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Political Report

Thursday, July 13 2006

Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

Is Bayh the Anti-Hillary?

Senator now considered a serious contender

Bv MARK CURRY

WASHINGTON - For the fifth time in modern history a Hoosier is contemplating a run at the White House, but this campaign just might be different: Evan Bayh could win his party's nomination.

True, Indiana's former governor is considered a long shot, but so were Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton at this time in 1974 and 1990. And, unlike the Hoosiers who went before, Bayh is deep into the game 2 1/2 years out. While his campaign does face daunting obstacles, the junior senator is well-positioned to mount a viable challenge to any seeking the Democratic nomination for president in 2008.

"He's a credible U.S. senator, leader in his party, got a message, spending time on task, getting a good early start -- those are all signs of candidacies that do well," Iowa pundit David Yepsen told HPR. Asked to compare Bayh's chances with that of another Hoosier senator who ran for the GOP nomination in 1996, the political columnist for the **Des Moines Register** said, "[Richard] Lugar got into this thing late, as I recall. That's



far different than Sen. Bayh who has gotten in here very early."

Bayh is "spending time here, he's a Middle Westerner, and those are important assets that will help him

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More progress in 18 months

INDIANAPOLIS - Although I'm not from Indiana, if I were I think I could definitely say this is not my father's



state. Once noted as the last place where change would ever take place, Indiana is now at the forefront. Just look at a few examples.

In June the state signed over the leasing of the Toll Road for nearly \$4 billion and is earning, according to the state treasurer's office, \$6 per second in interest. Honda announced a major expansion of

jobs in Southeastern Indiana. The state has a budget that





"I will forgo the \$50,000 salary increase and I propose that it be dedicated to our public safety needs."

- Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson after his pay raise became a political liability.



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is balanced and local governments are actually getting long overdue money back from the state. Heck, the state is even on Daylight-saving Time. Who knew?

This state has made more progress in the past 18 months than in the past 18 years.

For the longest time, Indiana has had the reputation for being a backward, slow to change and quick to do nothing state. And in some places that is still true. However, under Governor Mitch Daniels this place is getting a badly needed kick in the rear end.

The change has not come without growing pains. The governor's approval ratings are only 40 percent, according to Survey USA. His biggest support is in Indianapolis, where polls are at 51 percent approval. Northern Indiana can't stand him, with a 63 percent disapproval rating; that might have something to do with the Toll Road.

My mother always told me the things you need the most are usually the things you like the least. And in this case, moving Indiana forward into the 21st Century is something a lot of people don't seem to like.

Does the governor have some shortcomings? Of course. He doesn't like to be challenged on some ideas. And one could argue that they spent so much time beating up on the previous administrations that when members of their own party appear to be compromising public integrity, it's just sauce for the goose.

However, the true test of that anger against the governor will show in the next election. Democrats plan to make it about him. If the May primary was any indication, that strategy may not be the best one. Only two incumbents lost in Republican primary races and those were more about the individuals than Mitch Daniels.

If voters do express their anger with the governor, it will be in the form of giving the Indiana House of Representatives over to Pat Bauer and the Democrats. At that point all



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Brian A. Howey, Publisher Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington Writer

Mark Curry, Washington Writer Jack E. Howey, Editor

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www.howeypolitics.com
BrianHowey@howeypolitics.com

Indianapolis Office: 317-506-0883. Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535. Washington, DC Office: 202-256-5822. Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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you will have for the next two years is a stalemate as a result of divided government. But by then it will be too late and the change will already have occurred.

This is no longer your Dad's Indiana. I suggest working to make it look like your grandson's.

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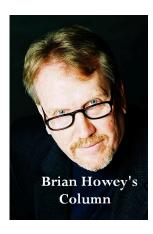
The great white Bauer

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - The Speakerin-Waiting, B. Patrick Bauer, is like a shark. Always moving, always looking for that next meal, but thinking very little about the long-term consequences.

He is against Major Moves. He's against Daylight-saving time. He's against the inspector general. He's against a redistricting commission. He's against a legislator pay commission.

The top of that list puts him, predictably, at odds with Gov. Mitch



Daniels
and House
Republicans.
But those
last two
measures
came courtesy of Senate Democrats. On
Monday, they
proposed
an array
of political
reforms that

included bipartisan pay and redistricting commissions, extending voting



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hours on Election Day to 9 p.m. "We need to step back and step out of that (process)," Senate Minority Leader Richard Young, D-Milltown, said.

"The common thread here is that we're proposing better-operating and more efficient government, or

improvements to the political system," Sen. Tim Lanane, D-Anderson, said. The Democrats said they would introduce legislation next year on each topic, and they invited majority Republicans to join them. "We think these are good bipartisan reforms," Lanane said.

House Republicans are already on record supporting computerized redistricting that would end gerrymandering and create compact, community-oriented districts.

But the **South Bend Tribune** reported that Bauer and House Democrats are against any of those plans. "I prefer elected officials doing those kinds of things," Bauer said.

The problem with that is that Bauer has had a stint as speaker and decades as a House leader to do those types of things and he has failed to do so. What we ended up with was the legislator health care for life and \$4 to \$1 pension schemes, 90 percent of House and Senate districts that are politically uncompetitive (that's why primary upsets are so vogue these days).

Bauer was intent on bringing back health care for life, until Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton was upset in the May primary, and the political reality of it all

whupped him upside the head.

Senate Democrats are trying to provide a vision. House Democrats are standing pat with a three ace poker hand -- the anti-Major Moves, DST and education.

But watching WTHR-TV on Monday night, viewers

were greeted with the news of a budget in black (Bauer says House Republicans should be "ashamed" of their "trickery"). The station reported the thousands of new jobs that are fueling an increase in tax receipts. On Tuesday, the TV stations across the state continued to headline the erasure of a billion-dollar deficit. On Wednesday, the news was Daniels was repaying schools \$160 million the state owed them going back to the O'Bannon-

Kernan days when the governor's office, Ways & Means and Senate Finance all had a set of smoke and mirrors.

