

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Getting the Medicare package through Congress was like keeping a hundred bullfrogs in a wheelbarrow....”

—Bob Shiefer of CBS's *Face the Nation*, to the Indiana Broadcasters Assn.

Sex, crime, taxes, race hurt Democrats

But pollster Brian Vargus tells party members that state, national GOP coalitions may explode

BATESVILLE - Sex. Crime. Taxes. Race.

Those are the core values driving the American electorate in the '90s. Those are the values that Republicans have been beating Democrats on.

That was the message Brian Vargus of the Indiana University Public Opinion Laboratory brought to 9th CD Democrats during a retreat here last Saturday.

“Family values is territory exclusively owned by the Republicans,” Vargus bluntly told the 75 gathered Democrats. “For 20 years the Republicans have talked about stronger enforcement, lock ‘em language and the death penalty.”

When it comes to sex, Vargus stated, “There is no way Americans are going to endorse an aberrant lifestyle. They will tolerate it, but they won’t endorse it.” He pointed to Saturday’s Indianapolis Star where a page 5 story read, “Clinton endorses business tolerance for gays.”

“Once again, it reinforces the notion that ‘Republicans are like me. Democrats are for gays,’” Vargus said.

On taxes, Vargus said that most citizens “have lost all sense of what taxes go for” and still cling to “Grandpa Reagan’s mindset of get government off our backs and out of our pocketbooks.”

Finally, as Vargus looked out at the all-white audience, he told them “the issue of race looms large.”

“What is the party of non-whites?” he asked. “It’s the Democrats.”

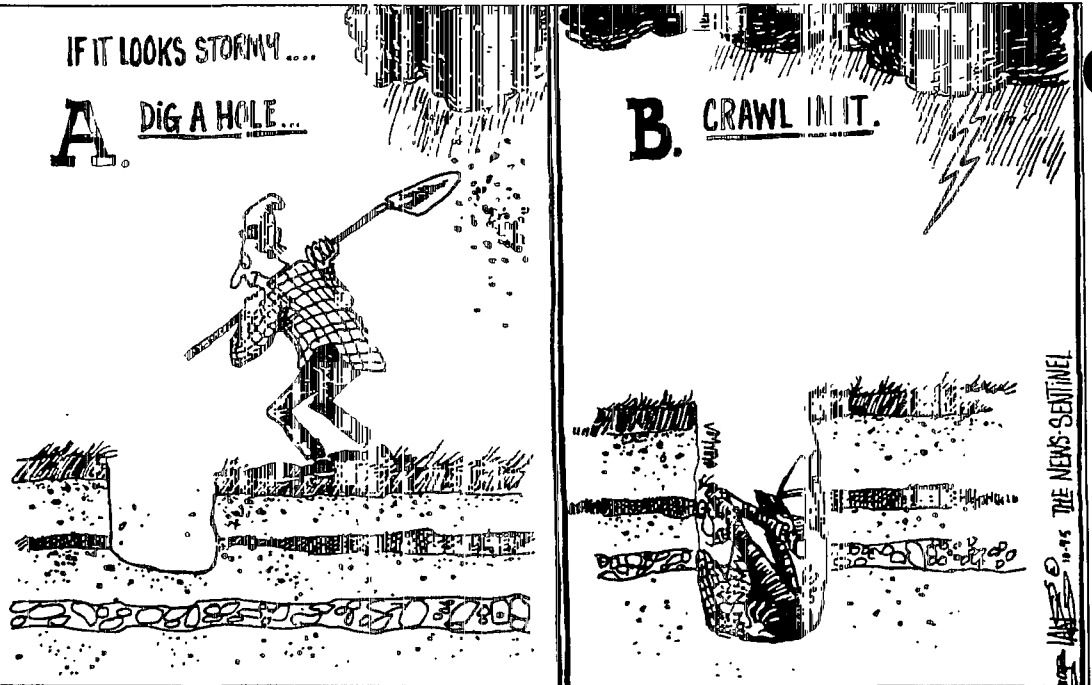
Vargus forecasts an era of “political nostalgia” gripping the nation with the icons being Ward and June Cleaver, family values, no crime, 2.8 kids and everything clean. He called it a race-based “rancid populism” and further explained, “There is no problem that has

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YOUR SAFETY MATTERS!
ATTENTION:
 ...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM WILL REPLACE LOCAL WEATHER RADAR SERVICES WITH A MORE PERSONALIZED PROCEDURE.
 PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.



