

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Revolutions are not for moderates...”

- Washington Post

Prevailing wage igniting labor

Seven House seats vulnerable to Democrat recoup of worker vote

Joe Hogsett knew it at 7 a.m. Election Day, when workers outside an Anderson auto plant seemed polite, but detached.

Jack Williams of the Howard County UAW CAP Council knew it that night. “I tracked 11 precincts in the Kokomo area, all either strong Democrat or marginal for the Democrats,” Williams said of his town with huge Chrysler and Delco plants. “What I found out there was about half the people in those precincts didn’t vote.

“If half of that half had voted, we would not have lost Earl Howard,” Williams said.

State Rep. Howard lost to Republican Jon Padfield by 1,226 votes.

Now, because of Indiana Republicans pressing the prevailing wage issue, Padfield, along with House colleagues like John Becker, John Kimmel, Sally Rideout Lambert, David Lohr, Irene Heffley and Dorothy Womacks figure to be on the 1996 endangered politicians list. Combined, those seven Republicans in heavy labor districts in Terre Haute, Fort Wayne, Boonville, Indianapolis and Kokomo won by a combined 4,000 votes.

All those victories came in districts where labor either didn’t vote or significant numbers voted Republican. The fact that more than 20,000 workers turned out for a Tuesday rally at the Statehouse was a true wake-up call for Republicans. But even if the Senate changes the course of action on the issue, it’s probably too late.

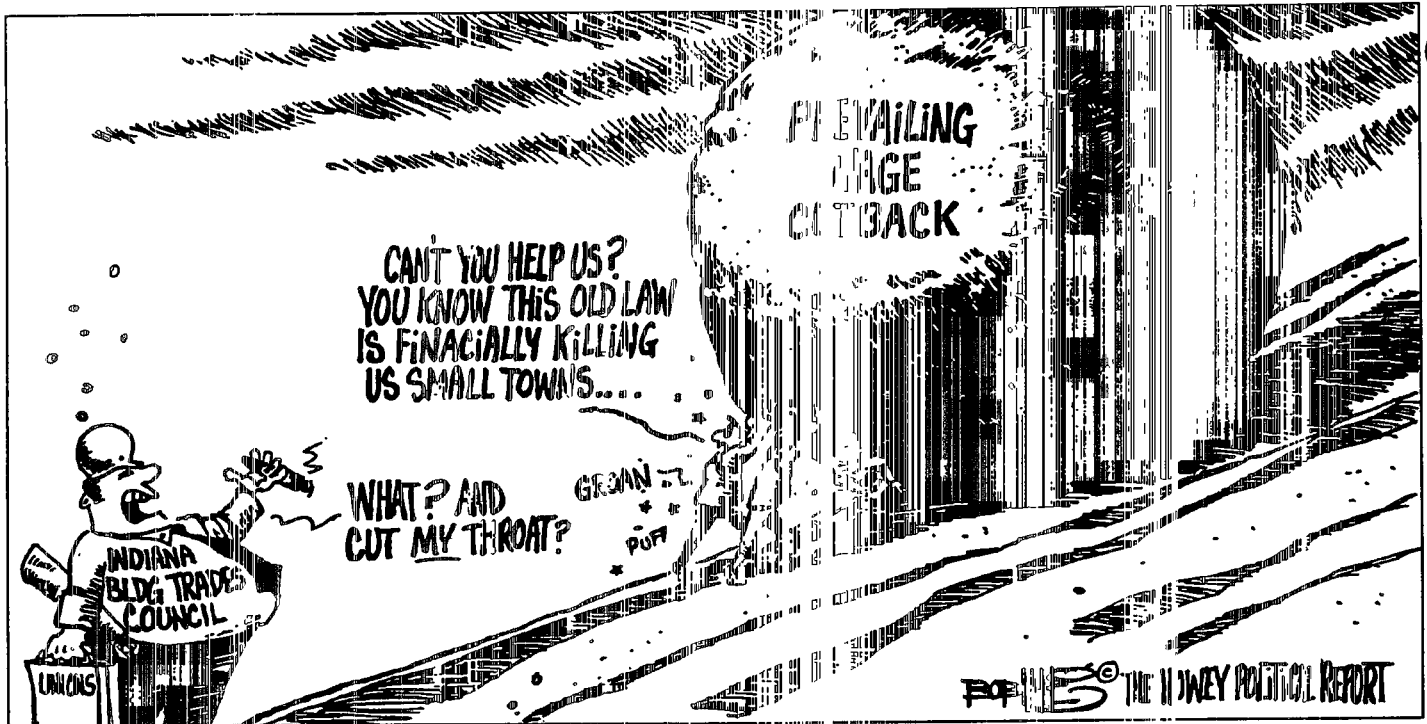
“This was like kicking a sleeping dog,” explained Mark Crouch, associate professor of labor studies at Indiana-Purdue, Fort Wayne. “You’ve got to expect it to start biting back..”

