

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

“You’re a good governor, but you’re a better man....”

- Bob Kovatch to Gov. Frank O’Bannon as he left the administration (Mike Smith, *Associated Press*)

‘Heartbeat away’ gets new scrutiny

Friends say Kernan to revisit 2004

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Gov. Bren Simon?

Gov. Paul Shoopman?

During the week when Hoosiers will bury their late governor, Frank O’Bannon, the questions above are not only fair, but appropriate. Since 1991, Govs. Mel Carnahan (Missouri, plane crash), Lawton Chiles (Florida, heart attack), Kirk Fordice (Mississippi, car accident), Paul Casey (Pennsylvania, illness), George Mickelson (South Dakota, plane crash), and Richard Snelling (Vermont, heart attack), have died in office.

Next week Gov. Joe Kernan, who friends say is likely to take one more hard look at the 2004 governor’s race, is expected to name a new lieutenant governor. Who he chooses will lend a clue as to how his deliberations will go.

The two names above could have been or will be the proverbial “heartbeat away” from the Indiana governorship. Simon was tabbed by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Joe Andrew in July. Shoopman, the CEO of Dura Builders, was under consideration by Republican candidate David McIntosh until he left the race on Sept. 4.

While Simon and Shoopman may not be unprecedented fresh business entrants into high stake state politics, they would have been for Indiana. Hoosiers have reached into the business class in modern times, but have mainly relied on the political class.

Gov. Roger D. Branigin ran as a Lafayette attorney unsuccessfully in 1956 before winning in 1964. Along the way, he developed the proper Democratic Party network to reach office. Ditto for Gov. Edgar D. Whitcomb, who devel-

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Covering 10 years of Indiana politics

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10 DAYS THAT ROCKED INDIANA: For comprehensive coverage, analysis, commentary and photos of Gov. Frank O'Bannon's death and Gov. Joe Kernan's ascent to office, see *"10 Days That Rocked Indiana"* on the Indianapolis Eye website ... at

www.indianapoliseye.com

DOWNES RESIGNS AS ADAMS HS PRINCIPAL: Changes in Indiana's state government may have caused some personnel changes at a local high school. Adams High School has a new interim principal. Mary Downes has resigned (WNDU-TV). Downes is expected to be named Gov. Kernan's chief of staff. As for Mary Downes, Dr. Joan Raymond said, "I have no comment in terms of her resignation, but I'm sure that that will be made public shortly."

KERNAN FINDS SOLACE IN SOUTH BEND: The first thing Joe Kernan wanted to do when he returned home for the first time as governor was to get out on the St. Joseph River in his rowing shell (Tom Coyne, Associated Press). "My favorite place in the world is to be on the river," Kernan said Wednesday. "For me it

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oped his GOP network in unsuccessful runs for Congress in 1954, the Senate in 1964, before winning the secretary of state office in 1966 and the governorship in 1968. In 1980, Batesville industrialist John A. Hillenbrand II secured the Democratic nomination in large part because of his financial support of the party. In 1992, Linley Pearson's disastrous gubernatorial campaign reached out to Robert Green of Vincennes as the LG, in large part because of his fundraising abilities.

With those exceptions, Indiana's modern era of politics has been dominated at the governor and LG levels by people who have either served in the legislature, or spent the necessary time networking within the party. In the modern era, Evan Bayh is a classic example of a relatively new figure who emerged at the state's highest level. But even in that situation, Bayh had more than eight years of work in the trenches as campaign manager for his father's 1980 U.S. Senate campaign, then his stumping for 1984 gubernatorial nominee Wayne Townsend that set him up for the 1986 secretary of state race.

Instead of leaving indelible footprints on the Hoosier political landscape in recent years, Simon and Shoopman were chosen or under consideration for financial reasons. Simon told the press at her announcement press conference that she would "do whatever it takes" to help Andrew secure the nomination. Most observers read "open checkbook."

With Simon, however, there are few relationships with anyone in the legislature that HPR has been able to ascertain. For that matter, many key people in the Indiana Democratic Party know of her as a generous checkwriter and a national committee member, but little else. In essence, Bren Simon was almost an Oz-like figure, working behind the curtain.

With Shoopman, our first reaction to reports that McIntosh was ready to select him was: "Who?"

