



New urgency on WMD front

Roemer, Lugar renew warnings on terror in the homeland; CIA speculation

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - "The destruction of an American city in our lifetime"

Those were the words echoing from Sen. Dick Lugar's presidential campaign of 1995-96. A dozen years later, Americans distracted by collapses on Wall Street and in Detroit awoke on Tuesday to similar warnings, this time from "World At Risk: The Report of the Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism."

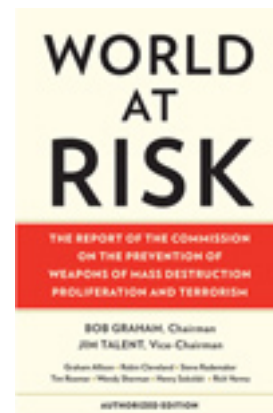
It predicts a WMD attack on America within five years.

The report states, "The intent of this report is neither to frighten nor reassure the American people about the current state of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. It is to underscore that the U.S. government has yet to fully adapt to these circumstances and to convey the sobering reality that the risks are growing faster than our



multilayer defenses. Our margin of safety is shrinking, not growing."

The report describes agents of terror staking out a pathogen lab at Georgia State University. "They were agents on a mission and they



Former Indiana congressman Tim Roemer (far left) with Obama at Wayne HS last April. Roemer is a potential CIA director candidate. (HPI Photo)

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Cap slide in Muncie

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

MUNCIE - It started snowing lightly in Middletown USA late Monday afternoon. Six hours later, 911 dispatchers reported more than 50 traffic accidents on unsalted streets.

Just a normal Hoosier winter day? No. It could become a Michael Bilandic moment with repercussions going all the way to the Indiana Statehouse. Bilandic was the 49th mayor of Chicago, chosen to replace the late Mayor Richard J. Daley in December 1976. He would have won a term of his own except that a blizzard shut the city



"Let's look at the millions of jobs lost if we lose the auto industry."

- UAW Chief Ron Gettelfinger

PRESS



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HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

is a nonpartisan news-letter 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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down and Bilandic lost to Jane Byrne in the Democratic primary in the spring of 1977.

Now there are all sorts of distinctions between Bilandic and Muncie Mayor Sharon McShurley, who took office (albeit by a harrowingly thin plurality) in January. Since then, McShurley thwarted a bid to have the election overturned, watched the Indiana General Assembly pass the 1-2-3 property tax caps with HB1001 (which tamped down a property tax rebellion simmering in her city), appeared with Gov. Mitch Daniels at the Indiana Republican Convention, and by this fall declared a "financial emergency" (the first time we've ever heard of one). Several weeks ago, the McShurley administration announced that it would only plow the streets during business hours Monday through Friday.

Candor is always good public policy. If the streets aren't going to be plowed or salted, the public needs to know. But in doing so, it also opens up an array of reactions.

For instance, Muncie Police told the Star Press that many of the Monday accidents were caused by motorists driving too fast, following too close, etc. And there was the political reaction and some real bad press. Many blamed Mayor McShurley. Karla Lance told the Star Press, that she called the mayor's office to leave McShurley a message that admittedly "wasn't very nice."

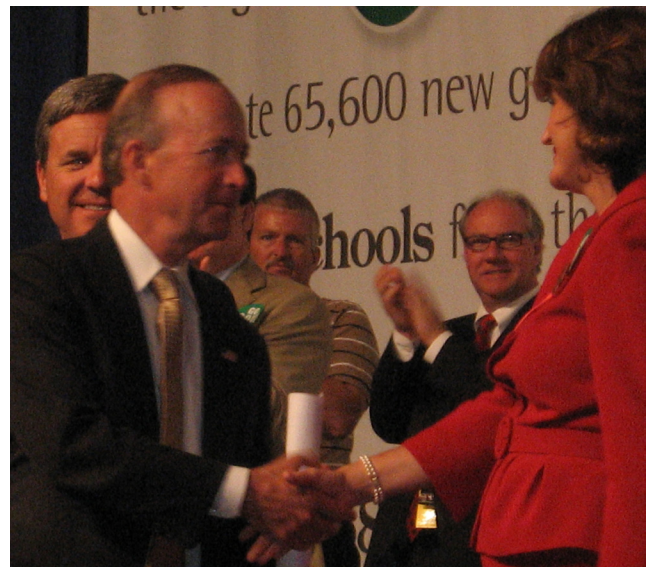
"I told them to thank the mayor for not salting the roads and to tell her now I don't have a car," Lance said. "It's wrecked. I hold the

mayor fully responsible. I could have been killed."

Could have been killed.

Ouch.

Muncie has become the poster city for HB1001 reaction and this is before the full array of caps really come into play. This is the just the ramp up. The years 2009 and 2010 are going to create other revenue dilemmas for cities. Michigan City has cut \$6 million out of its budget and New Albany cut \$1.5 million and fire and police chiefs have no overtime budgets. Lake County



Gov. Daniels shakes hands with Muncie Mayor Sharon McShurley right after his Indiana Republican Convention acceptance speech last June. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

slashed 112 jobs and \$15 million. Mayors in South Bend and LaPorte are doing what Gov. Daniels, Speaker Bauer and President Long want them to do: pass Local Option Income Taxes to fill any budgetary shortfalls.

