



Daniels, Bauer crisis showdown

Battle underway for top dog at the Statehouse, but who will win the war?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - There sat the serene House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer at his desk before the Statehouse press corps last Thursday and a Mitch Daniels bobblehead doll. Bauer tapped the bobblehead and Gov. Daniels' plaster head bobbed up and down. "The governor is here with us and he agrees with me almost all the time," the Speaker said as laughter filled his small office.

Oh! To have been there for Gov. Daniels' reaction to that. Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. Daniels and Bauer are worlds apart when it comes to how Indiana should be governed. And here was a Speaker publicly tweaking a governor known for his thin skin. There really hadn't been anything like that happening in public fashion between a speaker and a governor in modern times.

It feeds into the question of who the most power-



ful man in the Statehouse really is: a constitutionally weak governor seeking to radically rebuild a backwater state or the powerful Speaker who is the bulwark for an anemic status quo and who is motivated only

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Fudd Republicans

By **JACK COLWELL**

SOUTH BEND - Political analysts seek to determine why a president goes up or down in popularity.

Strokes of genius as the Gallup Poll moves upward? Serious blunders as approval ratings gallop instead in the other direction?



But sometimes the real reason is more what the president's most vocal adversaries are doing.

Clinton haters saved President Clinton.

Ten years ago, analysts were trying to figure out how Clinton had bounced back to become the most highly rated president in modern times



"If this is a reset, it's time to reorganize our state and local government structures for today's realities rather than cling to the sensibilities of the 20th Century."

- **TOM BROKAW**, *New York Times*



HOWEY POLITICS

INDIANA

is a nonpartisan newsletter based in Indianapolis and published by NewsLink Inc. It was founded in 1994 in Fort Wayne.

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Subscriptions:

\$350 annually HPI via e-mail;

\$550 annually HPI & HPI Daily Wire.

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in the seventh year of a presidency. Shouldn't the blunders in his personal conduct have brought him down?

Clinton haters went beyond charges of sleaze to savage him as a leftist, despite his balanced budget, and claim he was guilty of just about everything from murder to treason.

The harder they hit him, the higher his ratings.

Many of the analysts concluded that Clinton was a political genius.

Well, Clinton wasn't dumb politically, except maybe later in campaigning for his wife. But the No. 1 reason for his success in bouncing back in 1999 was that he came across so well in comparison with his enemies, including an independent counsel who showed no independence from partisan goals and the Republican prosecutors in the House.

One analyst who had it right back then was David Broder of the Washington Post, who wrote that Americans by a wide margin did not want the president ousted because they found the politicians seeking to do the ousting to be no more pure or honorable than he was.

Those politicians came across as so partisan, with such hatred for Clinton, that they built sympathy, not outrage.

Newspaper editorials called for Clinton to quit. Members of his own party shunned him. But then the haters rushed to pile on, to push for impeachment. And the mood of the nation changed, enough so that Republicans actually lost seats in the 1998 election.

James Warren wrote in a Chicago Tribune column that the sour attitude of Republican leaders at the time was shown by the way House Majority Leader Dick Armey and Majority Whip Tom "the Hammer" DeLay behaved during the president's State of the Union address.

Warren called them "the Grouch Brothers," a couple of "Clinton-hating Texans who wear smugness on

their sleeves."

Even when Clinton called for popular things during his address, like improving education and guaranteeing soundness of Social Security, the Grouch Brothers refrained from joining in applause. They had a "just say 'no'" attitude.

Sure, Clinton haters out in TV land liked the show of disrespect for the president. But Armey and DeLay failed to understand that most Americans didn't really hate Clinton. They assumed everybody did or at least certainly should have.

One of the best columns of political advice was by Leonard Pitts, who wrote it as an open letter to Republican congressional leaders from Elmer Fudd.

"I wish to draw your attention to a stowey I wead wast week in my wocal newspaper. It said you're thinking about going after Bill Cwinton again," Fudd (Pitts) wrote.

"Gentlemen, I beg you to weconsider. Bewieve me when I tell you: This can wead you to nothing but heartbweak. I know from expewience," Fudd advised. He cited so many times of "twying to outsmart a wascawwy wabbit — only to be outwitted at every turn."

There were the times "he made me walk off a cwiff . . . or he pwugged my gun bawwel and made it expwode."

Fudd sympathized with the haters, knowing how they wanted to get the guy: "You dweam ewevy night of all the times he suckered you, then stood there chewing on a cawwot . . . You see yourself sticking your wifle down his wabbit hole one day and before he can twy anything, you just bwast him and bwast him and bwast him. I have that dweam myself sometimes when I forget to take my medication."

I'm not saying there's any parallel with dangers now for an opposition that could go too far. I'll just say, as Elmer Fudd did in concluding: That's all folks. ❖



Daniels-Bauer, from page 1

by the maintenance of his own elevated political station. Bauer is at odds with his own reform-minded president and even commentator Tom Brokaw (See "Quote" page 1).

When the deal-making reaches true intensity next Monday through Wednesday, the short-term question is whether Bauer maintains his status of King of the Hill. Will Bauer, the stasist defender whose caucus has made a mockery of just about every progressive piece of legislation that has passed through its doors, win this battle and lose the war?

Bauer has taken aim at charter schools and longer school days (backed, incidentally, by President Obama's Education Secretary Arne Duncan as well as Supt. Tony Bennett). He punting on the Unemployment Trust Fund until 10 days before the session ends, as well as a one-year budget, and the wholesale neutering of the Kernan-Shepard reforms, and Secretary of State Todd Rokita's election reforms. There are cracks in his facade as evidenced by freshman State Reps. Ed DeLaney and Mary Ann Sullivan's search for \$50 million in township reserves in Indianapolis to solve the Capital Improvement Board fiasco.

For Gov. Daniels, who entered this session off a landslide victory and leaves it with near 70 percent approval, his legacy is at stake. His governorship will not be deemed successful unless he can achieve profound government and education restructuring. The talk from the second floor is not to settle for a molehill when you seek a mountain. The risk is that coming off the township assessor elimination via legislation and voter referendum in 2008, to get nothing is to risk a blunting of reform momentum.

