



Dead Hand: Cold War hot flashes

Book details how Reagan, Gorbachev, Lugar & Nunn grappled with WMD

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Lt. Col. Stanislav Petrov worked at Serpukhov-15, a Soviet top-secret missile attack early-warning station. He was far below on the command chain from General Secretary Yuri Andropov, frail and at an enhanced level of paranoia after President Carter had issued Directive 59 that listed the decapitation of the Kremlin as a key U.S. nuclear war option. It was Petrov's job to give Soviet leaders the five or six minutes needed to decide whether to participate in one of mankind's most onerous paradoxes: Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

Shortly after midnight on Sept. 27, 1983, Petrov looked up at a monitor that was lit up with the red letters - "LAUNCH." A light at one of the American missile bases had lit up. A siren wailed. Within minutes the creaky Soviet computers were signaling five U.S. missiles had launched.

In David E. Hoffman's disturbing book "The Dead



Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms race and its Dangerous Legacy" (Doubleday) this unknown Russian held the fate of the world in his hands. If the alarm was validated, the Soviet leadership and the General staff could launch a retaliation. There were only minutes to decide.

Hoffman writes: Petrov made a decision. He knew the system had glitches in the past; there was no visual

Continued on Page 3

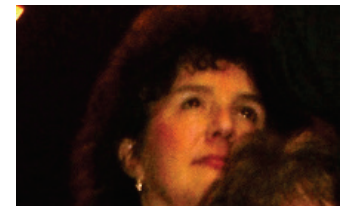
President Pence?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - President Mike Pence?

There was a spike in the national press interest on the subject this past week after U.S. Rep. Mike Pence wowed the annual conference of the Americans for Prosperity and scheduled a fundraising trip to South Carolina.

It followed his appearance at the National Tea Party on the federal mall in August as well as speaking trips to Iowa and California. Roll Call noted that Pence's campaign staff passed out small cards on the mall featuring his photo above the words "Mike Pence, Standing Strong." The back of the card invited voters to "Join the Pence Team."



"I'm moving in that direction, making the rounds and looking at data."

- **STATE REP. JACKIE WALORSKI**, *telling HPI she plans to form an exploratory committee to run against U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly*



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Brian A. Howey, publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington
Jack E. Howey, editor
Beverly Phillips, associate editor
Katie Coffin, intern

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Call **317-627-6746**.

HOWEY POLITICS INDIANA

6255 N. Evanston Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Contact Us

www.howeypolitics.com

bhowey2@gmail.com

Main Office: 317-506-0883.

Howey's Mobile: 317-506-0883.

Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.

Washington: 202-256-5822.

Business Office: 317-627-6746.

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Last Friday, The Politico reported that Pence exhorted conservatives to rally against fiscal excess, telling the crowd that the U.S. is "on the verge of a great American awakening. It's authentic and it's real and it's powerful and it's American."

When pressed about his newly fueled presidential ambitions, Pence responded opaquely and with a chuckle: "I have no plans to run for president."

The Indiana political scene has long been abuzz about the future of Mike Pence. Allies in the 6th CD were tipping off HPI more than a year ago that he was seriously pondering a 2012 bid for governor. At the second inaugural of Gov. Mitch Daniels, Pence was at the Statehouse and met with family organizations.

During an appearance on energy with Daniels last June, the term-limited governor appeared to be extremely cordial to Pence, prompting several long-time Republican heavyweights to speculate that these would be the hands passing the Hoosier torch.

Last January in an HPI interview, Pence explained of his plans, "If you had asked me the day before Election Day whether I would be on a path to leadership, you would have heard what other folks heard when they approached me on Capitol Hill. I would have given you a definitive no. When I started getting the calls the day after the election, I was drafted by conservatives and liberals and Republican leaders and I just felt a sense of duty; my colleagues thought I had something to offer at that particular time for the conference and I was pleased to do that."

Pence continued, "Decisions about our future will be made as time goes on. I'm not a long term planner. This conference position wasn't in my



U.S. Rep. Mike Pence speaking at the White House.

plan. If opportunities present themselves in the future we'll have prayer and deliberation. We don't have any long-term plans but certainly we always look for opportunities in the future for the people of our district and the people of Indiana."

It's a line of thought that Pence repeats these days. At the Vanderburgh County Republican Lincoln Day Dinner in September, Pence wowed the crowd. "He

gave a bang up speech," said party secretary Joshua Claybourn. During a Q&A, Pence was asked about both prospective presidential and gubernatorial runs. The answer was similar to the one he gave HPI in January: He wouldn't say yes or no.

"If he ran for governor, he'd be the favorite down here," said Claybourn. "It would be impossible for someone to seriously challenge him if he ran." Also noteworthy about the Vanderburgh Lincoln Dinner was the absence of Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman.

Pence's office was contacted by HPI for comment and an interview with the congressman for this story, but no one was talking. There was no attempt to nip the presidential talk.

Pence's added exposure on Capitol Hill and with the cable news networks may be providing a different path.

The logic of a potential Pence path to the White House also figured to run through the Indiana Statehouse. Modern Presidents Carter, Reagan, Clinton and George W. Bush, as well as both Roosevelts and Woodrow Wilson went from governorships to the presidency. President Nixon was temporarily derailed by a California gubernatorial loss.

House members don't have a clear path or much of a track record to the White House or the West Wing. President Gerald Ford was an excep-



tion, with Nixon plucking him out of the House to the vice presidency in 1973 before he resigned in 1974. In 1964, Sen. Barry Goldwater picked U.S. Rep. William E. Miller of New York for his ticket. After that landslide loss to President Johnson, Miller went back to practicing law. Twenty years later, Walter Mondale did the same with U.S. Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, who subsequently lost not only that race, but also a New York U.S. Senate run in which she was initially favored.

Former U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp was a presidential campaign fixture (and a Pence hero) but Kemp enhanced his resume via cabinet of President George H.W. Bush, as well as a 1996 vice presidential nomination. Pence has been influenced by Kemp's Chicago school of supply side economics and fiscal discipline.

Democratic political consultant and HPI columnist Chris Sautter told HPI, "I could see Pence running, but it is difficult to see how he gets very far. When you run for President, you need to start out with a large enough base to attract sufficient supporters and money to compete nationally. The inherent lack of national base is one reason House members historically do not perform well running for President. Pence may be a player of sorts in the House, but nationally hardly anyone has heard of him."

Sautter noted the campaign of U.S. Rep. Dick Gephardt, who was "the last House member who ran a serious candidate for President" in 1988 and 2004. Gephardt had considerable labor support. "But after winning Iowa (as well as the South Dakota primary), his campaign fizzled out because he just couldn't raise enough money to run TV ads in all the states in which you have to compete if you expect to win the nomination," Sautter said of that 1988 campaign.

Sautter continued, "To run a top-tier Presidential campaign, a candidate also has to carve out a certain niche within the field of candidates who are running. There are generally two lanes to run in - the establishment lane

and the anti-establishment lane. If Pence is running as a Republican establishment conservative, he will have to beat out (former Gov.) Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich for the lead in the establishment lane. If he is an anti-establishment conservative (tough to do when you are in the congressional leadership), he would be fighting (former governors) Sarah Palin and Mike Huckabee for the anti-establishment niche."