The governor and Bauer sparred in the **South Bend Tribune**. Bauer claimed he wrote seven constitutionally balanced biennial budgets. Daniels responded, saying, "Pat Bauer's beyond embarrassment. When he doesn't like the facts, he makes up his own."

By mid-week, the House Democrat rhetoric was so shrill that State Rep. Duane Cheney was accusing Daniels of "raping" Indiana.

The shark keeps moving, looking for that next meal ("My, my, that gov'na looks mighty tasty').

Without Iraq and \$3 a gallon gas, you could hedge your bets on Bauer's November coronation as speaker with the emerging GOP's royal flush. •

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connect with the political culture here," Yepsen said.

"He's not in the top tier now, but many people who've done well in caucuses did not start out this far out. In the top tier right now it's Edwards, Hillary, Kerry and Vilsack."



Yepsen's comments will surely bring comfort to the Bayh camp. He may not be a kingmaker, but the columnist is widely read and respected in Iowa and beyond. During Lugar's 1996 run, HPR Publisher Brian Howey saw first hand what can happen when a candidate fails to make a good impression.

"It was the only time I've seen Sen. Lugar angry," Howey said. "I met up with Sen. Lugar in Muscatine and

the senator was holding a copy of the **Register**, furious that this columnist, Yepsen, had said he didn't have a chance in Iowa or at the nomination."

Lugar failed to gain the traction necessary to become a contender. He garnered only 4 percent of the vote in Iowa and 5 percent in New Hampshire. Still he fared better than did Indiana's Sen. Vance Hartke (1972) and Vice President Dan Quayle (2000). The only other Hoosier to actually be considered to have any kind of shot at his



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party's nomination in modern times is none other than Birch Bayh, father of Evan. The elder Bayh finished second in Iowa and third in New Hampshire during the 1976 contests, but eventually lost to the former governor of Georgia who became the nation's 39th president.

Jimmy Carter was the first politician to fully exploit the current election winnowing process that begins in Iowa and New Hampshire. Subsequent contenders have emulated his strategy. Bayh has made five visits to Iowa in the

last 12 months, second only to former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards with 10. Every nominee from both parties since 1976 has finished third or better in Iowa's caucuses.

If Evan Bayh is to best his father's performance he will have to overcome several obstacles. HPR asked Yepsen to describe the senator's weaknesses.

"He's flat," the columnist said.

"That's the flip side of being a Midwesterner. There's not much fizz there. I think people looking at a president want to see a little more charisma than what he is showing.

"His second problem is a more serious one and that is that he's a centrist on defense and intelligence questions, and the caucus process is dominated by people who are pretty left of center. He may have some trouble with some party liberals," Yepsen said.

Politicians who court the center face the near impossible task of appealing to a group that by definition represents a multitude of views concerning any number of issues (see HPR, May 18). But Yepsen said that doesn't necessarily make a Bayh victory impossible. Liberal voters will split their votes among other candidates, he said, adding "if you look at the history of the caucuses and who wins, it tends to be candidates more in the middle of their respective field. Carter had people on his left. Mondale had people on his left."

Bayh's deep and midwestern political roots should serve him well as he seeks to win over caucus goers. The political culture in Iowa is "virtually identical" to Indiana, Yepsen said. "If you look at the history of the caucuses you will see a midwest rural regional advantage to candidates."

Perhaps Bayh's greatest challenge is the New York politician considered by most to be the Democratic front-runner, Sen. Hillary Clinton. The former First Lady has yet to step foot in the Hawkeye State as a candidate but placed

second in a recent Register survey of probable voters (see HPR, June 29). As noted by CNN Political Editor Mark Preston, Hillary has been "steering clear of Iowa, focusing instead on her Senate re-election. But when she takes her first step into the state the media wave will be gigantic."

While visiting Iowa last weekend, Bayh was asked how he felt about competing with Hillary. His response was aired during a segment on CNN's "The Situation Room" Monday night.



"Is it a little bit of a David versus Goliath situation? Yes, it probably is, but as I recall, David did okay," he said. Later in the broadcast he was asked, "Do you think she is polarizing?" For a split second the polished politician paused to ponder a response.

"I like Hillary," he said with a nod of his head. "I don't [think she is polarizing], but, you know, that's up to the people to decide."

One way voters decide is with their pocketbooks, and, judging by her bank account, Hillary has won many converts. As of March 31, according to opensecrets. org, she had nearly \$20 million cash on hand, leading all Democrats. Sen. John Kerry has nearly \$13 million left over from his 2004 run at the presidency, followed by Bayh with an impressive \$10 million. Bayh's fundraising success is a direct result of extraordinary effort; he has spent more time with donors than any other 2008 candidate (see HPR, April 20). The rest of the pack is far behind, but news accounts indicate former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner, who raised almost \$2 million in the first quarter of this year, may be gaining fast.

The senator has enlisted a superstar cast of staff and consultants to serve his cause. In March, ABC News published "Invisibile Primary Ratings," referring "to the jockeying for supremacy in the contests to be positioned to be the major party presidential nominees between now and [the] start of the actual caucus and primary voting." Bayh ranked sixth overall among Democratic contenders but placed second in the staff and consultants category (behind Clinton). "Party pros and fundraisers often see a big staff or consulting hire as a coup signifying that a candidate is legitimate," the ABC website stated. "And of course, in theory, the work and advice of top operatives should be able to help a candidate win both the Invisible Primary and real nomination fight."



