

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

The Howey Political Report is published by The Newsletter Center, a subsidiary of Nixon Newspapers Inc.

The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana. It neither endorses candidates nor advocates positions of public policy

Brian A. Howey, editor Office/Fax: 219-420-0909
1707 N. Anthony Blvd. Mobilenet: 219-438-5105
Fort Wayne, IN 46805 AOL: Hwypolitik@aol.com

For Subscription information call: 317-473-3091

© 1995, The Howey Political Report

“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“And if four years ago George Bush lost a race he once seemed sure to win, next year Bill Clinton could win a race he now seems sure to lose...”

— Michael Barone, U.S. News & World Report

Foreign crisis would benefit Lugar bid

Shift in focus overseas would leave Hoosier in unique '96 position

Imagine that it's November 1995.

A graphite nuclear reactor in the Ukraine erupts in flames and radioactive gas, and over a period of the next five days is blown across five European nations. Millions of acres of the steppes are now unfit for human habitation while millions of refugees stream west.

It's a second Chernobyl. It underscores the precarious nature of the struggling republics that constituted the former Soviet Union.

The potential of this kind of scenario was acknowledged by U.S. Sen. Richard G. Lugar last December during his annual symposium at the University of Indianapolis for high school juniors. Russia and the Ukraine have acknowledged a major problem about their faulty reactors, but they are also looking for someone to supply the power lost by shutting the reactors down, Lugar said.

The "Chernobyl" scenario is nightmarish and considerably more remote than the fact that small amounts of weapons grade uranium has been confiscated in several European airports, or that a U.S. commando team was invited to Khazakstan last fall to rush barrels of refined nuclear material to Oak Ridge, Tenn.

But this "November 1995" scenario would play directly into the hands of a Lugar presidential campaign. He is the only potential candidate who has campaigned about global security in the post-Cold War age.

While that will not be the only emphasis of Lugar's probable presidential bid, it is the kind of scenario that could take the Indiana Republican from the "bottom of the heap" status he now has in the GOP presidential derby to that of a legitimate contender.

Indiana's senior senator journeyed to New Hampshire last weekend as part of the Republican Party's "Vision" dinner and staked out unique territory. While the seven other candidates dedicated their vision to domestic affairs, Lugar was alone in addressing foreign poli-

continued on page 2

INSIDE FEATURES

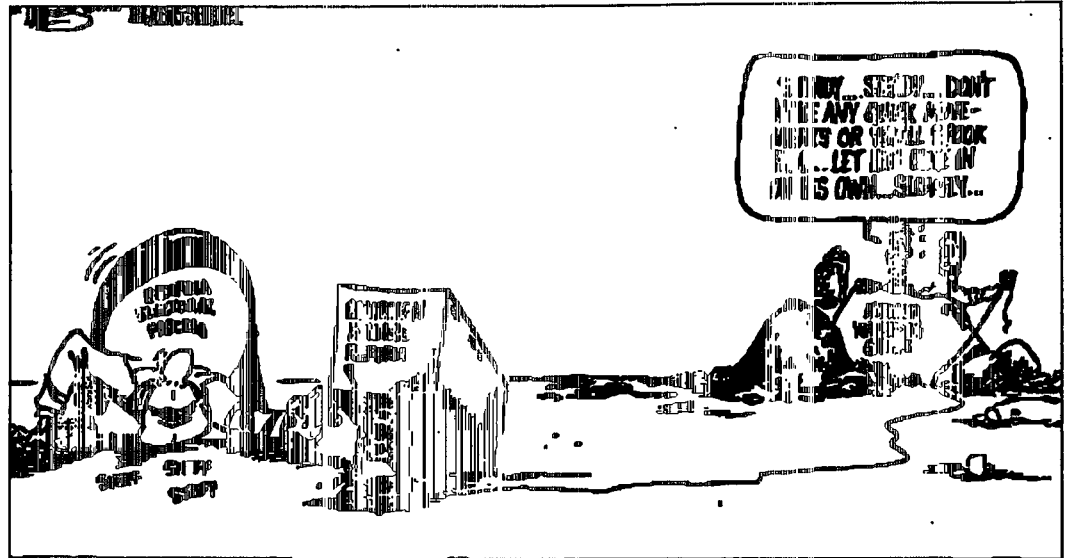
- Horse Race: Fort Wayne Dems get Essex page 3
- Indiana, national press react to Lugar page 4
- Columnists Cady, Haase, Howey and Tuley page 5
- HPR interview: Sen. Coats warns legislators page 6-7
- Memories at the Port-a-Pit Hall in Wakarusa page 8