Pence reminds Sautter of former U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas (now running for governor). "Like Brownback, Pence is an articulate, well-respected political leader with substantial Washington experience," Sautter said. "But he doesn't fit cleanly in either the establishment or anti-establishment mold. Therefore, it will be difficult for him to get much traction either in raising money or garnering substantial support."

A potential drag for Pence was revealed in a Quinnipiac Poll released on Wednesday. It showed that Congressional Republicans - with Pence as a conspicuous spokesman - are facing an approve/disapprove rating of 64 - 25 percent with 42 percent of Republican voters disapproving; Only 29 percent think Republicans on Capitol Hill are acting in good faith; Voters trust President Obama more than Republicans 47 - 31 percent to handle health care; Voters 53 - 25 percent have an unfavorable opinion of the Republican Party.

What clearly shouldn't be underestimated is Pence's communication skills. Former Indiana Democratic Chairman Robin Winston has long predicted that Pence would be the GOP's most formidable gubernatorial candidate (though this was prior to Mitch Daniels return). Whether that translates nationally is the key question.

At the Americans for Prosperity rally, Politico reported this Pence joke that got the crowd roaring: "A recession is when your neighbor loses his job, a depression is when you lose your job and a recovery is when Nancy Pelosi loses her job." ❖

Dead Hand, from page 1

sighting of a missile through the telescope; the satellites were in a correct position. There was nothing from the radar stations to verify an incoming missile, although it was probably too early for the radars to see anything. He told the duty officer again: this is a false alarm. The message went up the chain.

Hoffman's triumph with "The Dead Hand" is that he tells the precarious nature of the final decade of the Cold War and its aftermath through the eyes of common men like Petrov, and through the diaries of famous men: President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. The achievement is how MAD - along with an



President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev



Sam Nunn (left) Sen. Lugar, and Ambassador William J. Burns meet with Foreign Minister Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov at the Russian Foreign Ministry in Moscow in August 2007. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

engorged Soviet military complex that was prepared to release weaponized pathogens - became the greatest threat to the 10,000 year existence of the human race. Its very existence hung in the balance.

There is Igor Domaradsky, a scientist who dreamed for the rewards of scientific discovery like a cure for cancer, but ended up being "quietly dragged" into perfecting weaponized tularemia in what Hoffman describes as the "dark underside of the arms race." And Margarita Ilyenko, a chief physician at hospital No. 24 in Sverdlovsk, who found herself dealing with an anthrax outbreak after spores were accidentally released from military Compound 19 in April 1979.

Four months later, candidate Ronald Reagan walked through the 25-ton blast doors of Cheyenne Mountain of the North American Air Defense Command, the nuclear war monitoring nerve center. The question - what would happen if a Soviet SS-18 hit nearby? - brought the answer: "It would blow us away." Gen. James Hill would note that "a look of disbelief came over Reagan's face."

Reagan would lament on the flight back to Los Angeles four years before he and hydrogen bomb father Edward Teller would dream and announce the Strategic Defense Initiative. Hoffman quotes Reagan as saying, "The only options he would have would be to press the button or do nothing. They're both bad. We should have some way of defending ourselves against nuclear missiles." President Reagan would be one of 100 million Americans to watch ABC's "The Day After" movie on nuclear war in 1983. It would play a role in what Hoffman describes as a president who became a "nuclear abolitionist."

The book describes Gorbachev's rise to power (Andropov's last request was that Gorbachev be elevated, but it was hidden, allowing the infirm Konstantin Chernenko to assume power) and how he tried to get a grip on the endlessly sprawling Soviet military complex. In the end,

when he was detained in a coup d'etat, he couldn't tell Hoffman whether he had actually lost control of the Soviet nuclear football. Of Gorbachev, Hoffman writes, "A leader's courage is often defined by building something, by positive action, but in this case, Gorbachev's great contribution was in deciding what not to do." And that was to try and match Reagan's phantom Star Wars.

The book details two stunning developments. One was the Soviet's response to Carter's Directive 59. If leadership were to be decapitated, Hoffman reveals it would result in "one of the most creative, astonishing and frightening inventions of the Cold War. It was called Perimeter."

Soviet leaders faced three choices in an imminent nuclear attack. One would be a preemptive strike. The second was a launch once U.S. missiles were confirmed to be on the way, even though a flock of geese could set off such a warning (Gorbachev kept a sculptured goose in his Kremlin office as a reminder), and third was retaliating after attack. Hoffman writes: What if the ailing Chernenko could not decide whether to shoot first or be shot? What if he was wiped out before he could decide? The Soviet designers responded with an ingenious and incredible answer. They build a Domsday Machine that would guarantee retaliation - launch all the nuclear missiles - if Chernenko's hand went limp.

The retaliatory system - The Dead Hand - would turn over the fate of mankind to computers. It is, quite simply, a vivid nightmare come true.

The second was Reagan's decision to stay in the White House during a nuclear attack, insisting that the presidency - not the president - would be saved. He would quip that in the event of Soviet subs launching a warhead into the Beltway, it would be "George" who would get on the helicopter, he said of Vice President George H.W. Bush.

The Indiana angle in the "The Dead Hand" is U.S.



Sen. Richard Lugar's role with Sen. Sam Nunn in the Nunn-Lugar Act which established the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. When Gorbachev and Reagan shook hands for the first time at Geneva on Nov. 19, 1985, the two superpowers had amassed about 60,000 nuclear warheads. When the Soviet hammer and sickle was lowered from the Kremlin in 1991, Nunn had been on the ground and was warned that the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons were largely unsecured and vulnerable to starving Soviet military figures.

The United States had spent \$4 trillion during the Cold War, so spending \$1 billion to destroy weapons "would not be too high a price to pay to help destroy thousands and thousands of Soviet nuclear weapons," Nunn said.

There was a lingering Cold War mindset, especially at the Defense Department under Secretary Dick Cheney, Hoffman writes. Harvard physicist Ashton Carter recalled making a presentation of his concerns to Donald Atwood, deputy secretary of Defense. "His position was very clear, which was that we had spent 50 years trying to impoverish these people and we'd finally done it and at this moment you want to assist? He wanted them in free fall."

Hoffman continued: In 1992, Senators Nunn and Lugar took a gamble with history. Back then, skeptics suggested it would be best to let the former Soviet Union drown in its own sorrows - to go into free fall. Nunn and Lugar did not agree. They helped Russia and the other former Soviet republics cope with an inheritance from hell. The investment paid huge dividends. In the years that followed, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine completely abandoned nuclear weapons. A total of 7,514 nuclear warheads, 752 intercontinental ballistic missiles and 31 submarines have been deactivated.