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Reporting on the ABC rating, Maureen Groppe of the **Indianapolis Star** listed seven of the senator's key aides. These included:

- Tom Sugar, chief of staff, who served as Gov. Bayh's director of policy and planning before running the 1998 senatorial campaign;
 - Linda Moore Forbes, deputy chief of staff;
- Marc Farinella, executive director of Bayh's leadership PAC, All America PAC;
 - Dan Pfeiffer, communications director;
 - Paul Maslin, pollster; and,
 - Anita Dunn, media adviser.
- Also listed was Nancy Jacobsen, formally chief fundraiser but recently named a senior advisor.
- Iowa native Kory Mitchell was hired June 21 to be the new finance director.
- All America PAC announced July 2 that Thurgood Marshall Jr., former Cabinet Secretary under President Bill Clinton, was named a senior adviser.
- Other senior advisers include Ron Klain and Richard Gordon.
- Another key player on the Bayh team is Chris Hayler, Regional Political Director who will be moving to Iowa soon, according to Bayh's press secretary Meghan Keck.
- The senator's PAC also funds the salary of Sean Downey, finance chairman for the New Hampshire Senate Democratic Caucus.

"It's a marathon and we're on the second or third mile," Bayh told Dane Smith of the **Minneapo**-

lis Star Tribune last week. So far, the senator's recruitment efforts, long hours on the road and careful planning and strategizing have earned him the respect of many pundits and long-time followers of politics, ranging from former Republican Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich to Larry J. Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Center for Politics.

Bayh "has assembled the foundation of a presidential campaign that's impressed strategists and left him positioned to open the nominating season with what many see as a realistic chance," according to Mike Glover of the

Associated Press.

"While many see enormous hurdles facing Bayh in his bid for the Democratic nomination, he has touched many of the right buttons, reflecting the grassroots orientation of a Democrat who has won statewide election five times in one of the most Republican states in the nation," Glover wrote in an article dated July 7.

Although he has yet to formally announce, a Bayh campaign for the presidency appears to be a foregone conclusion. During a question and answer session at Camp Bayh in South Bend last weekend, the senator said "he is still deciding whether to run," according to AP Reporter

Tom Coyne. "He said whether he can raise enough money to be a viable candidate will be part of the decision, but not the primary factor. He said he likely will make a decision over Thanksgiving."

"This is a pretty profound decision and I just need some time to sit and reflect," Bayh said.

But can he win?

It's simply too early to know about Iowa, according to the Register's Yepsen, who has covered the state's politics since the election of 1974. As the columnist notes, all Bayh "needs to do is finish in the top three which would give him a bit of lift into New Hampshire or whatever caucus contest comes after Iowa."

"I can't answer your question with a definitive answer because it is so far away and caucus goers are sort of professional undecideds until the last night," Yepsen said. "If we have these caucuses in early January of 2008, within the last couple

weeks of the campaign you will see some wide swings.... you're talking about party activists here. These people follow politics and they understand it. They don't make commitments early. They want to see candidates in action. They want to watch them perform in various situations."

"The thing you gotta remember," he said, chuckling, "is any of us who have watched this game for a long time, you never get too predictive. I can remember being assigned to Jimmy Carter and we were dismissing him. Those that have been out here for a long time never get too dismissive of anybody's prospects." *



Bayh Resource Center

The HPR website - www.howeypolitics.com - now features the Bayh Resource Center with articles and columns about Evan Bayh dating back to 1984, covering his career as Indiana secretary of state, governor, U.S. Senator and an emerging presidential candidate.



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Brizzi says he will serve a full term if re-elected

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi stopped by HPR's North American headquarters in Broad Ripple and conducted this HPR Interview with Brian A. Howey on Tuesday.

HPR: Your opponent has questioned whether you would serve a full term if elected to a second term. Will you?

Brizzi: Yes, I have every intention of serving a full term. When I ran for this job in 2002, I was a partner in a successful law firm. I did it because I am passionate about what I do and passionate about protecting the citizens

of this county. It's not just about going after criminals, it's about making sure victims of crime aren't revictimized by

how they are treated by the system. Right now I am doing what I am supposed to be doing and making a real difference. That's my mission. I went on this course four years ago with the Brizzi Brief. We're going to come out with a report card on what we've accomplished. We've done a lot of good. I am passionate about that mission and I have every intention of making sure we fulfill our goals.

HPR: How important is having prosecutoral and courtroom experience, given the

Brizzi: It's critical. I make decisions every single day based on my experience not only as a lawyer, but as a trial lawyer. In working with Scott Newman, I've prosecuted murder cases, attempted murder cases, gangbangers. I feel it would be impossible to determine those types of decisions about what do you do with a case where a confession gets surpressed, or DNA evidence isn't admissible because of how it was collected or analyzed. The issues that come up on a daily basis -- literally hundreds, and not all of them reach my level -- but ultimately the people who work for me now have confidence that I can go in and try

any case that there is. It's difficult, if you've never done

it, to be that person. You can't lead if you can't lead by

fact that a large part of the job is administering the office.

example.

HPR: After the Hamilton Avenue massacre you said you were going to try the case yourself. What does the public gain over your role in this particular case?

Brizzi: I was in Boston when the Hamilton Avenue massacres occurred. I got the phone call about 11 o'clock that night. What had gone on that night. That entire weekend was spent within the community, spending time with the victims' family. I made the decision to personally

prosecute the case at the memorial service. I saw all the different groups in the community come together with the grief that was being shared. It was profound. I think as an office, we make a statement when the prosecutor is the one who tries the case. I think it provided a small measure of comfort. After I announced I was doing it, after we announced I was filing the death penalty, the out-pouring of support was

really unbelieveable.



Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi with Rev. Olgen Williams at the 2005 Indiana Black Expo. (HPR Photo by Thomas A. Howey)

HPR: We are experiencing a crime wave here as well as in other major American cities. What's driving it?