There is little data available on what percentage of Hoosier laborers voted Republican or didn’t vote. House Minority Leader John

continued on page 2

INSIDE FEATURES

- Cartoonist Bob Lang sizes up prevailing wage page 2
- Hoosier press scours Lugar’s record pages 4-5
- Quayle will take “some time” to decide plans page 6
- Columnists Leonard, Colwell, Will, Julian page 7
- Morton Marcus “Speculates” on regulations page 8



HUMOR M I L L

Wendellisms

By Wendell Trogdon

Indianapolis News

Q. "Will I get seasick on a riverboat casino in the West Baden moat?"

A. "No, just dizzy from circling the hotel."

A legislator says the General Assembly is goofier than ever Forget Florida. See the Disney characters at the Statehouse.

Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce

Insurrection, n. An unsuccessful revolution. Disaffection's failure to substitute misrule for bad government.

Labor, n. One of the processes by which A acquires property for B.

Labor reinvigorated by prevailing wage issue

Gregg put the fall-off numbers between 3,000 to 6,000 votes. He ran unopposed in his Knox County district, and ran 3,000 votes behind his 1992 totals.

In fact, there are few statistics to back up the decline in organized labor support for Democrats. Chuck Deppart of the AFL-CIO didn't have figures, nor did State Sen. Robert Hellman, who couldn't even gauge what impact prevailing wage might have on Senate races in 1996.

"I've got to figure there were 500 to 600 people from each Senate district out there," Hellman said. "That would be 2 percent of the normal vote."

In some districts, it could be higher. Becker defeated Democrat Ben GiaQuintana by a mere 7 votes on election night. But more than 2,000 building tradesmen took 18 buses to Indianapolis on Tuesday to protest. "We had to get three more buses at the last minute," said Larry Gonzalez of Fort Wayne.

Simple math in relationship to the skinny margins the Republicans won the House by in seven traditionally-strong labor districts is indicative that the GOP will have a problem in

two years.

Jim Pfaff, who helped Republicans in all seven districts as part of the Opportunity Project of Indiana, called Tuesday's turnout "really interesting."

"With Padfield, it's clearly an issue," he said. "It will be on a lot of legislators' minds. But we're fighting for a principle here."

Democrat Vern Tischer of Terre Haute was another who lost while labor sat on its hands. "He didn't get their help," said veteran journalist Dick Robinson. "He didn't get the labor vote."

Pfaff agreed. "Politically, there was no big labor involvement there."

What should be a concern to Republicans is that many of the issues OPI and movement conservatives successfully appealed to blue collar workers and tradesmen were guns, welfare and abortion. "I had a guy tell me he voted Republican because of abortion," Williams said of the Padfield/Howard race. "He told me he'd never do that again."

Crouch recalled how surprised he was during an Allen County get out the vote. "The responses I got on Election Day personally was

continued on page 3

Labor's 1996 battleground for the Indiana House

30th House District (Kokomo)	
Padfield	8,589
Howard	7,363
Difference	1,226

74th House District (Warrck, Spencer, Perry)	
Lambert	10,589
Phillips	10,314
Difference	275

100th House District (Indianapolis)	
Womacks	3,969
Day	3,818
Difference	151

43rd H use District (Terre Haute)	
Kimmel	8,549
Kearns	7,092
Difference	1,457

80th House District (Fort Wayne)	
Becker	5,206
GiaQuinta	5,199
Difference	7

A shift of 3,987 votes in these seven Indiana House of Representative Districts would have allowed the Democrats to retain control of the House. Both Democratic Party and organized labor officials believe all these districts were impacted by a lack of labor turnout.

46th H use District (Vigo, Clay, Owen)	
Lohr	8,160
Tincher	8,034
Difference	126

97th House District (Indianapolis)	
Heffley	4,782
Cantwell	4,037
Difference	745

Labor, from page 2

'I'm not going to vote for those damn Democrats' and a number of others said 'I'm not going to vote at all, I'm disgusted with the whole mess.'

