

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink, 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 & publisher

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: 219-420-0909

© 1995, The Howey Political Report

Tincher preparing for Lohr rematch

Prevailing wage, Hatch letter key issues

TERRE HAUTE - It used to be that when Vern Tincher worked as a bricklayer, his co-workers didn't talk politics on the job site.

That changed this past winter on the PSI coal gasification project near Terre Haute following the two massive labor rallies against reforming the prevailing wage law. "After the two rallies, I found that the construction workers are really more politically aware than they used to be," said Tincher, who served six terms in the Indiana House until he suffered a 126-vote upset last November by Republican David Lohr.

Tincher lost because western Indiana put more resources in the hands of 7th District Congressional candidate Michael Harmless, and because Democratic turnout fell off by almost 15 percent.

"On the job site, there were several of those people asking what was happening on prevailing wage," said Tincher.

Tincher, 58, announced last Nov. 9 that he will oppose Lohr in 1996. He is heartened by the fact that these days, the business representatives for the building crafts are asking all workers if they're registered to vote before getting a job. "If not, they register them," Tincher said.

He expects prevailing wage, even though it was signed into law by Gov. Evan Bayh, to be one of two predominant issues in his 1996 rematch. The other will be a February letter Lohr and eight other Republican legislators sent to U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch requesting an investigation into the ATF raid on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas.

continued on page 2

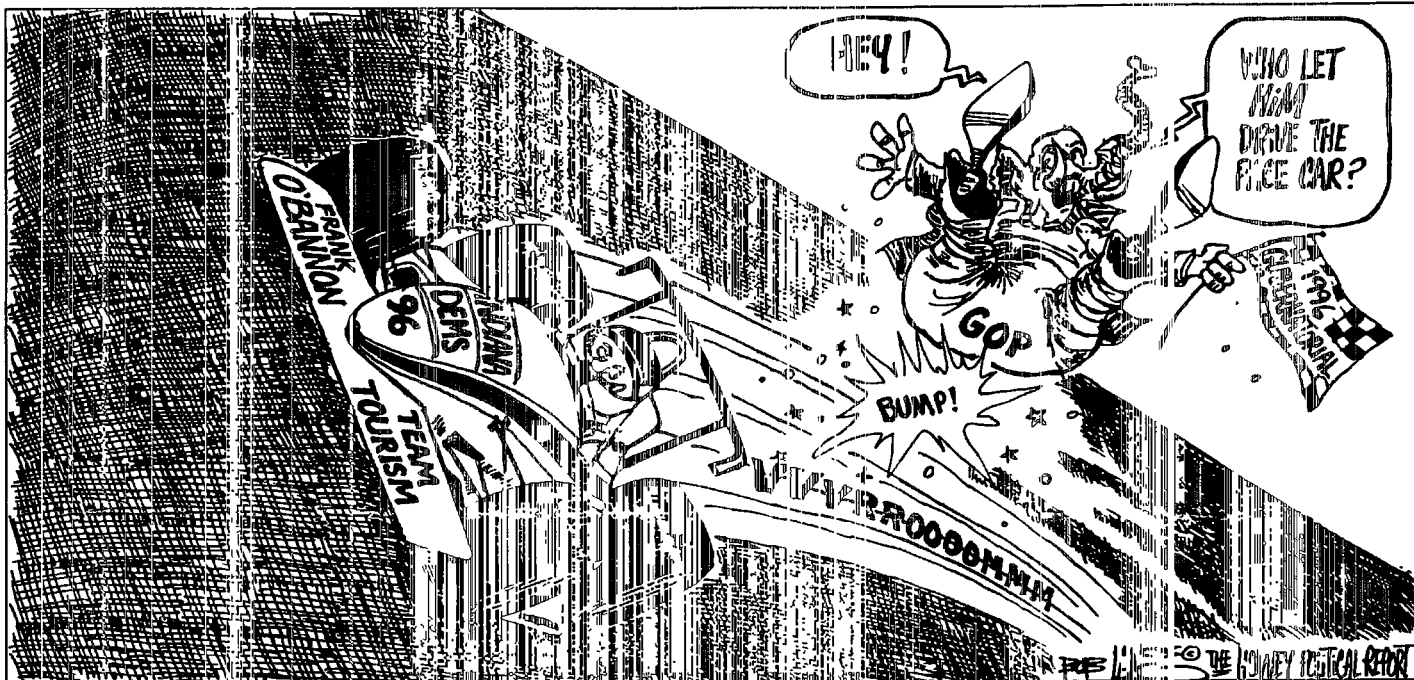
"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"I'm not saying we're strong and mighty yet, but all the other campaigns have developed engine trouble...."

