



HOWEY

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Can Garton be defeated? Coriden makes his case

Democrat will campaign on two explosive issues

"First comes spring and summer, but then we have fall ... Spring is the time for planting. In a garden, growth has its season...as long as the roots are not severed, all is well, and all will be well in the garden."

- Peter Sellers as Chance the Gardener in 1979 film "Being There"

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

When actor Peter Sellers played the simpleton gardener named "Chance," back in 1979, Robert D. Garton was already a nine-year Senate veteran, one year away from the power post of Senate President Pro Tem.

The 36-year Senate veteran now faces the prospect of nine months of campaigning as he has opposition in the May Republican primary and a credible challenge from former Columbus City Attorney Terry Coriden in the fall.

"What you've seen in the past is a non-responsive senator," Coriden said to HPR outside the secretary of state's office on Wednesday. "This session, when we have the needs of property tax relief, we have the needs of adequate health insurance at affordable prices. He sponsors no bills. He writes no bills. He doesn't draft any bills. You don't see things being pushed through under his leadership. Now it looks like the property tax



Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton fends off questions about legislator health care for life. Now he will be spending the next nine months defending that program and a lack of property tax relief to the folks back home. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



"Senator, you paint a daunting picture."

— Ambassador James

Jeffrey to Sen. Lugar, after his dire assessment of the war and reconstruction efforts in Iraq, which have cost American taxpayers more than \$320 billion (Evansville Courier & Press)

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bill is going to die.

"If you talk to constituents out there, they are saying 'Give me relief on property taxes,'" Coriden continued. "Let's lower it to where it was. Let's transfer that to some other to get it on the user end. IACT put a great plan together that allows cities and towns to decide individually whether they want to accumulate the funds that would otherwise be lost. It's a solid plan and it's being rejected without anything being put in its place."

Then there's the health insurance issue. "I was talking to some ladies the other day, 55 years old," Coriden said. "They've had health insurance in the past and they have no health insurance and they know the inevitable is going to come. They are going to get sick and their life savings go to nothing. We are not addressing that. There was a bill in the hopper but by the consent of the committee there was no hearing."

"That is intolerable. That's just not something that's acceptable."

"If you look at what the current governor said two years ago while campaigning, we've had these people in office for 16 years. This is two times 16 plus some. It's just time. He actually said last time he ran that it was his last time. And here he is again saying, 'Well, maybe this is my last time.' And yet he's not doing anything. He's not responsive to his constituents."

Like State Sen. Brent Waltz did in his upset race against Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst in 2004, Coriden has laid out a logical campaign agenda centered on two potentially explosive issues: property taxes and health care.

Can Sen. Garton be defeated?

Coriden notes that the district is 60/40 Republican. But, he quickly adds, "It's not only possible, it's doable."

The recent formula for dislodging Senate dinosaur incumbents has been the primary, as Sen. Waltz and Jeff Drozda pulled off in 2004 and 2002. Garton has a primary opponent in accountant Greg Walker, who was recruited by national and state Right to Life activists despite Garton's 81 percent support rating with Indiana Right to Life. So the Coriden angle is a different trajectory.

But out of the Waltz campaign against Borst came a

SD41 Horse Race

Senate District 41: Republican: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton, Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. **2002 Results:** Garton 21,918 , Gividen (L) 3,350 . **2006 Forecast:** Sen. Garton will have a full nine months to show off his considerable political skills. At this point, we have to consider his Third House performance last Monday at the Commons (as well as his early February presser with Sen Long) as aberrations. If not, he could be in big trouble, with a potential anti-incumbency and GOP base suppression over the war, energy, property taxes and health care issues possibly producing a wave like that big 'un in '94 that took out Speakers Foley and Phillips. **Primary Status: LIKELY GARTON.** **General Status: LEANS GARTON.**

well surveyed nugget: the legislator health care for life issue brings a caustic reaction from voters, to the tune of 80 percent. It polls off the charts. That's why House Speaker Brian Bosma pulled the plug on it before this election cycle matured.

Or as one influential Republican told HPR, "That issue transcends politics."

And how did Garton handle it when his hometown newspaper delved into the issue at a Monday Third House meeting at the Columbus Commons. The *Columbus Republic's* Dave Evensen reported: *Garton acknowledged that the plan is a fringe benefit but fired back at critics of the plan. "Why it's being characterized as it is, I don't know," he said. "There are editors around the state of Indiana that have no idea" of the realities facing lawmakers. "Most of us (legislators)*



Democrat Terry Coriden files for SD41 on Wednesday at the secretary of state's office. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

carry two full-time responsibilities."

Duoh!

On the property tax issue, the *Columbus Republic* reported Garton saying, "Whether anything will be done this year, right now is very cloudy."

Duoh! That's hardly a clarion call for action, with the Senate president leading the charge on behalf of beleaguered homeowners and city officials.



The Senate president attempted to conjure sympathy for his cronies at a time when a real anti-incumbent wave is beginning to develop against a backdrop of a controversial war started by his party's president at his second mid-term election, a potential property tax rebellion (in words of warning from Budget Director Chuck Schalliol to IACT last fall), and Garton's defense of the gerrymandered districts as he opposed the redistricting commission. Garton told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* that the current system creates some competitive races ... in the House.

Duoh!

Garton has become the elderly leader, fighting for his cronies, bucking his own reform governor (remember the Hope BMV)

The other dynamic in place comes in the House seats within Garton's Senate district. State Rep. Dave Yount is expected to retire so he can preserve his health care for life, which should make for some interesting local press. State Rep. Woody Burton is facing a challenge from Johnson County Council President Ron West. State Rep. Luke Messer is retiring and five Republicans, including two from the Shelby City Council and Shelby County Council, are preparing for a primary fight.

The *Columbus Republic* and *Johnson County Daily Journal* are apt to be delving into the home rule issues with these races. Whether the *Indianapolis Star*, which took a pass on the Waltz-Borst race in 2004 and seemed genuinely stunned when Waltz won, does so with this race remains to be seen.

Can Garton be defeated? The answer is yes. Walker

may try to soften up Garton on the right to life issues, but Indiana Right to Life gives Garton an 81 percent rating on its report card (compared to 35 percent for Borst). Garton has a mixed voting record on informed consent and has voted against cloning and abortion in public facilities legislation.

