



HOWEY

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Five-pronged emasculation of the Lake County Democratic machine *Pastrick's catastrophic week*

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

As the Hoosier public policy community gathered last October to watch the swearing in of Kathy Davis as lieutenant governor in the south atrium of the Statehouse, off to the right of the stage stood East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick. He was chatting with a group of Indiana Supreme Court justices.

One not in the photo was Associate Justice Robert D. Rucker, who is illustrative of Pastrick's past clout. Rucker had practiced law in his home town of East Chicago and one of his patrons was Pastrick, who helped him attain a seat on the high court in 1999 as an appointee of Gov. Frank O'Bannon, as well as an Indiana Appeals Court seat in 1991 by Gov. Evan Bayh, Democratic sources say.

But last Friday, during the most catastrophic week in Pastrick's legendary career, it was Rucker who sided with the 3-2 majority, ordering an unprecedented new election in East Chicago. "When as here an election is characterized by a widespread and pervasive pattern of deliberate conduct calculated to cast unlawful and deceptive ballots, the election results are inherently deceptive and unreliable," the court said.

It was a thunderous development on a day that brought indictments of Pastrick confidant James Fife and his wife by District Attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen. By early this week, key Pastrick associates were predicting he would pass on the new election, though his legal team was preparing to appeal the decision.

What is occurring is the systematic emasculation of the Lake County Democratic machine on a five-pronged front, it's impact every bit as dramatic as Evan Bayh's assault on the Indiana GOP machine in 1986-88. There is Van Bokkelen and, higher up in the U.S. Department of Justice, Assistant Attorney General Deborah



East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick talks with Indiana Supreme court justices at Lt. Gov. Davis's swearing in October 2003. (Eye photo by Ellen Jackson)



"We would all have been annihilated. That has to begin to sink in."
— An animated U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar at the National Press Club Wednesday, on what would have happened if the 9/11 planes had contained nuclear weapons

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Daniels, who heads the Office of Justice Programs (the Daniels campaign says there is no coordination). There is Attorney General Steve Carter, a Crown Point native, who invoked RICO statutes against Pastrick, alleging that East Chicago city government is, essentially, a criminal enterprise. There is Secretary of State Todd Rokita, a Munster native, who orchestrated a voter file purge that resulted in 70,000 of 340,000 Lake County voter registration validation forms coming back as "undeliverable mail." And there is Republican gubernatorial nominee Mitch Daniels, taking aim on the political and economic front. His message has been that Lake County will always have problems attracting good jobs until its corrupt government is rectified.

This story is not without Democrats who have chosen to take a stand. Justice Rucker is one; Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter had the guts to join in AG Carter's corruption task force. Unsuccessful primary candidate Alicia Rodriguez-Lopez, who lost to State Rep. John Aguilera in the May primary, is another trying to save "The Truth" public access TV show. The list of associates of the Pastrick machine under indictment or investigation -- Fife, Peter Manous, Kevin Pastrick -- represents a sea change in Lake County - and Indiana - politics. Rumors are rampant that Gary Mayor Scott King and power broker Jewell Harris are the next targets of Van Bokkelen, along with Pastrick himself. They could follow former Gary Clerk Katie Hall and former Lake County Councilman Troy Montgomery.



Attorney General Steve Carter (left) and Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Go to www.howeypolitics.com and click the "Death of a Governor" button on the left side of the page and you find my description of "12 Days that Rocked Indiana." Not only did it include the passing of Gov. O'Bannon, but David McIntosh leaving the field, allowing the Republicans to coalesce around Mitch Daniels. And there was the "Godfather II" scene involving Pastrick's attendance of Van Bokkelen's "Zero Tolerance of Public Corruption" seminar in Hammond, while U.S. marshals rounded up six East Chicago administration and council members.

That story might have seemed to be a stretch. But Govs. Bayh and O'Bannon got pluralities in the 75,000 to 100,000 range out of Lake County to win office. Purdue Calumet Prof. Maurice Eisenstein told the *Times of Northwest Indiana* he believes the Lake County Democratic machine will slip by at least 15,000 votes this November. Eisenstein said voters may be dissatisfied over Lake County's recent political

"shenanigans" as well as the length of time it took Kernan to propose a solution -- a 2 percent cap of a home's assessed value -- to stem some of the huge property tax hikes in northern Lake County. "The state's also cleaning up voter rolls," he said. "It'll be much more difficult to pull the hanky-panky stuff."

The *Times* quoted Lake County Republican Randy Peters as saying Kernan will be hurt in Lake County. "He's toast," Peters said.

But the troubles of the Pastricks and Kings and Harris do not leave the party GOTV apparatus barren. There are still Sheriff Roy Dominguez, Democratic Chairman Stephen Stiglich, Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott (though bloodied after the May primary), Prosecutor Bernard Carter, and Commissioners Fran DuPey and Rudy Clay. All will have growing power.