Hoffman concludes: It was never going to be easy for a country so turbulent as Russia to accept the hand of a rich and powerful rival, and it wasn't. Given the immense size of the Soviet military-industrial complex and the sprawling nature of the dangerous weapons and materials, the Nunn-Lugar gamble paid off. The world is safer for their vision and determination. It was also a bargain. The yearly cost for all facets of Nunn-Lugar was about \$1.4 billion, a tiny sliver of the annual Pentagon budget of more than \$530 billion.

That, Hoffman notes, pales in comparison to the trillion dollar Iraq War, launched ostensibly to take away what turned out to be Saddam's nuclear mirage.

Hoffman covered the 1980 Reagan presidential campaign for Knight Ridder newspapers and served as Moscow bureau chief, White House correspondent and assistant managing editor for foreign news for the Washington Post. He also authored the book **"The Oligarchs: Wealth and Power in the New Russia."** ❖



David Hoffman on Lugar, Nunn and Reagan's diaries

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - David E. Hoffman was researching his book **"The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and its Dangerous Legacy"** - on the delegation that Sen. Richard Lugar and Nuclear Threat Initiative Chair Sam Nunn took to Russia, Ukraine and Albania in August and September 2007. HPI's Brian A. Howey traveled there as well. On Tuesday we interviewed Hoffman about his book that was published last month:



HPI: Are you aware of any comparable Congressional-led foreign policy initiatives that would be in the same league as Nunn-Lugar?

Hoffman: It's hard to be absolutely comprehensive about Congress. But if you look at some of the most important issues on the collapse of the Soviet Union, this has got to be the most important legislation of the generation. The Senate has to give its consent for arms control. If you look at a bunch of them, they didn't. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was rejected by the Senate. So sometimes Congress is a brake on the executive. The great thing about Nunn-Lugar is that it was the reverse. It was the creative, assertive, affirmative program instead of a brake. That's pretty rare. Judging Congress on foreign policy is often difficult because their role is to approve requests. Look at Afghanistan. "Charlie Wilson's War" was a movie about a congressman who made a difference in foreign policy. Frankly, they could make a movie about Nunn and Lugar that would have the same kind of affirmative role. Nobody was lobbying for this. There were loose nukes, but loose nukes don't have a lobby. That's why it



David E. Hoffman (center) and HPI's Brian A. Howey along with Sen. Lugar and Sam Nunn listen to a briefing by Jim Reid on a military flight between Yekaterinburg and Odessa following the senators' inspection of the Mayak Chemical Combine near the city of Ozersk. (HPI Photo by Andy Fisher)

tacked and there was a need. I think the Iraq funding was part of the debate we haven't had yet. We just spent an enormous amount of blood and treasure. It just dwarfs the amount we spent securing weapons of mass destruction.

HPI: If Sen. Lugar hadn't stepped up, would there have been another Republican?

Hoffman: I think he was the obvious person. Lugar had been a participant in a number of arms control working groups that went back to the mid-80s. Because Lugar was conversant with this - because he knew the Russian participants - he was a much more

was such a remarkable, visionary thing.

HPI: How instrumental was Lugar in getting Congressional Republicans and the first Bush White House on board with Nunn-Lugar?

Hoffman: The country was going into a mild recession (in 1991-92). Nunn realized he needed an authoritative Republican. When the Nunn-Aspin bill failed, Lugar joined him and that did the trick. By working together they got enough votes in Congress to pass it. I don't think they ever got Bush enthusiastically on board. The fact is that Bush signed it, though he did it in a kind of desultory way. There's a famous picture of them coming out of their meeting and Bush was looking kind of grim. Bush never really embraced it.

HPI: I don't think either of the Bush presidencies were enthusiastic about Nunn-Lugar. Would that be fair to say about the second Bush administration?

Hoffman: That is absolutely fair to say. Just take a look at the amount of money spent in Iraq and Afghanistan and the amount of money spent on this program (about \$1.4 billion a year). Just huge amounts of money were spent for Iraq. Afghanistan - you can argue - we were at-

natural choice. The interesting thing was Nunn's concern - a hair-trigger alert; accidental launch; and reducing the risk. I don't see Lugar as animated by that as with other things. Ash Carter had told them your problem isn't necessarily with a rogue general, it's with a rogue janitor, or a rogue sergeant. We had a new situation there and they had to deal with a new situation and that's what makes it extraordinary.

HPI: Was it fateful that Sam Nunn was in Budapest at the time and could get to Moscow as the Soviet Union disintegrated? If he hadn't been there, could this have been an epic missed opportunity?

Hoffman: I don't think it was inevitable. Maybe if Sam Nunn had been in Atlanta, he

would have flown to Moscow anyway. What I think is really interesting is this: The nature of the danger. You could be reading the newspapers at the time and come away with a sense of danger. So why is it then, that the senators didn't act by reading the papers? Nunn is jostled on the streets. Gorbachev can't tell him whether he lost control of the nuclear suitcase (during the coup d'etat).

HPI: Amazing.

'Charlie Wilson's War' was a movie about a congressman who made a difference in foreign policy. Frankly, you could make a movie about Nunn and Lugar that would have the same kind of affirmative role.'



Hoffman: The people who took action here, they not only had the information available to all of us, they had something even deeper, personal and direct that prompted them to act.

HPI: Was the Soviet's Dead Hand doomsday computer system known to U.S. intelligence in real time? Or is this a revelation in your book?

Hoffman: A Soviet mistake was to build such a threatening thing and not to tell us. If they had told us, it would have been part of deterrence. By not telling us, they did a stupid thing. They took on risk without any deterrence value.

HPI: It was a chilling part of the book. Is Perimeter still functional at this point?

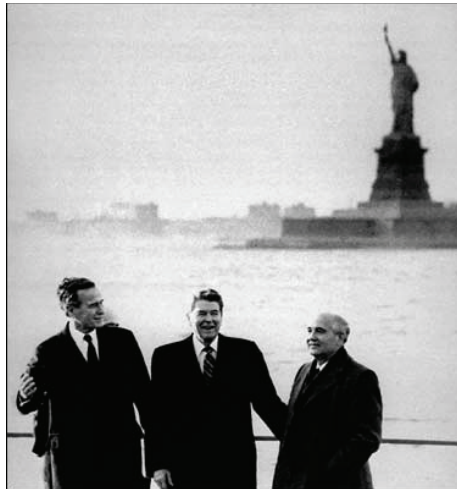
Hoffman: I don't think we know. My interview suggests that the hardware system - the underground bunkers, the guys there, the command rockets, the command system - still exist. The key question that I cannot answer is do they still have this trigger mechanism in which the leader of Russia would pre-delegate? It may be with the collapse of the Soviet Union they took that down because it was too hair-triggered.

HPI: The stories you tell - the flocks of geese mistaken on radar for missile launches, and the decrepit, dysfunctional Soviet computers - how close did we come to having a mistake setting off a nuclear holocaust?