"What this does is it energizes a portion of the labor movement that has not been politically active," Crouch said. "They had no reason to activate last November because we were getting corporate Democrats who weren't involved with traditional constituencies."

Said Williams, "We in labor really needed something to get our backs reared up. Something like this can build momentum."

Democrat Baron Hill watched the rally

from the westerly Statehouse steps and called it "a defining moment. Most of these people didn't see the difference between Democrats and Republicans until this."

Hellman called the upcoming Senate deliberations and potential vote (Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton will assign HB 1008 to committee) "the defining vote of the session."

And Hellman predicted that both Vigo County seats, along with Lambert's, "would have been won back anyway. This is just icing on the cake."

Some Statehouse observers give Kimmel and Womacks reasonable chances to retain their

continued on page 8

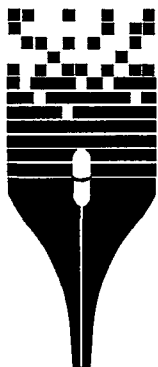
TICKER T A P E

Sen. Richard Lugar's campaign kick-off will be at noon Wednesday April 19, at Monument Circle in Indianapolis. Campaign fund-raisers will take place in Fort Wayne on April 19; Northwest Indiana on April 20; LaPorte, Warsaw and Elkhart on April 21, Muncie and Columbus, O., on April 22; Evansville and Indianapolis on April 23; and Jeffersonville/New Albany on April 24.

Elkhart native **Terry Holt** has signed on with the Lugar campaign as director of its New England operations. Holt is fresh off managing **George Nethercutt's** upset victory over **House Speaker Tom Foley** and has managed 3rd CD campaigns for **John Hiler** and **Carl Baxmeyer**. **Joe Bill Wiley** has signed on as campaign finance director in Indianapolis, and **Jennifer Curtshall** will be deputy press secretary.

Lugar is urging cuts in corn, wheat, cotton and rice subsidies of 3 percent a year over a five-year period. "Even at that level of cuts, (the price) is still 108 percent higher than the market price average for the last 10 years, which means there is still a safety net there that is somewhat above market price. (*Chicago Tribune*). Lugar said ending subsidies would "jerk the rug out in an abrupt fashion that is almost certain to lead to a catastrophe in banking institutions in many banking states."

continued on page 4



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Thursday, March 16, 1995

TICKER T A P E

Wanatah Elementary School patrons in LaPorte County are debating about whether to get rid of its politically incorrect nickname - the Midgets. The mother of a second-grader maintains the name is offensive to "individuals of small stature." (John Lundy, *Michigan City News-Dispatch*).

Notre Dame American studies chairman **Robert Schmuhl** notes in a *Chicago Tribune* op-ed piece published recently that only three sitting members of Congress have won the presidency, each 40 years apart - **Rep. James Garfield** in 1880, **Sen. Warren Harding** in 1920 and **Sen. John Kennedy** in 1960. "Not one of them lived long enough to complete a full four-year term," Schmuhl writes of the "Congressional Curse." It has done little to stop congressional aspirants. Since 1960, more than 30 MCs have sought the presidency, including Lugar, Bob Dole, Phil Gramm, Arlen Specter and Robert Dornan for the 1996 cycle.

Here's how the *Kokomo Tribune* views riverboat gambling: "Editorial writers around the state wake every morning and bless the men and women who passed the riverboat gambling law last year. The hastily constructed and narrowly-approved dinghy has sprung water at every stop on its way to reality." It concluded, "The boat in a moat legislation is an insult to Hoosiers."

continued on page 5

National press lauds Lugar, while Hoosier counterparts scour record

INDIANAPOLIS - Dick Lugar had a curious week with the media.

There were complimentary - even laudatory - nationally syndicated columns by George Will, Morton Kondracke and Ann McFeatters (see page 7) that recapped his resume and predicted that by simply emerging, Lugar has elevated the presidential process.

It was in the Indiana press that Lugar received a thorough grilling.

In Sunday's Fort Wayne *Journal Gazette* - perhaps Indiana's most liberal newspaper editorially - Washington editor Sylvia Smith wrote a page 1 story headlined "Lugar's votes seldom stray from bedrock conservatism."

"The picture that emerges is one of consistency," Smith wrote. "As Lugar campaigns for president, he can describe himself as a pro-business fiscal conservative; as a supporter of former President Reagan's massive defense build-up; as an opponent of most civil rights legislation; and as a leader on foreign policy legislation. A close review of Lugar's 18-year record finds few flip-flops."