Bill Oesterle, Daniels campaign manager knows that Gov. O'Bannon defeated David McIntosh by 75,000 votes in Lake County in 2000, but of the current developments, he said, "I have no idea. There are these titanic changes going on up there. On the good days, I think it will have a big impact. With the voter file purge and the indictments, you'd think that would have an impact." Under the new purging rules, voters whose address comes back as undeliverable can vote on a provisional ballot, easier to contest in recount.

Democratic stalwarts know that the Pastrick machine has essentially seized up. They tend to see Van Bokkelen's efforts as credible, and those by Attorney General Steve Carter as grandstanding, particularly the RICO suit filed against Pastrick and 26 other people last Monday.

Oesterle expects the Democrats to lash back and counter the Pastrick debacle. He said that IPALCO retirees are being recruited for a TV ad to use against Daniels, a former IPALCO board member. "We've heard they are going to turn up the heat in mid-August," Oesterle said.

The irony is that it is the squeaky clean Kernan - who dropped out of the governor's race in 2002, in part, because of the power play that put the corrupt Manous in as state Democratic chairman - who stands to pay the biggest political price from all the fallout.

Indiana Democrats were slow to cut their ties with the embattled Pastrick. On the night of Kernan's State of the State address, the party under Chairman Hogsett had the "Pastrick Reception" at the Skyline Club, when there were rising star mayors like Evansville's Jonathan Weinzapfel to celebrate. Last year, Joe Andrew and Vi Simpson sought a Pastrick endorsement. It's a tough call when to get out the 10-foot pole, particularly with someone like Mayor Pastrick.

While few realize the context, the assault on Region corruption, the "Indianapolis Works" proposal by Mayor Bart Peterson (see pages 7&8), and Brent Waltz defeat of Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, all signal dramatic changes in Hoosier politics, all fascinating precursors to Nov. 2. ❖



Sabato, Kernan, Daniels will headline 2004 HPR Forum Series

Dr. Larry Sabato, Gov. Joe Kernan and Republican challenger Mitch Daniels will headline the **HPR Forum Series** from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 1 at the downtown Marriott.

Tickets are \$75 (\$100 for non-subscribers) and can be purchased by calling 317-254-0535 or by e-mail at jackhowey@howeypolitics.com. Tickets must be ordered by Sept. 27.

The event, the day after the first presidential debate between President Bush and U.S.

Sen. John Kerry, is sponsored by BoseTreacy Associates, DLZ, Tech Point and John J. Frick & Associates.

Sabato is writing two books on the 2004 presidential campaign and will offer insights into the presidential race during the Forum's first panel as well as during the luncheon keynote address. "Politics is a good thing!" is Sabato's slogan. As founder and director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics, Dr. Sabato bridges the gap between the ivory tower and the real world on issues of critical importance to American democracy and the challenges facing our political process. His comments frequently appear on the major networks and in the nation's top newspapers.



Dr. Larry Sabato

The author of more than 20 books and countless essays on the American political process, his most recent books are *Midterm Madness: The Elections of 2002* (Rowman & Littlefield 2003), *Overtime: The Election 2000 Thriller* (Longman, 2001), and *Dangerous Democracy: The Battle Over Ballot Initiatives in America* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2001). Others include *Peepshow: Media and Politics in an Age of Scandal* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000), *Toward the Millennium: The Elections of 1996* (Allyn and Bacon, 1997), and *Dirty Little Secrets: The Persistence of*

Corruption in American Politics (Random House/Times Books, 1996).

"HPR subscribers are going to be treated to the most riveting political and public policy event of 2004," said HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey. "Dr. Sabato and our panels of local experts and commentators will offer fascinating insights into the most compelling election we've seen in years."

HPR Forum Series Agenda

7:30 a.m. Registration

8 a.m. Opening Remarks by Brian A. Howey and Dan Seitz, BoseTreacy.

8:15: a.m. 2004 Election Overview

Dr. Larry Sabato, University of Virginia
Brian A. Howey, HPR
Mark Schoeff Jr., HPR
Vince Robinson, Fort Wayne Ink
Jeff Lewis, TeleResearch
Moderator: Dan Seitz

9:15 a.m. Indiana House Election Overview

State Rep. Ed Mahern, D-Indianapolis
State Rep. Luke Messer, R-Shelbyville
Paul Mannweiler, BoseTreacy
Andy Miller, BoseTreacy
Moderator: Brian A. Howey

10:15 a.m. Power Realignment in the Indiana Senate

Sen. J. Murray Clark, R-Indianapolis
Sen. Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange
Sen. Jeff Drozda, R-Westfield
Brad Hiller, BoseTreacy
Moderator: Dan Seitz

11:15 a.m. Remarks by Gov. Joe Kernan

Noon: Luncheon

12:30 p.m. Dr. Larry Sabato Keynote

1:15 p.m. Remarks by Mitch Daniels, Republican gubernatorial nominee

2 p.m. The Case for Government Reform

Brian A. Howey, HPR
State Sen. David Long, R-Fort Wayne
Lawrence Township Assessor Paul Ricketts
Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson (*tentative*)❖





Indiana 2004 Statewides

Governor 2004: Republican: Mitch Daniels.