Hoffman: It's really hard to quantify how close. When the super powers were at their peak hair-triggered confrontation of the early 1980s, a lot depended on quick reactions. You can understand the human nature on both sides. All the technicians were trying to do was give their leader more time to make a decision. So giving their leader more time, you had to subtract time from the rest of the system, which meant that everything was on a hair trigger. The story at the beginning with Stanislav Petrov where he has to make a decision - he has to give his leader time - so he has to make it himself. The interesting thing about this story is there is a false alarm and he is in the middle. It's not only a false alarm that one missile is coming; he gets a signal that five are coming. He makes it based on his understanding of what nuclear war might be, his instinct at what he was looking at. A lot of this pressure for speed relied on human beings. It wasn't only machines getting us

into war, it was human miscalculations. So many of them didn't follow orders when the alert level went up. That was typical of the chaos of the Soviet system. It was not nearly as monolithic as what we once understood.

HPI: Most Americans are aware of the close brushes with nuclear war in 1962, 1967 and 1973 with Cuba and the Arab/Israeli wars. Most probably don't realize how great the Soviet paranoia was in 1983-85. Can you provide some context to the difference between the outright confrontations and the creeping paranoia you describe during the Reagan/Andropov/Chernenko era?



'All the technicians were trying to do was give their leader more time to make a decision. So giving their leader more time, you had to subtract time from the rest of the system, which meant everything was on a hair-trigger.'

Hoffman: From what I read in Michael Dobbs' recent book, the Cuban Missile Crisis was undeniably the most dangerous period of the Cold War. The Soviets had moved those weapons to Cuba and Dobbs' book is a good recounting of that. What makes 1983 more interesting was that in 1983, we had signaled to the Soviet leaders that we wanted to decapitate them. They were in our crosshairs. We had done that as a part of a strategy that would stand up to them and we did it through an official presidential directive. So they worried a lot about that. This is something that didn't exist in the 1960s. I tell the story in the book about the military exercises in the summer of 1983 in the Pacific, those exercises were intended to be very provocative. They were designed to, as one person called it, "fly right up

Ivan's nose." Their systems were rusty and they failed to respond in time. The pilots on the early warning system got reprimanded for that failure. So when the Korean airliner got off track that September, one of the reasons it got shot down was a stupid mistake made by panicky officers who had gone through that previous experience. It was another sign of the rot within their system. The Kremlin leadership was extremely paranoid about nuclear war and the KGB had put out an all points bulletin all over the world looking for signs of preparation for nuclear war. So I would put this in second place behind the Cuban Missile Crisis. Maybe not quite so much an imminent war, but more mysterious and shadowy period of threat because in this case, the missiles were so much closer to Moscow and to Washington.

HPI: You covered the White House during the Reagan years (beginning in 1982). Did you understand at the time, the emotional and strategic pivot Reagan was making on nuclear weapons? Did it raise eyebrows in the press



room?

Hoffman: A completely new Reagan emerged for me in the research. One of the reasons is we have the advantage of his diary. This diary is an incredibly good record. Reagan wasn't all that introspective, but when he was, it's a very, very helpful document. That changed some of my views. The press room view was always of a guy who was first, anti-communist, secondly very strongly patriotic in terms of building up our defenses and standing up to the Soviets. The press room view rarely gave us an understanding of a third part of Reagan which was that he was a nuclear abolitionist. I had heard him talk about one day wanting to get rid of all nuclear weapons, but when I read his diaries, interviewed people and looked more into his decisions, I realized this was not simply some kind of slogan put into a speech. To me the really telling moment is in January 1986, Gorbachev - in office less than a year - proposes in a major address to eliminate all nuclear weapons by 2000, and chemical weapons. He did this in a very complex, phased way. Reagan, that very day, gets the translation of the speech. It's rushed to him even before (Secretary of State George) Shultz can talk to him. About 2 in the afternoon Shultz comes over to the Oval Office and Reagan has already got the thing in his hands and the first thing Reagan says is, "Why wait until the year 2000?"

HPI: The three weeks between Reagan's "Evil Empire" speech on March 8, 1983 and his March 23 Strategic Defense Initiative address was an amazing period. What are your thoughts?

Hoffman: My understanding of what happened during that period was the Joint Chiefs got fed up with the deadlock in Congress on the MX Missile, and Reagan's Star Wars speech was simply an end run around the Congress; just another way to deal with the deterrence issue. I wrote this in a 1985 piece in the Washington Post. I always thought that was a better history than Bill Broad wrote in the New York Times at the time that Star Wars was invented by Edward Teller and was a product of the crazies. I went carefully back through all this material in writing this book and I now think both of us were wrong. What I conclude was the amazing thing about Reagan was his ability to absorb ideas from lots of different corners. He wasn't a one-note guy. He took a little from here, he took a little from there. There is no evidence that the preparation of

that speech, for a major shift in American strategic doctrine, was ever worked out in any kind of intergovernmental bureaucratic process. It all came together in his head. It was a classic decision that Reagan would make. It shows that the journalists in the press room don't always get it right because so much is hidden. And a major, major part of this book is showing what was happening on the Gorbachev side. Nobody had ever shown how Gorbachev had reacted to SDI. We had his propaganda, his speeches, but this book uses original material to show how Gorby really reacted. It wasn't that Star Wars bankrupted the Soviet Union. Actually Gorby ducked and by ducking he didn't take the bait.

HPI: I grew up in a little town of Peru, Ind., right next to Grissom AFB where one of the three presidential doomsday command jets was based. I was fascinated that Reagan realized that a Soviet sub could level Washington in minutes, decapitating the U.S. government and Reagan basically said of his vice president, "George you're going to get on the plane, I'm staying here." The presidency will continue, not necessarily the president. That's amazing stuff. Is that breaking new ground, historically?

Hoffman: I'm not the only person to find this; Jim Mann's book - "The Vulcans" - also made a big contribution. We in the press room were thinking very conventionally. In a nuclear standoff through 40 years of history, and he (Reagan) didn't think that way. He didn't believe in Mutually Assured Destruction. He didn't think about leaving the Oval Office and getting on a helicopter to escape a nuclear attack, because if it came, we're all toast. At that moment, where they came up with a plan to save

the presidency, to get other people evacuated and not the president, they are trying to fit Reagan's own nuclear abolitionism, which we had no clue about in the press room.

HPI: Most Americans believed that in an attack, the president would get on Marine One, rendezvous with Air Force One or one of the doomsday jets, and fly over the Great Plains like President Bush did on Sept. 11. That's absolutely fascinating.

Hoffman: We never knew that at the time. What we really didn't understand was he had a much more conceptual sense about nuclear weapons and what would happen. He had a biblical sense of Armageddon. He didn't think you could have a limited nuclear war. He had an almost everyman's idea of the dangers of nuclear power, than a sophisticated tactician's idea. ❖



'A completely new Reagan emerged for me in the research. One of the reasons is we have the advantage of his diary.'



Walorski preparing to run against Donnelly

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - State Rep. Jackie Walorski is preparing to challenge U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, U.S. Rep. Brad Ellsworth could have a credible opponent by the end of October and former congressman Mike Sodrel is still mulling.

Walorski, R-Jimtown, told HPI on Tuesday, "I'm moving in that direction, making the rounds and looking at data." She said that she would form an exploratory committee by next Monday.