While Mayor McShurley won't be facing the ballot box for another three years, the political consequences will play out at the Statehouse where Daniels, Long and House Minority Leader Brian Bosma will push for the second vote creating a 2010 referendum on the caps. Bauer wants to wait until 2010. Daniels put a premium on "certainty" in the tax system and



said, "Every taxpayer ought to worry about a double cross," he said of future governors and legislators who might fall back into pre-cap era.

Daniels scoffed at the notion Senate Minority Leader Vi Simpson stressed last month, saying that the original Legislative Services Agency estimates went only two years out and that more information would be needed. "It's not a question of information," Daniels said at his presser in Mount Comfort on Tuesday. In his mind, it's about government living within a budget as opposed to determining a budget and then sending the bill to taxpayers.

But Jennifer Simmons of the Association of Indiana Cities and Towns says her organization favors delaying the cap vote until 2010. "We want to see what cuts have been made and see projected cuts for 2010," she said. Another glaring problem is that while counties can pass Local Option Income Taxes, cities can't. South Bend must go through the St. Joseph County Council on Dec. 15 to pass its requested 1.25 percent option.

Simmons says there are scenarios where mayors and city councils back a LOIT, but a county council - which tend to be very conservative and Republican - may balk. "Local officials want to see homeowners get property tax cuts. However, the shift comes at a cost. We're seeing that this year. In 2009 there is going to be more across the board pain, and even deeper cuts in services by 2010."

She said that there is a short list of cities like

LaPorte and South Bend actively heeding the advice of Daniels, Bauer and Long in seeking income taxes to replace property taxes. "That list is getting longer," Simmons said.

IACT is compiling statistics on how much cities and towns have sliced from their budgets and will release its "State of the Cities and Towns" in early January.

Taxpayers will be balancing their lower property tax bills (and for many mortgage payments) with the services they receive. In Gary, it's a question as to whether the 13 firefighters recently laid off are really needed. The city's pitch for monetary help to the state's Distressed Unit Appeals Board won't be subtle, Gary Mayor Rudy Clay told the Times of Northwest Indiana. "Gary has to be one of the most distressed cities in America," Clay said. "We already have cut \$36.5 million in the last three years. We have laid off more than 200 people. We have police and fire on layoff. Our employees are working five days but only getting paid for four. I'm working for seven and getting paid for four." The mayor said the city will ask the board by Monday's deadline to modify \$47 million in state-mandated property tax cuts that - if unchanged - will gut the city's budget by 58 percent in two years.

In South Bend, it's whether it needs 1,200 city employees, more than any other second class city in the state.

In Muncie, it could be how slick the streets get and whether there's the political will to raise corresponding option income taxes to keep the streets plowed. ❖

WMD

came not at night, which might have looked suspicious, but in broad daylight."

It continues, "Hiding in plain sight on a city street in Atlanta, they walked the perimeter of one of America's five biological laboratories where scientists worked on the world's most deadly pathogens. They had come to this lab at Georgia State University in 2008 as part of their assignment to quietly case facilities designated as Biosafety Level 4 (BSL-4) labs, the highest level of biological containment, required for work with the most dangerous viruses. They were looking for even the slightest security vulnerability - anything that might give an edge to terrorists seeking to steal small quantities of Ebola virus or other lethal disease agents for which there are no treatments, no known cures."

Talking to Howey Politics Indiana on Tuesday, WMD Commission member Tim Roemer said, "Osama bin Laden has mandated obtaining a nuclear weapon and using it against the United States." Roemer, the former Indiana congressman and 9/11 Commission



Sen. Lugar and Sam Nunn meet with Russians at the Luch Scientific Production Facility in August 2007. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

member, says there is a "religious obligation to do this."

Roemer appears to be on a short list for director of the Central Intelligence Agency, according to the New York Times. Also listed are deputy director Stephen R. Kappes,



Sen. Lugar and then-U.S. Ambassador to Russia William Burns (far left) meeting with Luch officials in Podolsk, Russia where HEU had been stolen in 1998. Nunn-Lugar Act funds have added multiple layers of safeguards to the facility. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel and former CIA clandestine services chief Jack Devine. The Washington Post is reporting that U.S. Rep. Jane Harmon, retired Navy Adm. Dennis C. Blair and former deputy defense secretary John Hamre as other potential intelligence candidates.

Asked by HPI if he is being vetted by President-elect Obama's transition team for the cabinet, Roemer declined to comment, citing the sensitivity of the situation. Roemer served six terms in the 2nd CD and drafted the legislation creating the 9/11 Commission. He then served as a member with former Hoosier congressman Lee Hamilton. As a congressman, Roemer also led efforts to reform U.S. intelligence capabilities.

On Sept. 20, Roemer and fellow WMD Commissioners, former U.S. Sens. Jim Talent and Bob Graham, were on their way to Islamabad when "three hours out" Blackberries and cell phones began ringing simultaneously: The Islamabad Marriott had been devastated by a bomb. The commissioners were to have checked into the hotel. Roemer calls it a "coincidence" but a sobering one. "There's a growing threat. It will happen in New York City, London, Islamabad"

The biological portion of the report explains, "These individuals discovered that in a number of places, the lab was unprotected by barriers and that outsiders could walk right up to the building housing these deadly pathogens. Around back, they watched and took notes as a pedestrian simply strolled into the building through an unguarded loading dock. On another day, the same people went to San Antonio to check out another BSL-4 lab, the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research. They discovered that the security camera covered only a portion of the perimeter, and that the only barrier to vehicles was a

gate arm that would swing across the roadway."