In the March 7 edition of *The Indianapolis News* - one of Indiana's more conservative papers editorially - the headlined story by David L. Haase read much differently: "Lugar's record on the line: Social conservatives question his commitment to their causes."

Haase, the *News*' Washington correspondent, began the story this way: "Can Indiana Sen. Richard G. Lugar be too liberal for today's conservative Republican presidential politics?"

It goes on to say that "movement" conservatives - pro-life and pro-family activists - "quietly express concern and suggest this Hoosier does not measure up to other Republican hopefuls like Senators Phil Gramm and Bob Dole and conservative commentator Pat Buchanan."

And Haase quotes Bill Smith of the Indiana Family Institute as saying, "Sen. Lugar

has to do some work to recapture the social conservatives."

Dr. James Dobson, president of Focus on the Family, added, "He never mentioned the word abortion, pro-life or anything to do with the question."

Specifically, a handful of votes have put Lugar into hot water with these activists. In 1992, Lugar missed a vote on a bill that lifted a federal ban on fetal tissue research. He support-

"It would be a most compelling political story if the seeds of a backlash from the right against Lugar were to be thrown into the wind from his home state...."

ed a recent U.N. Rights of the Child treaty which conservatives believe funds abortions abroad. And there was the 1992 vote to confirm controversial Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders.

That vote prompted Charles Quilhot, president of the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, to suggest in September 1993 that, "Senator, it is time you came home."

Lugar campaign communications director Mark Helmke sees a classic conservative. "If you look at his voting record, it clearly follows a conservative ideology through and through," Helmke said Monday on the Mike Pence Show. "At the base of that is the conservative Hoosier view that government is here to encourage economic well-being and after that it's get out of our lives. It's very easy for people to tick votes here and there and say, 'Aha!'"

The backdrop to this is Lugar's deliberate method of trying to define the presidency into two major spheres of influence - security abroad and the domestic budget. Will calls it "presidential minimalism" bent on "stressing the subject of external objects."

continued on page 5

In his Feb. 19 speech in Manchester, N.H., Lugar bypassed the jokes and said, "In my judgment, there are two major tasks the next president must address. They are unique to the presidency and whoever tackles them must be good at it. One is clearly our national security. The other is our fiscal sanity."

The conservative activists are seeking a third pro-life president to make the Supreme Court appointments that will pave the way for the repeal of Roe v. Wade, even though Presidents Reagan and Bush did little toward that goal other than sending the high court on a more conservative course.

Ironically, Will notes that Lugar's campaign emphasis has deep roots to No. 45 of the Federalist Papers - must reading for movement conservatives - that reads, "The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the state governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce...."

Abortion, in this view, would be a state issue, as is the case in the Indiana General Assembly this session with the informed consent bill headed to the House.

In an interview with Indianapolis Business Journal writer Steve Kukolla, Lugar was asked if he would "take a strong stance" on abortion. "Well, I'm opposed to abortion," Lugar began. "Obviously, I've been taking stands on these issues and others for 18 years.

"My point is not to indicate that these issues may not be important to some voters, and certainly I will respond to whoever asks me how I feel about them. But I am trying to think through with the voters how we're going to obtain fiscal sanity in this country, and how we're going to obtain security for America in the world and press the American advantage."

Lugar is not alone in stressing other issues. Former Vice President Dan Quayle, who would have counted on solid core support from the religious right, in his CNN "Inside Politics" interview on Monday, was asked if he favored changing the GOP's platform on abortion. "It's not important whether I favor changing," Quayle responded. "It's the delegates who will, in fact, make that decision."

Quayle was asked if the GOP would preclude a pro-choice candidate on the ticket. "In 1980, we had a pro-life presidential candidate, Ronald Reagan, and a pro-choice vice presidential candidate, George Bush," Quayle said. "So this idea of applying a litmus test to all candidates is counterproductive."

Many pro-life activists realize their fight will not be resolved during the next presidential term. It is the Elders confirmation vote that galls them the most. Lugar used the "advise and consent" argument that President Clinton had the right to name an administration without interference from Congress.

In Quilhot's "Senator, come home" letter, he notes, "Who else are Indiana conservatives going to vote for, anyway? Well, we will have to see about that. At any rate, I'll take but a moment more from your preparations for Oct. 24 interviews in New Hampshire."