After losing to U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola by about 25,000 votes in 2004, Donnelly defeated Chocola in 2006, by a 103,561 to 88,300 margin. In 2008, Donnelly ripped the underfunded Republican Luke Puckett by 187,416 to 84,455.

The National Republican Campaign Committee did not get involved in the Donnelly-Puckett race, but has actively wooed Walorski.

Walorski told the South Bend Tribune's Jack Colwell last month that she might challenge Donnelly, the Democratic-controlled House and President Obama for what she calls "the explosion of the size of government" and "socialized medicine."

"I am passionate about it," Walorski says of those contentions. She has traveled across the country as part of the conservative Americans for Prosperity and described herself as a big fan of conservative Fox talking head Glenn Beck.

Walorski had an easy HD21 race in 2008 where she ran against an independent. In 2006, she defeated former gubernatorial aide Bob Kovach - 8,899 to 7,980 - after she had voted for the controversial Major Moves toll road lease. In 2004, she succeeded State Rep. Richard Mangus and defeated Democrat Carl Kaser 13,753 to 7,737. She has since moved from Lakeville to Jimtown in Elkhart County.

In the 8th CD, Evansville cardiologist Dr. Larry Bucshon will make his plans known by the end of October.

In the 9th CD, the Hoosier Access and Hoosier Pundit blogs are both

reporting that former U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel is still uncommitted to running against U.S. Rep. Baron Hill for a fifth time. "Sodrel has also made clear that he is in no hurry to make a formal announcement," Hoosier Access reported.

U.S. Senate

BAYH A 'WASHINGTON MILLIONAIRE': The Republican U.S. Senate field is expected to take its final shape next week when former state representative Dan Dumezich will decide whether to enter the race. Dumezich has actively traveled the state over the past two months as he tries to determine support.

The current field includes State Sen. Marlin Stutzman, Carmel plumber Richard Behney and Winchester financial adviser Don Bates Jr.

The Republican field has been somewhat subdued at this point. Bates put a press release out earlier this month explaining the virtues of taking his children deer hunting. "Today is a very important day for countless young people across the State of Indiana," Bates explained. "Youth deer hunting season is an exciting time for our two sons, Trae and Blake. I will be taking a few hours off of the campaign trail to take my boys deer hunting. We have purchased the license, and bought the orange hats and vests for our protection and that of other hunters. I mention this event because it reminds me of a very important amendment in our Constitution. The Constitution of the United States affords us the right to keep and bear arms."

Behney has come up with jingles and slick web



State Sen. Marlin Stutzman called U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh a "Washington millionaire." (HPI Photo by A. Walker Shaw)



video features, but is unlikely to be taken seriously.

Stutzman, who kicked off his campaign in Kendallville in late September, lashed out at U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh's out-state fundraising, calling the Democrat a "Washington millionaire."

It came after the Times of Northwest Indiana detailed that only 15 percent of Bayh's overall war chest came from Hoosier sources. Bayh spokesman Brian Weiss told the Times that the senator had limited his fundraising in Indiana due to a "lagging economy."

Stutzman said, "It's this simple: Evan Bayh raises all his cash out of state because he spends 85 percent of his time with lobbyists and donors from out of state. Bayh is what I call, 'a Washington Millionaire,' someone who has become a millionaire while serving in Washington, and this is just one more indicator."

HD30

DUNN DINGS HERREL: Of all the developing House races, Howard County Republican Chairman Craig Dunn has been the most active on the party front. He wrote an op-ed for the Kokomo Perspective, noting that State Rep. Ron Herrell had defined his Democratic primary opponent Chuck Sosbe Jr. as a "lobbyist."

"You would think by his comments that Ron Herrell never goes near those nasty old lobbyists," Dunn wrote. "However, a quick examination of the facts reveals a far different story. Recently, I completed an in-depth review of Ron Herrell's campaign finance reports for 2006, 2007 and 2008. I must admit that I was shocked and appalled by what I learned. Herrell received \$175,733 in campaign contributions for 2006-2008. Of that amount only \$1,375 came from individual contributors. That means that 99.3 percent of Herrell's funding came from special interests. Herrell received \$5,965 from individuals and special interests located in Howard County. That means that 96.61 percent came from special interests outside of his district."



Former DLGF and Vanderburgh County Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave, shown here at the 2005 HPI Forum, will announce her candidacy against State Rep. Gail Riecken next Wednesday in Evansville. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)

HD77

MUSGRAVE TO ANNOUNCE

NEXT WEEK: Former Department of Local Government Finance and Vanderburgh County Commissioner Cheryl Musgrave will kick off her HD77 campaign against State Rep. Gail Riecken next Wednesday in Evansville. Vanderburgh Republican Party Secretary Joshua Claybourn told HPI that when Musgrave won her 2004 county commissioner race, she pulled 49 percent of the vote in the HD77 portion of the county. "No other Republican candidate can run a campaign better than her," he said. "I think the people in Indy are underestimating this race." In her four county races (including three for assessor), Musgrave was not only undefeated, but so were all of her opponents going in. The Evansville Courier & Press reported that John McCain won only 40 percent of the vote in HD77, Attorney General Greg

Zoeller won just 43 percent, but Gov. Daniels carried it with 53 percent. "It's a difficult district for Republicans to win," Republican Chairman Nick Hermann said. "But it's certainly a possibility." Musgrave told the Courier & Press of Gov. Daniels, "After I made my intention known, he called me, and we discussed it. He was absolutely delighted. But he did not seek me out in particular? No."

HD76

VAN HAAFTEN WILL FACE SERIOUS CHALLENGE:

District 76, which includes all of Posey County, the southern tip of Gibson County and a western portion of Vanderburgh County, should be one where Republicans have a strong shot. After all, McCain won 51 percent of the vote there, Zoeller won 52 percent and Daniels won 61 percent (Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press). But numbers can't hide the facts. Republicans haven't even fielded a challenger since 2004 for current Rep. Trent Van Haaften, the Mount Vernon Democrat who chairs the House Public Policy Committee. "He's very well-liked and well-thought of," Owen said, "and I think he would be very difficult to defeat." Wendy McNamara hopes to change that. The longtime educator is the director of the Early College High School for the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. "I'm motivated by my passion for civics," she said upon announcing her candidacy three weeks ago. "I've long felt the desire to serve my country and my state through public service." She is one of two area candidates who was a



member of the 20-woman, 2009 class of The Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series.

The other is Sue Ellspermann, the founding director of the University of Southern Indiana Center for Applied Research, who is running in HD74. Both McNamara and Ellspermann will be the beneficiaries of an Oct. 10 fundraiser hosted by Lugar in Evansville.

HD74

STILWELL TO FACE ELLSPERMANN: Sue Ellspermann will need all the help she can get. While Lugar might carry weight in the district, the prospect of advancing Daniels' agenda might not play as well (Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press). In 2008, McCain and Zoeller won 47 percent of the vote in District 74. Daniels, meanwhile, got 51 percent. That's a solid tally, but Daniels outperformed both McCain and Zoeller by much greater margins in other area districts. McNamara's opponent will be Majority Leader Russ Stilwell of Boonville whose 2008 race, which he won with 63 percent of the vote, was his closest this decade. He will be seeking his eighth term." Russ Stilwell holds a very important leadership position that is viewed as critical to Southern Indiana, because Russ is able to push through bills that help promote Southern Indiana," said Vanderburgh County Democratic Chairman Mark Owen.