Politics, not business

Kernan succinctly laid out his two most important criteria for lieutenant governor on Monday: "It has to be someone I can work with and who is capable of stepping into the governor's duties."

The second of the two is critical for a successful administration. And a huge portion of that is a person's ability to work with the Indiana General Assembly. Whitcomb lacked the legislative background and struggled in his governorship.

Bayh steadily built such relationships as a campaign manager and as a candidate for two offices. His governorships had their ups and down, complicated by a 50/50 House and special budget sessions, though he was able to forge a record excise tax cut with Republicans and Democrats. Govs. Matt Welch (House and Senate), Doc Bowen (House Speaker), Robert Orr and Frank O'Bannon (both from the Senate) were all legislative creatures, though like Whitcomb, O'Bannon struggled with legislative relationships.

For Bren Simon, the ability to build legislative relationships is a germane question. Andrew has already stated that his LG will concentrate on economic development while gaveling open and shut the Senate, as well as breaking ties.

Right now, few in the legislature know much about her, let alone having developed any relationships. And Simon has yet to reveal her public policy stripes. For more than a month, HPR has sought an interview with Simon on the political boilerplate basic stances -- death penalty, abortion, home rule, euthanasia -- with no response. These are issues that established political figures have developed and can reel off pat answers.

Andrew's confidence

Andrew's response was this: "I'm more confident in her today than the day I picked her. I wanted someone who had business experience and who could relate

to people on a number of different levels. She was a widow, a single mom, she's an entrepreneur. I'm more convinced she can do the job as I have defined it. She has leadership experience in running a business, non-for-profits and who has life experiences.

Saying, "There is no individual job preparing you for governor unless you are governor," Andrew took the logic of lack of legislative experience a step further. "If that were the case, Evan Bayh and Joe Kernan wouldn't be qualified," he said, adding that there was "inherent sexism" in the question. "I believe Michael Browning or Jeff Smulyan would be good governors. They are men and no one would ask the same questions of men. They clearly have executive skills and judgment, experience and background."

Andrew used the potential of an execution as an example. In Simon, he said, there is the life experience of being a single mother. "She's uniquely qualified to make that decision because of her life experiences," he said. "I'll put that experience up against anyone. Those are questions of judgment."

Run it like a business

Columnist Morton Marcus has already taken on the 1990s GOP notion of "running government like a business." In an August newspaper column, Marcus observed, "Mitch Daniels has fallen into the trap of declaring that the governor's role is similar to that of the chief executive officer of a company. No. Government is not a business. The constraints are different, the objectives are different, the instruments for action are different. No CEO has to contend with anything like a powerful, elected General Assembly."

CEOs can fire or demote recalcitrant executives who, as former Lilly CEO Randall Tobias would say, won't "move in the same direction."

To the contrary, Gov. O'Bannon and his staff were fixated on not angering

or alienating Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton.

Kernan's choice

Next week, Gov. Kernan's nominee for LG will be revealing. With former First Lady Judy O'Bannon signalling her intention of not seeking a role in the new administration, Kernan's selection could indicate two future courses.

If Kernan chooses someone with deep legislative relationships who has already left the scene, it will indicate a 15-month plan of action that will signal his intention to retire from public life. Such a nominee list (and folks, this is pure speculation) might include former Sens. Robert Hellmann, Mike Gery, former Rep. Susan Crosby, Budget Director Marilyn Schultz, or Higher Education Commissioner Stan Jones.

While Kernan resisted questions as to whether he might reconsider running for governor, some close to the governor expect him and First Lady Maggie Kernan to at least revisit the question.

On Sept. 9, the day after Gov. O'Bannon fell ill, Kernan told the press that, "Nothing that has happened in the last 36 hours has changed my mind about the decision I announced in December."

On Monday, Kernan acknowledged that he and the First Lady hadn't had a chance to revisit their circumstances and when questioned again, said, "I've already answered that question" while evading the "36-hour" qualifier.

A choice of, say, State Sen. Connie Sipes, who is an elementary school principal from New Albany, Joe Andrew or Sen. Simpson (both would have to reassess if a sitting governor decided to run), or former Congresswoman Jill Long Thompson, would signal new intentions.