- Terry Holt, on Lugar's New Hampshire presidential campaign.

INSIDE FEATURES

- Horse Race: Des Moines Register, Harris polls page 3
- Legislative post-mortem begins in press page 4
- Columnists Robinson, Dieter, Colwell, Pulliam page 5
- HPR Interview: George B. Witwer on '96 pages 6-7
- Lugar's New Hampshire camp optimistic page 8



HUMOR

M I L L

Wendellisms by Wendell Trogdon, Indianapolis News

Senate Republicans want a new bipartisan commission to cut Medicare costs, "bipartisan" meaning "share the blame."

Trash talk among the Pacers and the Knicks makes political rhetoric seem like verbal gems

Devil's Dictionary, by Ambrose Bierce

Revolution, *n.* In politics, an abrupt change in the form of misgovernment. Specifically, in American history, the substitution of the rule of an Administration for that of a Ministry, whereby the welfare and happiness of the people were advanced a full half-inch.

Tincher prepares for a rematch against Lohr

from page 1

"He is part of the radical right," Tincher said. "I think most people feel David Koresh was not an upstanding citizen wronged by the federal government."

"We'll identify him to the more sensible voters," Tincher said of Lohr. "Lohr had an advantage in 1994 by the fact that he ran strictly against me while distorting my record. He didn't have to run on anything except property taxes."

Lohr outspent Tincher \$42,000 to \$32,000 in 1994. Since November, Tincher has been busy doing the fish fries and bean dinners in his district. He expects his rematch to be targeted by both parties, and figures both candidates will spend at least \$100,000 combined.

"I expect a great deal of assistance from labor organizations this time," Tincher said. "They always endorsed me, but they never really made a significant contribution to my campaigns."

Bayh's signature on HB 1589 that brought reform to prevailing wage as well as auto excise and property tax relief doesn't defuse the former issue for labor, said Tincher and other Indiana political observers.

"In talking with the building trades

people and others who made that decision, they feel they got out of that situation with the least possible damage. They feel the language in prevailing wage doesn't harm them greatly.

"But it does bring to light the fact that building trades and construction workers have a great interest in returning someone who supports their positions."

Tincher had come close to defeat only once before - a 102-vote win during the Reagan landslide year of 1984. He is predicting that a rejuvenated labor will make up his 126-vote shortfall against Lohr in 1996.

And Tincher takes mild offense at the term "liberal" when it applies to him. "If you compare me to Lohr, an ultra, ultra conservative, then I guess I'm a liberal," Tincher said. "If you call Evan Bayh a liberal, then call me a liberal. I would agree that Jerry Kearns is a liberal, but I consider myself to be a fiscal conservative."

He recalls 1986 when then-Speaker J. Roberts Dailey asked Frank Newkirk and himself to switch to the Republican party. Newkirk did, while Tincher stuck with the Democrats and watched as "the party certainly has taken a more conservative turn."