The report also tells of several other incidents where labs or nuclear facility breaches have taken place, such as the Luch Scientific Production facility in Podolsk, Russia, a scene Howey Politics Indiana covered with Lugar and Nuclear Threat Initiative Chairman Sam Nunn in August 2007. In 1998, a worker there tried to sell 18.5 kilograms of highly enriched uranium on the black market before Russian security agents arrested him.

The report describes what a nuclear terror attack might look like in Chicago: "A nuclear bomb explodes at Sears Tower. Everything from Navy Pier to the Eisenhower Expressway disappears. The United Center and Grant Park are destroyed. A firestorm sweeps from the White Sox's U.S. Cellular Field on the South Side to the Cubs' Wrigley Field on the North Side."

Or Washington: "A nuclear bomb at the Smithsonian Institution would destroy everything from the White House to the Capitol lawn. The Supreme Court would be rubble. The Pentagon, across the Potomac River, would be engulfed in flames."

At least one prominent Indiana congressional staffer has told HPI in recent years that such an attack on Washington is a real possibility. "It's going to come. I just hope I'm not in Washington when it does," the staffer said.

Roemer, who briefed President Bush and Vice President Elect Joe Biden on Wednesday, said the report is aimed at spurring action from the White House to Congress to the citizenry. It does not advocate appointing a WMD czar, but establishing a top tier seat on the National Security Council headed, perhaps, by Vice President Biden. It urges Congress to flex its oversight as "the 911 Commission urged them to do." And it asks citizens to be diligent.



Tim Roemer makes an ardent appeal to pass the 911 Commission recommendations in Terre Haute, February 2006. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Somewhat ominously, Roemer says that "all roads lead to Pakistan," which, in light of the Mumbai terrorist attack last weekend has placed both that country and India on a virtual war footing.

Lugar responded to the report by saying, "We must take every measure to address WMD threats." The report urges the implementation of programs that Lugar has long advocated. "We must eliminate those conditions that restrict or delay our ability to act," he said. "The United States has the technical expertise and diplomatic standing to dramatically benefit international security. American leaders must ensure that we have the political will and resources to implement programs devoted to these ends."

Lugar testified to the WMD Commission in July. His recommendations in the report include: a White House coordinator for WMD nonproliferation programs; enhancing the U.S. partnership with Pakistan, such as the Biden-Lugar bill S. 3263; and increasing funding for the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program to confront biological weapons.

In February 2005, Lugar requested an increase of \$100 millions for the 2006 budget. The Congress granted \$80 million, dedicating resources to a nuclear fuel bank and nuclear safeguards at the International Atomic Energy Agency. Modernizing that agency from "1970's equipment" was part of the Lugar-Bayh Nuclear Safeguards and Supply Act of 2007. Lugar also advocated extending the START Treaty, which is set to expire in 2009, and continuing the Nunn-Lugar work at the Luch facility to prevent theft or di-

version of weapons-grade nuclear materials.

In 2005, Lugar surveyed 85 experts who predicted that the world would face a 29 percent chance of a nuclear attack and the prospect of four new nations being added to the nuclear weapons club in the next 10 years. Over the same period, the experts rated the risks of a major chemical or biological attack as greater than 30 percent, while the prospects of a dirty bomb attack were pegged at 40 percent.

The good news in these dire scenarios is that Obama has repeatedly said he "gets it." In an April 29 interview with Howey Politics Indiana, Obama said that WMD "will be a top priority. It will be something I care deeply, deeply about. We can defeat terrorists who are equipped conventionally. The devastation they could do with weapons of mass destruction would be unimaginable and we have to make sure we are doing everything we can do in that scenario."

The reality is that Obama enters office with a critical clock ticking, ticking, ticking ❖

Obama's team of rivals

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - There was a moment during one of the Democratic presidential debates when Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and John Edwards were asked whether they could guarantee a complete pull out from Iraq by the end of 2012. None of them took the bait even as the Democratic left egged them on. This bit of news was critical to Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, who told the

New York Times Magazine that it was a virtual national epiphany. They got it. They finally got it.

While much of the political chatter out of Chicago these days centers on the "Team of Rivals" concept as President Elect



Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. (Google Photo)



Obama brings on former primary opponents Hillary Clinton as secretary of state and Bill Richardson at commerce, it is the retention of Gates that may be the most critical. This means continuity.

That Obama has reached out to Clinton and Gates - both who supported the Iraq War, and Gates still believes the invasion was needed - is a testament to Obama's willingness to have multiple viewpoints at his fingertips. It was something Sen. Chuck Hagel had urged a cloistered President George W. Bush to do as the U.S. sank into the morass of the Iraq insurgency. Obama's cabinet appears to be one of a free market of ideas. But Obama was quite emphatic: "I will be responsible for the vision that this team carries out. So as Harry Truman said, the buck will stop with me."