Allies of Gov. Kernan would be "surprised, but not shocked" if Kernan changed his mind about running. Part of that scenario is that with Gov. O'Bannon's death, the political backdrop had changed

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is exercise, which is important not just for my body but also for my head. It gives me a great opportunity and a beautiful place where the phone doesn't ring to think about those things I should be thinking about." Kernan has had much on his mind since Gov. Frank O'Bannon suffered a stroke Sept. 8 and died five days later. The lieutenant governor, who announced 10 months ago he would not run for governor in 2004, suddenly became the state's top official. "I don't think it's sunk in," Kernan said. "I don't know that it will ever sink in." Added to his worries is that his 80-year-old father, Joe Kernan Sr., is in a Cleveland hospital recovering from aneurysm surgery in his chest. Considering all that has happened, Kernan said he enjoyed returning to South Bend, where he was mayor for nine years. He did say, however, that his wife, Maggie, a bank vice president, will spend more time in Indianapolis, although she was still working that out with her bosses. "We're still sorting out what the implications might be," Kernan said.

JUDY O'BANNON DOESN'T ENVISION ROLE IN KERNAN ADMINISTRATION: Former First Lady Judy O'Bannon's public presence has never loomed larger as

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it has over the past week, but she feels duty-bound to step aside in the coming weeks to make room for the new administration (Ken Kusmer, Associated Press). Her late husband hand-picked Joe Kernan to be his running mate and, unforeseeably, his successor, but Mrs. O'Bannon does not intend to maintain any official capacity in the Kernan administration, her chief of staff, Jonathon Swain said Monday. "I don't think I would be speaking out of turn to say that she would discourage any discussion of her having some official role in state government," Swain said. "She feels Governor Kernan is a strong and capable leader, and this is his administration now."

ZOGBY SAYS BUSH IS IN TROUBLE: The Christian Science Monitor reported this morning on a recent Monitor breakfast with John Zogby, president and chief executive officer of Zogby International. Zogby said, "Right now, as things stand, [President Bush] is in the unenviable position of being at the whim of external forces that could be beyond his control." On whether the war in Iraq will permanently tarnish President Bush, Zogby said it is "way too early to say 'permanently tarnish' and way too early to say that it will be forgotten. Where we stand right now, the president is in

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considerably. The prevailing thought was that Kernan didn't want to "play defense" in seeking his own term and was content to return to South Bend to be with his wife, work for Notre Dame and buy a minor league baseball team. Now, criticisms of the O'Bannon administration from Republicans will have to be invoked carefully. Kernan could subtly communicate what would be expected to be a more activist *modus operandi*, and concentrate on what the 2004 election should really be about: a vision.

There is also prevailing thought that presumed GOP nominee Mitch Daniels isn't as strong as he once appeared, partic-

ularly with the \$500 billion plus federal budget deficit he presided over and the controversies surrounding President Bush's \$87 billion Iraq appropriation that have confounded even ardent Congressional Republican war hawks. As White House budget director, his war costs were much lower than the \$160 billion that have become reality. Some Democrats are already hoping that Kernan can make the case that all states suffered under this recession and jobless recovery, but Indiana fared better than most while it was alone in restructured its tax and economic development sectors. ❖

\$87 billion for Iraq has Members gulping

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON -- Before, during and after the war in Iraq, Republican Rep. Mike Pence (R-6th CD) was one of many staunch GOP allies of the Bush administration.

Now Pence is setting himself apart from most of his Capitol Hill colleagues by resisting the president's push for \$87 billion to continue the effort in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As the administration prepares a budget request for financing military operations and rebuilding efforts in the two countries, Pence is questioning why the United States would have to foot so much of the bill. He wants to see a funding commitment from countries such as Britain and Australia, who fought along with the United States in Iraq, as well as others that backed the war, such as Japan. Pence said he was disappointed that when President Bush outlined his \$87 billion request in a Sept. 7 speech, he didn't have allies lined up for financial support.

"It seemed to me like a day late and a billion short," said Pence. "In a perfect world, the Secretary of State would have (already) met with coalition partners and secured a commitment. There are many wealthy nations who supported

our efforts to remove Saddam Hussein. I'm one of those saying I'd like the administration to do what it said it was going to do -- bring our coalition partners to the table."

Pence said that he anticipates he will attend a donors conference with Secretary of State Colin Powell next month in Madrid.