Brizzi: There are all sorts of things that contribute to a rise in crime. Unemployment is a huge issue. I am a firm believer in the broken windows theory. What has occurred here in Indianapolis is not unique to Indianapolis. When Mayor Guiliani took over as mayor of New York City, one of the first things that occurred

was a pamphlet. He said, "Look at this pamphlet. Isn't it odd one of the first things that is said on there is how to keep safe when you're visiting New York?" Fifty-six percent of the people polled said they would move out if they could afford to. So he set out on this course where they were sweating the little stuff. Sweating the broken windows; sweating the graffitti, the street level drug dealers and the prostitutes. All of that. I was there for the Republican convention for a week and it is one of the safest cities in America, all because of what Guiliani did. Put a cop on every street corner. He made sure that those committing these low level offenses were held accountable. So, why are we in this situation now? It's not rocket science. We are not holding criminals accountable. There is no room in the Marion County Jail. Every day they are being released early.



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They are being released on their own recognizance. They are being released on community corrections, on pre-trial that ought not be. Half the people on community corrections who ought to be in jail are violating their conditions. We have to send a message to these people: Look, you get one bite at the apple; maybe two bites, but at some point there has to be consequences for not complying with the rules. I think as a community we have not made public safety a priority. We have a convention center, a new stadium, a \$156 million library expansion, there is talk about giving money to the F-1. Where is the talk about the new jail? Or, not even a new jail. Let's allocate some money and send some folks to DOC. But every time we talk about that, we talk about money. We don't have \$1.6 million to make sure these offenders are locked up. That is exactly why I think we are experiencing what we're experiencing. If you don't get punished, you get more emboldened. Then you graduate to stealing a car. Then you break into somebody's

HPR: This past generation, we've lacked the political will to deal with these issues. I was writing about them in 1997.

house. Then it's home invasions where they tie you up

while you're home.

Brizzi: It's been a problem for a long time. We have increased prosecutor pay, added more courts. In the long run, that is going to help. It will allow cases to go through the system faster and I think that will incrementally help. But they don't come on line until '07. So, what are we doing right now to make sure the citizens of the county are safe? We've had some good ideas: the 100 beds at Liberty Hall. but we've got 220 beds at New Castle. I talked to Commissioner Donohue last week and he said "They're ready." \$39.70 a day. What I would like to do is move as many convicted D felonies out of the jail to make room for pre-trial detainees. But we've got these guys who are cutting their ankle bracelets. So let's send them there too.

HPR: And the reason that hasn't been put on the fast track is ... politics?

Marion County Prosecutor: Republican: Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. Democrat: Melina Kennedy. **2006 Forecast:**



While Democrats express supreme confidence that Kennedy can reclaim the last county office held by a Republican, her biggest flaw -- lack of prosecutorial or trial experience -- was glaring at the end of June. She accused Brizzi of failing to prosecute an escapee. When asked whether she thought escape charges had

been filed Kennedy said, "Not to our knowledge." Brizzi campaign manager Matthew Symons responded in a press release, "The fact is that the prosecutor's office filed escape charges on Ireata over a week ago. An experienced prosecutor knows the value of having solid evidence prior to leveling charges. Marion County can't afford to have a prosecutor who lacks the experience to build a fact-based case. Melina Kennedy has never worked in the prosecutor's office, never filed a charge and never convicted a criminal." Ouch. Today's news of a child molester claiming more victims after early jail release in tandem with Sheriff Anderson's pay fiasco could help Brizzi. **STATUS:** TOSSUP *

Brizzi: The first time, the Council President Monroe Gray just never put it on the agenda. I think the pressure that has been brought to bear by the media will now be heard. We'll make our case heard.

HPR: Late last month your opponent accused you of not charging an escapee. What should the public glean from that episode of the campaign?

Brizzi: It's just disappointing. So much of my time is spent being prosecutor, getting ready for trial. So when you get criticized like that and the facts aren't right, it's disappointing. It's politics. I'm sure there will be more of that.



Can anyone govern in Marion County? By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - The sheriff of Marion County just got a \$50,000 pay raise and makes at least \$360,000 a year (some sources believe that is only a fraction of what Frank Anderson really makes). This, coming at a time when criminals are being discharged from the jail for lack of space. It would be interesting to watch the Channel 16 tape of the meeting where Sheriff Anderson got his big windfall.

Sources also tell HPR that the State Board of Accounts is now auditing former juvenile judge James Payne, who now works in the Daniels administration. He apparently had a \$2,500 going-away party while a quarter of his

staff had criminal records.

Elections run out of ballots. Payments to the state for juvenile detention are inexplicably stopped, mounting into tens of millions of dollars of taxpayer liability. Criminals run juvenile detention. The City-County Council won't hear an ordinance allowing prisoners to be kept by the Department of Corrections.

The question we, as a business based in Marion County, have is whether anyone can govern at the county level? Many of the same issues I was writing about at NUVO Newsweekly eight years ago, are still with us, unresolved and mounting. Both Republicans and Democrats have let the community down. And only one word can aptly describe it: Disgust. •



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It's time for an open discussion on Indiana legislator pay

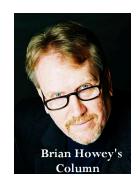
By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton made only nominal news this past week when he made the seemingly mundane summer interim committee appointments.

The senators will spend considerable time studying

things like public health and safety, criminal justice and alcoholic beverages. They will come up with recommendations, some of which will be written into legislation to be debated in the House and Senate next winter.

Indiana legislators make a base salary of \$11,600, but when expense payments and per diems are figured in, no member makes less than \$31,000, according to the National Conference of State Legislators. There has been no increase in base pay since 1985.



base pay since 1985.