Democrat: Gov. Joe Kernan. Libertarian: Kenn Gividen. **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:**

While we'd like to see one more public poll, we are on the verge of moving this race out of "tossup" status. The corruption debacle in Lake County and the voter file purge have the potential of damaging Gov. Kernan's chances for winning in November. We are also taking note of the governor's light campaign schedule (few events planned for August), no booth at the Indiana State Fair where 900,000 people will attend, and the campaign's request

to use the Indiana John Kerry volunteer apparatus, are all danger signs. The unexpected death of Daniels' 81-year-old father due to a fall kept the candidate off the campaign trail most of the week. He received a call of

condolence from Gov. Kernan. It kept Daniels away from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway where he had planned to unveil an Indiana Motor Sports Initiative, saying that only 6 percent of the teams are headquartered in Indiana. Mark Lubbers, representing Daniels, is negotiating with Democratic Chairman Kip Tew on the debate schedule. "There will be debates," said Bill Oesterle, Daniels' campaign manager. Lt. Gov. Davis and Sen. Becky Skillman will debate at 5 p.m. today at the Indiana State Fair. The media buys of the two campaigns have been a study of intriguing contrast. The two



Daniels (left) with President Reagan

campaigns have spent about the same amount of money. Daniels has been more consistent, staying up for longer periods of times. Kernan has been buying a lot more prime time exposure and then will go dark. But nothing in contrast is as interesting as the 5-second "mini-commercials" that Kernan began using last week, compared to the 30-minute documentaries that Lubbers has been doing for the Daniels campaign. To "save money yet remain on the screen, the Kernan campaign recently began airing five-second spots on



some TV stations around the state," is the way Mike Smith of the *Associated Press* described it. Daniels is running an ad detailing his service to President Reagan, quoting the former president that "we don't have enemies, we have opponents." Daniels ends the ad saying, "Pretty good role model." State tax receipts for July -- the first month of the new fiscal year -- were nearly 5 percent short of projections. That's more bad news for Kernan. Revenue from individual income taxes, a measure of how much Hoosiers are working and how much they're getting paid, was 9 percent below the prediction a bipartisan group of fiscal experts made in January (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "Obviously it's disappointing," said Rep. Jeff Espich, the ranking Republican on the House Ways and Means Committee. "The fact that income is down is probably the bothersome part. It shows people aren't working." However, Kernan's administration officials said it's too soon to hit the panic button. One month doesn't make a trend, said Budget Director Marilyn Schultz. "The fact that we are seeing growth over last year offers some encouragement," Gov. Kernan said. "However, we know that we haven't completely recovered from the national recession that hit Indiana hard over the past few years. Because of that, we remain focused on our efforts to spur business investment in our communities, create good jobs for Hoosiers and manage what continues to be a very tight state budget." Kernan could take solace in an *Associated Press* report that showed the life science industries jobs are up 4.5 percent. "We see greater potential than we're achieving," said Ellen Whitt for the Daniels campaign. Kernan campaigned with Sen. Bayh in Terre Haute as part of Bayh's small business tour. **Status:** *Tossup.*

Attorney General 2004: Republican: Attorney Gen. Steve Carter. Democrat: Joseph Hogsett. **2000 Results:** Carter (R) 1,077,951, Freeman-Wilson (D) 978,713, Harshey (L) 45,490. **2004 Forecast:** In the wake of Carter filing a RICO suit against East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick, state party communications director Terry Burns said Hogsett also considers fighting public corruption a high priority. On Aug. 2, Pastrick said the reason Carter filed a RICO suit against him and 26 others was that the incumbent feared Hogsett's candidacy. "It's incredible," Pastrick told Bill Dolan of the *Times of Northwest Indiana*. "He could have done this a long time ago, OK? He's been there for four years. He also could have waited until after these other indictments come up from the U.S. attorney's office. So it's obvious why he cracks it out right now: He's scared to death of Joe Hogsett. It's so obvious." Carter responded, "For more than a half century, Lake County has been the setting for corrupt acts by public officials. The failure to stop such brazen corruption has hurt immeasurably the citizens of Northwest Indiana. That can happen no more." Hogsett made fighting government corruption a part of his acceptance speech at the state Democratic Convention. "I would hope these charges were not politically motivated. At



the moment, we will take him at his word." Burns said.
Status: *Leans Carter.*

Indiana 2004 Congressional

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Jon Jennings. Green Party: Clark Gabriel Field. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis.