Those who know Garton say he understands what happened to Borst. "Garton is a better politician than Borst," said one observer. "He knows how to gauge people and understands people and sizes them up. Borst could be dictatorial and didn't have to be a diplomat."

The mistakes Borst made included a failure to take his challenger seriously, the beating he took in the Right to Life community, and over the lifetime health care perk, and Waltz essentially establishing the battlefield, forcing Borst to react. Those close to Garton say he learned from Borst's debacle.

Coriden has assets. He had a good grasp of the potentially explosive health care and property tax issues. He'll have the backing of Columbus Mayor Fred Armstrong's political organization, and also has good community attributes (he started the county's legal aid services and serves on the Fair Board). Whether he can execute them enough to pull off an upset, as Drozda and Waltz did, remains to be seen.

Clearly, with Borst's defeat and the retirement of State Sen. Joe Harrison, the torch is gradually passing in the Indiana Senate, with Garton the remaining Old Guard power center.

Whether it's a challenger as to who pries the torch from Garton's ancient fingers or a restoration of his own common sense is an answer to come on another day. ❖

Toll Road lease remains hot topic

INDIANAPOLIS - As the Indiana Senate began to deliberate Major Moves, a flurry of activity worked around the issue.

LaPorte County Commissioners voted against the lease. A resolution states the board opposes the lease of the Indiana Toll Road and believes there are better means to accomplish road repairs or infrastructure improvements. Ways include bonding against future gas-tax proceeds and revenue bonds based on gradual phased increases in tolls (*Michigan City News-Dispatch*).

Senate Appropriations Chairman Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, said today's testimony will be limited to administration officials and committee questions. Meeks will reserve public testimony for Feb. 16 and plans to consider bill amendments and a committee vote the following Thursday (*South Bend Tribune*). "I want to make sure there's time to digest everything," Meeks said, "so we don't give the appearance we're trying to rush this thing through."

"We think we're entitled to have a complete fresh

look at it to see whether the deal is one that we approve," said Sen. Luke Kenley. He talked of scrapping the 10-year moratorium on toll increases, favoring tax write-offs.

The Daniels administration warned against substantive changes to the negotiated lease, especially any that affect the company's financial outlook. "They could still go through with it, but they have the right to walk away and not lose their \$75 million (letter of credit)," said Charles E. Schalliol, state director of management and budget.

Last weekend, State Rep. Dave Wolkins told the *Louisville Courier-Journal* that he expects Major Moves to return to the House for a vote. "The majority of folks in Indiana ... they are at this point against it," he said. "They don't have the information and we don't have all the information, either." He promised that if his questions weren't answered, he'd support Democrat calls for a special session.

Gov. Daniels observed, "Many folks — and this is understandable — have yet to comprehend the enormity of the benefit of our being about to spend \$4 billion to put people to work in this state. So I think a lot of folks don't yet understand the huge up side here." ❖



Gov. Mitch Daniels and Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson share policy and laughs during a press conference on Tuesday when they both endorsed the IACT reforms. (HPR Photos by Brian A. Howey)

The Mitch & Bart Show

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - There was a "Hometown Matters" banner on the dais behind Gov. Mitch Daniels and Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson in Statehouse Room 101.

But just as the press conference began Tuesday, the banner collapsed. "I hope that isn't an omen," Peterson quipped. "It was beautiful while it lasted."

Thus, it might be said of the unique relationship between the governor and the mayor on the other side of the Monument Circle fulcrum. Gov. Evan Bayh and Mayor Stephen Goldsmith had a truce the last time Republicans and Democrats occupied opposite ends of Market Street. There was no speculation they would run against each other. They didn't criticize each other.

The Daniels/Peterson dynamic is different. The Daniels administration essentially swooped in and took control of the new Colts stadium and Indiana Convention Center last year (and the responsibility to get it done on time and under budget). The governor expended considerable political capital to get the tax increases passed in seven of the eight GOP-dominated doughnut counties. Peterson didn't pout.

And, Gov. Daniels has been consistently supportive of Peterson's Indy Works. "It's ironic that the party I adhere to -- the party thought of as smaller government, local government -- should stand in the way of changes that would give the mayors and local officials more flexibility," Daniels explained at one point.

Peterson thanked Gov. Daniels for "our desire for fiscal flexibility at the local level."

"Long term reliance on property taxes is doomed," Peterson pronounced. "Every legislative session there are proposals to reduce property taxes and limit the growth of

property taxes, if not end them outright. Everytime that happens, it has an impact on us at the local level.

Peterson added, "We wanted to work together proactively to produce a plan to finance local government. We put together the Hometown Matters Plan. It is an opportunity to increase other taxes and property taxes are reduced to switch the way local government is financed to lessen the dependence of property taxes. It is not the only answer, but we thought it was critical to come in this legislative session with a proactive plan.

"We want local choice. Different cities; different counties could finance themselves in different ways. They could find a different mix of taxes, based on their own local needs."

Peterson added that he was "grateful" for the governor's recognition of the current flaws.

When Daniels spoke, he began by saying, "Amen to everything Bart said. Some things really should be beyond partisanship and that includes the form of restructuring local government, the kind of thing Mayor Peterson and others are bravely endeavoring to do right now."

"We will never solve the property tax problem as Bart just pointed out if we don't introduce new things. An essential element must be flexibility. We can't shift the wave of property taxes unless we have something to shift them to. So I support the thrust of cities and towns. I will continue to urge people in my party who are hesitant about this to act and act now."

Daniels thanked the mayors "from both parties" for supporting Major Moves. "It fits that very same description."

Then the questions came. Abdul Shabazz asked both Daniels and Peterson if members of their own parties had been obstinate in opposing Major Moves and Indy Works.

Peterson observed, "It really has never mattered who is in charge of the House or Senate upstairs; which party. The



reality is this has been an issue where the state government has decided over the years it is better, in effect, micromanaging finances at the local level for the fear they will be blamed for whatever actions local governments take. This has gone back decades. If you give us the tools, and we misuse them, we're going to be the ones who pay the price."

The alternative, the status quo, Peterson said, "Is going to lead us down a very ugly path. When you get to a crisis level, that's when you can make the change and I think we're at that point."

HPR then asked Peterson, "Where do you stand on Major Moves? And if you do support it, won't the influx of road money take pressure off your budget?"

Daniels looked intensely at the gallery as the mayor began to dance.