Taking shape in 2010 is perhaps the defining proxy battle of this era when a popular governor wages a district-by-district battle with Bauer, the regressive Democratic Party's poster boy. The stakes are truly profound as the winner gets to draw legislative maps for the following decade. Bets on a statewide campaign by Daniels against the speaker depend on memory of Bauer's intransigence lasting 18 months until November '10, the GOP's ability to recruit, finance and conspicuously back progressives like Kokomo Councilman Mike Karickhoff (we are told there are

other such recruits on the way) to challenge Bauer's weak flanks, and Daniels' own mandates and popularity not succumbing to what could be a coming economic catastrophe.

The backdrop to this, in addition to the possible General Motors and Chrysler bankruptcies and liquidations and the steel collapse, are two more township trustee criminal convictions for corruption in Lake and Johnson counties and a showdown between two Porter County executives (treasurer and auditor) and the council over the latter's decision to leave the Northwest Regional Development Association. Who is in charge there?

Are Hoosier Democrats prepared for such a battle between Daniels, arguably the driver of two of the savviest statewide campaigns in Indiana history, against Bauer, who has never had to wage a campaign beyond his own safe South Bend House district?

Priorities and specialties

There is little doubt what tops Gov. Daniels' priorities: the biennial budget, which is getting total focus. He sits today facing a stinker. It is loaded with Obama stimulus funds he warned Bauer and Senate Appropriations Chairman Luke Kenley not to use for a trip to a cliff. Not only does the stimulus money have to go, but this budget needs to be truly balanced. It must be biennial as Daniels has no stomach for dealing with it again in the 2010 short session.

Complicat-

ing the matter is last Friday's revenue forecast that few believe. It predicted \$830 million less in anticipated revenues, considerably less than the expected \$1.2 billion. It said that Indiana would take in \$690 million less over the next two years than last December's estimate. That wouldn't include

a Chrysler liquidation that would spread to suppliers, creating a belt of Indiana counties in Northern Indiana facing jobless rates between 15 and 20 percent. With those companies and jobs go further personal income and huge dents in income and sales tax to boot. A question with no answer is what happens to those numbers in an automotive/steel collapse? In 1981-82, those ravaged sectors forced the



The Indiana Governor subtly tried to convey his opposition of using Obama stimulus money to balance the biennial budget.



General Assembly into a special session that December for a dose of record tax increases.

The current revenue forecast takes a macro view of auto/steel problems, according to Indiana Manufacturers Association President Pat Kiely. There is "nothing specific as it relates to the Detroit 3 survival and in what form," he said. "The last few days discussions have moved Chrysler to the potential of Chapter 11. Bond holders are trying to determine if they come out better liquidating Chrysler or swapping for ownership in a company with currently weak brands and sales. With the federal timeline closing, this will go to the wire. If Chrysler goes at least 6,000 Indiana employees will be impacted and no one knows for sure what happens in the value chain with other supplier jobs."

Kenley's foundation is an 8 percent budget cut plus using \$2 billion in federal stimulus funds to increase education spending between 1 and 2 percent. House Democrats want the one-year budget and the Obama stimulus money to create jobs and hike education spending. They are also critical of the governor for trimming spending.

Unemployment Insurance

Multiple sources tell HPI that this is the issue in HB1379 most likely to create the need for a special session. A House Democrat plan put forth on Monday would saddle Hoosier employers with \$1 billion in expenses, compared to the \$328 million in the Senate bill.

Asked how many Hoosier companies are teetering financially, Kiely answered, "There is no data available to determine how many Indiana manufacturers are on the brink, but we do know anyone related to autos, RVs and housing are in the worst positions."

A look at Department of Workforce Development "warn" notices as of Wednesday reveal 5,527 jobs that will be lost between now and the end of June, which wouldn't include 6,000 Chrysler jobs and related suppliers. There doesn't appear to be a readily available answer as to how many Hoosiers will run out of unemployment benefits in the next 90 days.

"Passing a \$1 billion tax increase as called for in the House Democrat conference committee report is clearly insane and for bargaining purposes," Kiely said. "Probably the right question to ask is how many employees will have



A dour Speaker before the Bobblehead era. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

to lose their jobs in every sector to pay for the tax. Employees will be impacted more than companies in most cases, which makes this tactic hard to understand and even harder to understand is why we continue to play political games with a subject that needs repairs and not rhetoric with one week left."

There was persistent speculation that Bauer was angling to blow up the the UI bill and let the Obama administration, described as "liberal" by Senate President Pro Tempore David Long, run Indiana's program. "I think that would be a disaster ... a Washington-style fix with tax increases dictated by a very liberal government in Washington," Long told WIBC-FM. "They wouldn't approach it in the same very fiscally conservative way that both Republicans and Democrats would do in Indiana."

That would be an epic political disaster as this state has a long history of distaste for Washington running anything, let alone something as sensitive as unemployment benefits.

Education funding

We once viewed this as a key 11th-hour bargaining chip. Daniels might get his balanced budget or some Kernan-Shepard reforms in exchange for more education funding. Our sense at this writing is that this is being swallowed up by the jobs trust issue. Democrats are concerned that poorer school districts are being shorted by the Republican budget. Chairman Kenley points out that Indianapolis Public Schools would get a 5.8 percent increase per student compared to 1.9 percent for a Hamilton Southeastern student in his district.

Capital Improvement Board

HPI was hearing rumors that Kenley might be trying to revive a statewide alcohol tax. The other plan offered up by State Reps. Ed DeLaney, Mary Ann Sullivan and Phil Hinkle would be to take the \$50 million in Marion County township reserves and use it on the CIB. One source told HPI that "taking money from poor relief and fire protection to pay for stadiums for rich sports team owners is unlikely."

Indianapolis City-County Council Republicans and Democrats issued a release stating their opposition to any general tax increase. Council Democrats led by Joanne Sanders prefer Ways & Means Chairman Bill Crawford's plan for a downtown casino to fund the CIB (see page 14). While talk of a casino is persistent, no one is saying that is a serious proposition at this writing. However, with the



Barden Gary casino license possibly up for a move, and no plan getting much traction, keep an eye on that one.

Bauer took a couple of broadsides at the Colts and Pacers late last week. He said the teams' participation is "very important" and if they don't, "They're not being responsible corporate citizens in my opinion. I know a lot of these professional teams think they can hold cities and states hostage. Right now cities and states don't have a ransom to pay. They need help. We're not asking much." Bauer added this warning: "He who or she who goes out to help them better watch out. They knock those people down. The ingratitude they showed Luke Kenley. We work hard to help them and they didn't support them." Bauer said that he's not at a "showdown" stage now. "We're not thinking negatively. We're not there right now, at least with the Colts. I think the Simons have contributed enormously to this state. We want to solve it but not at a huge expense. We'll see if we can work through it."