Lafayette. People: Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Forecast:** Hostettler agreed to a 60-day sentence on his gun crime that would be suspended for two years, said Bill Patteson, a spokesman for the Jefferson County attorney's office. Hostettler would not have to serve the sentence if he meets the terms of the plea agreement. Patteson said. Judge Donald E. Armstrong agreed that Hostettler would not have to be present for an Aug. 23 sentencing. As part of the plea, Hostettler agreed to surrender the pistol that was found in his luggage on April 20. Hostetter apologized to his family and the people of Kentucky for the crime. **Status:** *Tossup.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Mike Sodrel. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Forecast:** Hill got a hand last week from three fellow congressional Democrats who toured Southern Indiana with him (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). Like Hill, Reps. Mike Ross and Marion Berry of Arkansas and Dennis Cardoza of California are part of the 39-member Blue Dog Coalition of Democrats in the House. The Blue Dogs are taking part in a Fiscal Responsibility Tour that came to Madison, Seymour and New Albany. "It used to be that there were many Republicans that were talking about fiscal responsibility, but no longer." Hill said. **Status:** *Leans Hill*

Indiana 2004 Legislative

House District 46: Republican: Jeff Lee. Democrat: Vern Tincher. **2002 Results:** LaPlante (R) 8,079, Tincher (D) 7,275. **2004**

Forecast: The Indiana House Democrats used four small claims court suits filed against Lee. One came in Vigo County Small Claims Court over \$148 for fees for his two children at Riley Elementary School in 2001. The second was for \$46 in the same court in 2002. A third in 2003 was for \$427 for school fees. The Democrats say Lee "failed to show up in court after being served." In 2004, Vigo Community Schools sued to recover \$228 for school fees and that case is pending. State Rep. Ed Mahern explained for the Democratic caucus, "Lee has been sued four times in the last four years by his school corporation for failure to pay his children's elementary school fees. He gave his campaign \$100 on April 8 of this year but he apparently did not pay his children's fees." Last week, Lee called on Tincher to stop push phone calls. "In 1997 my wife and I lost a child due to an extended illness." Lee explained. "This caused us some severe financial difficulties, due to having to pay for all of the medical and funeral expenses. As soon as we were able to, through years of discipline, we paid the money back." **Status:** *LEANS TINCHER.*



Jeff Lee

Senate District 5: Republican: Vic Heinold. Democrat: State Sen. Nancy Dembowski. **2000 Results:** Alexa (D) 33,383. **2004 Forecast:** The Indiana Department of Labor may be playing politics, using inspections for a fishing expedition into the business of Republican state Senate candidate Vic Heinold. Republicans charged on Thursday (*Post-Tribune*). If the inspections are politically motivated, then they will be mentioned in Democratic advertisements this fall, Heinold said. But the department's public information officer denies any political motivations, and said randomness is built into the inspection system. "I'd say it's absolutely coincidence." said Tim Crouse, spokesperson for the state labor department. Heinold said the two inspectors asked for the same information. "If nothing else, it just shows their gross inefficiencies." Heinold said in an interview with the *Post-Tribune*. **Status:** *Leans Heinold*

House District 7: Republican: South Bend School Trustee Joanna Blacketer. Democrat: State Rep. Tom Kromkowski. **2002 Results:** Kromkowski 10,846. **2004 Forecast:** The Indiana Manufacturers Political Action Committee (IMPAC) has endorsed Blacketer. "The decisions made by the General Assembly are critical to renewing good jobs for Hoosiers. It is in this vein that IMPAC endorses my candidacy," she said. **Status:** *Likely Kromkowski.* ❖



Son of Unigov: Will Peterson work the state as Lugar did?

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

In 1968, the new mayor of Indianapolis, Richard G. Lugar, crisscrossed the state campaigning for Republican legislative candidates. In part, it was because Marion County GOP Chairman L. Keith Bulen wanted to show off the party's rising star. But there were other motives, mainly the coming of Unigov. It would be the controversial consolidation of Marion County and Indianapolis governments that would position the state's capital as a Republican bulwark for more than a generation. "He appeared with a lot of legislators," said Gerry LaFollette, who covered the story for the *Indianapolis News*. "Lugar piled up a lot of brownie points."



He needed them. The Unigov bill eked out a narrow victory in the Indiana Senate, with six of the eight from Marion County voting for the bill. Sen. Charlie Bosma didn't press either button. And three Democrats voted for the bill.

Now we have Mayor Bart Peterson's "Son of Unigov" legislation that will bring fresh controversy to the looming 2005 Indiana General Assembly that will be awash in red ink.