It is a stab at making abortion the GOP litmus test on a senator who compiled the highest rate of voting support for the Reagan administration, according to Congressional Quarterly.

It would be a most compelling political story if the seeds of a backlash from the right against Lugar were to be thrown into the wind from his home state.

■ **LUGAR NOTES:** Kondracke reports Des Moines Register political editor David Yepsen as saying Lugar's proposed five-year farm subsidy cuts won't sit well with most Iowa farmers. But the Lugar campaign cites a poll showing that 40 percent of Iowa farmers want the government out of agriculture altogether and another 30 percent favor a phase-down. Yepsen notes there 100,000 Iowa farm residents out of a 2.5 million population, adding, "There's a larger audience to appeal to." Yepsen notes that Gramm is telling Iowans that "everyone must give some" without specifics while Dole is saying, "ag already gave."

■ The Louisville Courier-Journal ran a piece by Michael Wines of the New York Times on Lugar. It quotes GOP savant William Kristol: "I'm glad Dick Lugar is in the race, but I don't know how he wins, frankly." Also quoted was former Quayle adviser Jeff Nesbit: "He'll walk through the door ready to be the leader of the free world."

Thursday, March 16, 1995

TICKER

T A P E

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder tells **Sylvia Smith** of the *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* that the breakneck speed of Congress is taking a toll. "I'm exhausted," he said. "I should be able to function on seven (hours of sleep), but I'm just tired. The other thing is, mentally. And then there's tension, which there's been a lot of."

A House Republican caucus vote on whether to hear SB 311, the informed consent bill, has been delayed from Monday until next week. But **State Rep. Robert Alderman** tells HPR that he expects the caucus to vote to move the bill, and once it gets into his Public Policy Committee it will easily pass both committee and floor votes.

State Rep. Steve Robbins spoke in Connersville last weekend. His message: "There's a different mindset around the House. It's very, very conservative." (**Rick Mullen**, *Connersville News-Examiner*)

State Sen. Jean Leising appeared at the same meeting. She noted a recent constituent survey showed that 75 percent "did not want IPASS to pass."

Democratic State Chairman **Joe Andrew** writes in the *Indianapolis Business Journal's* "Forefront" section, "Don't judge Democrats in a blizzard," adding, "some of our best candidates were driven off the road and the national Democratic Party found itself sitting in the ditch." And his lesson learned: "The national media" can become so overwhelming that local messages "can be lost on voters."

TICKER T A P E

This hasn't been a good month for **Rex Early** because of the "Quayle factor." "I'm the only one this hurts," Early told HPR from his campaign headquarters. "Rooney has all the money he needs. Goldsmith can raise money from the architects, consultants, contractors and anybody who wants to do business with the city." Early added, "Quite frankly, there comes a point where I can't worry about what he's going to do. The point is by the end of this month or April 15th, I'm going to go full blast in fund-raising."

Early said he spoke with former GOP chairman **Al Hubbard**. "He said he hadn't made up his mind," Hubbard said of Quayle.

George Witwer's gubernatorial campaign spokesman **Jim Pfaff** says of the Quayle anticipation: "We're just waiting to see what happens. Some people are asking, but right now it's not a factor."

J. Patrick Rooney's campaign manager, **Gordon K. Dumil**, has never lost a campaign. Rooney has said that he will stay in the race no matter what Dan or Marilyn Quayle does.

The "Pulliam" question: What if both Quayle and Goldsmith both run for governor?

Quayle 'endorsement' was really 'support'; no snub taken says Lugar's spokesman

Don't count on a Dan Quayle for governor decision any time soon. In a Monday interview on CNN's "Inside Politics," Quayle said it would be "some time" before he would make that decision.

"I haven't really decided what my next political step will be," Quayle told CNN's Gene Barnett. "I just got out a few weeks ago from one race. I will take some time to think about it and talk to people in Indiana. The people in Indiana will help make a decision on what my next step will be. I will not be able to make that decision for some time now."

Mark Helmke, communications director for Sen. Richard Lugar's presidential campaign, said on Network Indiana's Mike Pence Show Monday that Lugar "even encouraged Dan to run for governor."

Helmke told HPR on Wednesday that Lugar had "a conversation with Dan Quayle some months ago. He suggested Dan run for governor and has stated that publicly."