TICKER T A P E

It was billed as a triumphant tour to Fort Wayne and South Bend to show how House Republicans had honored their campaign pledge by voting on all 10 points of the "Contract With Indiana." But when State Reps. Brian Bosma and Sam Turpin showed up at Fort Wayne International Airport, they found more angry tradesmen than inquisitive reporters. The workers were still seething about the GOP's stance on the prevailing wage. Coverage on at least one Fort Wayne TV station centered mostly on the labor issue, and when it did get to the contract, they quoted Democrats as saying it was more window dressing because Senate Republicans haven't signed on.

Alan Julian of the *Evansville Courier* writes how Evansville Republicans were spurned by the man who could have given Mayor Frank McDonald II the best run for his money. Bob Whitehouse was stung when he sought the imprimatur of the Pocket City GOP in 1991, but they opted for State Rep. Vaneta Becker, who was walloped. Whitehouse was so upset that he switched parties. "I'm a Democrat now," he said. Wrote Julian, "None of their party stalwarts has been eager to run against McDonald. A Whitehouse candidacy would have looked pretty good to the GOP this year." Instead, McDonald faces a challenge from political consultant and columnist David Scott Coker.

Continued on page 3



Lugar, from page 1

cy. A decision on if, and when, to officially declare his candidacy had yet to be made as of mid-day Wednesday. Lugar has been reviewing press clips of last weekend, talking with contributors and potential campaign staff, and assessing his chances. If Lugar does announce, it will likely occur within the next week.

His emphasis on foreign policy was not universally accepted. Charles Brereton, author of the book "First in the Nation," observed, "Now that Moscow has disappeared, the new enemy is the federal government" (Philip Trounstein, San Jose Mercury News).

Lugar isn't staking a candidacy strictly on foreign policy. On the domestic front, Lugar has gained a reputation as a budget cutter for revamping the USDA and the phase-out of inefficient subsidies. But if the 1996 campaign were to develop strictly around domestic affairs, Lugar's message would stand a good chance of getting lost in the din.

Yet Americans are seeing troubling images from just over the horizon. All four major TV networks have shown a wobbly Russian President Boris Yeltsin wildly directing the band at a recent ceremony. The status of the Russian military after the Chechen debacle is troubling in the context of the balance of power. Lugar himself has warned that, unlike the aforementioned nuclear power disaster scenario, there is considerable renegade nuclear activity in Korea, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq and India.

Bruce G. Blair of the Brookings Institute will disclose in his new book, "Global

Zero Alert for Nuclear Forces," the U.S. Air Force is in the process of identifying "hundreds of potential targets in Third World nations that are developing chemical, biological and nuclear weapons."

While he considers whether to run, the Lugar camp believes it accomplished what it set out to do in Manchester. "He successfully set himself apart from the field, pointing out he has the best qualifications for the job as opposed to giving a Lincoln Day speech or a class president speech," said Kevin Kellems, Lugar's Indiana director who accompanied him on the trip. "He clearly set himself apart."

What advocates for a Lugar presidential bid continually stress is that the political environment - not only in the United States, but worldwide - is by historic standards unstable. It is capable of accelerating the instability at a rapid pace. Lugar aides mock the notion that it's too late to enter the 1996 presidential race, since the New Hampshire primary is still virtually a year away. They see a 71-year-old front-runner with a history of political self-destruction, a dogmatic Texan and a former Tennessee governor, both with no foreign policy experience, as keeping the Indiana senator from moving from "second tier" to "first tier" campaign status.

But if the world in early 1996 looked much the same as it does today - with, perhaps, a retrial of O.J. Simpson dominating the news - a Lugar presidential bid would not be well served.