Pence did not say that he would oppose the Iraq funding, but he makes clear that he won't rubber-stamp it. "We're going to have a thorough debate and discussion about this bill."

The \$87 billion request includes \$66 billion for military operations and \$21 billion for rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan. This amount comes on top of a \$79 billion appropriation approved by Congress in the spring. The costs of the Iraq war will likely push the deficit for the next fiscal year above \$500 billion. A *Washington Post* poll of 1,104 adults conducted from Sept. 10-13 showed that 61 percent opposed additional spending for the war and rebuilding Iraq.

In Muncie, Richmond and Anderson, Pence was hearing similar misgivings. "The people I represent are growing more concerned about the size of the deficit," said Pence. But he said he will resist any efforts to repeal any Bush tax

cuts to pay for rebuilding Iraq because the U.S. economy remains in the doldrums. "That's a hill I'm willing to die on," he said. "Now that the president is polling like a mortal man, it's going to embolden people to take a run at his agenda."

Pence Unlikely to Get Traction

Pence may be looking toward the future. "He's successfully positioning himself for a higher profile over time," said an administration official. But for now, "he's not a senior enough figure to have a significant impact on any final outcome" of the Iraq appropriations bill.

A more typical stance is the one taken by Pence's fellow Hoosier GOP conservative, Rep. Mark Souder (3rd CD). "I wish (the appropriation) wasn't so big, but I plan to support it," he said. "We have to suck it up and pass the bill. We as Republicans need to get behind the president and do what is right."

Souder doubts that the United States will receive significant funding from its coalition partners. "It's like getting blood out of a turnip," he said. "Even if they all (contributed), we'd be talking about 83 (billion) instead of 87 (billion). We still have the same basic problem." He said most of the money is going to the U.S. military and U.S. firms involved in reconstruction.

Souder said it is better to fund rebuilding Iraq than to allow Iraqi political groups hostile to the United States to take over the country and begin building chemical and biological weapons, necessitating another U.S. invasion. "Which way saves more lives and is cheaper?" Souder asked.

Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh believes "there should be no skimping when it comes to supporting the war on terrorism and advancing the cause of freedom," said spokesman Mark Kornblau. But Bayh does want to see an accounting of how the \$87 billion will be spent. In a Senate banking subcommittee hearing on

Tuesday, he advocated securitizing Iraqi oil revenue to pay for at least part of the reconstruction costs.

Republican Rep. Chris Chocola (R-2nd CD), who visited Iraq, said he will vote for the \$87 billion budget request, calling it "an appropriate and far-sighted investment." Succeeding in Iraq is tantamount to defeating the terrorism responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington. "This is the front-line in the war on terrorism. If (terrorists) are not in Iraq, they'll be someplace else. They'll be in New York, or Chicago or London," he said. "Every member who's been (to Iraq) is going to be in support of (the appropriations bill) in a bipartisan way. We have no choice but to succeed and the ingredients of success are there."

Fundamental Policy

But the definition of success hasn't been determined. Souder said he and his colleagues are growing increasingly concerned about the direction of U.S. policy toward Iraq. "There's an increasing restiveness that the American people don't understand what we're doing," he said. "It's a combination of hostile media, Democratic politics and sometimes the ineffectiveness of the administration in communicating its message."

Republican Sen. Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will launch hearings next week designed to answer fundamental questions about U.S. plans for rebuilding Iraq: What will an Iraq 5-year plan look like? How can democratic institutions succeed in Iraq? And what should the U.S. role be in furthering those developments? Where does Iraq fit in the global war on terrorism?

"Lugar wrote those out on a legal pad himself and said this is what we need to ask in the hearings," said spokesman Andy Fisher. "He's involved in the process of how you pass (the appropriations request) but then more importantly, the longer-term approach and policy." ❖

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trouble. The president is in trouble because of the economy and insecurity and the president is in trouble because of the Iraq peace and the sense of a lack of stability in the region."

BUSH SAYS SADDAM NOT INVOLVED IN SEPT. 11: President Bush said Wednesday there was no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, disputing an idea held by many Americans (CNN). "There's no question that Saddam Hussein had al Qaeda ties," the president said. But he also said, "We have no evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved with the September 11" attacks.