The Quayle and Lugar camps were also dealing with an expression of support for Lugar attributed to Quayle in a Michigan City News-Dispatch article last week. Under a page 1 headline, "Quayle will back Lugar," Medill News Service reporters Rick Rothacker and Miles Pomper diligently tracked down the former vice president and quoted him as saying, "I have supported Dick Lugar. I think he'll do better than people think."

On the CNN interview, Quayle explained, "I have been very supportive of Dick Lugar. I will continue to be supportive of Dick Lugar. That's what I told an Indiana reporter on the telephone last week. I am not going to get into the endorsement game. George Bush is not going to get into the endorsement game. What we will both do is work very hard for whomever the candidate is and to give positive advice when asked. Our objective is to beat Bill Clinton, not to get into a specific endorsement of one candidate or another." That night, the Associated Press slugged its story "Quayle snubs Lugar endorsement."

But the Lugar camp said that's wrong. "Since we never considered it an endorsement, we don't see it as a snub," Helmke said. The picture emerging from the Lugar camp is of excellent cooperation, not so much from Quayle but from a number of his former aides and staffers "where it really counts at this point," said one source.

Quayle also addressed these questions on the CNN show:

■ **Could you have raised the money?**

"There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that we could have raised the necessary funds to be very competitive. We had a good financial organization in Indiana. We had 20-some fund-raisers tentatively scheduled around the country. And money sort of goes where the momentum is. Once we would have gone out and into the fray, I believe we would have had some momentum. We would have had a good presentation, a good vision for America and the money would have followed that."

■ **On where his support would go:**

"Well, if you believe polling data, which I'm kind of skeptical of, it's gone more to Bob Dole than anyone else, probably because of name recognition and that Bob Dole is in the spotlight today. I don't think it's going to go to one candidate or another. They are all vying for the support I had, which was rock solid. My endorsement of one candidate is not going to move people in one direction or another."

■ **On being president:**

"I'm interested in running for president at a later date. I put the family first in not running in 1996. At some future date I'd like to be a candidate."

■ **QUAYLE NOTES:** Who did Quayle spend last weekend with in Naples, Fla? Long-time friend Dick Freeland, who also happens to be chairman of Rex Early's gubernatorial campaign.... Jeff Nesbit, Quayle's senatorial press secretary, is working with the Lugar camp.

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - The way the Lugar people look at it, they have an outstanding product to sell, and the fact that they haven't started a full-scale, successful marketing campaign doesn't mean that they can't. Lugar is a long shot. He may well fall short of winning the nomination. He may never get respect as a top contender. Or maybe he already has respect that will make him eventually a top contender.

Ann McFeatters, Scripps Howard - Sen. Richard Lugar is a nice, thoughtful man. Whether you agree or disagree with his politics, whether or not you think he is properly charismatic for the TV age, his presence as a presidential candidate will elevate the race. Lugar has a sense of fair play, hard work, high moral standards, old-fashioned civility and a studied approach to issues that the nation needs to see more often. If his candidacy makes people think about such things, he will have done good work.

George Will, Newsweek - Two Hoosiers have been elected president - the two Harrisons, William Henry in 1840 and Benjamin in 1888. William Henry was elected because he won the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811 and because his opponent in 1840, Martin Van Buren, was suspected of the sin of drinking wine from "coolers of silver" rather than hard cidar from a jug. Benjamin beat President Cleveland (in the electoral vote; he seems to have lost the popular vote), then lost to him. So it may be faint praise to say that Lugar is Indiana's best presidential offering yet. However, his blend of conspicuous normality and undeniable gravitas certainly improves the Republican field and may cause him to wear surprisingly well with the Republican nominating electorate while some other, more high-stepping candidates are wearing out their welcomes.

Morton Kondracke, Roll Call - If Lugar has a chance, it lies heavily in the downfall of front-running Sens. Bob Dole and Phil Gramm. This

could happen. As longtime Lugar adviser Mitch Daniels says, "People relegate Lugar and Lamar Alexander to the bench, but the two guys on the court are both in foul trouble and accident-prone." Dole lacks a message and has exploded in the past, while Gramm may strike voters as being too mean. By contrast, Daniels says, Lugar is a "heartland conservative who doesn't scare people."

Mike Leonard, Bloomington Herald-Times - No one elected Nancy Reagan to anything. And it's a safe bet to say that Nancy Reagan knows far less about drugs in America than Hillary Clinton knows about health care. Furthermore, the War on Drugs, as crafted by the Reagan and Bush administrations, has been one of the most colossal wastes of tax money in history - \$150 billion by the most conservative estimates. Much, much more, others say, when you add in prison construction, the ongoing costs of incarceration and the ripple effect that goes through the children and families of convicted drug users.