I believe that is much too low for the amount of work many of these people do. In addition to the 60-day long sessions and 30-day short sessions, these men and women must campaign, attend Third House sessions, countless meetings, parades, county fairs, fish fries and other community events that allow them to know and understand the pulse of the community. Walking through the Statehouse parking lot many days during the out-of-session summer and fall, you can see dozens of cars of legislators

attending caucuses and committee meetings.

Compare Indiana's pay to those of neighboring states: Illinois \$57,000 and a \$102 a day per diem; Ohio \$56,000 (no per diem), Iowa \$21,000 (\$86 a day per diem), Michigan \$79,000 plus \$12,000 in session expenses; and Kentucky, \$170 per day. North Carolina, a state about the same size as Indiana, pays \$13,000 and \$104 a day per diem, and Missouri pays \$31,000 and \$76.80 per day per diem.

Legislators in the big states who work full time earn anywhere from \$99,000 in California to \$79,000 per year in New York. Texas pays \$7,500 per year. New Hampshire pays the lowest at \$100 a year.

Some Indiana legislators, like Sen. Garton and former Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, got into deep political trouble when they were tied to the schemes such as legislator health care for life and the \$4 to \$1 taxpayer funded pension match. In their minds, because they did so much work and were paid so little, the extra perks were deserved. But the public reaction was so negative that both Garton and Borst lost primary races when their opponents

attacked them on the perks.

The problem with the health care and pension schemes was that they occurred clandestinely. There wasn't a lengthy public debate. They were sneacked in during the waning hours of the 2001 and 2002 legislative sessions. Some members didn't even know they had approved the perks.

In the legislative culture, the myth is that the public will react negatively to any kind of pay increase. But we've seen these myths come crashing to the ground in recent years. Gov. Mitch Daniels got a food and beverage tax increase passed in seven of the eight doughnut counties around Indianapolis for the new Colts stadium. Conventional wisdom for almost two decades was that no tax increases could ever be passed without voter retribution. The stadium tax didn't even come up during Borst's final 2004 campaign. The Indiana Toll Road was a money loser, in part because legislators didn't have the guts to raise the rates since that magic year of 1985 even though inflation continued to march on.

The voters aren't stupid. Make a case for something -- even something that appears to be controversial -- that is supported with facts and logic, and Hoosiers will understand and come around.

So it's time to have a realistic debate about legislative pay here in Indiana. Since there are about 100 legislative campaigns underway prior to the November elections, it's an issue that should be broached at the various town hall meetings and debates.

Certainly, there will be those that say the bums don't deserve a dollar.

But then ask yourselves how willing would you'd be to go back to your salary of 1985?

One of the biggest concerns about the Indiana General Assembly is that it is getting to the point where only retirees and the rich can afford to serve there. We've seen talented legislators like Murray Clark, Luke Messer and Cleo Washington leave to pursue other career options.

I look across the two chambers to find that future governor or congressman or woman. The legislature that bred Govs. Handley, Welsh, Bowen, Orr and O'Bannon and U.S. Reps. Carson, Burton, Ed Pease and Baron Hill, appears to be a struggling feeder system. I don't see many of the current members ready to step up to higher office. I don't see many future governors. I see dozens of members who don't have college diplomas.

Legislative pay in the \$40,000 to \$50,000 range for a state that produces a \$22 billion biennial budget isn't excessive. It would entice leaders in their respective fields to consider serving in the legislature because they can afford to do so. We want legislators who are raising a family and struggling with the issues, like the cost of health care, that the rest of us are.



Indiana

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Russ Pulliam, Indianapolis Star - Mayor Bart Peterson won't run for governor against Mitch Daniels in 2008. There you have a it -- a prediction with no qualifiers. In the Scriptures a prophet could be stoned for offering wrong predictions. Perhaps the death penalty motivated them to keep quiet unless they received a direct revelation

from heaven. Fortunately, opinion columnists are not held to such a high mark. The evidence sure points away from any Peterson run against Daniels in 2008. He is planning to run for another term as mayor next year, and he likes the work. That closes the door to a run for governor the following year. Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith tried that in 1995 and 1996 and failed. In other parts of Indiana, voters don't like candidates from Indianapolis, es-

pecially the mayor. Daniels, who is from Indianapolis, overcame that problem in 2004 with a strenuous RV campaign all over the state. But he wasn't the mayor, he can sound like he's from southern Indiana, and his travels helped people forget his big city origins. A more likely scenario is a Peterson run for a third term as mayor, then a run for governor in 2012, when Daniels cannot seek a third term. Or an open U.S. Senate seat might interest the mayor should, for example, Sen. Richard Lugar become secretary of state under President John McCain. Peterson would be the strongest Democratic candidate against Daniels. He is well known as mayor and can raise money for a statewide campaign. But he can't be mayor and run for governor, unless an earthquake shakes the whole state. "I'm planning on running again for mayor next year," he says, adding that his plans are not definite. "I really love this job. It's a job where a person can make a difference," he adds. "You are directly in contact with the people you serve." He also does not feel obligated to run against Daniels, to offer the strongest party ticket. "You've got to want it with your heart and soul," he notes. "I've never been a believer in drafting people for races. If they have to be talked into it, the results are probably not going to be good." So there you have it: Bart Peterson is not running for governor. That leaves the door open to several other possible candidates, such as state Sen. Vi Simpson of Bloomington or Evansville Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel. ❖

Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union - I

find myself seeing both sides of the argument when it comes to the issue of the New York Times publishing a story about a classified government program. Of course, some of the statements being made about the incident strain the limits of credulity. The people who are saying that what the New York Times did is tantamount to treason are more than a little off base. So, it's no "secret" that W and his guys were looking into the cash flow of

terrorists. And I would suppose the terrorists took him at his word and changed the way they do business. Anyway, after subpoenas from the Treasury Department, the Belgium-based financial organization SWIFT – Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication – began helping U.S. agents track down sources of terrorist funding.