The good news for Peterson is that he isn't coming to the legislature with a cup in his hand. Son of Unigov won't cost the state a dime. And, like Lugar, he finds the Marion County legislative delegation open minded about the proposals. "The mayor is going to need to come to the legislature with as strong a consensus as he possibly can on the importance of doing this," said Sen. Teresa Lubbers, R-Indianapolis (*Indianapolis Star*).

Perhaps the most negative comment came from Charlie Bosma's son, House Minority Leader Brian Bosma, who told the *Indianapolis Star*, "It's disappointing to say this is the legislature's problem. This is the city of Indianapolis' problem, and it has been for more than a decade."

Son of Unigov was almost immediately opposed by township officials. "When somebody walks up and hits you with a two-by-four between the eyes and then tells you they're not averse to talking, it makes you wonder about their motives," Lawrence Township Assessor Paul Ricketts, a Republican, said after the speech (*Indianapolis Star*). "To me it's a power grab," Ricketts said, adding that township assessors saved the county millions in assessment costs in the past. "It's a thinly veiled tax increase for the suburbs."

It prompted House Ways and Means Chairman William Crawford to say, "If township officials have a better idea, I'm willing to consider it" (*Indianapolis Star*).

With more than 1,000 townships across the state,

Peterson is going to have to do what Lugar did and work the state, trying to convince folks that it's time to modernize Indiana government. While Lugar laid the groundwork prior, Peterson kept his cards close to vest, not wanting to spill the beans before he could announce he wanted to consolidate police and fire departments, reduce the townships from 11 to two, and actually give more power to the county assessor and sheriff (though he would appoint two out of three people on a police oversight board). The savings, Peterson said, would be \$35 million a year and comes as the City-County Council stares at a \$100 million deficit.

Former Elkhart Mayor Jim Perron noted that when Michigan had its Constitutional Convention in the early 1960s, there was a 30,000 population trigger that automatically dissolved townships in lieu of city and county governments. There may need to be that kind of mechanism in place to get out-state Hoosiers off the defensive.

Lugar's efforts to get Unigov into law weren't without error. After his Senate victory, he thought House Speaker Doc Bowen was sitting on the bill, called a press conference and asked people to call Bowen. The ensuing calls went 9-to-1 against the bill, and later that day Lugar ate crow, acknowledging that Bowen was simply following his normal procedures. Lugar apologized, LaFollette recalled.

By Tuesday, there seemed to be a more conciliatory



Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson is congratulated by his wife, Amy, and former congressman Andy Jacobs while township officials brood in the background. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

tone. Ricketts sent a letter to Peterson saying, "Your efforts to streamline government for reasons of efficiency and tax savings are to be commended." Ricketts complained that his comparison of Indianapolis to Minneapolis, which has far fewer parcels, was an unfair comparison.

"We are committed, as we have always been, to participating in a fair and open discussion among all parties involved with regard to solving our financial problem," Ricketts explained. "Your approach to date seems to exclude the local representatives of our citizens. Allow us the opportunity to bring the truth to the table in regard to our profession."

Alas, dialogue. That's a good thing. ❖



Ear wax, reform, hacks and statesmen

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - I had hoped Gov. Joe Kernan and Republican Mitch Daniels, who called for a "freight train of change," would lead the charge for modernized Indiana government. While both have addressed bits and pieces of our current train wreck, the reason they can't is that both rely on political foot soldiers who are in the employ of cities, counties and townships. There are about 6,000 elected township officials in Indiana and, perhaps, 20,000 or more township employees. Many are politically active.



So it was a mayor, Democrat Bart Peterson of Indianapolis, who followed the lead of the Republican Fort Wayne and Allen County councils, and visionaries in Evansville and Vanderburgh County, who are making historic government reform proposals. On Aug. 2, Peterson announced he wanted to combine the Marion County sheriff and his city police departments, as well as his fire department and those in nine townships. He wants to scale the number of township governments from 11 to two. He wants the county assessor, a Republican, to do the work of 11 township assessors. Peterson would actually cede power to the sheriff and county assessor. All this would save an estimated \$35 million annually.

The response was predictable. Township officials sat in front of Peterson, clenched-jawed and arms folded. Lawrence Township Assessor Paul Ricketts called it a "power grab." Warren Township Assessor William Birkle told the Indianapolis Star, "I think they think we're country-clubbers coming in here and letting staffers do the work."

Peterson explained, "Indianapolis Works is a major government reform initiative. Such initiatives don't get done very often. The reason, sadly but understandably, is that those who have something to lose -- an office, power, perks-- are often motivated to kill such efforts than the reformers are to make needed change."

Peterson told the crowd to "watch closely where the organized opposition comes from, and see if behind their good government arguments you can spot the motive of self-preservation."

I wish the township officials would have done what

Vince Huber of the Fraternal Order of Police did. He said he needed more information.