In an April 21 speech at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Gates gave a fascinating history lesson, quoting Eisenhower and Marshall mentor Gen. Fox Connor's three axioms: "Never go to war unless you have to. Never fight alone. Never fight for long."

The first axiom fits Obama's opposition to the war when he was just an Illinois state senator back in 2002 without access to the intelligence that U.S. senators had. The second conflicts with the Bush administration's prosecution of the war where only the British mounted a sizeable contingent on the ground, unlike the Gulf War which had much greater international support.

Gates quoted Winston Churchill, who wrote in 1942, "Let us learn our lessons. Never, never believe that any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter. Once the signal is given, the statesman is no longer the master of policy but the slave of unforeseeable and uncontrollable events." America, it seems had become drunk on the successes of Grenada, Panama and Serbia.

The third is the task at hand. "A draw down of U.S. forces in Iraq is inevitable over time - the debate you hear in Washington is largely about pacing," Gates told the West Point cadets. "But the kind of enemy we face today

- violent jihadist networks - will not allow us to remain at peace. What has been called the 'Long War' is likely to be many years of persistent, engaged combat all around the world in differing degrees of size and intensity. This generational campaign cannot be wished away or put on a timetable. There are no exit strategies."

Gates then paraphrased the Bolshevik Leon Trotsky: "We may not be interested in the long war, but the long war is interested in us."

Gordon M. Goldstein's new book, "Lessons of Disaster: McGeorge Bundy and the Path to War in Vietnam," includes "tortured notes" that Bundy, a brilliant adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, wrote to himself as he tried to come to grips with that catastrophic chapter in American history just before his death in 1996. "The doves were right" was scribbled in the margin of an old memo. In Goldstein's book, he named chapters after Bundy's lessons: "Never Trust the Bureaucracy to Get It Right" and "Never Deploy Military Means in Pursuit of Indeterminate Ends."

It's in contrast to President Bush's interview with ABC's Charlie Gibson earlier this week. "I think I was unprepared for war," Bush said. "In other words, I didn't campaign and say, 'Please vote for me, I'll be able to handle an attack.' In other words, I didn't anticipate war. One of the things about the modern presidency is that the unexpected will happen. A lot of people put their reputations on the line and said the weapons of mass destruction is a reason to remove Saddam Hussein. It wasn't just people in my admin-

istration. A lot of members in Congress, prior to my arrival in Washington, D.C., during the debate on Iraq, a lot of leaders of nations around the world were all looking at the same intelligence. I wish the intelligence had been different, I guess."

When pressed by Gibson, Bush declined to "speculate" on whether he would still have gone to war if he knew Hussein didn't have weapons of mass destruction, giving credence to the notion that he had violated one of Fox Conner's axioms. "That is a do-over that I can't do," Bush said.





Gates sized up the "conflicts of the today." He said, "Afghanistan is widely viewed as a war of necessity - striking back at the staging ground of the perpetrators of the September 11th attack. The Iraq campaign, while justified in my view, is seen differently by many people. Two weeks ago I testified, in front of the Congress on the Iraq War. I observed that we were attacked, at home in 2001, from Afghanistan. And we are at war in Afghanistan today, in no small measure, because we mistakenly turned our backs on Afghanistan after the Soviet troops left in the late 1980s." This is when Osama bin Laden rose to his power that has exacted American lives in New York, Washington, Pennsylvania and Baghdad.

Gates added, "We made a strategic mistake in the endgame of that war. If we get the endgame wrong in Iraq, I told the Congress, the consequences will be far worse."



Thus, as the Obama administration takes shape, we have Hillary Clinton at state, bearing a family name respected around the world. Ditto with Richardson, who has many successes dealing with prickly situations on

the world stage. And Gates, who was brought in to bail out the ship of state from the hurricanes Bush, Rumsfeld and Cheney never anticipated.

Sen. Richard Lugar, appearing on ABC's This Week, called Obama's incoming national security team "excellent," adding, "I think it will be a strong team. I would just say, as an individual, I look forward to working with each one of them. I hope and I'm certain Senator Kerry, who is our incoming (Senate Foreign Relations) chairman, feels the same way. Bipartisan support of this team really is of the essence right now."

Lugar added, "I would vote in favor of Senator Clinton, knowing what we have here on this program today. I suspect, however, that I'm not alone in suggesting that there will be questions raised, and probably legitimate questions."

The next few months will offer fascinating discussions at the White House where truths will be pursued and viable options will be employed as we pull out of Iraq sometime between now and 2011 (as mandated by the Iraqi Parliament). Gates said at West Point: "Truth to tell, it's a hard sell to say we must sustain the fight in Iraq right now and continue to absorb the high financial and human cost of the struggle, in order to avoid an even uglier fight or even greater danger to our country in the future. But we have Afghanistan to remind us that these are not just hypothetical risks." ❖



Gov. Daniels briefs the press at Mount Comfort Airport on Tuesday hours after he and other governors met with President-Elect Obama. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

Daniels meets Obama

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

GREENFIELD - The two biggest change agents on the Hoosier political scene in 2008 finally met and shook hands in Philadelphia at the National Governors Association conference on Tuesday. "President-elect Obama ... meet Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels."