"I learned a long time ago that I don't have to get involved in every single controversial thing," Peterson said. "I seem to have attracted enough controversy on my own. I clearly think Major Moves is a bold initiative and I think the legislature should make that decision. I do appreciate a major

portion of the money proposed to be raised by Major Moves is to be set aside for local government roads and streets. That is something we've worked at for a long time and we like that part of it. The toll road is a long way from Indianapolis and I think the legislators can deal with it without me getting in the middle."

Daniels reacted graciously despite the lack of an endorsement he has coveted from other Democratic mayors.

Both leaders, with Peterson telling reporters he's not interested in running against Daniels in 2008, desperately want their reforms ... this year.

Our speculation is that by the time the Senate deadlines arrive, the tiny Democratic caucus there will try and strike a deal linking both, while they still have the leverage over the quorum, as Peterson buddy Sen. Vi Simpson did two budgets ago.

Daniels and Peterson were genial and mostly on the same page this cold February day. It will be fascinating to see their moods a month from now. ❖

The sheriff's daughter

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

When I was a student at Vincennes University, and then at Indiana University at Bloomington, my father, a respected small town newspaper editor, had no idea what I was up to most of the time.

Thank the lord.

But here in the early 21st Century, Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth found out what his 19-year-old daughter was doing at IU Photos of the student drinking beer ended up on www.facebook.com. The *Evansville Courier & Press* was tipped off by Joshua Claybourn, who the newspaper identified as a "supporter" of U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, who Ellsworth is challenging in November.



"**People understand** that underaged drinking is commonplace and sometimes even expected," Claybourn told the *Courier & Press*. "When a public official's child does it, it's not necessarily any worse. However, when it's the sheriff's family doing it and then flaunting the illegal consumption in public on the Internet, it's cause for concern. Put yourself in the shoes of a general 19-year-old who was arrested for underaged drinking, then they find that the sheriff's daughter does it and flaunts it online and gets away with it."

What we've witnessed is another barrier crashing on the Worldwide web.

Ellsworth reacted in disgust. "As a law enforcement officer, I know all too well the dangers of underage drinking," Ellsworth said. "And I do not condone this. We will deal with this privately, as a family matter. And wouldn't this be a nice place to live if everyone made a perfect decision every day of their life? Like President Bush, who has also had to deal with issues like this with his own college-age daughters, I realize no one is perfect."

When I was in college, such photos might have been tapped to my Teter Quad cinder block wall. Today, the internet allows for Claybourn to put up a journalistic shingle on his website, the heralded www.intheagora.com.

What was once personal and private conduct is now available to millions. It is up to the news consumer to be careful of web news sources.

In my own career as a reporter, editor and columnist, the threshold for political families making my stories is pretty simple. Does their conduct impact or influence the way a public servant conducts public office? Was there an arrest? Or is there hypocrisy involved?

A congressman having an affair with a Serbian spy would cut it. So would a pro-life legislator who secretly had an abortion. Or a moralist found advertising on the web for sex with 14-year-old girls (or boys).

This one doesn't cut it with me. The only reason you're reading about it here is that with the world wide web, it's a new and transparent day for political families. ❖



Bayh Talks Tough On Labor, Security and the bigger picture

By MARK CURRY

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Sen. Evan Bayh sent a tough, clear message this week to the 600 executives at Delphi who intend to reap \$510 million in incentives while cutting benefits to hourly workers - many of them Hoosiers - calling the move "a disgrace."

"How can you possibly propose \$500 million in incentives paid to executives when asking the line workers to take an 80 or 90 percent cut? It ought to be against the law," Bayh said Tuesday in an address before a United Auto Workers political action conference in Washington (Associated Press).

Bayh used gentler, kinder language in a Jan. 12 letter to Delphi CEO Steve Miller.

"Circumstances, like those of your company, and decency require that the highly paid not seek to enrich themselves on the backs of middle class working families," he wrote.

It's been a week of tough talk for Indiana's junior senator, who reportedly continues to trail New York Senator Hillary Clinton by a wide margin in polls for the 2008 Democratic candidate race.



Sen. Bayh at Allison

On Feb. 2, Bayh garnered significant national news attention by sharply criticizing President Bush on national security, citing "stunning incompetence" in Iraq.

As reported in *HPR's Daily Wire* of Feb. 3, Bayh said a "tough and smart" approach to Iraq would "establish benchmarks for success, a timeline for progress, accountability for results and candor about how we are doing."

Labor has been generous to Bayh's campaigns over the years, according to data gathered by the Center for Responsive Politics, a non-partisan research group that tracks money in politics.

During the 2004 campaign cycle, contributions from labor groups accounted for 13 percent - \$276,000 - of the senator's total PAC receipts. Business contributed \$1.7 million to constitute the campaign's single largest block of PAC funding (opensecrets.org).

In the current election cycle, labor's contributions account for less than 10 percent, while the business share has increased to better than 85 percent at \$903,000. Bayh's campaign has raised a total of \$10.3 million, with \$9.6 million as cash on hand.

According to Project Vote Smart, Bayh votes supported the interest of the UAW 100 percent in 2003 and 2004. On

the votes that the National Association of Manufacturers considered to be the most important in 2003-2004, he voted their preferred position 41 percent of the time. For the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the figure for 2004 was 65 percent and in 2003 it was 43 percent.

The senator's official website states that "Bayh believes America should advance an ambitious, market-opening trade agenda, and he has built a strong record of supporting free trade," and the Libertarian Cato Institute rates him 58 percent on trade barrier issues, compared with Clinton's 35 or Republican Sen. Richard Lugar's 95.

Last July, he joined other potential 2008 Democratic presidential candidates to vote against the Central American Free Trade Agreement, the first time he had ever opposed a free trade agreement.

"This agreement contains a major loophole giving a free pass to foreign companies that ignore international labor standards," Bayh, who earned a degree in business economics at Indiana University, told the *Indianapolis Star*. "Our trade policy needs more enforcement, not less."

Bayh's tough talk may be turning the heads of some who had earlier discounted him as viable Presidential timber.

Patrick Doherty, senior editor at *TomPaine.com*, writes that he was most impressed when Bayh veered from script during the Feb. 2 security speech while answering reporters' questions about China.