KERNAN TOUTS ENERGIZE INDIANA IN SOUTH BEND: Governor Joe Kernan and five members of his administration visited South Bend today to provide a primer on the state's Energize Indiana economic development plan. More than 150 businesspeople, local economic development experts, elected leaders and others from a nine-county area in Northern Indiana - Region 2 of the Department of Commerce's 12 regions - gathered to hear how they can grow businesses, undertake research and create jobs through Energize Indiana, which was passed by the General Assembly in

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April. Region 2 covers Elkhart, Fulton, LaGrange, LaPorte, Kosciusko, Marshall, Pulaski, St. Joseph and Starke counties. Kernan explained how Indiana had moved into a position "to be dreaming big dreams and pursuing big ideas." He compared passage of Energize Indiana to the "topping out" of a building construction project, a moment often celebrated when the basic structure is in place. The state, he said, has already taken actions under the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon to construct a strong future by adopting some of the highest academic standards and accountability measures for K-12 in the country; creating a Community College system; and overhauling the state's tax system. "Energize Indiana is the top girder on which we will build a stronger future for Indiana. With your help and the help of others like you across this great state, Energize Indiana will allow us to transform the Hoosier economy."

MANOUS, KEVIN PASTRICK, NANNENGA ARRAIGNED IN SOUTH BEND: Peter Manous gave Kevin Pastrick a friendly pat on the back Tuesday as they prepared to meet union fraud charges head on (Bill Dolan, Times of Northwest Indiana). They and Gerry Nannenga pleaded not

2003 Racing Form

Trendline: The strength and direction of the national economy very likely will be the most important determinant of the 2004 election (Charlie Cook, *National Journal*). Historically, economic growth measured by real change in the gross domestic product, change in real disposable income and, to a lesser extent, unemployment and inflation, have been some of the best indicators of whether an incumbent president will be re-elected. Interestingly, history tells us it isn't so much the precise state of the economy on Election Day as the state of the economy roughly six months before the election that determines the winner. In their work, "Forecasting Elections," professors Michael Lewis-Beck of the University of Iowa and Tom Rice of the University of Vermont have found the highest correlations with election outcome are comparisons of unemployment figures from March of the election year to June of that year; inflation rates for June of the year before the election to June of the election year; change in real personal income from the second quarter of the year before the election to the second quarter of the election year; and change in gross domestic product for those periods.

2003 Indiana Mayoral Races

Anderson Mayoral: Republican: Kevin Smith. **Democrat:** Robert W. Rock. **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:** The union representing officers with the Anderson Police Department has endorsed Smith to be the next mayor of the city (Ken de la Bastide, *Anderson Herald-Bulletin*). Smith is a detective with APD. Rock said he was not surprised by the FOP endorsement of a fellow police officer. "I'm gratified," said Smith. "This shows that people are ready for a change. APD members know better than anyone the unfavorable political climate we live under. APD members want professional government. It's time for a change." The FOP took a bipartisan stance in endorsing candidates for the Anderson City Council, backing four Republicans and two Democrats. **General Status:** TOSSUP.

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Columbus Mayoral: Republican: David Mann. **Democrat:** Mayor Fred Armstrong. **1999 Results:** Armstrong (D) 6,278, Paris (R) 2,599. **2003 Outlook:** Two debates have taken place in the past week. Last night, the two candidates sparred over recycling. "We have one of the best recycling centers in the country," Armstrong said, referring to a local drop-off site (Paul Minnis, *Columbus Republic*). But Mann said some people are unwilling to haul recyclables to the center because of inconvenience and because they do not want to dirty their cars. He said curbside pickup should be free, because the city's monetary loss would be made up easily with the space saved in the county landfill. Last week at Denney's, the two talked about efforts to attract high-paying jobs to Columbus were defended by one candidate and attacked by the other Saturday during the city's first mayoral debate (Minnis, *Columbus Republic*). Mayor Armstrong said the city is keeping an admittedly bad situation from getting worse. Mann said the city is headed down the wrong path and could do more to reverse the trend. "We've lost 48,000 manufacturing jobs since 1990," Mann said to members of Bartholomew County Landlord's Association, who sponsored the event. He said those jobs can be held or gained only by the city's willingness to work with companies and provide incentives. "We must create a business and job-retention task force - to keep track of the pulse - of area businesses," Mann said. But Armstrong said the city already meets often with companies and has established a committee that explores economic development plans. "We have the best programs in Indiana. It's tough, but we're getting the job done." **General Status:** *Leans Armstrong.*