That last part is the "secret" part. But since nearly every international transaction travels through the SWIFT databases, anybody who cared to think about it probably figured W's guys were snooping around in there. So really, how much "secret" information was the Times publishing?

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - The inner shark never swims too far below the surface at Lugar Inc.,

where the front man's silver-haired dignity and old-school manners belie a political shrewdness that has won him a sixth Senate term before the first ballot is cast. The absence of a Democratic opponent is not merely that Lugar "is beloved not only by Republicans, but by independents and Democrats," as the party chairman, Dan Parker, told the Indianapolis Star. Yes, polls regularly find that Lugar is extremely popular and well regarded in Indiana. Popularity may translate into re-election, but it does not automatically guarantee a pass from the other party. To get to this point, Lugar and the political team around him have neutralized potential opposition, nurtured relationships, capitalized on circumstances, turned vulnerabilities inside out and kept a keen eye on retail politics. Here's how: •One Republican observed that Lugar chief of staff Marty Morris, who masterminds the elections, approaches the campaigns more like a House member than a senator. Years before Lugar will be on the ballot again, Morris looks for people or institutions that would be likely opponents and finds ways to make them allies. For instance, the most potent Democrat in the state is Rep. Pete Visclosky, who wins re-election in the Lake County region with impressive margins. Lugar doesn't want Visclosky's machine working against him in the Gary area (and Visclosky would prefer to have his GOP opponent receive tepid Lugar support). The result? Teamwork. One example: The Lugar-Visclosky jobs fair in Gary last month with a news conference featuring the two pols. Another example is Lugar's mentoring a Democratic rising star. When Sen. Barack Obama came on the scene in the 2004 elections, it was clear that he was a potential force in that party. How he might have factored in the 2006 Indiana Senate race was not obvious at that point, but it certainly could have evolved that Illinois' Obama would campaign in a neighboring state for a Democratic Senate candidate. So when Obama expressed interest in learning more about foreign policy, Lugar was eager to take him under his wing.



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No safety in numbers, eh sheriff?

TRENDLINE No. 1: It's not really news that Marion County sheriffs get rich on the job. It's something HPR's Brian Howey has been reporting on since the late 1990s when Jack Cottey's bank accounts were engorging on the commisary fund. But the **Indianapolis Star's** reporting that Sheriff Frank Anderson makes \$360,000 with a \$50,000 raise (which he gave back today) is a political bombshell. Anderson was safely on his way to a second term, but the events of this past week call that into question, particularly with the crime rate surging and the corresponding news that a freed child molester (due to jail overcrowding) claimed two more victims. Duh! Duh!

Congressional Races Congressional District 2: Republican:

U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola. Democrat: 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:** Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released its mid-year budget review, which showed that the tax relief passed in 2003 is having the desired effect: increased revenue, increased job production, and increased economic growth. "I have always believed that government doesn't grow the economy, the American people do," commented Chocola. "The tax relief we passed in 2003 has helped create an environment of economic growth and the revenues are reducing our deficit. We've heard a lot of talk from people who seem to think that the only way to cut the deficit is to raise taxes, this report unequivocally proves them wrong. **Status:** TOSSUP

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **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 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5.680. **2006 Forecast:** Ellsworth has accepted an invitation from WNIN-PBS9 and one from WTVW-FOX7 in Evansville, to debate with a simulcast on an NBC station in Terre Haute. **Status:** TOSSUP

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. 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: Sodrel's campaign manager Cam Savage blasted Hill today for what he called "a grotesque and outrageous example of how low they are willing to go to take control of Congress," releasing a fundraising solicitation video that contains images of caskets of U.S. soldiers killed in the War on Terror (HPR). "This is an example of 'do anything, say anything' politics," Savage said. "Exploiting fallen soldiers for fundraising purposes is classless, wrong, and should stop immediately. Baron Hill should publicly reject these tactics by his allies at the DCCC." Singer John Mellencamp got a call not too long ago from an aide to Baron Hill, an old high school chum and a prominent Indiana Democrat (**Los Angeles Times**). Mellencamp turned him down flat. "Tell him I won't be there," the singer told the aide. And as for Hill, Mellencamp's old Seymour High School classmate, he is learning that not every Democratic candidate can expect liberal rockers to amplify their campaigns. "I told his people to tell Baron that he voted for the war, so I can't do it," Mellencamp said, referring to the congressional vote in 2002 on the invasion of Iraq. "I sat next to him there in Sunday school and I never heard anybody tell us that it was OK to kill people as long as there were a certain set of circumstances." **Status:** TOSSUP.



OWEY Political Report

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Legislative Races

Senate District 41: Republican: Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. 1998 Results: Garton 26,499. 2002 Results: Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350 . **2006 Forecast:** Walker said he will propose a bipartisan commission to set compensation and benefits for legislators. Senate Democrats followed suit on Monday. "We should create a reasonable compensation package for legislators that is completely open to public input and scrutiny," Walker said in an e-mail to HPR after reading Brian Howey's Column(See Page 8). "I suggest the formation of a panel of government appointees from both major parties, consisting of community and business leaders, who are responsible to create a new compensation plan applicable to both chambers." Walker upset Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton using the lifetime health care issue. Walker said, "It's about understanding and accepting the nature of public service. I value the experience of our long-time legislators. They have challenging and at times thankless jobs to do. But as public servants, they should reject these and other perks. They chose to put their names on the ballot. There is a personal cost, a sacrifice of time and energy, to engaging in public service." Walker said, "I did vow during my campaign to reject lifetime healthcare benefits for myself. I also reject the idea that my neighbors should pay in four tax dollars for every dollar I would contribute to a retirement account. I commend the efforts of Rep. Troy Woodruff, who did propose legislation to permanently end lifetime healthcare insurance. Speaker Brian Bosma acted also this year in the best interest of Hoosier taxpayers." Walker added, "Voters are not stupid. In Bartholomew and Johnson counties they saw the current compensation package as the result of a betrayal of public trust, as I do. I strongly believe that Hoosiers benefit from attracting a citizen legislature whose first interest is public service." Walker has won the elusive support of Bartholomew County Republican Party Chairman Ted Ogle in the District 41 state Senate race, resolving a once-feisty relationship that jelled in the primary (Minis, Columbus Republic). He also has the support of Johnson County