"[I]n that unscripted moment, Sen. Bayh showed that regardless of what his advisers were willing to put onto paper, the man himself may just see the bigger picture," Doherty says.

The UAW performance caught the attention of staff at *ABC News'* influential political blog, *The Note*: "For years, the rap on... Evan Bayh has been that the former DLC chair doesn't appreciate the synthesis of populist and DLC themes that Bill Clinton ran on in 1992.... But he certainly roused the United Auto Workers on Tuesday with his call for tougher trade rule enforcement on China."

Maybe, just maybe, Evan Bayh is beginning to refute the naysayers - those who believe he has yet to invent and develop a name for himself. He has a long row to hoe if he intends to break from the pack, however. The list of Democrats running for president numbers 10 so far, with some observers reporting Bayh a distant second to Clinton.

The UAW invited Clinton, who is up for re-election this year, to deliver the convention's closing address on Wednesday. News accounts indicate she found a warm reception and pleased the crowd with a sharply worded 30-minute speech that jabbed Republicans on security and trade.

* * *

Sen. Bayh is scheduled to give the commencement address at DePauw University on Sunday, May 21. ❖



Robert Novak, *Chicago Sun-Times* - When Roy Blunt entered the Caucus Room of the Cannon House Office Building on Thursday, he was sure he had enough votes from fellow Republican House members to be elected majority leader. He probably would have won had it not been for what was said by two dissimilar congressmen: Bill Thomas of California and Mark Souder of Indiana. Thomas seldom deigns to descend from his Olympian heights as House Ways and Means Committee chairman. Accordingly, his colleagues were surprised when he rose to imply Blunt had not made the trains run on time as acting majority leader. Souder, a backbench bomb thrower for 11 years, suggested that the election of Blunt could ratify the Democratic indictment of the GOP as the party of corruption. The speeches by Thomas and Souder built concern that Blunt's election would signal that Republicans really want nothing to change. Souder can claim even fewer friends in Congress than Thomas. An ardent conservative and evangelical Christian, Souder has been a hair shirt for GOP leaders since his election in the famous Class of '94. His nominating speech for Rep. John Shadegg, running for majority leader on a platform of conservative reform, moved his colleagues. "If these elections come back with the same top leadership," Souder declared, "we will be telling the American people that we have not changed -- that the rest of the world has shifted, but we have not." ❖

Morton Marcus, *Syndicated* - Finally, the Daniels administration is getting around to explaining the toll road leasing proposal. On February 3 they released Volume 1, Issue 1 of "Major Moves Help Desk," a newsletter to tell their side of the complicated toll road leasing story. Perhaps a newsletter is pretentious, but it is a move in the right direction. The idea of leasing the toll road is an attractive one, but I have felt in the dark about why this lease and its many details is best for the state. The process seemed like an avalanche with bids coming in suddenly, a winner being declared, and legislation rushed through the House before anyone had a chance to grasp the details, let alone the over-all significance. Is this a good deal for Indiana? The fact that a New York firm advising that state endorses the toll road proposal does not mean anything to me. I've seen those companies give their clients the answers they want. Ethics are not always linked to economic analysis. Nonetheless, I have come to believe that this is a good deal for the state. That conclusion is based on conversations with people I respect and statements from those whose integrity I have no reason to doubt. I still do not know as much as I want to know about the Major Moves program, but a part of that is my fault. I have not read everything available on the subject. I'm like most folks, I'm lazy

and do not go digging into the state's web site to get the details. I depend on newspaper reports and what I hear verbally or read through e-mails from others who are interested in the project. The arguments against the toll road lease and the Major Moves initiative make little sense to me. They are based on fear and designed to stimulate anxiety. They pose "what if" cases without pointing to actual deficiencies in the lease contract. This is a technique often relied upon by those who hold inferior ground. When you can not prove shortcomings, suggest that they might exist. We will not see a return to railroads and mass transit as we had in the past. The arguments for issuing bonds versus leasing have not been convincing. The claim that we will be giving control to "foreign" powers is downright stupid. ❖

Rich James, *Post-Tribune* - Northwest Indiana legislators too often treat "vision" as if it were a four-letter word. That seemingly all changed last year when the delegation united for the common good and created the Regional Development Authority. Finally, it seemed, they had seen the light and Gov. Mitch Daniels led them to the promised land. That new approach to government stuck with them about as long as a Sunday sermon. Although the delegation united for the RDA — a very innovative project for Indiana — the local legislators are turning their backs on the most far-reaching highway proposal in the history of the state. Every member of the local delegation is either against or leaning against — save for Sen. Frank Mrvan, who is undecided — Daniels' plan to fund his Major Moves highway project. ❖

Stuart Rothenberg, *Roll Call* - Democrats are poised to defeat Rep. John Hostettler (R-Ind.) in November. And they better succeed, because if they don't, they might as well forget about ever defeating him. Hostettler has been a Democratic target since he was first elected in 1994. But Democratic hype about beating him has never proved reliable, and the combination of Hostettler's committed base and money from the National Republican Congressional Committee has kept the seat in GOP hands. This year, the Democrats have a challenger who looks like the real deal. And with the national landscape strongly favoring change and Democrats, Hostettler should be a dead duck. But can Democrats finally finish him off? Vanderburgh Sheriff Brad Ellsworth is tall and with the sort of macho good looks that are likely to turn more than a few female heads, and is well-spoken and comes off as surprisingly poised for a local law enforcement official who doesn't have extensive political experience." ❖



Retirement Watch List (Unfiled House incumbents)

Aguilera, Avery, Ayres, Bischoff, Day, Denbo, Espich, GiaQuinta, Klinker, Ripley, Welch, Wolkins, (as of Feb. 8).

Expected to Retire: State Rep. David Yount (only Democrat Gary Bell has filed for HD59).

Contested Legislative Primaries

Democratic

HD 1: State Rep. Linda Lawson vs. Lake County Councilman Ron Tabacynski.

HD3: State Rep. Charlie Brown vs. Herb Smith Jr.

HD 2: State Rep. Earl Harris vs. Drake Morris.

HD 71: State Rep. Carlene Bottorff vs. Steven Stemler.

HD95: State Rep. Mae Dickinson vs. Lewis Peterson.

HD98: State Rep. William Crawford vs. Edwin Lewis Jones Sr.

Republican

HD 20: State Rep. Mary Kay Budak vs. LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody.