HD75

AVERY LOOKING FORWARD TO BACON CHALLENGE: A Republican recruiting success came last month when Warrick County Coroner Ron Bacon announced he will take on longtime District 75 incumbent Rep. Dennis Avery, D-Evansville (Bradner, Evansville Courier & Press). Bacon has campaign experience that includes a 2008 race for coroner. It's another potentially strong Republican district. In 2008, McCain

won 50 percent of the vote, Zoeller won 52 percent and Daniels won 61 percent. Avery says he isn't shying away from the challenge. "I enjoy the campaigning, and don't have a problem with opposition," he said. "It's a chance to meet constituents."

HD90

SPEEDY TO SEEK MURPHY SEAT: Indianapolis City-County Councilor Mike Speedy is planning to run for the House District 90 seat currently represented by Rep. Mike Murphy (R-Indianapolis), who has decided to run for the 5th District congressional seat of U.S. Rep. Dan Burton (Advance Indiana). Tim Ping is also considering the race.

SD6

METRO TO CHALLENGE LANDSKE: Cedar Lake civic leader and small businessman Jim Metro officially filed the paperwork last week to establish a candidate committee for the Indiana State Senate in 2010. The seat is held by State Sen.

Sue Landske. Metro is the co-owner of Metro Excavating Corp., an active member of I.U.O.E. Local 150 and is also a member of the Lake County Plan Commission and the Lake County Democrat Governing Board. He has previously served in leadership roles on the Town of Cedar Lake Police Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. "I've spent my life working, building a business and doing what I can to make this community better, so I'm not a politician by trade," said Metro. "But, after seeing how our communities in Northwest Indiana continue to shed jobs, how the funding for schools, roads and other infrastructure are cut over and over again, all while our taxes keep going up, I thought it was time to for me to step up." ❖

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Mark Kiesling, Times of Northwest Indiana:

It looks like there won't be any Christmas cards exchanged this year between Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez and Hammond Mayor Tom McDermott Jr. As I related in Sunday's column, McDermott called Dominguez to complain about the arrest of one of the mayor's top political lieutenants on marijuana charges, and Dominguez said the mayor was trying to interfere with police business and that he could -- if he chooses -- have McDermott charged with a criminal offense. I don't think Dominguez is going to do that, but I think he could if he chose. But McDermott also is the head of the Lake County Democratic Party, and Dominguez wants to be the Democratic candidate for governor in 2012. "If he does go that route, he's cooked his own goose," McDermott said of the threat to charge him. "It's a joke. It's politics. He's not going to arrest me. But I'm not going to vote for him. "I am chairman of the most cutthroat Democratic organization in the state. I've been intimidated many times. I don't go running to the press because I am a man. I'm not the kid who runs to the principal's office and whines. People across the state are laughing at him." Dominguez isn't laughing at the message left on his cell phone in which McDermott expressed anger at the Sept. 10 arrest of Dave Woerpel and three of Woerpel's family members on charges of growing marijuana. Calling them "a few tiny pot plants," McDermott said Dominguez and Prosecutor Bernie Carter overreacted. "This wasn't a couple tiny pot plants, first of all," Dominguez said. He said there were several 6-foot plants, each of which could yield as much as a pound of weed. That amount of pot could retail for \$400 to \$800, the sheriff said. "This is not a political matter. It is a law enforcement matter," Dominguez said. "For McDermott to suggest that Carter, myself, the Indiana State Police and my warrants men all colluded against him is paranoia, that we did this to get McDermott. McDermott is positive Dominguez has sunk his chances to become the 2012 nominee. Both men say they have talked to Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker. "All he said to me is that you people in Lake County have a different form of doing things," Dominguez said. But McDermott said Parker told him "he could not believe Roy did something so stupid" as to go to the press. ❖

Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville

Courier-Journal: When Gov. Mitch Daniels first proposed and then succeeded in privatizing Indiana's welfare eligibility system, he said one of the benefits was that Hoosiers could apply for assistance over the phone and the Internet. In fact, the new program essentially eliminated caseworkers so that no one person was assigned to any individual client's case. That was a huge change from the old system

(still in place in 33 counties) that required all clients to go to county offices to meet with caseworkers. But what the state has learned as it has struggled with the rollout of the new system is that there's a lot to be said for in-person interviews and meetings. While the online and phone options seem to be working for some -- maybe many -- clients, they haven't proven enough for others. Advocates for the poor say many of the state's neediest clients are suffering the most. And because face-to-face interaction has been either unavailable or hard to come by, nonprofit service providers have essentially become caseworkers as they've tried to help their low-income clients navigate the state system. Daniels was right when he said that clients need more ways to deal with the system than simply doing so in person. But the state likely went too far in limiting face-to-face contact so severely. ❖



Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union:

One would think we would have learned something from Iraq. Back in 2003, before the US invaded Iraq, I had some pretty grave reservations about it. The fact that we didn't have full UN support was my main objection. We were going it alone. I was against that. But after the the war started, there was little left to do but support the troops. But armed with the knowledge of what happened in Iraq, why not leave the mess in Afghanistan to covert operatives, drones and missiles? I don't think anybody can "win" a war in Afghanistan. Other nations have tried before - and failed. It's worse than winning a war in Iraq because at least in Iraq there was a country and a government. Afghanistan is a bunch of tribes sharing land with warlords. Why not bring troops home? ❖

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette:

In the next few weeks, the Obama administration will crow about how many Americans have jobs as a result of the \$787 billion stimulus bill. President Obama will no doubt point to the jobs figure as an indication that the economy -- while still struggling -- is no longer in the toilet and that his administration staved off a catastrophe. Alas, the jobs figure will not be the number of people who had been laid off because of the economic downturn and then found employment as a result of the billions poured into transportation projects, energy programs, education and other projects. "Jobs" in this case is both new employment and jobs "saved." We all know what a created job is. It didn't exist before and now it does. A "saved" job is a position that was in danger of being cut, but layoffs were averted because of an infusion of orders, customers or whatever. Lumping these two categories together has some psychological and political benefits: The higher number might be comforting to Americans and to industry, which might lead to more confidence. ❖



Saturn should be new ring in Indiana orbit

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

LOGANSPOUR - The on-again, off-again saga of the company that once was the model for the future of General Motors is off again – at least for now.



This past week, the deal auto racing magnate Roger Penske forged to acquire Saturn Corporation collapsed. With it, more jobs hemorrhaged in plants across the country and in dealerships in Indiana.

Here we go again.

Just when it looked like the American auto industry had emerged from its roughest patch since the Depression, a deal to produce Saturns fell through,

leaving Penske without a way to produce cars.

We don't know which automaker pulled out of the deal. What we do know is that Saturn's potential demise represents a chance for Indiana to put another auto company in its orbit, just as the planet Saturn has rings in its orb.