It didn't help when the Indianapolis Business Journal reported that the Simons have received more than \$400 million in taxpayer incentives over the years. As HPI was quoted in the IBJ story, in this time of bailout fatigue, this is a terrible time to be going to the taxpayers for more money to prop up rich sports teams. Any kind of general tax increase for the CIB will have huge political ramifications, and Indianapolis councilors and legislators know it.

Kernan-Shepard

The colossal miscalculation may have been Bauer and Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson's decision to not choose even a few of the 27 Kernan-Shepard reforms for passage in order to provide some satisfaction for reformers in both parties.

An easy one, for instance, would be to consolidate the eight to 12 townships in each county to four, jettison the elected advisory boards and charge county councils with township budget approval and oversight. Such a step would eliminate about 4,000 elected positions.

The complete dismissal of all Kernan-Shepard reforms by Bauer and House Democrats sets up a dramatic political showdown in 2010 that will almost certainly play out in places like Kokomo, Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Rising Sun, Marion and Pendleton, some of which will be experiencing titanic job losses.

One Democratic source believes Daniels is to blame

for a lack of Kernan-Shepard traction. "Gov. Daniels' campaign was really about very little going forward," the source said. "It was vague talk about his courage, and results ... nothing concrete. He did not run around the state talking about the urgent need for Kernan-Shepherd reforms or tax caps or much of anything substantive. He did not say re-elect me and I will do these five things. He said he had a mandate, but I don't think very many folks took that seriously because he did not say with specificity what he intended to do. He should be held responsible for what is happening or not happening because he is the head of government and he has the bully pulpit and he has not used it effectively."

A number of Republican and independent reformers we've talked to have expressed similar sentiments. After two late winter town halls in Kokomo and Fort Wayne, the governor has been pretty quiet on Kernan-Shepard.

MySmartGov.org sources tell HPI that the Kernan-Shepard reforms have generated more than 1,000 news articles and have been overwhelmingly supported by newspaper editorial boards. There hasn't been a lack of interest in the subject. There has been a lack media ads and a vigorous bully pulpit this spring, suggesting it is dry powder for 2010.

Epilogue

From Daniels' perspective, the House has become a circus as they have punted on the jobs trust fund and biennial budget and attempted to mow down Kernan-Shepard in a way that would have made Emmett Kelly proud.

There are so many moving parts here, but this time they are playing out in front of a crisis that could deepen dramatically.

There is Daniels' historic aversion for special sessions. Some believe such events go beyond a governor's control. However, in June 1997 Gov. Frank O'Bannon used those events to frame a viable solution on Conseco Fieldhouse and workers comp and it was one of his best moments as governor.

Who could blame Daniels - after all the bobbleheads and antics by Chairman John Bartlett - for calling the whole crew back this summer, telling them to get serious and that the budget, jobs trust, and reforms must be dealt with in an earnest fashion.

Even if the governor cannot stomach that, we get the sense that the General Assembly may have to come back later this year anyway, as few know how deep the crisis will get. ❖





Texas to secede? Hah! Don't mess with Indiana

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPOUT - If there was a memorable moment from last week's "tea parties" demonstrating against American taxes, it came courtesy of Texas Gov. Rick Perry.



For those who missed it, Perry delivered a stinging rebuke of Washington which many interpreted to mean he was supporting secession from the union. Washington, he claimed, is a problem for his state, and the time has come to stand up to it.

Yet, supporting state sovereignty, or the ability to look the other way when the federal government says a state must do something, is a bit different than secession. If anything, Perry is guilty of the latter, not the former. But the comments by a Texas governor facing a potential GOP primary challenge from Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson next year struck a nerve with some Texans who think secession isn't such a bad idea.

Really?

I suppose if Texas could secede, which would probably result in Perry becoming the 21st century equivalent of former Alabama Gov. George Wallace, it could be a good thing for the United States. Think about it for a minute. Homeland security agents would retrench to Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico instead of guarding the border with Mexico. Without Texas oil, the nation would become even more focused on energy independence. If the Lone Star state was a lone country between the U.S. and Mexico, Texarkana, Ark., would become an immigration center.

But in more realistic terms, Texans would have to find a way to pay for interstates, pay millions in Social Security every month, clean up oil spills that might have been referred to the Environmental Protection Agency, and come up with its own student loan program to put students through the University of Texas, Texas A&M, Baylor, Rice, Texas Tech, Houston, Texas Christian, Southern Methodist and dozens of other schools. Its senior citizens would have to find out what the country of Texas' equivalent of Medi-

care is and its preschool students would have to ask where the money would come from for Head Start, a program strongly advocated by one of its residents, former President George Herbert Walker Bush. Of course, Texas would not be eligible for the Bowl Championship Series again because the university wouldn't be in the United States, and a Miss Texas would never be Miss America again.

The reality for Rick Perry is that his rantings make good campaign fodder and dinner/water cooler/cocktail party fodder, but nothing more. It's another example of the phrase "everything is big in Texas" – as in the egos. After all, on the roadsides of Texas are huge signs discouraging littering that don't mention anything about litter. The signs simply say "Don't mess with Texas."

A more realistic secession move would be Indiana's departure from the republic.

Think we're landlocked? We've got a deep sea port in Burns Harbor. Think we'd need an army, air force, navy or marines? We're like Switzerland without the mountains, watches and St. Bernard's. Invaders would have to defeat the rest of the United States to get to us.

Think we're better off without federal funding? Maybe. We seem to receive less of it than just about any state except Mississippi or West Virginia in most categories.

Think our schools would be better off? We could

leave No Child Left Behind, but would our standards be enough to get our students into schools in another country?

Think our legislature could do the job Congress does for Indiana? Not on a part-time salary.

Think our sports fans would love talking about the fact our basketball teams could no longer play for the NCAA championship?