That's the equation Lugar's brain trust has had to come to grips with as they prepare the roll of the political dice.

Fort Wayne Democrats find Essex; Hatcher declines to enter Gary race

When we last left the mayoral race in Fort Wayne, Democratic Party executive director Brian Stier had gone to the Embassy Theater to watch "Jesus Christ Superstar."

At 11:59 a.m. last Friday, Stier's prayers were answered...in a significant way. Wayne Township Trustee Thomas Essex filed to run as a Democrat, giving this embattled party some sorely needed credibility.

Essex is a proven vote-getter, having won the trustee's office twice. His victory last fall was by only 47 votes, but he gets the benefit of the 1994 asterisk (the GOP revolution). Essex is known as a reformer, winning the trustee's office after it had been rocked by scandal and allegations that too many people were getting a free ride. And Essex gives Fort Wayne its first significant black candidate. It gives the party a chance to fire up its moribund urban base which has been stung by the loss of Jill Long's congressional seat and Ben GiaQuinta's Indiana House seat.

There were a couple of surprise developments. Former Elkhart County Commissioner John Bentley announced as a Republican for the Elkhart mayor's race. That creates a tough pri-

HORSE RACE

mary battle for Councilwoman Carol McDowell. The winner faces three-term Democrat James Perron.

Mishawaka Mayor Robert Beutter found himself with a primary challenge from former Democrat Harold Owen. He will probably face Democrat Dona Lynn Hall, who lost in the 1991 Democratic primary.

South Bend Republicans will have a choice of three candidates - James W. Philson, Larry M. Scott and Michael C. Waite - although none of these candidates are the choice of the GOP city committee. The winner faces three-term Mayor Joseph E. Kernan.

Along the Lake Michigan rim, Republicans failed to find a candidate in Michigan City. In Gary, former Mayor Richard Hatcher declined to get in the race.

In Kokomo, four Democrats and three Republicans are seeking mayoral nominations.

TICKER TAPE

The shadow of J. Patrick Rooney keeps showing up in national places. A *Newsweek* "Periscope" item tells of how Newt Gingrich's favorite pollster, Frank Luntz, is now working with private clients "who have interests before Congress." You guessed it, in addition to Merrill Lynch, *Newsweek* cites Golden Rule Insurance Co. as a firm which has retained Luntz. It adds, "Luntz denies that he uses his access to Gingrich to advance his private clients' causes."

A *Michigan City News-Dispatch* story tells of a Federal Election Commission plan to restrict the transferral of campaign fund donations to the legal defense funds of embattled politicians. It cites a \$2,500 donation U.S. Rep. Pete Viscosky made to the legal defense fund of then-U.S. Rep. Dan Rostenkowski.

South Bend Tribune's Susan Dillman writes, "The early outlook is sunny for a bill that would put Indiana back on daylight-saving time." She cites DST backers who predict it has a good chance of passing the Indiana House.

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh ran the second-most expensive Congressional campaign in Indiana history, spending \$971,705, second only to the \$1,085,140 then-U.S. Rep. John Hiler spent to defeat Democrat Tom Ward in 1988.

continued on page 4

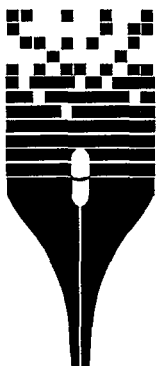
Next edition of The Howey Political Report: March 3, 1995

The Howey Political Report is copyright 1995 by The Newsletter Center, Inc., and Nixon Newspapers, Inc. All rights reserved. Photocopying, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or in part, is a violation of federal law and is strictly prohibited without the written consent of the editor.

Subscriptions, for 40 editions annually are:

- \$250 - first class mail ■ \$295 - fax
- \$125 - government employees ■ \$50 for news media

To order The Howey Political Report, call 317-473-3091 or fax invoice information (including Visa and Mastercard, with account number) to 317-473-8428.