HD24: State Rep. Rich McClain vs. Cass County Commissioner Rick Eller.

HD40: State Rep. Matt Whetstone vs. Jon Marquess.

HD55: Union County Councilman Tom Knollman vs. T. Scott Bevington.

HD57: Shelbyville Councilman Rob Nolley vs. Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart, Karen Frazier, Marvin Pavlov.

HD58: State Rep. Woody Burton vs. Johnson County Council President Ron West.

HD69: State Rep. Billy Bright vs. Brent Mullikin.

HD85: State Rep. Phyllis Pond vs. Denny Worman

HD89: State Rep. Larry Buell vs. Michael Batz

SD27: State Sen. Allen Paul vs. Richmond City Council President Bruce Wissel.

SD41: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton vs. Greg Walker.

General Election Races with local officials

HD 31: State Rep. Tim Harris (R) vs. Blackford County Commissioner Larry Hile (D)

HD63: State Rep. Dave Crooks (D) vs. Washington School Trustee Ron Arnold (R).

SD39: State Sen. John Waterman (R) vs. Vincennes Councilman Steve Thais (D).

SD41: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton vs. former Columbus City Attorney Terry Coriden

Incumbent House members who have filed

Republican

HD13 Don Lehe, HD16 Eric Gutwein; HD20 Mary Kay Budak; HD22 Bill Ruppel; HD23 Bill Friend; HD24 Rich McClain; HD28 Jeffrey Thompson; HD29 Kathy Kreig Richardson; HD31 Tim Harris; HD33 Bill Davis; HD 32 Eric Turner; **HD35 Jack Lutz**, HD38 Jim Buck; HD39 Gerald Torr; HD40 Matthew Whetstone; HD44 Andrew Thomas; HD45 Bruce Borders; HD47 Ralph Foley; HD49 John Ulmer; HD50 Dan Leonard; HD51 Dick Dodge; HD52 Marlin Stutzman; HD53 Bob Cherry; HD58 Woody Burton; HD65 Eric Koch; HD67 Cleon Duncan; HD78 Suzanne Crouch; HD85 Phyllis Pond; HD89 Larry Buell; HD90 Mike Murphy, HD92 Phil Hinkle; HD93 Dave Frizzell (*new filers this past week in boldface*)

Democrats

HD1 Linda Lawson; HD3 Charlie Brown, HD5 Craig Fry; HD6 B. Patrick Bauer, HD7 Tom Kromkowski; HD9 Scott Pelath, **HD10 Duane Cheney**, **HD11 Dan Stevenson**, HD13 Chet Dobis; **HD14 Vernon Smith**, HD19 Bob Kuzman; HD25 Jeb Bardon; HD34 Dennis Tyler; HD37 Scott Reske, **HD42 Dale Grubb**, HD43 Clyde Kersey; **HD46 Vern Tincher**, HD56 Phil Pflum; HD63 Dave Crooks, HD66 Terry Goodin, HD71 Carlene Bottorff; HD70 Paul Robertson; **HD72 William Cochran**, HD73 Dennie Oxley; HD74 Russ Stilwell; HD76 Trent VanHaften, HD77 Phil Hoy; HD81 Winfield Moses Jr.; HD94 Carolene Mays; HD95 Mae Dickinson; HD96 Gregory Porter; **HD97 Ed Mahern**, **HD98 William Crawford**, HD99 Vanessa Summers (*new filers this past week in boldface*) ❖



Lugar on Iraq: When will it end?

TRENDLINE No. 1: The attacks on Iraq's power plants, oil refineries, water and sewage treatment plants and wires and pipes are getting worse. Almost three years after the invasion, electricity and water service is worse than it was under Saddam Hussein - reversing the progress made by last summer (*Evansville Courier & Press*). More babies are dying before their first birthday. Iraqis are embezzling American money sent to hire guards to prevent attacks. And, as Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., pointed out at Wednesday's hearing where senators heard all these facts, the administration predicted Americans would not pay for reconstruction at all, that oil revenues would cover the bill. "Senator, you paint a daunting picture," replied Ambassador James Jeffrey, coordinator of Iraq policy at the State Department. Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the hearing for an update on the Iraq reconstruction, which has cost \$20 billion so far. The war overall has cost \$300 billion. But even supporters such as Lugar pressed the officials to give answers on how they are going to succeed after years of treading water, and what can be done to fight corruption. Lugar told Jeffrey: "The American people will be trying to evaluate when does it end? How about reconstruction of certain parts of the United States? These are the kinds of arguments our constituents make."



TRENDLINE No. 2: Some rumors have strong legs, such as this long runner that has bounced around the Indiana Statehouse during the past couple of years (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*). It was repeated last week in *The Howey Political Report*, popular among the political crowd: "Jischke for governor in '08? Some prominent, way-up-the-food-chain Democrats are whispering the name of Purdue University President Martin Jischke as a potential challenger to Gov. Mitch Daniels." (*Publisher's Note: the source was Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard in last Thursday's HPR Interview*). Interested, Mr. Jischke? "Oh, heavens, no," Jischke said. Jischke's reason: He said he'd "never do anything to hurt Purdue University." Running for office would mean having to pick sides, a move he says would politicize university relations at the Statehouse more than they are now. "So, to answer your question, no," Jischke said.

2006 Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Ed Cohen, Steve Frances, Joe

Donnelly. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties.

Media Market: South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **People:** Urban/rural 73/27%; median income \$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081 (50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** President Bush will campaign for Chocola on Feb. 23 at Bethel College in Mishawaka.