Daniels didn't get any private face time with the incoming president. He preferred to blend, despite his rock star status among Republican governors for withstanding a Democratic tide and winning re-election with 58 percent. Perhaps envious, they know he heads one of only seven states with a budget surplus. And he was cited by two other governors (who he declined to name) for his Major Moves program.

Daniels was duly impressed with the President-elect. "Very smart, very thoughtful," Daniels said of Obama. Particularly since Obama initiated the meeting with governors, most whom are constitutionally bound to balance budgets and are experiencing exploding unemployment, Medicaid costs and an array of budgetary constraints.

Obama told the governors, "Change is not going to come from Washington alone. It's going to come from all of you. It will come from a White House and statehouses all across the country that are working together, and that's the kind of partnership that I intend to forge as President of the United States. I hope that this is the beginning of laying that foundation."

Obama added, "If we're listening to the governors, then the money that we spend is going to be well spent, and it means that it's going to get working faster and the people in your states are going to experience prosperity sooner."

The fact that Obama has centered his stimulus package intended to create 2.5 million jobs on infrastruc-



ture is similar to what Gov. Daniels did with Major Moves. Daniels took a great deal of heat from Indiana Democrats over the Indiana Toll Road lease (which they call a "sale") even though Obama patron Richard Daley of Chicago did the same thing with the Skyway, and Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell tried to do in his state. Democratic criticism also centered on the 75-year lease being made to "foreigners" and the fact that the consortium would be making big profits within a short few years.

Daniels noted that the stimulus package which could eventually cost half a trillion dollars is money coming from the next generation of taxpayers. Washington, Daniels said, is meeting the financial meltdown with a "printing press."

Without Major Moves, Indiana's jobless rate would likely be greater than the current 6.2 percent. Daniels hailed Major Moves as the "jobs bill of a generation" in 2006.

Daniels said that Obama "made it very clear" that at the heart of a stimulus package that will likely pass Congress on Jan. 20 is a plan "not to bail out states" but to put people to work. "If they send us a check, we'll cash it," Daniels said, noting that even though his Major Moves program has provided the state with a 10-year plan, additional federal funds aimed at infrastructure could help finish I-69 to Evansville and begin a mass transit program.

Daniels said he urged Obama and Congress not to tie the stimulus funds for states to the federal highway formula that he says short-changes Indiana by returning only 92 cents on the dollar. "It's grossly unfair." He said he also urged Obama to get the money to states without federal strings attached, perhaps in the form of grants. "There are land acquisition rules that are extremely time-consuming — width of rights of way, thickness of pavement, all sorts of design standards. Sometimes they make sense, sometimes they don't. Let the states decide," Daniels said. "If this is not a bailout but an economic growth plan, then let's take the shackles off."

Asked if the money could be used for mass transit, Daniels responded, "Yeah, I think so." He said that the word "infrastructure is too elastic a word" that in the past has simply meant roads, bridges and rail.

Daniels said he was impressed when Obama repeated a line he used during his Grant Park victory speech on Nov. 4. "He said 'I'll try to listen even if we disagree.'" He also reached out to Republican governors, offering the "same kind of friendship" that he would with their Democratic counterparts. He asked the Republicans to share with the administration things "that work" and to let him know when "regulations get in the way."

"I want the administration to succeed," Daniels said. "They won the election. I think they are duty-bound to go forward with the plans that they talked about." ❖

Obama's change

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - Change. What does it mean? There are different uses of the word. "Hey, buddy, can you spare some change?" We know the meaning there. "Change into something more appropriate, young lady, before you leave this house." Another meaning sometimes voiced by parents.

But what of the change Barack Obama promised during the campaign? What did he mean? Now, he offers secretary of state to Hillary Clinton, names a bunch of others with Clinton administration experience to key posts, makes nice with Joe Lieberman, listens to Defense officials and generals and doesn't even call for imprisoning Sean Hannity.



So, some columnists, commentators and liberal blogs rant and rail about President-elect Obama not providing the change promised by the "yes, we can" candidate.

What next? They ponder whether he next will say that water boarding is OK after all. He won't, although those bloggers wouldn't mind an exception for quizzing Dick Cheney.

The critics weren't listening to what Obama, the candidate, said. He promised change, as in switching from the policies of an unpopular present president that led to economic meltdown, record deficits, depletion of military strength, loss of respect abroad and failure of the Cubs to win the World Series.

John McCain also promised change from paths of disaster. McCain preferred to use the word "maverick" in his claim to make things different in Washington.

Obama preferred "change."

Both meant getting away from the Bush league stuff. But Obama didn't mean he would change Washington by appointing only people with no Washington experience, no knowledge of Washington. He is picking people who know Washington. That's good. Thus, Obama will avoid the mistake of Jimmy Carter. The Georgians Carter brought in to run the administration sure didn't know Washington. They brought change. They brought incompetence.

The only trouble with running against Washington is that if elected as president you are Washington. You can't keep running against yourself. You can't blame bureaucracy when it's your bureaucracy. You can't holler about waste in government when it's your government.

You better name people who know what they're doing, not folks in on-the-job training who could think



naively that those lobbyists are really nice in guiding the decisions, strings attached.