Lugar barely showing up in opinion polls; Harris cites Dole's front-runner vulnerability

Here are two recent polls for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination:

Des Moines Register, May 14, conducted during the week of May 7 and involving 405 Iowans likely to attend the GOP caucuses:

Dole	57 percent
Gramm	11
Buchanan	6
Alexander	2
T. Thompson	2
Wilson	1
Lugar	1
Keyes	1
Dornan	1
Specter	1
Undecided	16

David Yepsen, chief political writer for the Register, notes that Dole is perceived by Iowans as the state's "third senator" and states, "Iowa is Dole's to lose. He'd have to make a serious mistake." The only ominous note for Dole comes in the fact that two-thirds of his supporters indicate they could switch to someone else.

But, Yepsen notes, "Even if Dole wins big as everyone expects, there will be some value in coming in second and therein lies the challenge for everybody but Dole."

As for Lugar, Yepsen tells HPR, "It's early. It's summer. He needs to get out here."

HORSE R A C E

A Harris Poll-conducted nationwide between April 14-20 with 1,225 had similar findings:

Dole	42 percent
Gramm	10
Powell	5
Wilson	5
Robertson	4
Buchanan	4
Alexander	2
Lugar	2
Dornan	1
Undecided	15

In that Harris Poll, without Gen. Colin Powell in the survey, Dole goes up to 50 percent and everyone else bumps up a point.

Analyst Humphrey Taylor notes that Dole faces three major hurdles: "The eventual nominee of the party not in office has usually been way down the list of possible candidates this early in the race and has emerged from the pack much later. Front-runners usually fade."

The other two concerns are Dole's age and the fact that only two sitting members of Congress have been elected to the presidency this century - Harding and Kennedy.

See related story, page 8

TICKER T A P E

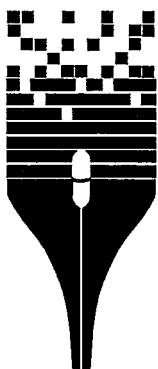
Former Kokomo Mayor **Steve Dailey** tells HPR that neither he nor anyone in his family is interested in challenging **State Rep. Jon Padfield** in 1996. But, Dailey said, there will be plenty of Democrats lining up, including the possibility of former **State Rep. Brad Bayliff**, who recently moved into Padfield's district.

Indiana Christian Coalition **Director David Lantz** tells the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* that he regretted the replacement of Democratic **State Sen. Frank Mrvan** with Republican **Sandy Dempsey**. He used that as an example to show that the Christian Coalition isn't exclusively backing Republican candidates. The Northeast Indiana Christian Coalition is hosting a seminar in Fort Wayne this Saturday. Topics include "Why people of faith should be involved in politics."

Indiana trial lawyers are looking for a court to test the recently enacted tort reforms. But supporters of the new law believe it will withstand judicial scrutiny since it has been largely based on Indiana medical malpractice laws, which have already withstood two tests.

Syndicated columnist **Cal Thomas** "brought a sharp tongue and strong words" to the Indiana University auditorium on May 11 when he addressed the issue of abortion (**Lisa Schock**, *Bloomington Herald-Times*). "When will we come to our senses?" Thomas asked as he expressed his dismay. "There are still springs in the desert," he said.

continued on page 4



The Howey Political Report is copyright 1995 by NewsLink, 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 219-420-0909 or fax invoice information to 219-420-0909.

TICKER T A P E

The key question at the Statehouse and in the corridors of the ISTA Building in Indianapolis is how big of a hit the teacher's union will take since the passage of legislation repealing fair share. **Bruce Hunsicker**, president of the Monroe County Education Association, told the *Bloomington Herald-Times'* **Steve Hinnefeld**, "It's going to be somewhat difficult. We're going to have to look at our finances." In Hunsicker's district only 36 teachers refused to join while 628 did. Wrote Hinnefeld, "But officials admit that number could increase if non-members no longer have to pay fees."

Not showing up in court can be embarrassing. Just ask **Michael C. Waite**, the Republican nominee for South Bend mayor. Waite was summoned by a St. Joseph County small claims court for attachments on debts totalling \$4,445. Apparently Waite ignored a court appearance and that prompted the arrest warrant. It was not another stellar episode in Republican South Bend mayoral politics. Last February, candidate **Larry Scott** wrote to Mayor Joe Kernan, calling him a "little weasel." Waite defeated Scott in the primary.