TICKER

T A P E

McIntosh still owes \$12,352. Speaking of campaign spending, U.S. Reps. John Hostettler and Mark Souder received 2 and 9 percent of their campaign funds from PACs, compared to 65 percent for Visclosky, 72 percent for U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer, and 60 percent for U.S. Rep. John Myers.

Look for some old familiar names to play major roles in a Lugar presidential bid. Former EPA chief and 1968 senatorial nominee William Ruckelshaus will likely help in the fund-raising. Former press aide Mark Helmke would be charged with directing communications, and Mark Lubbers would play a key role in staffing.

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh was ruffling feathers of two generations of Democrats on *NBC Nightly News* Tuesday night. He charged that "each family in America spends \$6,000 a year complying with regulations" as his House subcommittee prepared to consider freezing more than 4,300 federal regulations. Said President Clinton, "These are extreme proposals." And added former Maine Sen. Ed Muskie, who wrote the original Clean Water Act, "It's dangerous."

Times-Mirror poll has Clinton at a 44 percent approval rating, and a 44 percent disapproval rating. A Wirthlin Group poll shows that 52 percent feel "the Republicans in Congress are heading in the right direction. Only 10 percent disagree.

continued on page 5

National, Indiana news media react to Lugar's first campaign foray into New Hampshire

Here is the reaction of the Indiana and national press to Sen. Richard Lugar's campaign trip to Manchester, N.H.

■ Richard L. Berke, *New York Times* - Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana said he would "offer strong diplomatic military leadership." Of all the candidates, Lugar and Ms. Martin generated the least enthusiasm.

■ George Stuteville, *Indianapolis Star* - He was a quiet, gentle message, laced with humor - not the loud, righteous rhetoric of anger. And if there were any question about Lugar's ability to strike emotional chords of potential voters in a presidential primary, it was shed at Grace Lutheran Church.

■ Stuart Rothenberg (to Stuteville) - Lugar's chances are close enough to be zero, they are zero. His message? I don't know what the heck his message will be. I guess in the party he is a moderate conservative who doesn't ruffle feathers. Where does that fit in?

■ Philip J. Trounstein, *San Jose Mercury News* - They came, they dined, they pandered. From Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, Texas Sen. Phil Gramm and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander - the strongest contenders - to Pennsylvania Sen. Arlen Specter, Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar and conservative commentator Patrick Buchanan, cutting government down to size has, in various forms and degrees of fervor, become the wisdom of the 1995 campaign. Throw in, for good measure, Lugar's call for a president who specializes in national security, former Labor Secretary Lynn Martin's call for civility and former State Department officer Alan Keyes' denunciation of licentiousness and you've got yourself a party.

■ Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* - "I would love to be able to tell you if personalities will dominate or issues will dominate" the 1996 race, (Gov. Steve) Merrill said in an inter-

view before dinner. "I honestly don't know. People may decide they like somebody. They may, on the other hand, decide that this is such a critical point in American history that warming up to the candidate isn't as important as believing that this candidate is a great leader. So I think Dick Lugar has a chance to sell his message here on foreign policy."

■ Michael Tackett, *Chicago Tribune* - The great New Hampshire grovel has begun. Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana tried to keep his message simple, essentially that peace and prosperity were the true measures of a president, and that nearly every other issue could better be handled by state and local government.

■ Michael Barone, *U.S. News & World Report* - Lugar is candid, unabrasive, experienced in foreign policy. As chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, he is challenging farm subsidies, a possible contrast with Dole that could help Lugar outside Iowa. After completing a Rhodes Scholarship, he enlisted in the Navy - a contrast with President Clinton. Lugar will try to capitalize on his own expertise by focusing on issues such as promoting America's interests abroad, cutting the federal budget and sending domestic issues back to the states.

■ David L. Haase, *Indianapolis News* - Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar came to the Granite State Saturday an underdog, a long shot for the Republican nomination for president in 1996. Today, he headed back to Washington, still an underdog and a long shot, but one contented with his performance Sunday at a cattle call for Republican presidential wannabes. Lugar starts at the bottom of the heap.

■ John Persinos, *Campaign and Elections* - Well, who is Lugar?

Charles Cook (to Stuteville) - Someone like Lugar, as serious and responsible a member as there is in the Senate, probably doesn't have a prayer of winning the GOP nod.