Steve Francis, a 50-year-old economics and business professor, announced Sunday that he will run against businessman Joe Donnelly (D) for the right to face Chocola in November (Roll Call). Chocola said Wednesday that he recognizes concerns that have been expressed concerning federal eavesdropping practices and believes the current debate is good (Wensits, *South Bend Tribune*). "I think we should always have a debate about the balance between security and civil liberties. That's what's going to keep us on the right side of the line," Chocola said. Chocola defended use of the law to intercept calls from overseas, saying that if somebody is calling from Iraq, it may be prudent to listen. "If an al-Qaida guy is calling me," Chocola added, "I don't know that I have an expectation of privacy." Overall, Chocola gave mixed reviews to President Bush's State of the Union speech. "I think it was two speeches," Chocola said. The Bristol Republican said the first part, which focused on foreign policy and the war on terror, "was an excellent speech." The second part, which focused on domestic policy, was "a cautious speech" and "not as good as it could have been," Chocola said. **Status:** *Leans Chocola*

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. **Democrat:** Fort Wayne Councilman Thomas Hayhurst, Kevin Boyd, Edward W. Smith. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **People:** Urban/rural 65/35%; median income \$44,013; Race: 87% white, 6% black, 4.5% Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 36/52% **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 33%. **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+17. **2002 results:** Souder 92,566 (63%), Rigdon 50,509 (34%). **2004 Results:** Souder, Parra **2004 Results:** Souder 171,389 (69%), Parra 76,232 (31%). **2006 Forecast:** Souder changed the dynamic of the House leader-



ship race. His nominating speech for Shadegg ended up crippling Rep. Roy Blunt, allowing U.S. Rep. John Boehner to win (see Novak column, page 7). Souder's concerns could be motivated by his own pending race against Hayhurst, who is the most credible general election challenger since he took office in 1994. We believe Souder is relatively safe. However, he won office with the help of the 1994 Republican wave. About the only way we see him defeated is a wave in the other direction. Clearly, Souder was concerned enough about that to make his extraordinary speech before his Republican colleagues. This race will be one to watch. If it tightens into a competitive challenge by mid- to late-summer, it may be a precursor to a national dynamic come November. Speaker Dennis Hastert's (R-Ill.) staff is pressuring the Pentagon not to go forward with a proposal to shut down the civilian office overseeing counterterrorism, counternarcotics and other special operations (The Hill). A well-placed congressional source said Hastert aides were warning the Department of Defense (DoD) to tread warily. "We hope that the [Pentagon] won't do something that the Speaker would have to unscrew for them," the source said. Hastert was copied on a letter sent to Rumsfeld on Monday by Rep. Mark Souder (R-Ind.), chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources. Joshua Bolten, director of the Office of Management and Budget, also was copied on the letter. The subcommittee has been involved in oversight of the Pentagon's role in counternarcotics. The letter sent several days ago is one of three sent since September, when Souder first expressed his concerns. The only answer so far to the subcommittee was "a brush-off" saying it was "an internal matter," the GOP aide said. The Pentagon said it would let the panel know when it had made its decision, the aide said. In his most recent letter, Souder wrote, "We are deeply concerned about the rumored elimination of the Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict Counternarcotics program within the Fiscal Year 2007 budget and its impacts on the National Drug Control Strategy."

Status: *Likely Souder*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Ron Franklin, Eric Dickerson. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, Bob Hidalgo, Kris Kiser. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **People:** Urban 99.7%; median income \$36,522; poverty 13.5%; race white 63, black 29.4%, Hispanic 4.4%, Asian 1.3%; blue/white collar 26/58%; **2000 Presidential:** Gore 55%, Bush 43%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** D+6. **2002 Results:** Carson 77,478 (53%), McVey 64,379 (44%). **2004 Results:** Carson 121,303, Horning (R) 97,491, Campbell

(L) 4,381. **2006 Forecast:** Kris R. Kiser, a former U.S. House staff aide and a native Hoosier, will announce his candidacy next Tuesday at the Statehouse. Kiser is an Indiana University and University of Louisville School of Law graduate, and he was a staff member for former U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton and the Congressional Joint Economic Committee. He returned to his family's longtime eastside residence last year with his partner, Daryl Johnson, and began work toward the Congressional race. **Primary Status:** *LIKELY CARSON.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill, Gretchen Clearwater, Lendall Terry, John "Cosmo" Hockersmith. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **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. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Results:** Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** Every cycle brings out a joker. This year, it's Cosmo! John "Cosmo" Hockersmith, 35, has filed to run as a Democrat in this year's election. He proposed a variety of measures, including a 50 percent pay cut for legislators. "I used to be a die-hard Republican. Now I'm not," Hockersmith, who has called for President George Bush's impeachment, said. "A guy gets told at 34 he's too old to be a soldier, it leaves a bitter taste in his mouth." Hockersmith also proposed offering film companies tax incentives to make local movies, a vice tax on pornography and added tourist attractions in southern Indiana. For example, he said, the Colgate plant in Clarksville, scheduled to close in 2008, would be a good location for an alligator farm. "The meat, hide, teeth and bones can be used to generate revenue," Hockersmith said, adding that its proximity to the airport and interstate highway could make it a draw for tourists. "I am tired of politics as usual. I am absolutely fed up and disgusted," Hockersmith said. "It's high time that another Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, backwoods country boy went to Congress and stirred them up." **Primary Status:** *SAFE HILL.*

2006 State Races

Senate District 26: Republican: Andrew Phipps. Democrat: Sue Errington, Lewis Colter, Steven Graves. **1998 Results:** Craycraft (D) 16,824, Wenger (R) 13,414. **2002 Democratic Primary Results:** Craycraft 9,653. Dixon 2,288. **2002 General Results:** Craycraft (D) 16,939, Phipps (R)



16,330. **2006 Forecast:** The number of Democrats hoping to succeed retiring state Sen. Allie Craycraft, D-Selma, has increased to three with the declaration of candidacy of Steven Graves (Yence, *Muncie Star Press*). In an interview, Graves said he believed in a strong, two-party system at the Statehouse. "We lose that if a Republican wins Allie's seat," Graves said. "If this seat should go to the Republicans, Republicans would not have to consider or even seek the input of Democrats for future legislation." There are 33 Republicans and 17 Democrats in the Indiana Senate. "This governor is aggressive," Graves said of Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels, "and there need to be some people down there who will question (his agenda). I'm not saying obstruct, but question." Graves, 48, a Perry Township resident, was an administrative assistant in the state's health and human services department during the administration of Democratic Gov. Evan Bayh, whom Graves termed a "cautious" governor. Currently the executive director of the Indiana Fireworks Association, Graves formerly directed treatment centers for abused, neglected, and criminal juveniles in Muncie, Kokomo, and Montgomery County. Former Delaware County Commissioner Jack Peckinpaugh will manage Graves's campaign, and accountant Joyce Clevenger will serve as treasurer. **Democratic Primary Status:** TOSSUP.

