis Star*). He also is on the Fraternal Order of Police bargaining team. "The officers are at their wits' end . . . that negotiations are stalled." **General Status:** *Likely Peterson.*

**Portage Mayoral: Republican:** Open. **Democrat:** Mayor Doug Olson, Joe Blackwell. **2003 Forecast:** Olsen raised \$44,309 and Blackwell reported \$2,063. **General status:** *LEANS OLSON.*

**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:** Two radio ads paid for by the committee to re-elect Mayor Judy Anderson that began airing Wednesday feature attacks on the honesty of one of her opponents, Kevin Burke (Pete Ciancone, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*). The ads state that Burke has three warrants for unpaid taxes. "To be mayor, you have to be number one, honest, and number two, fiscally responsible," Anderson said Thursday. She said the warrants, on file in the Vigo County Clerk's office, total a relatively small amount, but the amount didn't matter. "If you steal a piece of candy, it's still stealing." **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 raised \$12,935, compared to \$2,882 for Mayor Butterfield. **General status:** *TOSSUP.* ❖

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in the nation, FBI Special Agent Thomas V. Fuentes acknowledged that the detentions caused the men and their families distress and humiliation long after the government cleared them of suspicion. "The situation that happened to you was horrible," Fuentes told former detainee Tarek Albasti during an evening meeting at the Islamic Center of Evansville. "On behalf of the FBI, I will apologize."

**VANDERBURGH COUNTY EYES TAX HIKE FOR JAIL:** Vanderburgh County Council leaders say the possibility of tax increases can't be ruled out in the construction of a \$35 million jail, but they're hopeful the project can be funded with existing taxes (*Evansville Courier & Press*). County officials, citing the sluggish economy and increasing demands on local governments, have openly expressed concern in recent weeks about how they will make the projected \$2.7 million in annual debt service payments on the new jail.

**CONGRESSIONAL CAMPAIGN FUNDS REPORTED:** U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, R-3rd, has launched his fifth re-election campaign in his typical bare-bones style that reflects his distaste for asking supporters for more money than his campaign will need and months before the cash is required (*Sylvia*

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# TICKER T A P E

Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Souder posted \$17,343 cash on hand as of March 31 for the two-year fund-raising cycle that began the day after last November's election. <p> He is one of only a handful of House incumbents with such a small balance. Only one other Hoosier - Rep. John Hostettler, R-8th, - has a smaller nest egg. Hostettler has \$10,096 on hand. By contrast, Rep. Dan Burton, R-5th, has \$907,003 in the bank, making his the 38th richest campaign among the nearly 800 current and former candidates who filed first-quarter reports with the Federal Election Commission. "I don't believe in stockpiling," Souder said. "Until I have a real opponent that's a real threat, I won't raise a lot of money. My goal is to spend the least amount possible in any election." Other Indiana House incumbents and their cash-on-hand balances are Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-1st, \$429,693; Rep. Chris Chocola, R-2nd, \$204,456; Rep. Julia Carson, D-7th, \$40,250; Rep. Mike Pence, R-6th, \$60,752; Rep. Baron Hill, D-9th, \$42,154; and Rep. Steve Buyer, R-4th, \$32,313.

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# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Jim Shella**, *WishTV.com* - "Where's Frank?" The question came from a Republican state senator as we shared an elevator. Its not an innocent question, of course. Republicans want reporters, their constituents, the public in general, to believe that Frank O'Bannon is missing in action. He's not. As the 2003 session draws to a close the governor is engaged in the legislative process much the same as he has been in previous years. He conducts interviews, holds a weekly availability with the Statehouse press corps as well as teleconferences with out state media, and he meets with legislative leaders on a regular basis. Several members of his staff can frequently be found in and around the legislative chambers working with lawmakers. If any legislator wants to know what the governor is thinking on a given issue, it's not hard to find out. But there is a difference. Compare this year to previous years and you will find that the governor is making fewer appearances outside the Statehouse. When Frank O'Bannon was pushing full day kindergarten during his first term, he was making appearances at schools, and in cities, from Gary to Evansville. The idea then was: Convince the public, lawmakers will follow. There is none of that now. Why? First, there is no money, so there are no new programs to pitch. Secondly, Frank O'Bannon's approval rating is not what it could be, somewhere in the 40s. Private polling has shown it lower. Knowing that, efforts to rally the public might actually backfire. And so, the governor is keeping a lower public profile. ❖

**Leslie Stedman**, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - After more than a decade of work, Rep. Jerry Denbo was so desperate this year to pass a bill authorizing a casino for his home Orange County that he promised to quit smoking if the legislation became law. Last week, as the House

voted 79-12 to send the bill to Gov. Frank O'Bannon for approval, Public Health Committee Chairman Charlie Brown was quick to remind him. "I want all the people of Orange County, all the people in TV land, to know, Jerry Denbo is going to give up smoking," said Brown during debate on the bill. A euphoric Denbo said he'll try. "I don't have any choice now anyway. I can't go home now and smoke."

**Brian A. Howey**, *Indianapolis Eye* - The fact of the matter is that our politicians are wedded to a 15-year-old mantra of "no new taxes" that flies in the face of a gathering storm of social predicaments that beg for more money. No new taxes; no new judges; no new jail cells. The price to be paid is a handful of homicides, a dozen or so armed robberies, dozens of larcenies, burglaries, assaults, along with some indecent exposures for good measure. The problems are now coming home to roost. In the next several months, Indianapolis and other cities will be required by Indiana law to inform the public every time it dumps more fecal matter (as well as condoms and panty liners) into our rivers. Later this week, the Marion County justice system is expected to begin unloading inmates out into the general population. Some of the folks in that population will actually vote in the November elections. Here's the political nightmare, perhaps on par with Stephen Goldsmith's rioting cops back in 1996 on Meridian Street: An early released inmate murders a couple of people; maybe even some innocents and not just another drug dealer. Mayor Peterson and his opponent, Republican county Treasurer Greg Jordan, will then be forced to explain which is more important, "keeping people safe" or fending off those pesky tax increases that could have allowed for the government to adequately perform its most vital mission. ❖