The list of people -- Gov. Kernan, and Republicans Mitch Daniels, U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, former Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey, State Sens. Teresa Lubbers and Murray Clark, Marion County Auditor Marty Womacks -- all expressed open minds.

Lugar, the former Republican mayor who helped create Unigov, explained, "The mayor advised me that he would appoint task force groups to work through the details of the governmental restructuring, and I strongly endorse that idea. Membership of the task forces should be bipartisan, broadly representative of all parts of Marion County, and amply supplied with members who have legal and financial expertise." Lugar added that "A new burst of energy and optimism is necessary for the present and the future."

And not in just Indianapolis, but throughout Indiana. We have repeatedly heard from Hoosier Republicans how they oppose new taxes and seek efficient government. Now the soul of the Indiana Republican Party is exposed.

The questions of government reform have been percolating since shortly after the historic 2002 tax restructuring, an event many people at the Statehouse said would never happen. The reaction from township officials and defenders of the status quo have always been knee-jerk: "We are closest to the people," they say without regard to the many layers of government between the people and the top. There's been plenty of time for township and county officials to study that status quo, statistically analyze the impacts, and make a compelling case that the status quo would best serve the taxpayer.

That hasn't happened. Why?

Because it is almost certainly indefensible. They are not listening because of the ear wax buildup. It has become so thick toward the lower end of the governmental food chain that some people can't hear the freight train coming.

They can only feel the rumble, as Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, upset by the Johnson County Council president, did on Election Day last May, and insist on the status quo.

There is a battle looming for the soul of Indiana; whether it will be competitive in a global economy, or be an economic and cultural backwater.

There is so much work to do before this comes to the 2005 Indiana General Assembly, so much more information is needed so that you, dear taxpayer, will pay a fair amount for efficient service.

Watch and listen for those with open minds, and those who are closed at the onset.

These are tell-tale signs that distinguish the hacks from the statesmen. ❖



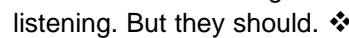
Curt Kovener, Crothersville Times - Government consolidation is all the buzz is some political, governmental and journalistic circles these days. Louisville and Jefferson County, Kentucky governments merged last year and are working through the changes that all of that means? Some state elected officials and newspaper columnists (including our own Brian Howey in this week's column) are supporting eliminating layers of government to make our systems more accountable and less costly to their constituents (that's you). And starting the pot simmering, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson has now proposed that Indianapolis begin offering police and fire services throughout all of Marion County and the elimination of all but two township trustees. Peterson claims it will save tax money. Folks in the Indy suburbs aren't too sure of the tax savings and some expect the consolidation to cost them more. Township officials are vocally opposed to the idea of eliminating their lucrative posts. Some in the state legislature have been advocating eliminating township government statewide in an effort to save taxpayers some money. But there is a great deal of difference between Marion County and Jackson, Scott, and Jennings Counties. Should Lake County and Brown County be governed the same? Are Allen County (Fort Wayne) and Scott County so similar that they should operate under the same form of government. According to the *Indianapolis Star*, the trustee of Warren Township in Marion County is in charge of 150 township workers and oversees a fire protection budget of \$7.3 million. He draws an annual salary of just over \$45,000 for his part-time position. The paper reports he has another job which pays \$48,000 a year. To contrast the differences, operating under the same state law is Vernon Township where the trustee has no employees, oversees a total budget of \$43,000 to pay for fire protection and pay off a loan for the new fire truck, and gets paid \$8,400 annually for the same part-time trustee's job. While uniform state laws are good for criminal and civil code, perhaps expecting Calumet Township in Lake County and Grassy Fork Township here in Jackson County to operate under the same legislation isn't being as responsive as it should. Perhaps when the Indiana Constitution was framed in 1851 Merrillville and Medora may have been on the



same rustic playing field. But no longer. Some legislators claim that some township and even some county government is bloated and needs eliminated. Maybe surgery is appropriate for some urban townships, but maybe eliminating township government out here in the rural hinterland of Hoosierdom goes from trimming the fat to carving off muscle. Perhaps "they" (the generally used local government term for any state official in charge) need to use a less broad brush in requiring Crown Point and Crothersville to operate under the same rules. Maybe "they" should consider painting for detail.