HUMOR
M I L L

Devil's Dictionary

By Ambrose Bierce

Reconciliation, n. A suspension of hostilities. An armed truce for the purpose of digging up the dead.

Prophecy, n. The art and practice of selling one's credibility for future delivery.

Price, n. Value, plus a reasonable sum for the wear and tear of conscience in demanding it.

Wendellisms

By Wendell Trogon, Indianapolis News

Headline: "Clinton takes aim at world crime." Big talk from a man who lives amidst murder, corruption and vice in Washington.

Good news for Dems: GOP coalitions may explode

From page 1

loomed larger than race" in a historical context since 1860.

The reinforcing backdrop for the somber message Vargus presented Democrats is the O.J. Simpson trial, a Republican revolution shaking down Congress where a \$245 billion tax cut is driving the Medicare reform, and President Clinton's startling speech in Houston last week.

"Probably there are people in this room still mad at me," Clinton told rich Texans at a fund-raiser. "You think I raised taxes too much. It might surprise you to know that I think I raised them too much, too."

Observed E.J. Dionne Jr. of the *Washington Post*, "In an instant, every good argument that Clinton and his supporters had made on behalf of a tax increase that overwhelmingly affected the affluent and hit others hardly at all was out the window."

The good news for Democrats, Vargus explained, is that the Republican coalitions both nationally and in Indiana "are ready to explode."

"William Jefferson Clinton will win reelection in 1996, all things remaining equal."

He called Sen. Bob Dole "not an attractive candidate." If Gen. Colin Powell enters the race, he will win, Vargus said. "He's the Dwight

David Eisenhower; a clean slate. But can he get the nomination? The Christian Coalition controls enough delegates to keep anyone from getting the nomination."

In Indiana, Vargus explained, there are six militia members in the Republican-controlled Indiana General Assembly "in the same group with Paul Mannweiler, a moderate attorney."

He added that in the GOP governor's race, "I don't believe that Rex Early will work for or endorse Steve Goldsmith."

Vargus noted that "Goldsmith is better on TV than Rex" and can "marshall national resources." In a race between Goldsmith and O'Bannon, Vargus gives the edge to the Indianapolis mayor.

Vargus did make one prediction should Early win the nomination to face Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon: "The English language may not survive it."

Ninth District Chairman Mike Jones noted that some Democrats were upset by the Vargus assessment. "But they needed to hear it," Jones said.

1996
WATCH

Indy mayoral race big Democratic blunder?

HORSE R A C E

<u>RACE</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
KOKOMO Lushin (D) v. Trobridge (R)	Toss-up	Lushin recovers nicely from heart by-pass surgery, but this campaign seems to be barely beating. Candidates' stand on issues subtle in variance. <i>Kokomo Tribune's</i> Steve Jackson predicts the race will come down to who can get people to the polls. Last open seat in 1987 was a squeaker.
INDIANAPOLIS Jimison (D) v. Goldsmith (R)	Safe R	This race is included here for the establishment of a historic footnote. Jimison's stealth campaign deprives Indiana Democrats of a golden opportunity to soften up Goldsmith and drive up his negatives heading into '96 governor's race. Frank O'Bannon may be the one to pay the ultimate price for this blunder. Key question is how big a plurality Goldsmith will get: 75 percent?
GOSHEN Puro (D) v. Hoke (R)	Leans D	Here's a race with a true personal dimension. One-time allies Mike Puro and former city Dem chief (now Republican) Ron Hoke battle. Edge to Puro, but...
FORT WAYNE Essex (D) v. Helmke (R)	Safe R	All indications are that Helmke will win a third-term. Key question is how big a majority will the Republicans get on the council?