Michigan City political observer **Bart Lombard** tells the News-Dispatch that Democratic nominee **Sheila Bergerson** can be defeated. Lombard says there are two prospective GOP contenders for the fall election, but he refused to reveal their identities.

continued on page 5

Indiana press, critics begin post-mortem on the legislature's change in torts and crime

The Indiana Legislature has been out of town for the past three weeks, and now things are starting to sink in.

There was even a debate in the Indianapolis press about whether it truly is, as Harrison Ullman of Nuvo claims, "America's worst legislature." The consensus was that Arkansas, New York and California were much worse.

Throughout the state, reporters are beginning to offer analysis as to who has been helped and hurt by the historic 109th session.

■ A good example is a Sunday story in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette by John Ketzenberger and Tracy Van Moorlehem. "With the state running a budget surplus, Indiana public schools had hoped to loosen their belts a notch over the next biennium," they wrote. "Instead, local officials said, they're being asked to tighten them more."

Quoted was the ISTA's Norma Kacer, who noted, "This was a time to play catch-up. The legislature's unwillingness to do so sends a loud message." Added Dennis Costerison of the Indiana School Board Association, "It sounds like we're whining because we didn't get enough."

But the article quotes fiscal analyst Greg Rankin as saying, "We're spending everything we're bringing in. If we spend a dime more, we're going to have a deficit budget. They got it all."

■ Under a front-page banner headline that read, "Thousands may lose welfare," Joe Fahy of the Indianapolis News reported on May 4 that 9,000 to 12,000 Hoosiers will lose AFDC benefits over the next two years.

The story quoted July Haller of the Legal Services Organization of Northwest Indiana as having "serious concerns" about capping state welfare funding used for Medicaid, AFDC and related programs.

Monroe County judicial officials were telling Kurt Van der Dussen of the *Bloomington Herald-Times* that the legislature "missed the mark" on tougher punishment for repeat and violent juvenile offenders.

"The way the law is written, the pendu-

lum swings too far," said Prosecutor Carl Salzmann of the law that will make public felony and misdemeanor records of offenders age 12 and over.

Juvenile Judge Viola Taliaferro noted the differences between the Senate version of the bill, which would have opened most records on a juvenile's first murder or Class A, B, or C felonies, but only the third Class D felony. The House version opens up all first-time felonies and second-time misdemeanors.

The officials said they believe opening up such records would only act as a deterrent to "good kids who do something bad - dabblers - and already are ashamed of what they've done."

Taliaferro and chief juvenile probation officer Mary Ludlow told Van der Dussen they believe the new law "disturbs the balance we have been maintaining between confidentiality and rehabilitation."

But Gov. Evan Bayh told students at Arlington High School, "We simply cannot treat them as juveniles when their life experience has turned them into hardened adult offenders before their time."

■ Thomas P. Wyman of the Associated Press wrote on May 10 of a "little-watched bill" that boosted the pensions of 17 current and former legislators. The bill sponsors claimed it was not a blatant attempt - as had occurred in 1993 - to bring home the bacon for legislators, but simply to bring consistency to the PERF system.

■ Of course, Ullman and Nuvo served up the starkest view of the 109th session. Writing of the changes in tort reforms and juvenile crime, Ullman explained, "In this particular abuse of the citizens, America's worst legislature decided that while adolescents should be held fully accountable for the deaths and injuries they cause us, corporations should not. Children who commit adult crimes may now face adult treatment in court and in prison, but corporations will face only juvenile penalties for their crimes."

Ullman added that legislators "come into session every year like conquerors into an enemy state, practicing rape, pillage and plunder until it's time to go home again...."