Think Peyton

Manning would enjoy quarterbacking the Colts against the Saskatchewan Roughriders and the Mon-

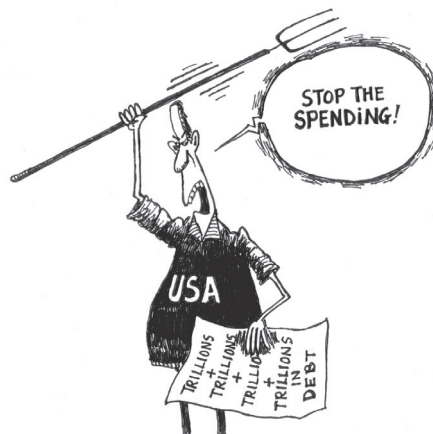
treal Allouettes?

Think Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands or the Bahamas would jump at the chance to be the new 50th state if Americans were Hoosier-less? In a heartbeat.

Think Rick Perry, as a child, probably said, "I'm taking my ball and going home"?

Think we're all better off hanging together instead of separately? So do I. ❖

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YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION



Rokita shepherds Indiana through big election changes

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - When Secretary of State Todd Rokita entered office in January 2003, the United States political universe was still roiling over the Bush vs. Gore saga in Florida after the 2000 presidential election. Indiana's chief election officer was to be charged with updating statewide voter files, a \$50 million hard/software infusion into county voting systems, along with a series of reforms coming to states such as online voting and registration.

Six years later, Rokita has avoided the kind of election meltdowns that Florida and Minnesota have experienced. His voter ID law has endured initial skepticism and a U.S. Supreme Court review. When HPI talked with him on Monday after he had made several trips to other states (on his own dime) to discuss Indiana's voter ID law with other legislatures, he was busy pushing more than a dozen bills in the Indiana General Assembly while watching an extension of the successful county voting center stall in the House.

With Rokita's successes managing the state's election processes - particularly with the record numbers that turned out in the 2008 primary and general elections (i.e. Hillary Clinton-Barack Obama and Jill Long Thompson/Jim Schellinger each decided by a mere 13,000 votes; Obama-John McCain by just 26,000 votes) - his style of executive leadership legitimately places him in a conversation about the 2012 gubernatorial election.

Here is our conversation:

HPI: You've been doing a lot of outreach on the voter ID law with other states. Is this an idea that is spreading out from Indiana?

Rokita: It's been good to see that 25 states have called our office asking for copies of the law and the concepts that went with it and how we were able to make

it successful. I've been able to testify in some other legislatures this season - Texas and Rhode Island, which is a very Democratic culture. I'm pleased not only to represent this progressive law, but that it's getting bipartisan traction.

HPI: Any other notable Democrats who have warmed up to voter ID?

Rokita: Rhode Island Secretary of State Ralph Mollis. Within that profile, I get a lot of compliments as I go around these legislatures. People come up to me and say, "I'm not sure what the big deal is," and these are Democrats. It wasn't meant to be a big partisan deal. In fact, it's still polling in the high 70s.

HPI: How many states do have a voter photo ID now?

Rokita: In some form or fashion a majority of states. We're probably crossing that 35-state threshold, depending on how these legislatures adjourn this year. Many

now are going to a strictly photo ID system, or trying to. If they're not doing it in a cold turkey situation, they're doing it in a phase-in situation where the first election you can do it with a non-photo ID, using a document, and then where you're only using a photo ID. I've said whatever way is comfortable. For me this is about states rights. If it works a certain way in a particular state, that's a good thing.

HPI: Indiana has had, what, four elections with photo ID?

Rokita: Actually we've had our ninth election when you consider the special elections and the

municipal elections in between.

HPI: On Election Day we always get a news story about some poor soul who doesn't have a photo ID. How many complaints have we had?

Rokita: When I testify and some aren't comfort-





able with the bill, they'll ask about those nuns in South Bend.

HPI: That's right, the nuns of Holy Cross.

Rokita: My answer to that, and having gone to Catholic schools for eight years, is the sisters always told me to follow the law. It wasn't that the nuns couldn't vote. It was that they didn't want to go by the law that everyone else did. When you're administering elections, we try to treat people equally and that's what we did. The results of the South Bend nuns situation was that we worked with the BMV, got their mobile unit up there and those nuns all have the proper ID now.

HPI: Did they get to vote in that election?

Rokita: I don't think they ended up doing that. They had the opportunity, though. They had 10 days even after the election. We were holding the results of the election for 10 days as part of this law so they could conform to it and I don't believe that they did.

HPI: How many other cases, say last November, came to your attention?

Rokita: Very, very few. We took thousands of phone calls on Election Day and really only a handful of them were about photo ID. We were literally able to hand-to-hand help them get it resolved. I don't know of one person who called our number who we weren't able to help resolve by getting them the proper ID, having them sign the form saying there was a religious objection or were too poor to get a free ID, which are two exceptions. I think it's gone well. We continue to outreach on the issue and in the beginning we spent over a \$1 million in PSA revenue and non-typical advertising like on the outside and inside of buses. Going into the 2008 general election we spent about \$200,000 even though it was a much larger election, and still no problems. We were also able to use some laser like tactics like every college age person who registered to vote automatically got a postcard from us reminding them to what they needed to bring to the polls. We were able to do these direct mail pieces thanks to the statewide voter file.

HPI: Do you know how many people have gone to BMV to get a photo ID?

Rokita: It's in the tens of thousands. We don't really track what their purpose is in using that. We can't rely on that number. It's kind of hard to distill down.

HPI: Since you entered office in 2003, you've really put your stamp on electioneering, perhaps more so than any modern secretary of state. Give me an overview

of what you've accomplished.

Rokita: We've seen more change in the election process than we've seen since Voting Rights Act of 1965 over the last six or seven years. With that sentence I've really said a mouthful. Over \$50 million in new voting equipment distributed to the counties, the voter file which represents one of the most technologically complicated projects the state has ever attempted. It was bringing 92 separate lists and at the same time doing something we've never done before: immediately as registrations were coming in checking those registrations with at least three other data bases: the Department of Corrections, Department of Health, the Social Security administration and the BMV. But not only was it a technological feat, it was in my view a political victory. Even though I'm the chief election officer and I have the responsibility for the election, I have very little direct authority to carry out an election. That happens with the separately elected county clerks and the bipartisan county election boards. We had to work very hard to get these 92 counties on board from the very beginning. I spent a lot of time and I personally went to almost every

clerk and looked them in the eye and said, "We're not going to let you fail. You're going to have to trust us and we'll build that trust together. You're going to help design the system and we're going to make this successful together." It put off the actual building of the system until almost a year before the deadline. We didn't even build the system until 2005 and spent all that time building the political relationships needed to pull this off. It worked, thankfully. I think it worked because we built that foundation with our stakeholders. We did that with the statewide voter files and now

vote centers. That's my version of a Kernan-Shepard style reform. The one major difference from the other Kernan-Shepard reforms is that mine was an option. We wanted it to be a tool in the tool chest for a county not only to increase accessibility but to reduce costs. The centers were not only about voter accessibility but it was about government consolidation and efficiency. Costs have gone way down in the pilot counties that have used vote centers.