If the national desire really was to bring in people who didn't know Washington, voters could have elected John McCain, who offered to bring along somebody a heartbeat away who didn't know Washington or much about anything else around the world.

Obama never promised appointees as knowledgeable as Joe the plumber.

Bringing in somebody who isn't part of or familiar with the system, even if the system seems broken, isn't always Weis. Notre Dame sought change with a coach who never played or coached college football.

Obama is bringing in people who know Washington. If they didn't, they would have no hope of finding ways to change it for the better.

Change Washington? Really change it?

Well, candidate Obama was suggesting more change in more ways on more issues than is possible. McCain also suggested more change than any president could

bring. Campaigns are about staking out goals, some attainable, some approachable, some impossible.

Some are impossible and almost all are difficult because a president has no power to decree changes.

Changes in laws, in budgets, in tax policies or in switching an earmark for a \$25 million study of anthills in suburbia from undeserving Texas to obviously deserving Indiana require congressional approval.

Whether Obama proves to be a great leader, a total failure or something in between will depend on policies he pursues and ability or lack thereof to win approval for them in Washington, in Congress, in the nation - not on whether he changes Washington in some drastic way.

There is only one way to bring drastic change to Washington: Revoke the U.S. Constitution. That document sets up checks and balances and determines what a president can and cannot do within the structure of Washington.

None of us, except maybe for former Atty. Gen. Alberto Gonzales or the satirical Stephen Colbert, really want to scuttle the Constitution. ❖

Recession questions

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - Last week I had the honor of addressing the annual conference of Professional Swan Callers International – Indiana Chapter (PSCI-In) meeting at Lake Monroe. Naturally, they had the same concerns as other Hoosiers: what should be the priorities of President-elect Obama and Governor-re-elect Daniels?



Morton Marcus
Column

I quickly addressed the obvious: the economy, taxes and spending, education, health insurance, health care, the environment, energy, transportation, public safety, cultural chauvinism and college football playoffs. Then I got to the

leading neglected task for our new president and our returning governor: the 2010 Census.

Every 10 years we count ourselves. The census is the leading source of information about us, an essential resource for successful businesses, efficient governments, and responsible not-for-profit organizations. But the Congress, as ever, has short-changed the Census Bureau and the bureau, as ever, has squandered part of the money they were allocated. To the best of my knowledge, most Indiana governments have not allocated funds nor addressed the issues involved in conducting a successful census.

The census is the basis of representative democracy. If each voter is to have an equal say in government, the

congressional and legislative districts must be constructed according to the counts determined by the census as taken each 10 years.

Between those benchmark years, the Census Bureau does release population estimates that have many uses. For example, we can identify 44 of our 92 counties that gained more than one percent in population from 2000 to 2007 and 28 counties that lost at least one percent of their people. That left 20 counties with changes between plus and minus one percent.

Of 567 Indiana cities and towns, 29% grew by more than one percent and twice that amount (58%) declined by more than one percent. The remaining 13% gained or lost by less than one percent. Altogether, cities and towns grew by 2.7% while the state's growth rate was 4.2%. Indiana's unincorporated areas grew at 6.9%, the same rate as the nation as a whole.

Where cities and towns represented 65.5% of the state's population in 2000, they captured only 42.7% of the state's growth. In terms of persons to be served, cities and towns added 108,000 residents while the unincorporated areas of our counties added 145,000 citizens, a difference 37,000.

Are the costs of adding population inside our cities and towns the same as adding them in unincorporated areas? If we could, would we change this pattern of growth?

Each county had a different experience of population change in those seven years. In 2000, 82.5% of Allen County's residents lived in cities and towns but only 1.6% of the county's population growth was realized by those incorporated areas. The unincorporated areas of the county grew by 16,200 more persons than the cities



and towns gained. Similar dramatic imbalances existed in Vanderburgh (12,200) and Elkhart (8,800) counties.

In all, 71 counties added more residents to their unincorporated areas than to their cities and towns. The remaining 21 Indiana counties saw the opposite: more people choosing cities and towns than the unincorporated areas. This pattern of growth was most evident in Hamilton and Hendricks counties.

Where people choose to live within a county is determined by many factors including water, the fertility of the land, taxes, transportation, schools and environmental amenities. Where people are allowed to live has been unquestioned during most of our history. But are the times a'changin'? Will energy costs become a significant incentive for living within cities and towns?

Without good data, public and private decisions will be hampered in the next decade. ❖

Gary Gerard, Warsaw

Times-Union: U.S. President-elect O is acting quite presidential these days, holding press conferences, unveiling his team of advisers and detailing - kind of - his economic plan. And I'm really starting to like some of what he's saying. He's starting to sound like a conservative. In his press conference, he talked about how he would stimulate the economy to the tune of \$800 billion or so and how budget cuts would have to be made to help pay for it. Said O, 'We can't sustain a system that bleeds billions of taxpayer dollars on programs that have outlived their usefulness or exist solely because of the power of politicians, lobbyists or interest groups.' Now that's what I'm talking about. That's what John McCain kept saying during the campaign. Remember? O didn't say what would be cut from the budget - his team is working on that. But budget cutting? Great idea. I love it. My sincere hope is that he really means it and follows through. Some of my liberal friends have this whole "how dare you" attitude toward me when I question anything O does. One of them even characterized my concerns as being "pathological." Another said since O hasn't even taken office yet, I really just need to chill out. Well, maybe, but they need to tell that to a whole cadre of liberal bloggers and Obamaniacs who are wailing and gnashing their teeth over what they're seeing so far from their guy. ❖