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 was pleased with his exposure on the *Daily Show with John Stewart* Wednesday on the Comedy Channel. Samantha Bee described Evansville as the "sewage on your lawn capital of America." Lloyd clearly went along with the joke, at one point saying, "Attending the Cher concert was a more important duty than listening to the people." Lloyd said in an e-mail this morning, "There is a segment about Evansville, Indiana, on the *Daily Show* with John Stewart on Comedy Central. I agreed to let the *Daily Show* come in and tape TV interviews after it was reported on the AP wires that I attended a Cher concert in Evansville instead of a City Council meeting to listen to neighbors complain about drainage problems from a heavy rain that caused combination sewers to back up into residents yards, streets and houses. I watched it, Correspondent Samantha Bee does a great job addressing both sides of this sticky (!) issue!" Weinzapfel called Tuesday for Mayor Lloyd to intervene at the Evansville Housing Authority (John Martin, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Weinzapfel said he had seen a "pattern of mismanagement" on the part of EHA Executive Director Paul Fletcher, and said Lloyd should demand Fletcher's removal. In a written statement released late Tuesday afternoon, Lloyd said Weinzapfel's request was premature. A member of the EHA Board accused Weinzapfel of "politicizing" the situation, and said Weinzapfel has a conflict of interest in the matter because his law firm represented an EHA subsidiary. Weinzapfel also denied he was playing politics. "I have simply asked the mayor to demonstrate leadership and fix the management problems at EHA," he said. **General Status:** *Leans Weinzapfel.*

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Linda Buskirk. **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 will have a major fundraiser in Indianapolis next Monday that will be hosted by Richard Waterfield, Scott Jones and Christopher LaMothe. "We think this is a pretty significant endorsement," said campaign manager Angela Boerger. "These hosts have given a lot of money to prominent Republicans." Buskirk will fire Police Chief Rusty York and scrap the Fort Wayne Police Department's quadrant system if she is elected, the Republican mayoral candidate said Monday (Dan Stockman, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Richard said York has done all the things Buskirk claims she wants in the department: More accountability, more neighborhood partnerships and more community-oriented policing. "Chief York has done an outstanding job," Richard said. "I'm very pleased with the leadership of Chief York. I would be very disappointed to see Chief York fired simply because he was an appointee of this administration." Richard said he was also disappointed Buskirk broke an agreement not to campaign until after the funeral for Gov. Frank O'Bannon (Stockman, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "I thought we were going into a period of remorse and remembering," Richard said. "I was under the impression we were going to suspend traditional campaigning." Both campaigns agreed Saturday to suspend TV advertising, though it took until Monday to get the ads off the air. Buskirk campaign manager Jim Banks said the agreement related only to ads. "We never agreed to stop our campaign," Banks said. The Allen County Right to Life Political Action Committee and Indiana Right to Life Political Action Committee both endorsed Buskirk. **General Status:** *Leans Buskirk.*

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Treasurer Greg Jordan. **Democrat:** Mayor

Bart Peterson. **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:** A new poll for the *Indianapolis Star and WTHR (Channel 13)* shows Peterson ahead 58-26 percent. As for who they blame for the property tax crisis, the poll showed that 31 percent blamed the General Assembly, 29 percent don't know, 15 percent blamed Gov. Frank O'Bannon, 13 percent the City-County Council, no one 9 percent, and Mayor Peterson 4 percent. **General Status:** *Likely Peterson.*

Muncie Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Dan Canan. **Democrat:** Dennis Tyler. **1995**

Results: Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. **1999 Results:** Canan (R) 7,973, Smith (D) 5,611. **2003 Forecast:** Canan and Tyler will debate at 7 p.m. Sept. 25 at Muncie City Hall. **General status:** *Likely Canan.* ❖