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

■ Tom Tuley, Evansville Courier - Back when Richard Lugar was running the city of Indianapolis and contemplating a candidacy for the U.S. Senate, the word in the street was that this would be a foolish venture for the young mayor. Never pull it off, they said. No personality. No charisma. No charm. Too dry. Too serious. Doesn't come off well on television. Lugar as president? Makes a lot more sense to most Hoosiers than Dan Quayle for vice president did seven years ago. In fact, when George Bush picked Quayle as his running mate, much of Indiana reacted as if Bush had made a horrible mistake and simply picked the wrong Indiana senator. Now, we read that Bush felt he needed an attack dog, and that was not Lugar's style. Indeed, it is not. And this candidate, if he is one, won't turn into a Hoosier joke.

■ David L. Haase, Indianapolis News - At a dozen or more dinner tables in Washington and Indianapolis this week, conversation centered on Dick Lugar and sacrifice. How much can we give up to help the senator run for president? Good question. Only tough answers. For at least 26 years Dick Lugar has been taking young people just out of college or graduate school or their first real job, bringing them into his sphere - first as mayor, then as senator - and giving them inordinate trust and responsibility. And they fall in love with the guy. And he has begun calling in the chits. Can you help? I'd like your help. Will you do it? As one Lugar loyalist put it, "The draft board has issued all of us our draft cards - and there are no 4-Fs." Even if that were not the case, most would want to jump. How often in life do you get to work on a presidential campaign? About this time, the spouses chime in. Whoa! We're for the senator, too, but how are we going to live, eat, pay the bills while you are off campaigning. Lugar's people - and they are legion - now feel contradictory tugs between loyalty to family and loyalty to the senator.

■ Brian Howey, HPR - Dan Quayle has become one of the most compelling, perhaps contradic-

tory, political figures of our time. He has been widely scoffed at and ridiculed. Yet he framed one of the most poignant sets of issues - family values - on the national agenda. Would Quayle best serve his goals, which still include the presidency, by serving as governor of Indiana? The next four years, when the latest twist of "New Federalism" takes hold and a slew of new responsibilities are poured on the states, are going to be messy. Many believe that eight years of Evan Bayh's "no new taxes" will create a situation where new revenue will have to be produced or deep cuts made. Put yourself in Quayle's shoes: having spent the last 16 years on the big, national picture, why would he want to come and do battle with the Indiana State Teachers Association, or find himself mired in a decision over whether to veto informed-consent legislation? And particularly if the road to the governor's mansion might mean taking a three-point shot to defeat someone of Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon's stature, as opposed to the political lay-up. The hunch here is that Quayle will be content speaking out on the national issues, where his unique stature would allow him to command wide attention. When the next Republican administration comes to power, Quayle might find a post such as Secretary of Defense, where he developed the kind of respect during his Senate tenure to capture George Bush's attention, more fitting to his national profile.

■ Dick Cady, Indianapolis Star - Assuming you like Dick Lugar, would you vote to send him back to the Senate if he admitted he might not serve a full term. For most people, the answer would be an emphatic no. Now we come to Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's refusal to tell the voters whether he'll complete a second term. Re-elect me anyone, Goldsmith says. Can he get away with it. You bet he can. Goldsmith can refuse to commit to a full second term because the Democratic Party in this county is a skeleton of what it once was. It has been fading since the early 1970s.

Thursday, February 23, 1995

TICKER TAPE

Washington political analyst Charles Cook has put the early line out on 1996 congressional races. He rates Steve Buyer, Dan Burton, Andy Jacobs, Pete Visclosky and Tim Roemer as "solid" choices for re-election; Lee Hamilton, Mark Souder, John Hostettler, and John Myers as "likely" to win re-election. Curiously, Cook lists Hamilton's 9th CD as a "potentially open seats for 1996," listing "retirement" as a reason. State Sen. Jean Leising is expected to decide by this summer whether to wage a rematch.