Leslie Stedman Weidenbener,

Louisville Courier-Journal: How could Gov. Mitch Daniels claim that Indiana is one of just a handful of states still in the black, despite the economic recession, but then ask the federal government for a loan to bail out its unemployment insurance trust fund? Indeed, Daniels spent much of the

campaign (and I spent my column last week) touting how Indiana has managed its finances so well that it's one of the few states in the country not making big spending cuts or raising taxes. But that doesn't jibe with news last week that Daniels acted to borrow up to \$330 million from the federal government - the first time it has had to take such a loan in 25 years - so it can make unemployment payments to Hoosiers at least through January. The simple answer is that the unemployment trust fund is a separate entity from the state budget. Employers pay premiums into the fund so their employees can draw payments from it if they are laid off. The problem is that several years ago the General Assembly - when the trust fund had built up a huge balance

- decided to lower premiums for employers and raise benefits for out-of-work Hoosiers. The result is that revenue into the fund hasn't kept up with the payments out of it since then. That has slowly drained the balance until this year, when the state's unemployment rate is rising and there's just not enough left to pay all the claims. On the other hand, the state's main checking account is balanced. The state is expected to receive enough tax revenue this year to pay all its bills for government operations - although barely. According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, there are just eight other states that can make that claim. But the real answer to the above question is more complicated. The reason the state budget is balanced is because Daniels and lawmakers have made some tough decisions about spending. Unemployment benefits have exceeded the premiums paid into the fund by employers for the past seven years. It's possible that until recently, no one expected the fund to go broke this year. It's true that the economic downturn has caused many more layoffs and therefore payouts than expected. But if the problem hadn't erupted this year, it would have happened eventually. ❖

Rick Richards, Michigan City News-

Dispatch: For some of us, the cracks in the health care system can seem like a canyon. Even for those who have a job and are reasonably well informed, reading a statement from a hospital or insurance company is like trying to decipher hieroglyphics on King Tut's tomb. Multiply that by the number of health care corporations and insurance providers who have their own forms and ways of doing things, and you can see why it's so easy for people to fall through the cracks. It is definitely a system that needs to be fixed. After all, if the government can force everyone to go out and buy a new television set to receive a digital signal in February, then there ought to be someone who can come up with a universal health care plan that's simple to understand and delivers care to the people who need it. ❖





Bauer names House committee chairs

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend) today announced the names of those representatives who will be leading House committees during the 116th Indiana General Assembly.

Committee chairs and vice-chairs are:



AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: Chair: State Rep. Phil Pflum (D-Milton); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Joe Pearson (D-Hartford City).

COMMERCE, ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY AND UTILITIES: Chair: State Rep. Win Moses (D-Fort Wayne); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Matt Pierce (D-Bloom-

ington).

COURTS AND CRIMINAL CODE: Chair: State Rep. Matt Pierce (D-Bloomington); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Nancy Dembowski (D-Knox).

EDUCATION: Chair: State Rep. Greg Porter (D-Indianapolis); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Dennie Oxley (D-Taswell).

ELECTIONS AND APPORTIONMENT: Chair: State Rep. Kreg Battles (D-Vincennes); Vice-Chair: State Rep. David Niezgodski (D-South Bend).

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: Chair: State Rep. Ryan Dvorak (D-South Bend); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Dan Stevenson (D-Highland).

FAMILY, CHILDREN AND HUMAN AFFAIRS: Chair: State Rep. Vanessa Summers (D-Indianapolis); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Shelli VanDenburgh (D-Crown Point).

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: Chair: State Rep. Jeb Bardon (D-Indianapolis); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Gail Riecken (D-Evansville).

GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY REFORM: Chair: State Rep. John Bartlett (D-Indianapolis); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Dennis Tyler (D-Muncie).

INSURANCE: Chair: State Rep. Craig Fry (D-Mishawaka); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Ron Herrell (D-Kokomo).

JUDICIARY: Chair: State Rep. Linda Lawson (D-Hammond); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Cherrish Pryor (D-Indianapolis).

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT: Chair: State Rep. David Niezgodski (D-South Bend); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Chuck Moseley (D-Portage).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Chair: State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Nancy Michael (D-Greencastle).

NATURAL RESOURCES: Chair: State Rep. Bob Bischoff (D-Lawrenceburg); Vice-Chair: State Rep. David

Cheatham (D-North Vernon).

PUBLIC HEALTH: Chair: State Rep. Charlie Brown (D-Gary); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Peggy Welch (D-Bloomington).

PUBLIC POLICY: Chair: State Rep. Trent Van Haaften (D-Mount Vernon); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Vanessa Summers (D-Indianapolis).

ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION: Chair: State Rep. Terri Austin (D-Anderson); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Sandy Blanton (D-Orleans).