HPI: There are four counties?

Rokita: Three: Tippecanoe, Cass and Wayne. Ball State did a report on it on the costs. That's my approach to this. If we could provide these tools for counties to use and then they don't use them, they need to be held accountable to voters and taxpayers of that county. It's a wonderful way to drive down costs and maintain accessibility and it's on the ropes right now.

HPI: Why?





Rokita: Not sure, but there are a lot of curious things happening in the General Assembly these days for partisan reasons and I don't think they need to be. If Indiana is going to be competitive in the 21st Century and win, then we need to recognize when a good idea is a good idea regardless of who it came from.

HPI: What's happening, or not happening, in the General Assembly?

Rokita: We're not getting hearings on some of these election reforms. There are other reforms I have in the hopper as well. Online voter registration. Here I am Mr. Voter Security, but I'm also arguing that because we have voter ID we also should now allow most voters, who already have personal data in a government database somewhere, to register or update a registration online. And to have enforcement ability when it comes to vote fraud to build confidence in the system. All of these things are on the line now being gummed up, it appears, by politics and nothing gets done. I'm advocating up and down votes on all these concepts independently.

HPI: Wasn't (Democratic Richmond Mayor Sally) Hutton pleased with how the Wayne County vote centers went?

Rokita: Yeah. I've had good conversations with my two former opponents - John Fernandez and Joe Pearson - who said "Hey, we're interested." Fernandez even campaigned on vote centers. It's amazing to me why we can't get some of these block and tackle moves done.

HPI: Where's the holdup? Speaker Bauer? House Elections Chairman Kreg Battles?

Rokita: It's hard to get a clear answer from folks. Kreg Battles is chair of the House Elections Committee and I had a very good conversation with him earlier in the session, yet nothing seems to move. I think ultimately it comes down to Speaker Bauer.

HPI: So other counties can't have voting centers?

Rokita: Yeah, that's the thing, the pilot program will run out after the 2010 election. We do need legislation that has been written for two sessions now to make this a permanent option for the counties. Again, I'm not making this a top down thing. I'm making it an option for counties where government can get more efficient and government can get smaller.

HPI: The Kernan-Shepard reform on moving municipal elections to even years, do you favor that?

Rokita: I enjoy having voters maintain the habit of regularly going to the polls. I am more concerned with the idea that these referendum elections can be held at the drop of a hat. I like there to be a habit of going to the polls whether it's a primary or a mayoral or studying the

presidential primary system. It makes sense to have the referendums at both primary and general elections.

HPI: Have you had conversations with party chairs Dan Parker and Murray Clark on when Indiana will have its 2012 presidential primary?

Rokita: I have and we hope to be able to study it this summer. Again, I am disappointed that the Senate resolution that crossed over to the House to do just that did not get heard, as far as I've seen yet. That's OK, the Senate can do its own. I hope the Democrats come to the table. It was their party that benefited so much from having a contested primary this last year. Indiana mattered. That's a great thing. I want it to be that way every presidential election.

HPI: Do you think this is going to be a state-by-state thing or is there a chance of regional presidential primaries?

Rokita: Since I am president of the national association (of Secretary of States) we've studied the regional primary and that's the one you'll see me continue to advocate as we rotate around the country. I think that has some very good implications to it.

However, what I realized after going through a presidential election cycle with it, the parties really are the backstop. If the parties make some reform, like rotating regional primaries, they will make it happen. The Republicans are moving in that direction. They used to have very strict rules at a party convention. Well, the Democratic Party was able to have a Rules Committee on the fly so they can adjust in between their national conventions. You saw the Republicans move in that direction after Minnesota this past year. I'm hopeful, but it's quite clear the parties will have to both agree on a plan if we're going to have any reform in the nation.

HPI: What are some of the 15 bills you're working on?

Rokita: There's no reason we can't do online registration. There's no reason why a county shouldn't have an option to use vote centers, knowing they maintained and even increased accessibility and knowing that it drives down costs. That's the kind of leadership Hoosiers are expecting right now. If you're a Republican or Democrat, you're on the losing side of service to the state and service to yourself. If you do these things for the right reason, you should be for Hoosier common sense. One other thing, Brian? As pertains to the budget bill, I am very pleased to have a budget that is lower than the one turned in by the secretary of state in 1987 (under Evan Bayh), when it's adjusted for inflation. And we've doubled the average salary of the SOS staff member. We are running this office in a very fiscally responsible manner. We've added a division





of car dealers. After June we are going to be able to reduce the actual square footage of our office by 20,000 square feet. We are measuring ourselves in those kinds of terms. I think we have a good story to tell the Hoosier voter and taxpayer.

HPI: Obviously Evan Bayh crafted that 1987 budget.

Rokita: (laughs) You caught that. You're the only Hoosier in the state that would have caught that.

HPI: So is there a U.S. Senate race in your near future? I have to ask.

Rokita: I think Dan Dumezich and some others have that squarely in their sights and I can tell that Sen. Bayh is listening.

HPI: What are your political plans after your term ends? Going to run for governor?

Rokita: There are 15 or so bills that I helped draft in the legislature now. I have bills I support and bills I'm against, plus the five divisions I run as secretary of state. So it's currently something I haven't had time to consider. Kathy and I have a 1-year-old. My life is evolving around him right now and he hasn't said what he wants to do.

HPI: Are you going to look at the governor's race?

Rokita: We continue to raise funds for the purpose of serving in an effective way. I promised myself and my wife if we're going to be in this business, I want to do something. I think folks who are in this to be somebody end up serving their constituency poorly and don't treat themselves well. We're looking through that kind of prism. So far I'm very proud of the track record as secretary of state. I have 20 months left in my term and for a guy who has my personality type - or you could say personality disorder - that 20 months might as well be tomorrow. There's a lot left to do.

HPI: Will you back a successor?

Rokita: I'm keeping my powder dry right now. I'm looking at the field and what it might be and I see Charlie (White) out there doing the right things. But like my future plans, I haven't assessed those plans either.