David Rutter, Post-Tribune - Juries don't always dispense law in small, careful, precise, surgeon-like doses. Sometimes, they employ a machete with a large, sweeping stroke. They usually do that when there's no clear legal concept for what they really want to do, if lawyers and judges would just get out of the way. Sometimes, they just want to dispense justice. Or what they perceive to be justice. Sometimes, as the law often allows them to do, they take the law into their own hands and, in fact, become the law. Last week, a local federal jury dispensed \$4.5 million in justice. They took the law into their own hands. It was their call to make, and they made it. There's not much chance that former East Chicago City Court Judge Lonnie Randolph will pay up completely, because the amount is so large as to be fundamentally absurd. The message seemed to be an expression of group gestalt about East Chicago's government in general and Randolph's lack of likability in particular. Lonnie Randolph just happened to be in the wrong spot at the wrong time. The message seemed to be: Yes, we know who you are and what you do and we think you stink. It didn't even help Randolph that he once attempted to unseat hizzoner, the head stinker in East Chicago. Based on the stunned reaction by both the plaintiffs and defense attorneys, no one saw this one coming. The case made by the plaintiff — erstwhile East Chicago public defender Tula Kavadias — was mostly her declaration of Randolph's systematic unfairness in operating his court. She was asking for a mere \$1 million. She was fired from her position, she said, out of political and racial malice. In the end, Randolph was judged harshly both for his reputation as a political hardball pitcher and equally for East Chicago's reputation as a snake pit of power-lusting vipers. Sometimes, juries just want to get something off their chests. Not that any officials in East Chicago these days are likely to have been listening. But they should.




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Labor gets behind Rep. Hill

Sodrel Focuses on Manufacturing Decline

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON--Democratic incumbent Rep. Baron Hill and his Republican challenger, Mike Sodrel, agree that the economy is the biggest issue in the 9th CD. Labor leaders and Sodrel concur that bolstering the district's declining manufacturing base is a priority.

But Sodrel is unlikely to make any inroads with labor this year because the Indiana AFL-CIO executive committee gave Hill a full endorsement at its June meeting, despite continuing concerns about his support of trade agreements. In 2000, labor gave Hill a limited endorsement; in 2002, it did not endorse him.

But since then, Hill's lifetime voting record on issues tracked annually by labor has risen above 70 percent, the threshold for union backing, according to Steve Henderson, political director of the Indiana AFL-CIO.

Hill received strong labor support in his initial 9th CD campaign in 1998; but his relationship with unions became tenuous after he voted in favor of permanent normal trade relations with China in 2000 and supported fast track trade authority for the president in 2001. Hill was one of 21 Democrats who voted for fast track, which passed by one vote. His voting history on trade liberalization notwithstanding, the AFL-CIO will cooperate this year with the Hill campaign to supply volunteers to canvass the district and get out the vote. In the union's view, Hill's record has improved thanks to votes on issues like worker safety and overtime. But they're not giving him a pass on trade.

Trade Vote Tension

"I don't think he's ever voted right on trade," said Henderson. Some unions, such as the United Auto Workers and steelworkers, remain leery of Hill. "On the industrial side, they either love him or they hate him. The ones who love him, they have a job."

But a union leader in the 9th CD said Hill may be modifying his views on trade liberalization because of job losses in the district. "I'm not anti-global trade. That's a given, it's going to happen," said Ken Ogden, president of the South Central Indiana Central Labor Council. "But you have to look at how it's going affect jobs in the community. We feel that (other countries) should abide by (trade) rules."

The next test for Hill will be the Central American Free Trade Agreement, which was signed in May by the United States, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras

and Nicaragua. A vote is unlikely to occur until after the November election. Ogden is hopeful Hill will stand with labor against CAFTA. "I believe he's coming back around to the point where he realizes the votes he's made haven't helped the district," he said.

Hill spokesman Stefan Bailey said Hill has not made a decision on the trade pact. "He's taking a look at CAFTA," he said. "He's got the agreement on his desk. He wants to make sure that there's an appropriate balance between free trade and the economy here at home. His major issue is enforcement; that's something he feels very strongly about."

Charlie the Glue Guy

Similarly, Sodrel focuses on fair trade. His campaign said Sodrel is "not an isolationist," but emphasizes that the district has lost more than 15,000 manufacturing jobs since 1999. It cites a local worker to symbolize the challenges facing the sector, "Charlie the Glue Guy." In his mid-50s, he used to be employed at a district wood veneer company. But he lost his job due to fierce competition from China. "It's a very real issue that Congressman Hill has not addressed," said Sodrel campaign manager Kevin Boehnlein.

China's growing economic and military muscle is a concern for Sodrel, who criticizes Hill's vote to grant the country permanent normal trade relations. "That is the one issue we need to discuss, debate, and correct," said Boehnlein.

But Sodrel, who lost to Hill in 2002 by 5 points, doesn't get any kudos from labor for tough talk on China. Unions don't believe he will be with them on other issues. "We're looking at Sodrel as being a zero percent voter," said Henderson. "That's probably the main reason we're going all out for Baron. I see Sodrel as being kind of like (Rep. Chris) Chocola in the second district, a corporate CEO, all ties to big business and no ties to labor. I look at both guys as millionaires trying to buy their way into Congress."