Battle for the House D36 R31

Likely Takeover (1)

Woodruff (Battles)

Tossups (6)

Buell (Barnes) Borders (Bledsoe) Heim (Dembowski)

Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)

J. Smith (Herrell)

Saunders (Sadler (D), and Bell (L))



Leans (12-R; 10-D)

Bosma (Fuldauer) Orentlicher (Densborn) Lehe (Sutton) Hoy (A. Smith) Harris (Hile) Fry (Hiler) David (Liggett) Micon (Basham) Lutz (Mengelt) Austin (Metzger) Dodge (Rauen) Tincher (Dallas) Stutzman (Rorick) Denbo (Patton) Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning Crooks (Arnold)

Open (Messer: Eberhard vs. Lux)

Hinkle (Olds) Bright (Cheatham) Walorski (Kovach)

Open (Stemler v Theobald

Bischoff (Ullrich)

Likely (2-R; 1-D)

Ayres (Graham) Klinker (Rhoda) Ulmer (Puro) Pflum (Bell)

Safe

(31 Republican) Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Thomas, Foley, Frizzell, Behning, Murphy, Noe, Pond, Borror, Bell, Espich, Ripley, Crouch, Duncan, Koch, Open (Yount: M. Smith), Burton, Cherry, Leonard, Neese

(36-Democrats) Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Plath, Cheney, Stevenson, Open (Aguilera: Reardon), Dobis, V. Smith, Kuzman, Bardon, Tyler, Reske, Kersey, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, OPen (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, Avery, VanHaaften, Day, Summers., Crawford, Mahern, Porter

Movement: Republican Jaye Gibbs will run against State Rep. Phil Pflum and Rex Bell, a Libertarian, will be a second opponent for State Rep. Tom Saunders. .



HOWEY Political Report

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Republican Party Chairman Doug Lechner and state Republican Party Chairman Murray Clark, and claims to have the support of Gov. Mitch Daniels. "I've been a Republican my whole life," said Walker, whose primary election upset of Sen. Garton stunned experts (Publisher's Note: HPR was not stunned). "There's a myth out there that there's some kind of a big rift in the party. It's not true." Ogle was disheartened after Garton's loss and reluctant to support Walker in the general election. But Ogle and Lechner had lunch with the candidate a few weeks ago and have resolved their issues. "We have come together on a lot of ground," Ogle said. "I believe that he'll make a fine senator. He will vote to support those things the governor will support." Lechner said he always has supported Walker because he is Republican. "We're going to work our hardest to get him elected," Lechner said. Clark said the state party's support of Walker was an easy decision. "He's our candidate for that senate seat, which is a high priority for us to maintain," he said. Status: TOSSUP

House District 20: Republican: LaPorte School Trustee Tom Dermody. Democrat: LaPorte City Councilwoman Andrea Renner. **2002 Results:** Budak 12,551, Gillon (L) 2,540. 2004 Results: Budak 12,944, Spevak (D) 10,013, Schadowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:**

vak (D) 10,013, Schadowsky (L) 1,038. **2006 Forecast:** Renner, D, running for HD 20 seat. She unveiled her "Kids and Family First" plan to "bring all-day kindergarten to Hoosier families as well as pay for free textbooks and some some middle income tax relief." She's a teacher's aide in Michigan City Area Schools and a member of the LaPorte City Council. She says the Multi-State Tax Commission estimates that Indiana is losing \$343 million a year to "abusive tax shelters and dodges like passive investment corporations which are set up to shield Indiana earned income in Delaware," as well as big corporations trying to reincorporate in tax havens such as Bermuda to cheat Indiana out of tax revenue. She wants to give the Department of Revenue the tools to go after that money. She says the money saved could be used for ADK and free textbooks. **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 64: Republican: State Rep. Troy Woodruff. Democrat: Kreg Battles. 2002 Results: Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. 2004 Results: Woodruff 12,698, Frenz 12,507. 2006 Forecast: A Woodruff mailer claims Battles would have supported legislator health care for life (Evansville Courier & Press). But his Democratic challenger said Troy Woodruff's latest political mailing is misleading, because the challenger opposes the perks, too. "My opponent is criticizing me for a record that I don't have. I would never have supported it in the first place," Democratic candidate Kreg Battles said. Like his first one, Woodruff's new flier makes various assertions about what Democrats did when they controlled the Indiana House and concludes, "My opponent, Kreg Battles, wants that same Democrat leadership team back in power. Is that what you want?" The latest mailing says that Woodruff "authored the

bill to abolish lifetime healthcare for Indiana legislators." It adds, "This outrageous benefit is now gone, saving you millions. ... In 2002, the House Democrats created that outrageous perk for themselves." Battles disputes Woodruff's assertions. In today's Evansville Courier & Press, Woodruff says Battles, makes a "patently false" statement in a recorded advertisement delivered by automated phone calls to voters in the district. To counter those two mailings, Battles recorded a message that was automatically dialed and left at 13,000 numbers Tuesday. "I'm afraid Troy Woodruff isn't telling the truth about me. I don't support health-care perks for legislators and Troy Woodruff knows it. But I do think Hoosiers should get the same quality health care Troy Woodruff gets as an employee of Congress," Battles says in the ad he narrates. Battles said it refers to Woodruff's employment as a field representative for Rep. John Hostettler's office. "I don't know what type of health care he received," Battles said. "One of the perks of that job is a health plan, the federal health plan; he is offered that plan and it is a very good plan," Battles said, adding that he had no documentation for his claim. And that's where Woodruff said Battles made an incorrect assumption. Though Woodruff is a congressional staffer, he said he has declined to buy any of the health insurance coverage available to federal employees. Woodruff also opted out of the health coverage for state legislators, he said. "That's extremely misleading and inaccurate, and I don't know where he came up with it," Woodruff said of the automated phone message. Status: LIKELY BATTLES