HPR has learned of a Thompson Newspaper poll that, among other little goodies, has Dan Quayle beating Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon by a 45-37 percent edge. That surprises some Republicans about Quayle showing up under 50 percent. Quayle has 100 percent name ID, compared to 73 percent for O'Bannon. And 27 percent said they didn't think Marilyn Quayle should run for governor. HPR also hears that a poll commissioned by Mayor Steve Goldsmith had O'Bannon leading Dan Quayle.

A caller to Network Indiana's *Mike Pence Show* made this devastating remark: convicted killers got a hearing on the Senate floor for the lethal injection bill, but the unborn haven't been given the same right in the House, where State Rep. John Keeler has the informed consent bill bottled up in Judiciary. Pence is reporting many irate callers on the informed consent controversy.

HPR

INTERVIEW



Sen. Coats warns legislators of the state impact of the GOP revolution

The term "New Federalism" is being bandied about these days, much as it was back in 1981 when the "Reagan Revolution" vowed to return massive shares of government to the states.

Walter Mears, special correspondent for the AP, notes that "the goal of restoring power to state governments already is becoming an issue in the buildup toward the 1996 presidential campaign." Much talk in Washington is geared toward the 10th Amendment, which reserves to the states powers not delegated to the federal government by the Constitution.

Earlier this week, Sen. Dan Coats addressed both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly. His message - one apparently not fully comprehended - is that states are going to have their hands full as the Gingrich revolution divests Washington of many of its responsibilities.

Comparing it to the battles of 1981, Coats likened it to the Battle of Gettysburg, and didn't dismiss the notion that after Indiana legislators complete the biennial budget in April, they might very well find themselves back at the financial drawing board next year once new roles are defined.

Coats sat down with HPR and Mary Beth Schneider of The Indianapolis Star following his speech to the Indiana Senate for this interview:

HPR: You can almost take the message you delivered on the Senate floor and make a case that the states are going to have to look at some different kind of leadership for the task at hand. Is Dan Quayle the type of person who could engineer that new role?

Coats: He's fully capable. The question is whether that's what he wants to do with this next stage of his life. That's clearly an administrative role and I know he feels very strongly about the message that speaks to an agenda that no other front-line candidate is speaking to at this point. I think he wants to continue that.

HPR: Do you think that people here in state government and the legislature realize the gravity of the message you just delivered?

Coats: I don't know if anybody understands the enormity of what is taking place and frankly, given the schedule of the time, this is an urgent message. This is actually happening and, I think, it's...dramatic...beyond anyone's ability to fully grasp at this point. You know, I was sounding a warning that there is an enormous shift of historic proportions and we need to give it a lot of thought. A lot of preparation needs to take place. We may be overwhelmed. Maybe not Indiana, but some states may be overwhelmed with new policies and new responsibilities that are going to be shifted to them.

Schneider: If you're only shifting government from federal to state, it doesn't matter to most people who wrote the law. How much less government are we going to see, or are we just going to see different people pulling the strings?

Coats: That's why I said the first step has to be consolidation. We will not successfully limit the role of government and free the burden of the taxpayer unless we consolidate and reduce the amount of regulatory and administrative burden. That has to be the first step. If it isn't, we're just shifting it from one government to another. I still think you gain. State governments by experience are able to do things in a more simple and efficient way than centralized governments. But, clearly, we won't have the dramatic change voters are asking unless we dramatically reduce the scope of the governmental program. A good example, just in the job training area alone, there are 165 separate federal job training programs administered by more than a dozen, I think 20, federal agencies. The administrative effort and cost of that, the paperwork burden, regulatory burden and compliance burden to communities is enormous. Stage one has to be consolidation, taking 165 programs and bringing it down to four or five. Then we have to

"This is the Gettysburg of the whole federalism concept. And the winner of this battle will determine the future of this country. I don't think we can necessarily count on a second chance...."

- Sen. Dan Coats

"This is no disrespect for the governor or our state legislators. I don't think anyone fully comprehends the enormity of what we're doing...."

- Sen. Dan Coats

accumulate those funds for those programs, block grant them and shift them to the states. We have to do so in a way to give maximum sensibility, because we don't have all the answers to provide effective job training and effective welfare. We need to use the states as laboratories.