HPI: Do you see yourself as an executive or would you ever consider, say, Congress?

Rokita: Until the last six months I never considered myself as being a legislator in whatever capacity from City-County Council to Congress. I didn't know if I had the patience for it or the right personality. In the executive branch no matter how big or small the levers are, you can move them independently. You can't necessarily do that in a legislature. My thinking, and I don't mean to say anything particular, is I am very concerned about my 1-year-old son and his kids and what we're doing to them in terms of deficits they are going to have to pay. I see all of that coming out of Washington, D.C., right now. So a lot of my thoughts in my heart and mind are focused on stopping that. ❖

Indiana's worst case scenario emerging

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - As Indiana legislators grappled with budgets and bailouts, the worst case economic scenario has steadily begun to emerge.

On Wednesday, General Motors signalled it would close most of its U.S. plants - presumably those in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Bedford - for nine weeks. And auto forecaster CMS Worldwide Inc. said there was a 95 percent chance that Chrysler LLC would face bankruptcy after its April 30 deadline expires. GM, too, seems poised for bankruptcy.



Chrysler has about 5,000 employees in Kokomo, the city with the highest concentration of auto jobs in the

United States, and 6,000 statewide. Currently Kokomo has a 14 percent jobless rate while Indiana's rate stands at 10 percent, still well below the record 12.8 percent in December 1982, the same month the Indiana General Assembly was called into special session by Gov. Robert D. Orr and ended up passing record tax increases. Indiana's steel sector is also facing an intense downturn as more mill layoffs were announced in East Chicago and Elkhart, where the jobless rate is over 18 percent.

This news comes as U.S. jobless claims rose to 640,000 last week.

With 111,000 Hoosiers directly employed in the auto industry and 20 percent of the state's economy tied to it, Indiana is facing a potential economic crisis on top of its already 10 percent jobless rate if Chrysler or General Motors go into bankruptcy or liquidation. The likeliest outcome of a Chrysler filing for court protection would be the purchase of some factories and brands by automakers including Fiat, said Michael Robinet, head of global forecasting for CSM Worldwide Inc. in Northville, Mich. "Nobody has a good idea about what's going to" exist of the third-largest U.S. automaker once it goes into bankruptcy, Robinet said in a speech today in Detroit.

Daniel Howes, a Detroit News columnist, wrote in today's editions: Whoever thinks a bankruptcy of General Motors Corp. or Chrysler LLC would be "speedy" -- starting with members of President Obama's auto task force and GM CEO Fritz Henderson -- might want to spend some time talking with Larry Denton. He's the former CEO of Dura Automotive Systems Inc. who successfully shepherded the \$2.3 billion supplier through Chapter 11, starting in 2006. He learned the hard way how things go wrong, how federal law and its safeguards drive the process, how executives



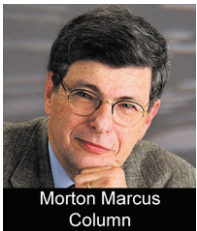
unfamiliar with bankruptcy can find themselves at the mercy of highly paid specialists. Lots of them.

"You only have two results in bankruptcy: You emerge or you liquidate. This is black and white," said Denton. Add a company the size of GM, a monolith with 100 years of accumulated structures, brands and commitments, and the notion that the feds can speed GM (or Chrysler) through bankruptcy court looks more fantasy than reality -- with or without concessionary deals from bondholders and the United Auto Workers. "If GM thinks they can package this in a 90-day period, that's pretty naive. The judge can't

say, 'I'm going to give this company a good deal here because of its size,'" Denton says. "He has to follow the law. It's going to take time," he says, warning that lengthening time is the enemy of a bankrupt company.

United Airlines, bankrupt four years before it emerged in 2006, tallied 17,290 pleadings in its still-open case, according to a Plunkett Cooney analysis. Delphi Corp., bankrupt since October 2005, has spent more than \$400 million on professional fees, filed two plans of reorganization and so far racked up 16,564 pleadings. ❖

Maybe management is the Hoosier problem



Morton Marcus
Column

By MORTON J. MARCUS

INDIANAPOLIS - Hoosiers identify many factors contributing to our state's long-term economic difficulties. It is fashionable to blame our workers. It is easy to decry a lack of natural amenities: no mountains, no coral reefs. Our public schools are inferior and perhaps our higher education is over-rated. Our

taxes are too high but we have sub-standard government services. We ain't got no culture.

Rarely do we hear anyone say that our problem is management.

We want to retrain employees because they are believed to be inadequate to handle the demands of today's workplace. Therefore we spend fortunes on structures, personnel and programs for Ivy Tech. Many Hoosiers claim that the problem with our workers is sloth, bred either by rural dispositions or union mentalities.

No one blames management for our workers' faults. The inadequacies of management to inspire, innovate and lead get no attention. Since our workers tend to be graduates of our schools or our universities, those institutions must be the sources of our problems. Teachers must be held accountable. What about the management of our schools? Are school boards competent to choose superintendents and architects to say nothing of setting academic standards?

Who runs our government? Often ordinary citizens with no particular competence become elected officials. Frequently they are chosen for their passion in opposition to actions of their equally inept predecessors. The recently rejected efforts to provide more professional management for cities, towns and counties were based on

the untested belief that we can do better.

Are businesses and governments in other states managed better than they are in Indiana? The answer coming from business leaders and government officials is a resounding NO. That might be expected. Who will admit to his/her own inadequacy?

Some of our managerial deficiency might arise from the fact that historically we were a branch plant state. Many of our factories were extensions of firms in Michigan or elsewhere. Even if they were locally owned companies, production decisions were directed by the interests of Detroit. Often innovation and financing were based on initiative by people beyond our borders.

How do we know if management is inadequate? Bankers and other investors may shy away from risk-takers. They may be satisfied with borrowers who repay their principle and interest obligations, but take no chances on new products or techniques. Thus, Indiana may continue to trail behind the advances made elsewhere.

If a firm's stock is not publically traded, there is no market to assess its success compared to its peers. The local merchant may get by and be pleased with the quiet of his/her life. However, by failing to strive for something better, the resources employed by the firm (land, labor, equipment, and funding) are under-utilized. Our many sleepy towns and unhurried cities give witness to commercial sluggishness and complacency.