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guilty Tuesday to a federal indictment alleging they illegally influenced and profited from the investment of \$10 million in pension money from the Northwest Indiana District Council of Carpenters to buy land in Porter County's Coffee Creek. Manous, 41, of Munster, was an attorney for the carpenters union and a former state Democratic Party chairman. Pastrick, 36, of Munster, is a real estate agent, owner of Sand Creek Sales and Development and son of East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick. Nannenga, 51, of Zionsville, is a former executive secretary and business manager for the union. The three men chatted amiably with their lawyers and one another until U.S. District Court Magistrate Christopher Nuechterlein entered the court, looked at the defendants and the 16-count felony indictment, and said, "I assume everyone is from Lake County?" Nuechterlein ordered the three to stand trial this December on charges they engineered a deal in March 1999 to have the union buy 55 acres in Coffee Creek, a 640-acre residential and commercial development near Chesterton. Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas L. Kirsch II said Tuesday the trial could last two weeks. The case currently is set to take place in South Bend before Judge Robert Miller

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BUSH AT 52 PERCENT IN ZOGBY POLL: A CBS News poll of 675 adults, conducted over September 15-16 (+/- 4%), shows: 52% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President"; 39% disapprove; 9% don't know. 47% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling foreign policy"; 44% disapprove; 9% don't know. 46% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Iraq"; 47% disapprove; 7% don't know. 41% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling the economy"; 52% disapprove; 7% don't know.

INDIANA SEES SHARP SURGE IN HISPANICS: More than 19,000 Hispanics have settled in Indiana in the last two years, continuing a decade-long national trend, according to census numbers released today (Ron Shawgo, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Although an economic downturn has wracked the nation since the 2000 census showed the largest influx of Hispanics in U.S. history, it appears not to have deterred many immigrants. An estimated 236,367 Hispanics now live in Indiana, a 9 percent increase over two years that is reflected in northeast Indiana.

GERGEN SEEKS LEADERSHIP: David Gergen, former White House adviser, this week challenged members of a Muncie audience to

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Mike McDaniel, *Indianapolis Eye* -

He was one of the most successful politicians in the history of Indiana. In 34 years, he never lost an election for the Indiana Senate, for lieutenant governor or for governor. All Hoosier politicians should reflect upon and learn from the successful political career of Gov. Frank O'Bannon. Why was Gov. O'Bannon undefeated in every election? The answer is one word. He was likable, period, end of report. In my 30 years in Indiana politics, I never met a Republican or a Democrat who didn't like Frank O'Bannon. Think about that for a second. During the last 34 years, politics in Indiana has evolved into a full contact sport. Politics is truly a rough and tumble life today. A lot of good people stay away from politics and public service because it has become so mean-spirited. Yet throughout this evolution, Frank O'Bannon kept his civility. People liked Gov. O'Bannon because they sensed that he genuinely liked and cared about them. He always had a friendly smile, a firm handshake and a pat on the back for everybody he met – every time he met them. When he shook your hand or greeted you, he was always looking you right in the eyes and not over your shoulder for the more important person in the room. He listened. Every conversation with him was about you. He wanted to know how you were doing. He wanted to know what you thought about the way things were going. The beauty of his demeanor was that it was genuine. In this day and age, some politicians live by the new adage – once you learn to take sincerity the rest is easy – there wasn't an ounce of phoniness in Gov. O'Bannon. ❖

Mike Redmon, *Indianapolis Eye* - I am inclined to like Joe Kernan because he was smart enough not to run for governor, as many expected. Of course, given the

way the state's economy has gone sour in the past few years, he may have made that decision out of self-preservation, but even so, that makes him smarter than a lot of other candidates I have seen in my lifetime. George McGovern, Fritz Mondale and Bob Dole come to mind. Actually, now that I think about it, I have been inclined to like Joe Kernan ever since he was hired to be the commencement speaker at the University of Notre Dame a few years back, and members of the senior class protested that he wasn't important enough for them. It was a slap in the face. Here was a man, a Notre Dame graduate, who had been a POW in Vietnam, for God's sake, and had come home to a successful career in public service, with a reputation for intelligence, decency and good humor. So how did Kernan react to this insult? With decency, intelligence and good humor. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Gov. Frank O'Bannon, losing popularity for reasons beyond his control, now wins justified praise, even from those critics who pestered him with the accusing question: "Where did the surplus go?" Actually, the critics, with few exceptions, never attacked the governor personally. In disagreement with some of his policies, they agreed that Frank was a good man. Indeed he was. ❖

Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star* - With O'Bannon's passing, though, the political attacks that would have been certain are now likely to end. "It makes it hard for there to be criticism," said State Sen. Luke Kenley. Instead of attacking the O'Bannon administration's record, candidates will likely lay out more of a positive vision of their own agenda. Instead of talking only about problems, they'll have to talk about solutions. ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

The Facilitator Governor

By far, the most intriguing interview I conducted with Gov. Frank O'Bannon occurred in late June 2002 after the historic tax restructuring was passed.