Senate District 27: Republican: State Sen. Allen Paul, Richmond City Council President Bruce Wissel. Democrat: Open. **1998 Results:** Paul 22,679. **2002 Results:** Paul 22,841. **2006 Forecast:** State Sen. Paul announced Thursday he intends to seek reelection to a sixth term in the Indiana Senate. "I have proudly served residents of Eastern Indiana for many years," Paul said. "Indiana faces many challenges. Jobs and education are our top priority issue, and I will continue to work to make Indiana an even better place in which to live." **Status:** *Leans Paul*

House District 1: Republican: Open. Democrat: State Rep. Linda Lawson, Lake County Councilman Ron Tabaczynski. **2002 Results:** Lawson 5,867, Myra Rosenbloom (R) 3,012. **2004 Democratic Primary:** Lawson 2,963, Pucalik 2,684. **2004 Results:** Lawson, 11,926, Baffa (R) 7,820. **2006 Forecast:** Tabaczynski will try to return to the state Legislature (Dolan, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). He served in the 1990s as a state representative for Hammond. He is in his fourth year on the County Council, where he represents a district containing most of Hammond and Munster. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP.

House District 20: Republican: State Rep. Mary Kay Budak, LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Budak 12,551, Gillon (L) 2,540. **2004 Results:** Budak 12,944, Spevak (D) 10,013, Schadowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:** On the surface, long-time 20th District State Rep. Mary Kay Budak has the full support of higher-ups

in her party for her May primary race against upstart Tom Dermody (Miller, *Michigan City News-Dispatch*). Behind the scenes, however, some in local political circles say Budak is on the chopping block from her fellow Republicans. "I think there's a sense of betrayal there," one high-ranking member of the Indiana State Democratic Party told the *News-Dispatch* this week. "(Dermody) has a lot of power behind his campaign." Budak is running for an unprecedented 13th term in the House, but for the first time since 1986, she has a primary opponent. Local politicians say Budak has achieved such staying power because she doesn't automatically toe the Republican Party line at the expense of what her constituents - in a decidedly Democrat-leaning county - want. That moderation, according to one former elected Republican county official, has raised eyebrows as far up as Indianapolis. "She tends to vote more to the left. She votes with unions a lot," the former politician said. "The state party is looking for someone who's more conservative. She's too much in the middle of the field." When asked Thursday if she felt she was being pushed out by her own party, Budak said she had the support not only of the local party, but of Republicans at the state level, as well. "I have the governor coming up in April for a fund-raiser and an endorsement," she said. "Do you think the governor would be coming up here if they were trying to get me out of here?" Budak realizes she doesn't always stick to party lines, but that tack, she says, gives her wide appeal. "That's why I win every election each fall because the Democrats vote for me, too. I do what's right." Democrats locally have perceived a mistreatment of Budak in the process and at times have tried to persuade her to jump parties. Budak acknowledged the attempts, but said she's not interested in leaving the party she's belonged to for decades. "It's been going on for months," she said of the overtures from local Democrats. "But I'm loyal to the Republican Party and to the people. I have no interest in leaving." Dermody said Friday he's running independently and shrugged off the notion of downstate support for his run. He's confident in his chances, though, so much so that he hired Chris Faulkner, a former campaign guru for Second District U.S. Congressman Chris Chocola, to handle his campaign. "Since this is a primary, people are naturally trying to create drama where there is none. My reasons for running are simple: I want to be a part of improving the economy and education in our district so the overall quality of life is better for all citizens in Northwest Indiana. "I have always been active in this community and will work hard to make sure we have a voice in Indianapolis. While I appreciate Mary Kay's long years of service, I think it's time for a change. And, based on what I'm hearing when I go door-to-door, the people in this community agree." Senate President Robert Garton told the News-Dispatch that Budak is a "very effective" lawmaker and said any notion that he or



anyone in the party's upper ranks is trying to push her out is not true. Some Democrats in LaPorte County said Garton is behind the move. "She's not in our house, but if she was, I wouldn't want to run against Mary Kay," Garton said. "There's someone desperate in the party opposing her that's trying to start something here. Frankly, I think she's the only Republican who could win that district. **Primary Status:** *LEANS DERMODY*

House District 51: Republican: State Rep. Dick Dodge Democrat: Joe Rauen. **2002 Results:** Kruse (R) 10,157, Smith(L) 2,672. **2004 Results:** Dodge (R) 14,547, Mason (D) 8,343. **2006 Forecast:** Dodge, R-Pleasant Lake, cast a difficult vote last week for legislation leasing a major asset in his district – the Indiana Toll Road. He previously told *The Journal Gazette* that his constituents hate the idea. But a last-minute amendment directing more money to Steuben County appears to have swayed his support. Now that "yes" vote may reverberate into the November election. Democrat Joe Rauen – a toll-booth collector for eight years on the Toll Road – has filed to run against Dodge in House District 51. "A lot of people are concerned about what's going on with the Toll Road. It's absolutely phenomenal because it's affecting everybody. A lot of promises are being made," said Rauen. "I'm running now because I'm tired of people losing their jobs. And property taxes in our area are going up. "I feel like we're not being told the truth.". **Status:** *LEANS DODGE.*

House District 57: Republican: Shelbyville Councilman Rob Nolley, Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart, Edward Dundas, Karen Frazier, Marvin Pavlov. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004. **2006 Forecast:** Edward F. Dundas became the fifth Republican to announce he is running for the office. Dundas, 59, has been a Hendricks Township resident for the past 14 years. He is a retired U.S. Postal Service employee who worked in Indianapolis. The other Republicans running for the seat include Karen Frazier of Flat Rock; Sean Eberhart of Shelbyville; and Marvin Pavlov of Columbus. Rob Nolley of Shelbyville has announced he is running but has not filed his paperwork. Dundas ran for the seat against former Rep. Jeffrey M. Linder, a Republican, in 1996 and 1998 and lost. His campaign platform includes harsher punishment for drug offenses and boot camp for all offenders. Dundas said these efforts would lower the crime rate tremendously. Dundas is a Vietnam veteran who said he believes that all veterans — and especially war veterans — should have employment readjustment into federal jobs until retirement. "There shouldn't be any vet in America who is unemployed, plus all vets should have complete medical coverage for life, because if it wasn't for our vets, there wouldn't be an America of free people," he said in a prepared statement. **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 58: Republican: State Rep. Woody Burton, Johnson County Council President Ron West. **2002 Results:** Burton 9,917, Montgomery (D) 3,453, Miller (L) 437. **2004 Results:** Burton 18,766, Turley (D) 7,420. **2006 Forecast:** House Bill 1013, authored by Rep. Burton (R-Greenwood), would allow the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to stock a license plate featuring the words, "In God We Trust," on their shelves for purchase. The bill was passed by the Senate Commerce and Transportation Committee today by vote of 6-1. "Our nation was founded on the motto of 'In God We Trust,'" stated Burton. "Because there will be no monetary gains given to any particular organization, this is not a religious cause. It is merely a way to honor our country and the principles it was founded upon." **Status:** *Leans Burton.*