Sadly, these are just speculations based on decades of experience. No studies can be cited. Anthropologists have not examined Indiana's distinctive village life. Business schools do not offer empirical research on the adequacy of management in Evansville or Terre Haute.

Defenders of the dominant culture will protest that Hoosier values protect us from the adverse intrusions of more vigorous management techniques. Living in Indiana may be an unattractive alternative to many of our children and the children of other states, but it fits with our universal chant: "If you don't like it here, go somewhere else." ❖



Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal:

Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal: A funny thing happened on Friday when Indiana lawmakers heard a new forecast of state revenues, predictions that would typically serve as the basis for all decisions through the end of the session. The forecast was dire. It predicted lawmakers would have \$830 million less in tax receipts than they thought at the beginning of the session when they started crafting the two-year budget. But that bad news was actually better than anyone expected. Lawmakers and state budget officials have long warned that the forecast could have predicted the state would have \$1.2 billion less, an amount that probably would have meant cuts in funding for public schools and universities. So when the forecast suggested the loss would be less, lawmakers didn't buy it. Let me say that again: Lawmakers -- who typically like to spend money, who are grateful for every extra dollar they can pour into education, who are resisting the governor's proposed cuts in spending -- don't believe a fiscal forecast that shows the state will have more money than they thought. ❖



Rich James, Post-Tribune: When the Porter County Council voted to pull out of the Regional Development Authority last week, I knew exactly how Darren McGavin felt at the end of "A Christmas Story." The family had opened Christmas presents and Ralphie was outside with his new Red Ryder BB gun. McGavin, the father, was reading the newspaper, and the aroma of a roasted turkey wafted through the air as it cooled on the kitchen table. Suddenly, the Bumpus' mongrels from next door burst into the kitchen, grabbed the turkey and fled. Just as the dogs spoiled Christmas dinner, the four councilmen who voted to pull out of the RDA have put a damper on Porter County's future. The next time you see Councilmen Rita Stevenson, Dan Whitten, Laura Blaney and Sylvia Graham -- the four who voted to bail out of the RDA -- ask them why they embarrassed themselves and the rest of Northwest Indiana. Ask them why they put politics ahead of progress. ❖

Mark Kiesling, Times of Northwest Indiana: He is not even Lake County coroner yet, but the candidacy of County Clerk Tom Philpot for sheriff is getting a big push from the county's newly elected Democratic Party chairman. Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr., who defeated incumbent party chairman Rudy Clay in March, said he will be backing Philpot in large part because Philpot was one of the only countywide officials who supported his candidacy for the chairmanship. "When the sheriff's race comes, you know where Tom McDermott's gonna be," McDermott said. "I'm gonna stand right at his side just like he stood by my side. Most of the countywide elected officials

wouldn't even talk to me, they figured Rudy was going to beat me, but Tom Philpot supported me from the first day out." ❖

David Hawpe, Louisville Courier-Journal: Across the river, Rep. Baron Hill is quietly going about the business of considering a run for the governorship of Indiana. OK, this is an old story. Back in 2003, Business First reported that Hill had decided against running, although he "reportedly had been considering" a try for the position then held by the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon. In 2007, the Evans-Novak Political Report said that Hill "may actually be preparing" for a run against Gov. Mitch Daniels. ENPR added, "The equation is simple: a weakened Republican governor in a mostly conservative state, with no other obviously strong Democratic candidates in the wings ..." But it didn't happen. This month the blog "Hoosier Access" reports, "The 3rd District Democratic Central Committee will host its annual dinner April 25 at Eagle Glen in Columbia City. Rep. Baron Hill, D-9th, will serve as the keynote speaker for the event." And the headline explains, "Baron Hill's 2012 gubernatorial campaign getting started early." From time to time, I have thought about suggesting that Hill — a bright and capable person, always pleasant, and never in danger of being scolded by Miss Manners — consider John F. Kennedy's Profiles in Courage for bedtime reading. ❖

Edward Luce, Financial Times: In his first 90 days as president, Barack Obama has pressed virtually every button to generate outrage among conservative Republicans - most recently in his defence yesterday of the decision to release the Bush-era "torture memos". Whether it was his smiling handshakes with Hugo Chávez of Venezuela at the Summit of the Americas at the weekend or his decision to push ahead with a stronger role for government in the economy, the new president has rapidly come to stand for everything conservatives detest. Yet the Republican party, which is increasingly dominated by fiscal and social conservatives, continues to sink ever deeper in the public's estimation. In contrast, opinion polls show that Mr. Obama's approval ratings remain where they were when he took office, at 60-67 per cent. David Frum, a former speechwriter for Mr. Bush, says that Republicans usually rely on figures outside Washington to bring them back from periods in the wilderness, such as Mr. Reagan in the late 1970s. Mr. Frum cites four likely hopefuls, all governors: Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, John Huntsman of Utah, Mitch Daniels of Indiana and Charlie Crist of Florida. Absent from his list is Sarah Palin of Alaska, a figure that moderate Republicans believe would only prolong their party's spell in the wilderness. ❖



Obama approval 64%; right track at 48%

WASHINGTON - For the first time in years, more Americans than not say the country is headed in the right direction, a sign that Barack Obama has used the first 100 days of his presidency to lift the public's mood and inspire hopes for a brighter future. The AP-GfK poll suggests that 64 percent of the public approves of Obama's job performance, down just slightly from 67 percent in February. President George W. Bush's approval ratings hovered in the high 50s after his first 100 days in office. But Obama has become a polarizing figure, with just 24 percent of Republicans approving of his performance – down from 33 percent in February. Obama campaigned on a promise to end the party-first mind-set that breeds gridlock in Washington. The percentage of Americans saying the country is headed in the right direction rose to 48 percent, up from 40 percent in February. Forty-four percent say the nation is on the wrong track. Not since January 2004, shortly after the capture of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, has an AP survey found more "right direction" than "wrong direction" respondents.



Zoeller says Pastrick trial will be revealing

MUNSTER - Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller said the impending civil trial between the state and former East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick and his aides should raise questions about reforming "systemic" problems in East Chicago city government (Times of Northwest Indiana). "A

lot more light needs to be focused on the city government in East Chicago," Zoeller said during a Wednesday visit to The Times. Ten years after East Chicago city funds were routed to improving the private property of voters, Zoeller's staff attorneys are ready to start trial May 26 in Hammond federal court. Pastrick and top aides James Fife III and Timothy Raykovich are the suit's key targets. They were never charged criminally in the matter that snared the Sidewalk Six, a group of city officials convicted in federal court in the concrete-for-votes scandal. Zoeller said Wednesday that he does not expect the state to collect the full \$24 million.