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Mary Dieter, Louisville Courier-Journal - Because (Gov. Evan Bayh) is starting in a hole, so to speak, it takes extraordinary leadership for Indiana's governor to leave his mark on the state. Gov. Otis Bowen showed it in 1973, with property tax initiatives; Gov. Robert D. Orr showed it in 1987, with his A+ educational program. That assumes, however, that the governor doesn't mind rocking the boat and making some people mad in the process. That has never been Bayh's modus operandi. In seven legislative sessions, he has often declined to signal any position on bills, always refused to say whether he would sign or veto them and rarely used his bully pulpit to advocate positions. This is from the governor who said in 1989 that his first legislative session had taught him that he needed to be more involved. With one legislative session left in his tenure, you've got to wonder if it's a lesson he'll ever learn - or even wants to learn.

Dick Robinson, Terre Haute Tribune-Star - What worked for Democrats in 1988 may work for Republicans in 1996. During the 20 years of Republican administrations prior to Democrat Bayh, taxes were not a problem for Republicans until Bayh made them an issue. It took Republicans 25 years to accept the idea that taxes need not go up every few years.

Russ Pulliam, Indianapolis News - In the beginning of this year's General Assembly session, the advocates of the new IPASS test looked unstoppable. Gov. Evan Bayh had assembled a formidable and diverse army called the Coalition for High Standards to push his ambitious educational reform program. So what went wrong? Did the Republicans just want to keep Bayh from getting credit for educational reform? In this instance, no. GOP legislative leaders generally waited for direction from their membership on this issue. The governor's IPASS coalition failed for other reasons. First, it delegated the development of the IPASS test to the "experts." When questioned about such details, the governor tended to defer to subordinates,

who tended to defer to McGraw-Hill experts, who naturally were happy to have millions of dollars worth of new business from Indiana and promised to do the best they could. Near the end of the session, the governor backed away from IPASS, and he and his staff were looking for a compromise.

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - "You have reached the headquarters of the Michiana Militant Militia. Remember: When fertilizer bombs are outlawed, only outlaws will have fertilizer. If you are calling to report a sighting of one of them black helicopters spying on us law-abiding citizens - dial 1. To hear a message from our militia commander about the Russian troops in Elkhart County - dial 2. If you are volunteering to blow up stop signs with them secret numbers, the ones that lead to concentration camps where United Nations troops will imprison us - dial 3. If you are a Commie bed-wetting agent of the discredited, controlled mainstream news media - hang up now."

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette - Confused by balanced budget blathering? You'd be among a minuscule minority if you said otherwise. Partly that's because - in the best of times - the federal budget is a convoluted mess. Partly that's because the Republicans have pledged a massive change in SOP. Partly that's because GOP insiders hold the details close to their chests. And partly that's because confusion aids the PR campaigns into which both parties have thrown themselves. The biggest element of the House GOP's budget strategy is to refuse to divulge specific numbers about where they'll trim, restrain (or whatever word they're using) federal spending until later. They want everyone to focus instead on the amount of the seven-year savings: \$1.4 trillion. The Democrats, meanwhile, are going hoarse by screaming that the Republicans inevitably will force cuts, cuts, cuts, CUTS!!! in programs many Americans - particularly older folks - hold dear. Specifically, Medicare.

TICKER TAPE

Being lieutenant governor definitely has its perks...like getting page one coverage. **Frank O'Bannon** had a wonderful week in the press with page one coverage nearly everywhere he went in his seventh annual promotion of "National Tourism Week." Quite memorable was *Indianapolis News* photographer **Joe Young's** shot of a grinning O'Bannon taking laps at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on May 11. The day before, O'Bannon was spotted in the *Michigan City News-Dispatch* stepping off a charter fishing boat. Other stops included a walk on the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and a visit to LaPorte's spectacular Door Prairie Museum.

The resignation of **State Rep. Doug Kinser**, D-New Castle, is giving Republicans the notion they can capture that seat. Henry County GOP Chairman and Assessor **Tom Saunders** and 1994 challenger **Brad Razor** are expressing interest.