Penske needs models. Indiana officials – local and state – can work in concert to work with existing automakers in the state to produce the next line of Saturns. Hummer may not be doing much in Mishawaka these days, but a new line for Saturn could do wonders for that community, not to mention neighboring Elkhart where the unemployment rate has been the nation's highest.

Officials also could work with folks in Lafayette at the Subaru/Toyota plant, where some of the most popular cars in the world are manufactured with American hands on American soil. Then again, some work also could be farmed out to that mile-long GM truck plant in Fort Wayne where Saturn could tap into its GM roots one more time. And there's something to be said for being fond of Honda in Greensburg, which could add compact lines to a re-vamped Saturn corporation.

Why Indiana and not other states, you ask?

It's simple. Michigan is already stretched to its limits. Indiana has the suppliers that depend on the automotive industry, or at the least, manufacturing. Indiana has a diversity of automakers already in place that could collectively bail out Penske, like Al Unser Jr. slipping into a back-up car.

Could this arrangement last forever? Maybe not.

Could it bring together the best mechanical engineering minds from West Lafayette, South Bend and Terre Haute to work on the next generation of American autos? You bet.

Could it stimulate the Indiana economy in a way that no one ginormous new plant could for this state? Absolutely.

Could it dovetail with the motorsports image Indiana already enjoys from the Madison Regatta to Hoosier Tire near the Michigan state line? Unquestionably. But it will take some doing to get everyone concerned, including Penske and Indiana economic development officials, on the same page.

If they – and we – can all step back for a minute and look at the big picture, here's why they should consider it:

Can we realistically think of England turning its back on Rolls-Royce or Bentley and letting them die? Could we imagine a day when the French would say au revoir to Renault? And isn't Fiat la dolce vita in Italy?

Other countries wouldn't cut and run on proven names that are closely identified with nations.

We shouldn't either. ❖

I can't imagine anyone interested in politics not reading Howey Politics Indiana. It's one of the best of its kind in the nation.

Charlie Cook, Cook Political Report

HOWEY *Politics Indiana*

About Brian Howey

A third generation Hoosier journalist, Brian Howey has reported, edited and provided commentary for the Warsaw Times-Union, Elkhart Truth, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette and NUVO Newsweekly. He is a go to source for Chris Cillizza's "The Fix", MSNBC's Chris Mathews Hardball and Andrea Mitchell, NPR's All Things Considered, the Washington Post, and Bloomberg News.

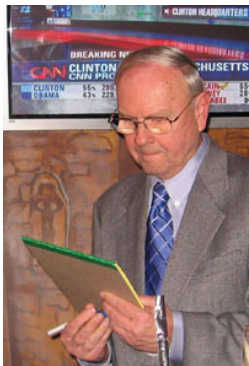
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Football hall leaves, but the bonds remain

By JACK COLWELL

SOUTH BEND - The one millionth visitor to the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend could enter the decorative downtown structure this year. Attendance from 1995 through 2008 totaled 931,223. And attendance is reported above average so far this year.



But if 2009 attendance pushes the total to 999,900, just short of the milestone, there likely will never be a millionth visitor.

The Hall of Fame is moving to Atlanta, opening there in 2012, and likely to cease operating here at the end of the year or perhaps at the end of the football season.

The failure of South Bend to keep the Hall of Fame has brought glee to some folks around here who cheer the departure and rejoice in "I told you so" merriment.

A reasonable argument can indeed be made for regarding the initial decision to attract the Hall of Fame as a mistake. Initial projections that sponsors would pick up a lot of the cost and South Bend taxpayers wouldn't have to pay a cent proved to be in error. Nobody lied. But they were wrong.

A reasonable argument also can be made that the hall did bring tourist dollars to South Bend. A facility attracting nearly a million visitors and throngs to related events certainly wasn't a total failure. And it did spur downtown development, with the popular and successful South Bend Chocolate Cafe the prime example.

A reasonable argument cannot be made, however, for glee over the hall's departure to Atlanta. The departure doesn't pay off the bonds that financed the hall. The debt lingers.

The departure does, however, halt the number of visitors attracted to downtown South Bend by the hall at about a million. Initial projections were for well over 2 million by now. The projections were wrong. But 1 million is better than nobody at all.

Also, the departure of the hall hurts the image of the South Bend area around the na-

tion.

As the Atlanta Journal-Constitution described it, South Bend is the loser, a "Rust Belt city" looking for a new tenant and ways to pay off the large remaining debt after Atlanta gets the prize.

Elsewhere, potential developers will wonder why the community couldn't keep a College Football Hall of Fame at the home of the Fighting Irish.

Mistakes were made.

Once, early, as revenue wasn't materializing as expected, there were cuts in promotion. The worst place to cut.

Some council members and others displeased with hall costs, railed against the National Football Foundation, clearly making it feel unwelcome and no doubt becoming a factor in the decision to move.

Some who were drilling holes in the bottom of the boat cheer now that it's sinking and place all the blame on the boat builders and the captain.

Dallas and Atlanta were reported by the Journal-Constitution to have been finalists in the quest for the hall, each offering attractive deals. They showed they wanted it.

Critics are justified in being critical about the initial miscalculations on the financing and attendance. But to hope for and then rejoice about a blow to their community is nuts.

You might not like the president, but to hope that he fails as the nation was teetering on the brink of a Second Great Depression?

Maybe you didn't like a former president, but to hope for failure of George W. Bush's "surge" in Iraq, with so many American lives at stake?

Loss of a Hall of Fame certainly isn't a tragedy like depression or war. But it is a blow to the community.

Because you don't like the mayor or a former mayor, is that reason to cheer a loss for the area?

Critics can say the hall should never have been invited here and that the funding was wrong.

But it was invited and came, and most of the community was delighted at the start, with enshrinement festivals, national publicity and promising early attendance.

Once it was here, it would have been better to help to make it more successful and to keep it here - at least until the bonds were retired.

Instead, the one millionth visitor could yet come this year. And be the last ever. ❖

Colwell has been covering Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.





CBO says reforms will reduce deficit \$81B

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama's push for health care reform cleared a major hurdle Wednesday when congressional scorekeepers found that the Senate Finance Committee's bill matches key parts of Obama's wish list — cutting costs and expanding coverage, all without busting the budget (Politico). The Congressional Budget Office estimated the legislation would cost \$829 billion over 10 years, bringing it well within the president's \$900 billion target and clearing the way for a committee vote by the weekend. "Our balanced approach in the Finance Committee to health reform I think has paid off once again," Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) said on the Senate floor shortly after the CBO estimate was released. "It improves and expands health care coverage for tens of millions of American families." From Capitol Hill to the White House, Democrats had been exceedingly anxious about the CBO's verdict. The nonpartisan CBO has the power to make a bill — or break it. Former President Bill Clinton learned this lesson on health care in the early 1990s, when the office had as much of a role in thwarting his reform efforts as anything else. If the CBO had projected the Finance Committee bill as way over budget, or covering too few people, Baucus would have been forced back to the negotiating table, further jeopardizing Obama's hope of signing a bill by the end of the year. But the analysis was as good as the White House or Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) could have wanted. The Baucus bill came in under budget, covers 94 percent of American citizens, reduces



the deficit by \$81 billion after 10 years and continues to rack up savings in the second 10 years. The estimate removes a major hurdle toward a vote in the committee, because senators — in particular, Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine, who could be the only Republican senator to support the legislation — said they needed to see the cost breakdown before taking up the bill. Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the committee chairman and principal architect of the measure, hailed the budget report. "This legislation, I believe, is a smart investment on our federal balance sheet. It's an even smarter investment for American families, businesses and our economy," he said on the Senate floor (CNN).