RULES AND LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES: Chair: State Rep. Phil GiaQuinta (D-Fort Wayne); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Russ Stilwell (D-Boonville).

SMALL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Chair: State Rep. Scott Reske (D-Pendleton); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Mary Ann Sullivan (D-Indianapolis).

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SAFETY: Chair: State Rep. Vern Tincher (D-Riley); Vice-Chair: State Rep. John Barnes (D-Indianapolis).

WAYS AND MEANS: Chair: State Rep. William Crawford (D-Indianapolis); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City); Chair, Budget Subcommittee: State Rep. Dennis Avery (D-Evansville); Vice-Chair, Budget Subcommittee: State Rep. Peggy Welch (D-Bloomington); Vice-Chair, Finance and K-12: State Rep. Terry Goodin (D-Crothersville); Vice-Chair, Higher Education: State Rep. Sheila Klinker (D-Lafayette); Vice-Chair, Medicaid and Health: State Rep. Steve Stemler (D-Jeffersonville).

STATUTORY COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION: Chair: State Rep. Earl Harris (D-East Chicago); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Chet Dobis (D-Merrillville).

STATUTORY COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Chair: State Rep. Clyde Kersey (D-Terre Haute); Vice-Chair: State Rep. Earl Harris (D-East Chicago). ❖

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CNN poll shows 61% oppose Big 3 loan

ATLANTA - The CNN/Opinion Research Corp. survey found that 61 percent are against the loans, while 36 percent support them. The poll also found 53 percent who said they don't believe that aiding the automakers would help the broader economy.



Big 3 making case on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON - automakers are returning to Congress for high-stakes hearings they hope will persuade skeptical lawmakers to save their troubled industry with \$34 billion in emergency aid, but a top Senate Democrat wants to hand their problem to the Federal Reserve (Associated Press). Two weeks after a botched attempt on Capitol Hill, repentant leaders of General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler LLC were appealing to the Senate Banking Committee on Thursday with three separate survival plans that include massive restructuring, the ditching of corporate jets and vows by CEOs to work for \$1 a year. But they could expect a chilly reception on Capitol Hill. Even a top Democrat in charge of evaluating their aid requests made it clear he was eager to avoid voting on a bailout. Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, wrote to Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Wednesday asking the central bank chief whether there was anything stopping him from using his considerable lending authority to help the automakers.

UAW signals change in contracts

DETROIT - United Auto Workers President Ron Gettelfinger said today that the union is willing to change its contract and will delay billions of dollars in payments to a union-run health care trust in an effort to help the struggling Detroit Three automakers (Associated Press). Gettelfinger also said the union will modify the jobs bank, in which laid-off workers are paid up to 95% of their salaries while not working, but he did not give specifics. "We're going to sit down and work out the mechanics," Gettelfinger said at a news conference after meeting with local union officials. "We're a little unclear on some of the issues."

Fort Wayne rally for Big 3

FORT WAYNE - More than 170 autoworkers, retirees, suppliers, dealers and others braved a cold wind Wednesday to show their support for General Motors Corp. and the two other major American automakers as they seek emergency financing from Congress (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). For an hour, they marched in a circle in front of the Federal Building in Fort Wayne, where U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh and U.S. Rep. Mark Souder have offices. As they marched, there was general agreement on two things: If GM is forced to file for bankruptcy, it will devastate the local economy, and more concessions by the United Auto Workers union are inevitable. "I think everyone will be taking concessions," Holli Murphy said as she shivered on the courthouse steps.

HD26 recount decision on Saturday

LAFAYETTE The recount of votes in the Indiana House District 26 race will stretch into its fourth day today (Lafayette Journal & Courier). Recount director Brad Skolnik said a

lot of progress was made Wednesday, but it's taking more time than expected to convert the vote center results into precinct tallies. The process is expected to conclude today, and the Indiana Recount Commission plans to meet Saturday to give a final ruling on the contest. Dozens of people have worked at the Tippecanoe County Office Building the past three days reviewing the machine and paper trails from the Nov. 4 election, when Republican Randy Truitt defeated Democrat John Polles by 26 votes.

Hoosier soldiers file suit over chemicals

EVANSVILLE - More than five years after their 2003 deployment to the Iraq war, 16 Indiana National Guardsmen have filed a federal lawsuit against a defense contractor, alleging that the company knew the soldiers were being exposed to a cancer-causing industrial chemical in Iraq but concealed the risk (Evansville Courier & Press). The suit alleges the 16 soldiers, all of whom served in a Tell City, Ind., unit, now face a greatly increased risk of respiratory cancers, and that some have developed tumors. The lawsuit was filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis and will be heard at the Evansville federal courthouse. Named as the defendant was Houston-based KBR Inc., formerly known as Kellogg, Brown & Root, a global engineering contractor. The 16 plaintiffs all were members of an Indiana National Guard unit that served in Basra, Iraq, in 2003 and guarded the Qarmat Ali plant, which injected water into oil wells for oil production. A yellowish dust was strewn about the plant equipment and grounds, but KBR officials told the soldiers guarding the plant it was only a mild irritant, the suit alleges. When some soldiers developed severe nosebleeds and skin irritation, KBR officials told them it was because of the "dry desert air" and that they must be "allergic to sand," the suit alleges.