House District 88: Republican: House Speaker Brian Bosma. Democrat: Susan Fuldauer. 2004 Results: Bosma 23,289, Gordon (L) 2,132. 2006 Forecast: With Fuldauer taking aim at Bosma over the budget and education funding, Bosma fought back this week by announcing, with Gov. Daniels, an erasure of a billion dollar defict, the first balanced budget in a decade, and \$163 million in delayed payments to school corporations, including \$2.9 million to Lawrence Township schools and \$1.3 million to Hamilton Southeastern schools. Bosma observed, "This has been another historic week for Indiana. The Governor's action to close the books on this debt is further evidence that the Republican fiscal plan is working. My House Republican colleagues and I share the Governor's commitment to education and are in full support of his action to immediately repay the \$160 million owed to Indiana's K-12 schools. We have now completed the turn in a new direction regarding our state's finances. House Republicans have planned for this new era of solvency by passing the first honestly balanced state budget in over a decade. With the \$371 million surplus announced this week, we can now focus our attention on investing in education and healthcare opportunities for every Hoosier." On the issue Bosma seemed to be the most vulnerable, he addressed by bringing home millions of dollars. Status: LEANS BOSMA.



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Sheriff Anderson gives up big pay increase

INDIANAPOLIS - Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson announced Wednesday that he will give up a \$50,000 salary boost that had been written into his contract for this year (**Indianapolis Star**). Sheriff Frank Anderson suggested the money go to public safety. "I will forgo the \$50,000.00 salary increase," Anderson said in a written statement, "and I propose that it be dedicated to our public safety needs." He could end up losing far more: Momentum is building for the legislature to review compensation for county sheriffs. A state representative said he would announce plans today to sponsor a bill to cap sheriffs' total pay at the same level as county prosecutors'. Anderson is the highest-paid elected official in the state because

he is able to boost his pay with fees collected on late taxes. Last year, that added more than \$260,000 to



his base salary of about \$100,000.

Daniels blasts Bauer for 'making up' facts

SOUTH BEND - According to the governor, Indiana now has a budget surplus of more than \$370 million and has achieved a balanced budget for the first time in eight years (Wensits, **South Bend Tribune**). And, Daniels said, for the first time in three years the state has more cash on hand than it owes. Bauer, who is former speaker of the Indiana House, said he has been the author of seven state biennial budgets, all of which were constitutionally balanced and all of which had Republican support. Told that Bauer contended that recent past budgets also produced surpluses, Daniels dismissed the claim and said the state auditor has also said that Bauer

is wrong. "Pat Bauer's beyond embarrassment. When (he) doesn't like the facts, he makes up his own."

Daniels, Sen. Lanane mix it up over education

ANDERSON - Gov. Mitch Daniels said the first beneficiary of Indiana's newfound solvency will be public education (Anderson Herald-Bulletin). On Wednesday the governor ordered the state to fully repay the \$160 million debt owed to K-12 schools by the end of the month. For several years, Indiana has delayed payments to schools and local governments to compensate for budget shortfalls. "This is a huge step forward, but it only reminds us what a huge job we have left," Daniels said. "But for one day, let's feel good about the progress we've made." The governor said Indiana's business-friendly climate, including its low cost, central location and infrastructure, make the state attractive to business. He emphasized that financial incentives should come at the end of the conversation. Sen. Tim Lanane, D-District 25, also attended the meeting and said some of the governor's points were misleading. He said most Madison County schools will see their state contribution decrease under the current budget. According to Lanane, Alexandria Community School Corp., for example, will see its state contribution shrink about 9.5 percent. That leaves school districts to either absorb the cost of the reduction or to increase property to taxes to compensate. "The governor said that on average property taxes went down, but property taxes actually went up by about 2 percent," said Lanane, adding that two years of legislation-induced tax relief is about to expire. "Under the current budget, property taxes will go up about 14 percent next year."

GOP Councilman to support fire merger

INDIANAPOLIS - Republican Councilman Isaac Randolph Jr., who

also is a city firefighter, said in a release that he will vote for the proposal when it comes before the council on Monday because the city has agreed it will not cause a tax increase.

Daniels vows to pass full-day kindergarten

SOUTH BEND - Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said Wednesday that he plans to revive the full-day kindergarten issue and make it his top legislative priority in the coming session of the Indiana General Assembly (**South Bend Tribune**). "The time has arrived for Indiana to move to full-day kindergarten," Daniels told reporters.

Daniels favors local control of fireworks

FORT WAYNE - As a new state law has turned almost every summer night into Independence Day, Gov. Mitch Daniels on Wednesday said he would support giving cities and towns more control to regulate fireworks use (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Daniels, in Fort Wayne to speak about the state's budget, said he would support amending the fireworks law to allow municipalities to ban them if they desired. The current law legalizing fireworks is statewide and does not allow municipalities to ban their use.

City ponders self-insurance

LAFAYETTE - With the high cost of health insurance getting higher all the time, Lafayette city officials are exploring an alternative to yearly contracts with a local health care system (Lafayette Journal & Courier). The city is considering self-insurance. whereby it sets aside money to compensate for any potential claims by employees.

Burns joins Democrats

INDIANAPOLIS - Terry Burns has become executive director of the Marion County Democratic Party.