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh helped the Faith Baptist Church in Portland get a two-week extension on Americable's plans to pull the plug on cable access channel 54. McIntosh vowed to ask the FCC to investigate the attempt to terminate the channel.

Morton Marcus noticed the **Richard Nixon** stamps on the last two editions of the mailed HPR. "Is there a message here?" Marcus asked. No message. And HPR can prove its true bipartisanship. HPR used **Hubert Humphrey** stamps last year.

Witwer sees what was once termed 'radical' coming into the mainstream

HPR INTERVIEW

"What's conservative, what's mainstream, what's extreme is shifting all the time...."

- George Witwer

George B. Witwer has been gaining attention since he began writing as a senior fellow for the Indiana Policy Review Foundation several years ago, where much of his work has centered on crime, welfare, and the impact of the Great Society on Indiana.

Last summer, he started the Opportunity Project of Indiana, which helped fund 19 legislative races, and 11 of those candidates won. Many of those candidates turned out to be the backbone of what has become one of the most conservative legislative sessions on record. At an OPI press conference last week, State Rep. David Lohr said of Witwer, "He stands for what I stand for."

Now Witwer is one of at least four Republicans running for governor in 1996. HPR sat down with Witwer in Indianapolis last week to talk about his "darkhorse" campaign, the last legislative session, and the controversies surrounding some of the freshman legislators he helped elect.

HPR: How can you win the 1996 gubernatorial nomination?

Witwer: What we have to do is try our very best to get our message out. I have found that with the success of the Opportunity Project, the message of conservative reform, of empowering people and disempowering government so that we can allow true citizenship to really renew itself, that message is very, very powerful in this political environment. The fact that you see the strong results with the OPI candidates we backed, but also nationwide, shows that a big decision was announced and that is people really want power to devolve power from big centralized bureaucracies like Washington and back to states and states send it back to local communities. And with that comes this new rise in citizenship. If we can accomplish the goal of letting people know where I stand and the kind of vision I hold for the state, I think we get into a position to win it. I am a true believer that message can move mountains.

HPR: Last year's election had a nation-

al dynamic. Your message is similar to that Newt Gingrich has in Congress. Do you see it that way?

Witwer: No, I don't think my candidacy is tied to any one particular person, nor is it tied to whether Republicans in Washington are a success or not. I think Hoosiers have a desire for a smaller, less intrusive government that takes less of their money in terms of taxes; a government that doesn't tell them where they have to send their children to school; a government not involved in destroying families like it currently is with the welfare system; and a government that creates the kind of economic environment where we can have real economic growth; and a government where this social disintegration is fueled by our tax dollars. I personally think the public is responding to the changes in Washington and I think that will create a climate where you will want to see more conservative reforms.

HPR: The Bayh administration cannot tell us how many state employees there are, despite his 1988 alignment with Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad's downsizing. Is that a vulnerability of the Bayh-O'Bannon record?

Witwer: That's a big vulnerability. I did a study in 1991 that showed that the Bayh administration had added more than 4,000 people at an average of \$60,000 per job to the payroll and that was in his first three years. The governor and lieutenant governor are going to run as fiscal conservatives, but they have had so many more sources of revenue. And they tried to push through huge tax increases, including a tax on the sick. Frank O'Bannon pulled a historic move when he stopped voting in the Senate to try and change votes because the senators were going to try and vote down that tax increase. In my view, that was an arrogant use of power.

HPR: David Stockman's book "The Triumph of Politics" and Bob Woodward's book "The Agenda" chronicle two presidential administrations coming into power with programs based more on rhetoric than fact. How can you

continued on page 7

be sure this won't happen to your programs?