It had been a maddening journey, from Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan's unveiling of the initial plan the previous October, to the gradual acknowledgement by Sens. Larry Borst (in February) and Bob Garton (in June) that it even needed to happen.

O'Bannon's vanquished 1996 opponent, Stephen Goldsmith, would have been an activist governor. The plans for the state would have come down from on high. O'Bannon approached tax restructuring not so much as an advocate, but as a facilitator and, ultimately, an arbitrator from his constitutionally weak station.

"I'd say that's a good observation," O'Bannon told HPR. "We got split houses here, one Democrat, one Republican." Govs. Bowen and Orr had GOP legislatures, and yet barely got their historic initiatives passed. "It's a tremendous difference," O'Bannon said. True.

HPR observed in June 2002: An activist governor would present great initiatives, twist elbows and detour the asphalt trucks away from recalcitrant legislator's districts to get things done. O'Bannon is not prone to issuing threats, or slapping backs. "People kept saying he was missing in action," Mary Dieter said. "That's just not true. It's not his way. He's a facilitator who works quietly."

O'Bannon always looked for consensus. In a sense, he governed the way Gov. Roger Branigin did back in the 1960s. A reporter once asked Branigin about his policies. "Son, I don't do policies, I do personalities," Branigin responded.

O'Bannon promised tax restructuring during the 1996 campaign, but instead of a plan, he called together a

"Blue Ribbon Commission" made up of every special interest group in the state. In his most productive legislative session - 1997 -- what had been a teetering disaster was transformed with a simple deal he mapped out on the back of an envelop one Sunday afternoon in the midst of a special session. Working in tandem with Mayor Goldsmith, the Indianapolis Republicans would get their stadiums, and he dramatically reformed workers comp, much to the chagrin of Sen. Joe Harrison.

Instead of coming up with a new restructuring plan in June 2002, which press aide Dieter feared would become a "lightening rod," he felt it was in the "legislators' domain" to forge the plan. When it did finally conclude, Pat Kiely of the Indiana Manufacturer's Association grudgingly acknowledged, "The governor made some right decisions in the last few days. Bauer pretty much put his plan together in isolation of the governor's office. The governor was helpful in the end, the lieutenant governor was more helpful to get more Democrats to pass the thing."

It was fitful governance, much to the consternation of the Borsts, Greggs, Bauers, Kielys, Brinegars and, we suspect, Joe Kernans, of the world. When it concluded, Indiana was one of the only states to accomplish significant restructuring during this recession and jobless recovery.

Some, including me, blamed O'Bannon for not acting much earlier. But economic gurus such as David Goodrich see the erosion of manufacturing jobs with the momentum of a drain unplugged. They're not going to come back, perhaps beyond the control of any governor.

What's to be determined is whether the dynamic of Hoosier governance will change. With the passing of Gov. O'Bannon this past week, it seems as if an era may have passed, too. ❖

TICKER T A P E

become leaders in their world (Muncie Star Press).

"We have never been in need of leadership this badly since the beginning of the 20th century," Gergen said during a presentation at Ball State University on Tuesday. The tumultuous first half of the 1900s -- including the world wars and the Great Depression -- was comparable to the "dark ages," according to Gergen. But when looking back at the leadership in the world during that time period - Stalin, Hitler - it is easy to understand what went wrong, he said. "Bad leaders equal bad results; good leaders saved our country," Gergen said. Leadership, Gergen said, should not only be at the White House level, but should trickle down to the state, the church, the workplace and the home. "Our challenges of today depend a lot on the leadership of the people in this country," Gergen said.

CLINTON SAYS 'IT'S HILLARY'S DECISION TO MAKE: Former President Bill Clinton, asked about a possible run for the presidency by U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, said on Wednesday, "That's really a decision for her to make." He added that she has been urged by New Yorkers to run in spite of a commitment she made to serve out her six-year senate term (The Californian).

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