HPR: Where are some of the other areas where you think state leadership will be severely tested?

Coats: Clearly welfare, job training, the health safety regulations, OSHA, EPA, education, to some extent. We still have retained a substantial level of state and local involvement in education. The administration of anti-crime measures, which is what you would call public safety. Child care. Personal health, depending on what we do with Medicaid. Some have suggested we trade programs; that we take back Medicaid.

Schneider: With the EPA, can you leave that to individual states when you may have a power plant in Tennessee polluting the air in Vermont?

Coats: There are some things that cross state lines that states won't be able to resolve. But we ought to give them the opportunity to do it. We do have state compacts that have addressed a number of issues that affect more than one state. There is a trade-off. I think we've gone way overboard in trying to impose national uniformity in ways that really penalize certain states in certain areas.

HPR: The legislature is in the process of crafting a biennial budget. You're suggesting that maybe what's happening in Washington hasn't fully registered here in the states. Are we likely to see next fall or next spring the need to reopen the biennial budget to take into account the shift of power?

Coats: It's possible. I can't predict that at this particularly point. We're still negotiating what the particular dates should be and the parameters. I think it's a little early to conclude that, but I do think it's clearly possible.

HPR: Maybe I'm looking for something intangible here. Are the Evan Bayhs, Bob Gartons and Paul Mannweilers of the world asking you the right questions, or is their interest just getting piqued over this shift in power?

Coats: This is no disrespect for the governor or our state legislators. I don't think anyone fully comprehends the enormity of what we're doing. Part of the reason is they don't know what we're doing for sure; we don't know what we're doing for sure. We don't know the final disposition of welfare, or job training. And so they can't really move forward with any assurance yet of what they need to do because they don't know what we're going to do. We may craft a complete transfer of welfare to the states and the president may veto it. We're moving at a fast enough pace that we'll know the answer to this by late spring or early summer.

Schneider: Is this historic shift coming too fast, so that people aren't looking at all the ramifications?

Coats: Those who don't want change talk about the complexities of the effort and say we need more time to study and evaluate this. Time will dull the enthusiasm for this effort. There may be some consequences we may not have foreseen. I think now is the time for bold strokes because you don't know when the moment is going to pass.

HPR: Put this into context with the "New Federalism" of the early '80s. Was that minor leagues and this is major leagues?

Coats: Those were the opening shots. This is the real battle. We have had 14 years of government having the inability to get a handle on itself. In that time, we've seen the national debt go from less than a trillion (dollars) to over five trillion. And it is frightening and the implications are frightening. So we're engaged in the real battle. This is the Gettysburg of the whole federalism concept. And the winner of this battle will determine the future of this country. I don't think we can necessarily count on a second chance.

HPR: What do you think the chances of the next Indiana governor having to raise taxes?

Coats: My feeling is Indiana is going to come out very, very well. We have been very efficient in using taxpayers' dollars. People in Indiana have said we want a lean, efficient government. We are a conservative state. I'd be worried if we had run a sloppy operation like they did in New York.

HUMOR

M I L L

Wendellisms, by Wendell Trogdon, *Indianapolis News*

State Trooper: "I clocked you at 78 miles per hour.

Motorist: I know. I'm speeding to Indianapolis to ask legislators to raise your pay."

Kentucky claims the Ohio...until it needs Indiana's help in building bridges across it.



Here's a potential campaign slogan the Lugar presidential campaign might want to use:

"Republican straight-shooters: If you loved Ronald Reagan, you'll love Dick Lugar...."



A Fort Wayne TV station made it obvious they're not really up on the 1996 presidential campaign. They listed in chyron one of the leading GOP contenders as "Bob Doyle."



Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce

House, n. A hollow edifice erected for the habitation of man, rat, mouse, beetle, cockroach, fly, mosquito, flea, bacillus and microbe

Incumbent, n. A person of the liveliest interest to the outcumbents.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey



Indiana is full of great places to contemplate politics over a plate of rubber chicken and partisan rhetoric. There's the Beef House over in Warren County and the Hickory Lane in Franklin County.