Witwer: I really have studied the budget line by line. I've spent the last five years researching in depth state policy, what's been happening here in Indiana. In addition to that, through that research I have gotten to know some of the top experts in the state and we will be able to bring on board these top people. I have a lot of confidence I can hit the ground running. Let me get back to Stockman. One of the central issues of my campaign is to put a cap on state spending so that it does not grow any faster than the rate of inflation. Now that is a very specific budget change and that will have very specific results, meaning that all the revenue that comes into government due to economic growth will be available for infrastructure improvements and tax cuts. We will never be in a position to raise taxes in a growing economy.

HPR: Your message is going to be competing against at least three other Republican candidates. How do you get your message out over theirs?

Witwer: There will be a lot of money spent and there are some very deep pockets in this campaign. I doubt if we're going to raise more money than Pat Rooney can spend. I think we will be financially successful. We are way ahead of where we thought we'd be. We are going to rely on building a very strong grassroots organization and talking with people one on one.

HPR: Of the Republican field, you seem to be the candidate anticipating the defense of the prevailing wage reform. How will you do that?

Witwer: I don't believe that government should be involved in setting wages. That is something for the free market to figure what the correct wages are. There are people upset about this and say it will play a role in 1996. But the bottom line is that Hoosier taxpayers are better off because of this by the tune of \$200 million and that fair wages will be paid.

HPR: The Democrats will come at you with that University of Utah study that shows that worker wages went down, injuries were up and costs didn't decline. How do you respond?

Witwer: There are studies, and studies and studies. The studies I've seen say it will

save taxpayers \$200 million at a minimum. It's a pocketbook issue.

HPR: How do you view the welfare reforms of the Bayh administration?

Witwer: I really give much of the credit of the reforms passed this year to (State Rep.) Jeff Espich and (Sen.) Luke Kenley. I think the governor gets some credit for not fighting it. It's a good start, but it's only a first step. We have to get the government out of even that two-year time period of self-destructive behavior. People are still getting to the tune of \$8 an hour. For two years, people will still be taught to be dependent on the state. That has to end. We have to generate the community support, the churches and volunteer support. Then people can touch people's hearts and display true compassion.

HPR: Several legislators you supported are involved in the militia movement and have publicly stated that you think like they do. How do you explain your relationship there?

Witwer: We backed financially one legislator who signed a letter to Sen. Hatch. That person and the other people who signed that letter did not have any idea they were talking about people in the militias advocating the overthrow of government. I can't believe anybody in our general assembly would be sympathetic to anybody who advocated any kind of violence.

HPR: Liberal and moderate critics say you supported some of the most conservative members of the legislature. How do you respond to that kind of talk?

Witwer: There are people who would rather not see change happen. What you saw in this General Assembly was much more responsive to where the public is. Some people call it a move to the right. I see it as moving the General Assembly into the mainstream. Sure, there's going to be people who say it's extreme, it's right-wing, but you're going to see all kinds of insults any time people don't want change. The paradigms are changing. There was a Democrat leader just the other day who said we need to have an income tax cut. What? I mean, that sounds like Ronald Reagan. What's conservative, what's mainstream, what's extreme is shifting all the time.

TICKER

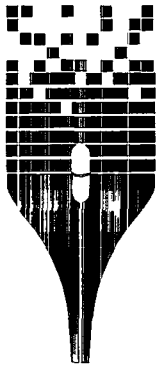
T A P E

The Republican mark-up of the budget bill brought sharply contrasting opinions from **U.S. Reps. John Hostettler** and **Lee Hamilton**. Hostettler told **Rex Buntain** of the *Bloomington Herald-Times*, "We're not cutting Medicare. We're just looking at slowing the rate of growth." But Hamilton said, "Stopping growth, that's the same as cutting Medicare. If you're cutting the growth rate, you're cutting services and cutting people. There is no painless solution here."

The Christian Coalition will unveil a 10-point plan in Washington that is expected to push "moral issues" in Congress, as opposed to the spending issues that marked the first 100 days. That means that school prayer, in the name of a Religious Equality Amendment, will be elbowing the looming budget debate for air time.