Sodrel is using his experience as the owner of a 500-employee bus and trucking company in Jeffersonville to bolster his economic credentials. "He knows how government can play a part in stimulating the economy," said Boehnlein. "What government can do is create an environment for job growth." Next week, Sodrel will release an economic plan that emphasizes permanent cuts in middle class taxes, such as the marriage penalty and inheritance taxes.

Hill's vote against President Bush's \$1.7 trillion tax cut in 2001 is likely to be a campaign issue this fall. "If Congressman Hill had had his way with tax cuts, we would not have had the tax cuts," said Boehnlein. "We would still be in the (recession) we were in after Sept. 11 (2001)." But Hill's spokesman said that he consistently backs tax cut packages that won't exacerbate the federal deficit. "Baron Hill has supported reasonable tax cuts and fiscally responsible tax cuts," said Bailey. "To say otherwise would be highly misleading." ❖





Lugar calls on Kerry, Bush to act on WMD

U.S. Sen. **Richard Lugar** called on **President Bush** and Democratic presidential nominee **John Kerry** to make the battle to keep nuclear, chemical and biological weapons out of the hands of terrorists a priority and outlined a 12-point plan for the winner to pursue in 2005 (Mark Schoeff Jr., *HPR*).

Speaking at the National Press Club in

Washington on Wednesday, Lugar said that dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program and curbing

Iran's efforts to develop nuclear weapons should be at the top of the next president's non-proliferation agenda. He also advocated the expansion of a 13-year-old initiative that he and former Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn created to round up and destroy nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union. Lugar said the Nunn-Lugar program should grow to control nuclear weapons worldwide. "Since the fall of the Soviet Union, vulnerability to the use of weapons of mass destruction has been the number one national security dilemma confronting the United States," said Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "The war on terrorism proceeds in a world awash with nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and materials. We must anticipate that terrorists will use weapons of mass destruction if allowed the opportunity. The minimum standard for victory in this war is the prevention of any terrorist cell from obtaining weapons or materials of mass destruction. We must make certain that all sources of WMD are identified and systematically guarded or destroyed." But the threat of catastrophic terrorism continues to be a vague notion. In a question and answer



Sen. Lugar speaks at the National Press Club on Wednesday. (HPR Photo by Mark Schoeff Jr.)

session after his speech, Lugar became animated in illustrating how devastating the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists attacks would have been if the planes that plowed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a Pennsylvania field had nuclear weapons on board. "We would all have been annihilated," Lugar said, his voice rising. "That has to begin to sink in."

Lugar applauds Goss choice

Porter Goss, the Republican congressman President Bush has nominated to head the CIA, is an "excellent" choice, Sen. **Richard Lugar**, R-Ind., said Wednesday, predicting the Senate will confirm Goss (*Associated Press*). Lugar, said Goss will undergo extensive questioning and hearings, "but he will be confirmed, largely because we are in danger. The American people really want to have the stability of a duly nominated and confirmed head of CIA."

Lake County Election Board seeks clarity on East Chicago election

Citing the precedent being set for elections state-wide, attorneys for the Lake County Election Board Wednesday said they would ask the Supreme Court to clarify its ruling in the East Chicago election case (*Post-Tribune*). Board Democratic attorney **James Wieser** and Republican attorney **Bruce Lambka** stressed they will not challenge the court's order for a new mayoral election in East Chicago. But

the two agreed the county should seek a rehearing for the court to explain why 55 absentee ballots from the 2003 Democratic primary between Robert Pastrick and George Pabey were ruled invalid.

Carter to fight Camm ruling

Indiana Attorney General **Steve Carter** said yesterday that he will appeal a decision overturning the conviction of former state Trooper **David Camm** in the murders of his wife and two children (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "We are going to do everything we can to maintain this conviction," Carter said at a news conference in New Albany.

Kerry leads Bush in Michigan

Democratic presidential candidate **John Kerry**, who has been locked in a tight state race with **President Bush** for months, now leads in the latest poll by Lansing-based EPICMRA of Michigan voters, 49-42. (*Associated Press*).

GOP convention to have conservative speakers

Social conservatives, including Indiana's U.S. Rep. **Mike Pence**, were not thrilled with the initial list of speakers released by the Republican National Committee, noting that the likes of Arizona Sen. **John McCain**, former New York Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani** and California Gov. **Arnold Schwarzenegger** hailed from the party's moderate wing. **Paul Weyrich**, chairman of the Free Congress Research and Education Foundation, told newsletter subscribers, "If the president is embarrassed to be seen with conservatives at the convention, maybe conservatives will be embarrassed to be seen with the president on Election Day" (*Scripps Howard*). But organizers added Pennsylvania Sen. **Rick Santorum**, Kansas Sen. **Sam Brownback** and House Speaker **Dennis Hastert** of Illinois.