House District 69: Republican: Billy Bright, Brent Mullikin. Democrat: Dave Cheatham. **2002 Results:** Lytle 9,777, Newell 7,678. **2004 Results:** Bright 12,639, Lytle 11,018. **2006 Forecast:** Jennings County educator David Cheatham hopes to return to Indiana House of Representatives (*Columbus Republic*). A representative from 1984 to 1992, Cheatham has filed for the seat in House District 69. "I believe that I can best represent the values and beliefs of the people of Jefferson, Jennings and Ripley County in House District 69," said Cheatham. An educator for 30 years, Cheatham describes himself as an outspoken advocate for education. "We saw little increase in state funding for education, while, at the same time, we saw cuts to programs like 21st Century Scholars," he said. Cheatham believes results from the House's last budget-making long session to be unsatisfactory for the district. "With the last budget, our elected representatives in the majority passed a Daniels-backed budget that can only balance the books by raising our local property taxes," he said. "I do not believe that those who passed this last state budget are being honest about how it is going to affect the average taxpayer," he said. "Politics has become a partisan contest of who can get credit for doing good things while blaming someone else for things gone wrong." **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 95: Republican: Open. Democrat: State Rep. Mae Dickinson, Lewis Peterson. **2004 Results:** Dickinson (D) 14,875, Black (R) 5,555, Barnes (L) 474. **2006 Forecast:** Dickinson faces a primary challenge from Lewis Peterson. **Primary Status:** *SAFE DICKINSON*

House District 98: Republican: Open. Democrat: State Rep. William Crawford, Edwin Lewis Jones Sr.. **2004 Results:** Crawford (D) 15,143. **2006 Forecast:** The ranking Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee is facing a primary challenge, but we don't think he's in any grave danger. **Primary Status:** *SAFE CRAWFORD* ❖



O'Bannon bust to be unveiled Monday

INDIANAPOLIS - A bust honoring former Gov. Frank O'Bannon for his years of public service will be unveiled during a ceremony at noon on Monday, Feb. 13. The ceremony will include remarks from Gov. Mitch Daniels, former Gov. Joe Kernan and former First Lady Judy O'Bannon. The bust is the work of Hoosier artist and sculptor Ken Ryden of Anderson. The Frank O'Bannon Memorial Commission, established in 2004 by the Indiana General Assembly, raised private funds for the creation of the bust. Following the unveiling, the sculpture will go on display outside the Indiana State Senate Chamber, where O'Bannon served for 18 years. O'Bannon served as lieutenant governor from 1989 to 1997. He was twice elected governor and served from January 1997 until Sept. 13, 2003, when he died of complications following a stroke. The ceremony is open to the public.



Tippecanoe County eyes income tax increase

LAFAYETTE - Tippecanoe County residents could soon be asked to pick a poison: higher property taxes or higher income taxes. Indiana law calls for the elimination of the property tax on business inventory statewide, effective with taxes paid in 2007. The change could force local officials to raise property taxes -- or cut spending. The law also gives counties a third option: raising the county income tax to give homeowners a break on property taxes to offset the impact of eliminating the inventory tax. The Tippecanoe County Council plans to hold a public hearing Feb. 21 to discuss all options.

Heating bills double for schools

BOONVILLE - School administrators say they are feeling the winter pinch, just like many families (*Evansville Courier & Press*). "We're seeing very, very noticeable increases across the board," said Todd Armstrong, Warrick County School Corp. assistant superintendent. How noticeable? Well, Castle High School's heating bill was \$23,400 in December 2004. For December 2005, it was \$38,200. Boonville High School's bill nearly doubled from \$10,800 to \$21,000.

Bayh targets pork barrel spending

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh today joined a bipartisan group of eight other senators to introduce legislation designed to reduce opportunities for members to insert into bills special projects that are never voted on and to increase public oversight of wasteful spending. At a press conference led by Senator John McCain (R-AZ) this morning, Bayh called the introduction of the Pork Barrel Reduction Act an important step toward restoring fiscal sanity to Washington. "Our growing deficit threatens not only our economic interests, but also our national security and our position as a leader in the global community," Senator Bayh said. "As a former Governor, I understand the importance of real fiscal responsibility and once vetoed a state budget because I didn't think it was fiscally sustainable. The legislation we are introducing today will help bring that kind of common sense to Washington."

Williams kicks off sheriff campaign

EVANSVILLE - Eric Williams didn't declare his candidacy for Vanderburgh County sheriff Wednesday so he could storm the gates of the

county's top law enforcement agency to impose a new order. In fact, Williams told about 350 supporters what the county needs is more of the same.

Good government report shows cities how to save

GARY - Five Lake County cities may be sitting on an a treasure chest of more than \$8 million in untapped public funds available annually. Efficiency specialists working for the Good Government Initiative said the key to unlocking these riches is in the first report they publicly released Wednesday (Dolan, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). None of the recommendations by Maximus Inc., a Reston, Va., consulting firm, involve East Chicago, Gary, Hammond, Hobart and Whiting raising any new taxes. Some of the suggestions are as innocuous as replacing incandescent traffic lights with more energy-saving models and joint purchasing of basic supplies. But others involve reducing government jobs and overtime pay, requiring firefighters and emergency medical technicians to learn each others' skills and other possibly unsettling changes for city employees. Gary Mayor Scott King, one of five mayors who received the report this week, said, "There are some (recommendations) that are frankly challenging, like outsourcing garbage collection. I don't see myself doing that any time before the next election.."

Tax cuts costing Valpo schools

VALPARAISO - Refunds made because of successful property tax appeals could cost Valparaiso and Valparaiso Community School Corp. more than \$2.7 million, money that will come from 2006 budgets (*Post-Tribune*).