Obama approves disaster aid

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama declared Lake, Porter, Allen, Carroll, DeKalb, Fulton, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Noble, Pulaski, White and Whitley counties for disaster aid following March storms.

Palin faces ethic charge after Indiana trip

JUNEAU - A complaint was filed Wednesday against Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, claiming work with her political action committee violates state ethics laws (Associated Press). The complaint alleges Palin has violated two provisions of the Alaska Executive Branch Ethics Act by misusing her official position and accepting outside employment. "It's pretty obvious Gov. Palin is conflicted with her responsibilities as governor and her national political aspirations," said Sondra Tompkins, who filed the complaint with the Alaska attorney general's office. "As Alaskans, we deserve to have a governor who is completely focused on Alaska." Palin's office late Wednesday issued a statement, saying it was outraged by "yet another baseless ethics complaint."

Little support for CIB bailout on Indy Council

INDIANAPOLIS - Republicans and Democrats on the City-County Council are unhappy that proposed tax increases to rescue the city's ailing sports board would fall on Marion County taxpayers alone and are asking state lawmakers to help find a way of sharing the pain more widely (Indianapolis Star). Eight of 13 council Democrats and one Libertarian reached by The Indianapolis Star said they would not support any tax increase to bail out the Capital Improvement Board, which faces a \$47 million deficit. Nine of 15 Republicans responded; two said they opposed the tax increases, and seven said they could not support the mayor's plan as currently structured, especially the doubling of alcohol taxes in Marion County. Council President Bob Cockrum and Democratic Minority Leader Joanne Sanders began working together this week to lobby state lawmakers in favor of a plan that would rely on more state tax revenues.

DOA opposing puppy mill bill

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Department of Agriculture officials have been working behind the scenes to defeat legislation that would crack down on abusive dog breeders by trying to discredit one of the bill's leading supporters (Indianapolis Star). Their target: the Humane Society of the United States. Although the department has taken no official position on the legislation, it acknowledges it has highlighted the Humane Society's history of opposition to confined farming practices, common in Indiana, especially in huge hog operations where animals are raised in close quarters.

Snag on Little Cal

INDIANAPOLIS - Northwest Indiana lawmakers expect to settle a slight disagreement over whom Gov.



Mitch Daniels could tap to restock the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission (Guinane, Times of Northwest Indiana). A House-Senate conference committee led by Rep. Dan Stevenson, D-Highland, met Wednesday on House Bill 1716. The bill would end five local appointments to the 11-member commission and have the governor appoint a new five-member board. The House called for four of Daniels' appointees to hail from communities adjacent to the river, such as Munster and Hammond. The Senate expanded the territory to the river's drainage basin, which extends to St. John, Crown Point and Valparaiso. "It doesn't really expand the board," said Sen. Sue Landske, R-Cedar Lake. "It just gives the governor more people to choose from." But Stevenson said the House chose the tighter appointment area at the behest of local officials, including Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr., who wants to ensure the communities most impacted by Little Calumet River flooding retain a voice on the levee-building commission.

Smoke ban would exempt casinos

INDIANAPOLIS - Casinos would be the one public place in Indiana where smokers could light up if a legislator can win passage of a statewide smoking ban law (Associated Press). Rep. Charlie Brown, D-Gary, wants to amend another one of his bills to include the ban on smoking in most public indoor places. He said Wednesday that he's willing to carve out the casino exception as a compromise since gambling industry lobbyists are arguing that it would cause a big drop in business.

O'Connor backs judicial merit

SOUTH BEND - Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day

O'Connor believes merit selection is the best way to choose judges and keep them independent (Coyne, Associated Press). O'Connor, speaking yesterday in South Bend, said it's hard for judges to remain impartial knowing their decisions will influence how long they keep their jobs. She also told a crowd of about 500 people attending a St. Joseph County Bar Association luncheon that the money being spent by people running for the judiciary in states that don't have merit selection is causing people to trust judges less. "I hope that lawmakers will be cautious and look at what an independent judiciary has meant to this nation," she said. "Our judges must be capable of staying above politics if they're going to serve the function of making impartial decisions."

Sen. Lubbers gets higher ed recommended

INDIANAPOLIS - Republican state Sen. Teresa Lubbers of Indianapolis has been picked to become Indiana's new higher education commissioner (Martin, Associated Press). The Higher Education Commission's eight-member search committee voted unanimously yesterday to recommend Lubbers for the position. The full 14-member commission is expected to vote on the recommendation at its May 8 meeting.

Zoeller offers to mediate RDA pullout

MERRILLVILLE - Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller hopes his office can mediate the legal dispute between Porter County and the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority without a costly court fight (Times of Northwest Indiana). Zoeller noted in a visit to The Times on Wednesday that taxpayers would foot all the legal bills in a court battle regarding whether the county had a legal right to exit the RDA. Zoeller's office would be obligated to represent the RDA. The sides should "all take a deep breath," Zoeller said.

"Courts are not really meant to resolve public policy conflict."

Township to purchase fire truck for Kokomo

KOKOMO - The city of Kokomo won't own it, but city officials are soon expecting to have a new \$400,000 squad rescue truck at the Kokomo Fire Department's disposal (Smith, Kokomo Tribune). Center Township Trustee Jean Lushin, who has been sitting on a \$6 million budget surplus, agreed this week to purchase the truck, after weeks of negotiating with Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight over fire protection. With weeks to go until budget talks begin in earnest, Goodnight has continued to press the city's partners in township and county government to pick up a larger share of joint operations. This week, Goodnight made progress on two fronts with the fire truck and the county-controlled board of the Howard County Recycling District agreed to take over the city's Yard Waste Reclaim Center on Dixon Road.

Unions paying for Mansfield legal bills

MUNCIE - The mystery of who is funding Democrat Jim Mansfield's quest to wrestle the mayor's seat away from Sharon McShurley has been solved. Partially (Muncie Star Press). Indianapolis labor and election attorney Bill Groth confirmed Wednesday that labor unions have been footing Mansfield's efforts, but he declined to say which ones or how much money they're spending. "I will say that some of my union clients have paid me a very modest amount to do a prodigious amount of work on this case," Groth said.