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder is pushing a plan for an extra 20 percent deduction for those who give up to \$1,000 to charity. Under the Souder plan, those who would itemize could deduct \$120 for every \$100 they give to charitable organizations and churches. Souder told **Sylvia Smith** of the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, "I think we have a fair chance - not a great chance, but a fair chance - to do something in this two-year cycle."





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*
- Crothersville Times*
- 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*
- Sullivan Daily Times*
- Wabash Plain Dealer*

Lugar's New Hampshire organization girds for the second campaign battle

MANCHESTER, N.H. - For the past three years, the Battle of New Hampshire has been over the hearts and minds of about 1,000 Granite State Republicans.

On June 4, when Sen. Dick Lugar travels to Manchester for his 1996 presidential headquarters opening, the battle will be for the other 35,000 voters who want to meet the candidates as often as possible, have open minds and an independent streak.

This is the state where the likes of Eugene McCarthy and Pat Buchanan lost, but actually won the battle of momentum to seriously alter the course of history.

Terry Holt and his dog were manning the Lugar headquarters earlier this week. He explained for HPR his task seven weeks ago. "The first job we had to accomplish is how do we run here? How do we put together a solid grassroots organization without relying on the Republican elite in the state?"

Holt and New Hampshire campaign manager Jim McKay have worked to develop a network of folks who will, as Holt puts it, "leave work an hour early to go walk neighborhoods for Dick Lugar."

Lugar approaches New Hampshire like a challenger. "He has reacted like a challenger," Holt explains. "He wades into crowds and shakes every hand. He goes out to small towns and meets with the voters. Virtually no one in New Hampshire besides those thousand people know how they're going to vote" next February.

Lugar will do that in earnest with his headquarter's grand opening on June 4, and on June 5 he'll meet with a group of Manchester businessmen before heading up to Walpole.

The challenge facing Holt and McKay after Lugar leaves on June 5 is this: "How do you take advantage of the visits when the candidate isn't in the state?" In part, it comes back to the community activists who will help the campaign widen its sphere of influence over the next several months.

While Lugar languishes in the polls (see page 3), his campaign is confident that the seeds are being sewn, with an autumn date for

blooming. That's when the campaign wants Lugar to emerge from the pack.

What has heightened a sense of anticipation in the Lugar campaign is the lackluster performance of Sens. Bob Dole and Phil Gramm. "I'm not saying we're strong and mighty yet," Holt says, "but all the other campaigns have developed engine trouble."

Gramm has outraged the New Hampshire establishment with his lip service to Delaware's bid to usurp the state's role as the first primary state. Dole, in the words of Richard L. Berke of the New York Times, is a master legislator who "in recent days looked like anything but."

Capitol Hill Republicans are citing Dole's over-reaching on a legal reform bill, his mixed signals over the Henry Foster surgeon general nomination, and his call to move the Israeli embassy to Jerusalem.

That was in contrast to Lugar's speech to Colorado Republicans last Saturday, where he warned that President Clinton's lack of progress in Moscow over the Iranian nuclear reactor controversy is a recipe for disaster. He also made a convincing pitch for his national sales tax.

The contrast the Lugar campaign seeks with Dole is of a Senate majority leader walking through a minefield (that's why LBJ in 1960 and Howard Baker in 1980 failed) as opposed to someone who creates a vision for the future while charting a distinct course.

■ **LUGAR NOTES:** Former Colorado Gov. John Love and former Olympic Committee president Bill Hybil will co-chair the Lugar campaign in Colorado. Love is the first Colorado governor to serve three consecutive terms.

■ Lugar will accept his 32nd honorary doctorate from the University of Dallas. The university cited Lugar's work to dismantle the former Soviet Union's nuclear weapons stockpile as well as to "press for a halt to the growth in federal spending even when it touches interests close to him."

■ A 16x35 foot Lugar campaign billboard now adorns the Manchester, N.H., skyline.