Daniels to discuss state revenue decline

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels discussed the state's tax collections for the first quarter of the new budget year (Associated Press). Daniels provided no specifics about the revenue numbers, but said state leaders would continue to watch the figures closely. He said if revenues continue to decline, budget advisers may have to develop contingency plans. Indiana's revenues were \$254 million below projections for July, August and September, the state announced this morning. September revenue losses alone were \$165 million. Daniels had a news conference this morning to present the latest figures.

Bush coming to Indiana Nov. 19

INDIANAPOLIS - Former President George H.W. Bush will visit Indianapolis on Nov. 19 for a reception and dinner to aid Alzheimer's disease research at the IU School of Medicine and the Alzheimer's Association's Indiana chapter. Bush will speak and answer questions from guests at the Indiana Roof Ballroom, said Dollyne

Pettingill Sherman, spokeswoman for Ambassador Healthcare, a co-sponsor with the Central Indiana Community Foundation. Physicians who specialize in Alzheimer's care will speak, and there will be a live auction of "just a few very unique items," according to Sherman. Dinner tickets cost \$250. Tickets priced at \$1,500 admit guests to the reception and dinner and include a photo opportunity with Bush. Sponsorships of \$2,500 to \$10,000 also are available. The \$10,000 level includes an invitation to a private briefing with the former president. Tickets may be purchased by calling (317) 577-2827.

Souder, Pence weigh in on gun, cross cases

WASHINGTON - Rep. Mark Souder, R-3rd, added his voice to gun rights activists who want the Supreme Court to overturn Chicago's 27-year-old handgun ban, and Rep. Mike Pence, R-6th, has petitioned the court to allow a Christian cross on public land (Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The two Hoosier lawmakers joined friend-of-the-court briefs that people or organizations file with the Supreme Court as the justices prepare to hear a case. The court announced last week it will hear a case that challenges the right of Chicago — or any city or state — to restrict gun ownership. On Wednesday, it heard arguments in the case involving a cross on public land in the Mojave desert. Souder is collecting signatures from lawmakers for a brief he hopes will nudge the court to rule against the Chicago gun ban just as it ruled 5-4 last year that a handgun ban in the District of Columbia violated the Second Amendment. More than 300 of the 435 members of Congress weighed in during that case, arguing that the D.C. law was unconstitutional. The men who wrote the Constitution and the Bill of Rights "clearly meant these to be national rights," Souder said of freedom of speech, freedom



of religion and the right to bear arms. The outcome of the case will have no consequence for Hoosier communities because the state does not allow city and county councils to write tighter gun restrictions than are in state law. "The Chicago case will not impact any gun laws in Indiana, but it would be great if it would help our elected officials realize that most restrictions short of a general gun ban are constitutionally permissible," said Paul Helmke, former Fort Wayne mayor and president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. The court is expected to hear arguments early next year. In the case involving a religious symbol on public land, Pence and 14 other lawmakers urged the court to rule that it does not violate the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion. During oral arguments Wednesday, Justice Antonin Scalia said he didn't understand how some might feel excluded by a cross that was put up in 1934 as a memorial to soldiers killed in World War I.

Carson to set aside tainted funds

WASHINGTON - Indiana Congressman Andre Carson has set aside \$25,500 in campaign funds--matching the money contributed by a woman accused of embezzlement and her domestic partner, a former Indiana lobbyist (WIBC). A spokesman says the amount may be increased if it is determined that Carson is holding funds donated to his grandmother, Julia Carson, who preceded him in office. 58-year-old Phyllis Stevens is being held in Las Vegas, where she was arrested September 25th on charges of money laundering and wire fraud. She's accused of diverting \$5.9 million in commissions paid by her employer, Aviva USA, an insurance company based in Des Moines, Iowa. The money was allegedly diverted to a National City Bank account in Indianapolis.

Brizzi comments draw in Disciplinary panel

INDIANAPOLIS - The Indiana Supreme Court's Disciplinary Commission has leveled charges against Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi for public comments about two cases, including the 2006 Hamilton Avenue slayings (Murray, Indianapolis Star). The commission accuses Brizzi, a Republican, of making comments in a 2006 news release and during a 2008 news conference that went beyond informing the public of his decisions to file charges. The complaint cites several comments by Brizzi that condemn the two defendants accused of killing seven people on Hamilton Avenue, including, "They weren't going to let anyone or anything get in the way of what they believed to be an easy score." He said the crime merited the death penalty. Last year, Brizzi speculated about accused serial killer Bruce Mendenhall's mindset and discussed evidence against him in an Indianapolis slaying. The commission says in its Oct. 1 verified complaint that such comments outside the courtroom violate professional rules of conduct and could prejudice a case. Desmond Turner's trial in the Hamilton Avenue case begins Monday. Brizzi recently dropped his death penalty request in a deal that included Turner waiving his right to a jury trial. "I think the timing is suspicious," Brizzi said Wednesday. "I will reserve comment until I see the complaint."

Muncie to use sugar beets on icy streets

MUNCIE - A new project through Muncie-Delaware County Stormwater Management aims to make life a little bit easier for both populations (Muncie Star Press). Stormwater Management will be providing local road crews with non-traditional materials for melting ice this winter. The three

different materials are all liquids, mostly derivatives of sugar beets or salt brine. Depending on the material, they can be sprayed directly on the road or mixed with dry salt before application. Wet salt and liquid applications cling to the road instead of bouncing off or being swept away by traffic, according to Shareen Wagley from Stormwater Management. As a result, road crews don't need to spread as much product, saving money and minimizing the threat to the environment.

Union concessions for Sun-Times group

CHICAGO - Four of the five unions that represent hundreds of Sun-Times Media Group newsroom employees have approved deep wage-and-benefit cuts, the Chicago Sun-Times reported late Wednesday (Times of Northwest Indiana). The votes by editorial staffs at the Chicago Sun-Times, Lake County News-Sun, Joliet Herald-News and Pioneer Press followed days of negotiations between Newspaper Guild leaders and company officials, the Sun-Times reported. Editorial staff of the Post-Tribune was expected to vote early today. Gary Newspaper Guild President Andy Grimm said guild members hadn't received formal notice of the contract changes on Wednesday night. "We have nothing distributed to our members," he said.

City updates sex offender ordinance

JEFFERSONVILLE - Following more than a year of legal challenges and appeals, the Jeffersonville City Council on Wednesday updated an ordinance that bans sex offenders from entering city parks (Mann, News & Tribune).