Russ Pulliam, Indianapolis News - House Republicans in the General Assembly have taken a financial turn just slightly to the right of Gov. Evan Bayh in their adoption of a state budget. The Republicans, led by House Ways & Means Chairman Sam Turpin, also delivered a large and well-deserved setback to Gov. Bayh's expensive IPASS testing proposal. The proposed test, which emphasized essay questions over multiple choice, seemed to be the governor's effort to rack up some political mileage as an education reformer.

Alan Julian, Evansville Courier - In nearly two decades of observing Evansville politics, I can never remember a time when either political party was so listless. What's going on here? The Republicans should be at the top of their glory right now. They made major strides in county elections last November, yet morale seems to be sinking to a new low.

TICKER TAPE

A school voucher bill has passed the Illinois House, but is expected to have a difficult time passing the Senate. Illinois Republicans control both chambers for the first time in generations.

U. S. Rep. John Hostettler will introduce an amendment to repeal the Food Stamp Act of 1977. It's brought charges of "extremism." Writes **Doug Sword** for the *Evansville Courier*, "The charges seem a bit ridiculous since Hostettler strikes you as the last person on earth who would want to starve children." Sword notes that Hostettler used to be in charge of the Twelfth Avenue Baptist Church food pantry. "It wasn't my job to turn people away from getting food," Hostettler said. "The issue is not whether hungry people should be fed" but who should do it.

Former Congressman **Frank McCloskey** was present on the west steps of the Statehouse during Tuesday's massive labor rally. He later huddled with Democrats just off the Senate floor.

David Lugar, son of the candidate, found himself seated next to Illinois **Sec. of State George Ryan** at a recent Bulls game. (**Hevrdejs & Conklin**, *Chicago Tribune*). He tried to enlist Ryan to help the campaign, but was told that Ryan was in the camp of **Sen. Phil Gramm**. "David's response: When Gramm drops out, then join Lugar."





SPECULATIONS THOUGHTS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

By Morton J. Marcus

TWO TWO-EDGED SWORDS

Watch out! A few years from now we may have more rigid regulations than we have today.

Congress and the Indiana General Assembly are aiming to reduce regulatory overburden on business. The prevailing idea is to introduce more "common sense" into the process. This means allowing more discretion on the part of regulatory agencies and their employees.

Discretion is fine, but it can result in more serious misuses and abuses of power. The potential for both erratic enforcement and a resulting perception of inequity rise as we have more discretion to those in the field. In addition, more latitude for field representatives of government agencies increases the opportunities for corrupt officials to demand more or to be offered bribes.

A few good examples of corruption, coupled with a serious public safety question,

and the regulatory clamps could be reapplied with renewed vigor.



We are always more vulnerable in our strengths. Indiana's superior economic performance has been based on the healthy demand by consumers and businesses across the nation for durable goods.

But what's been happening? Interest rates have been rising and the demand for durable goods (those postponable items which are bought infrequently by households and firms) is expected to level off. Automobiles, trucks, refrigerators, heavy equipment, all will take a hit as those who bought in '94 have little need to buy in '95.

Where will that slowdown be felt most? The economies of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin lead the nation in dependence on durable goods manufacturing. Wharton Econometric Forecasting Associates has estimated that the Midwest will feel the consequences of a slowdown more than any other region in the nation.

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

Labor, from page 3

is in any way energized like it was in 1994. If the second shoe of the Republican revolution drops next year, it has the potential to neutralize a reinvigorated labor movement confined to Indiana.

House Republicans pressed the prevailing wage issue fresh off the perception that its quick passage of its "Contract With Indiana" would assuage the labor elements that vote Republican. The problem with that strategy is that most Hoosiers weren't aware of the contract until after they won the House and the new media dug through their desk drawers to press accountability.

"Hopefully the average union person can look to see what we're doing on issues like gun control," Pfaff said. "They need to look at education and see that reform will happen there."

Democrats see the GOP assault on prevailing wage, fair share, workmen's compensation, and child labor laws as a misreading on a "mandate" that they believe spilled over from the national agenda.

A return of labor "voting their pocket books" will outweigh the social issues, both labor and Democrats believe.

Labor officials point to another political impact - the arrival of early money into labor-oriented districts.