But there's nowhere in Indiana like Nelson's Golden Glo Port-a-Pit Hall in Wakarusa, home of the annual Elkhart County Lincoln Day bashes. I brought Nelson and Dean Gongwer some national fame last week when *Newsweek* magazine picked up my quote about Dan Quayle:

"It would be hard to go from a life of state dinners and exotic travels to doing Republican Lincoln Day Dinners at Nelson's Golden Glo Port-a-Pit Hall in Wakarusa."

Newsweek ran it on the Perspectives pages, along with other utterances from the likes of Al Cowlings, Michael McCurry, Darryl Strawberry and Mario Cuomo.

I'd used that quote before, but it hit a nerve the week after Quayle withdrew from the 1996 presidential race. And with such exposure, it seemed like a good time to empty some mighty fine memory banks that took place at the ol' Port-a-Pit Hall.

It's a fine little hall, out there among the fertile corn fields between Wakarusa and Nappanee in Amish country. One year back in the late 1970s, Sen. Howard Baker showed up for a Lincoln Day speech. He was a potential 1980 presidential contender and the Elkhart Republicans wouldn't let him eat his dinner. So Nelson Gongwer grabbed his plate once Baker's food began cooling, and replaced it with another. Everyone knows Golden Glo chicken is best piping hot.

But Gongwer didn't toss the dinner. Believing Baker might one day be president (or, possibly, White House chief of staff), he wrapped it up and froze it for prosperity. He liked to show off Howard Baker's dinner back in his kitchen. It may still be there in some freezer.

I showed up late to a Lincoln Day dinner there back around 1987. I was a screwy Elkhart Truth reporter back then and Elcyse Forbes, who was the kindly vice chair of the

Elkhart GOP, spied me at once. She grabbed me by my arm, pulled me through a food line filled with steaming Golden Glo chicken, taters, and so on, and found me a place to sit... at the main banquet table, three seats down from that night's keynote speaker, Gov. Bob Orr. The grin must have been impish as I stared out at the GOPers, plus a table of local media, who had to be wondering how I rated. I don't remember Gov. Bob's speech, but the Golden Glo chicken dinner was first rate.

My most conspicuous night in Wakarusa - which means "Knee Deep in Mud" in native Potawatomi - and the Port-a-Pit Hall occurred a few years later, in the spring of 1988 I believe. Legendary strategist Ed Rollins was the keynoter. He happened to be there during the Foley flap, when some GOP operative wrote a memo suggesting that House Speaker Tom Foley had latent homosexual tendencies. The national press saw it as another example of Lee Atwater's guttural shenanigans, even though Atwater was in denial.

After yet another fine meal of Golden Glo chicken, Rollins got up and spoke, which I taped. And it included one nugget of info. "I don't take Lee Atwater at his word that he didn't have anything to do with that memo." The quote shot over nearly everyone's head (I was watching), but I included it in my Truth story, and we dispatched it to AP the next morning.

I got a call the next day from Terry Holt, an old friend on the John Hiler for Congress campaign, who sensing a storm brewing, listened to another tape of the event. "Yeah, that's what he said," Holt acknowledged, "but that's not what he meant."

Official spin: Eusted syntax.

I got another call from a New York Times reporter later that night. "What did he mean?" the reporter rudely asked about Rollins.

"How in the hell was I supposed to know?" I responded. "He bolted right after the speech."

I knew the real reason behind Rollins' faux pas. Golden Glo chicken at the Port-a-Pit Hall. Greasy lips makes for slippery syntax.

Read Brian Howey's weekly column in these great Indiana newspapers

Angola Herald-Republican

Anderson Herald-Bulletin

Auburn Evening Star

Bedford Times-Mail

Bluffton News-Banner

Brazil Times

Columbia City Post & Mail

Connersville News-Examiner

Decatur Daily Democrat

Elkhart Truth

Fountain County Neighbor

Frankfort Times

Indianapolis Business Journal

Indianapolis News

Kendallville News-Sun

Muncie Evening Press

Michigan City News-Dispatch

New Castle Courier-Times

Newton County Enterprise

Peru Tribune

Shelbyville News

Wabash Plain Dealer