TICKER TAPE

Play of the Week

Marilyn Quayle, for her TV ad on behalf of Mayor Stephen Goldsmith. Even though she lives in Hamilton County, both Republican and Democratic sources tell HPR that the ad hits the key GOP constituency Goldsmith needs in both his races. Marilyn Quayle is still hot political property in Indiana. U.S. Sen. Marilyn Quayle?

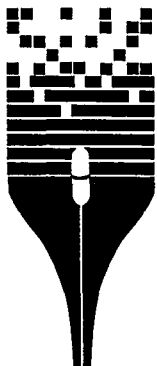


Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon tells HPR that his top campaign strategist, *Bill Schreiber*, is fighting cancer.

The "open secret" in Indiana from key sources too numerous to mention is that *U.S. Rep. Andy Jacobs* will announce his retirement from Congress in November.

The typed "Dear Mayor" was crossed out and replaced with a hand-written "Steve" in *Rex Early's* precocious Oct. 19 request of the Goldsmith Committee. Early noted that *Anne Shane* had said in an Oct. 15 Indianapolis Star story that "any member of the public - including Goldsmith's opponents" will be given access to city records. Early then requested information on "a listing of fees paid to Oscar Robertson/Smoot by the Capital Asset Boar, Health and

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Hospital Corporation, Airport Authority, Indianapolis Park Board and any other Indianapolis department or agency." Early ended the letter by writing, "In this new spirit of cooperation, would you also have Anne give me the names of all the principals and employees of ORS who have contributed to your campaign for mayor and/or governor?"

ABC's Chris Wallace was shown on *Prime Time Live* last week trying to get an interview from U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer over a one day/one night speech and golf trip to Lake Tahoe. Buyer accepted "an invitation" from Cellular Telephone Co., to give his perspective on how the old Democratic-controlled Congress and the new Republican-controlled Congress differ (*Bill Andree, Monticello Herald Journal*). Cellular paid for the flight, hotel and 15 holes of golf. Wallace had requested an interview about the trip, said Buyer aide Pat Hinton, but was turned down. Hinton said that ABC ambush interview footage of Buyer in a Capitol Hill corridor wasn't the congressman evading the interview, but merely running for a floor vote.

Indiana Democrat Chairman Joe Andrew has been traveling much lately. During the weekend of Oct. 14, Andrew began

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Jessica Webb, Patti Yount give insight, tips for females willing to crack the good ol' boys club

BATESVILLE - When Patti Yount showed up to her first meeting on the North Vernon City Council, the city attorney observed, "Finally, someone to make the coffee."

Needless to say, Councilwoman Yount has yet to make anything put public policy.

Jessica Webb recalled driving to her mother's home in Columbus to watch the results come in from her 1994 race against Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton. With defeat obvious, Webb's mother said, "You may have lost, but your children won the election."

Webb responded, "Yes, Mom, but do you know how many children in Indiana lost because I lost that election?"

Yount and Webb appeared before 9th CD Democrats last Saturday to relate their experiences as women in the Indiana electoral process. The scenario they presented was of a process yet to reach gender equality or maturity.

"Women have so much to offer Indiana," Webb said, "Look at your daughters, wives and mothers."

Yet, since 1816, only one woman has run at the top of the ticket in Indiana and none has served as governor or lieutenant governor. Only two Hoosier women have served in the U.S. House, none in the U.S. Senate. There are only 32 women legislators out of 150.

Webb attributes much of this to mindset. "The idea never occurs for them run," she said, asking, "Why is that? Perhaps we don't raise our daughters with the idea they can go into politics."

Both Webb and Yount have run for the state Senate, but the perception of their races was different. Webb's daughters were 3 and 5 years old. Yount's kids were 15 and 21 when she challenged State Sen. Johnny Nugent. They agreed that older women are perceived as having done their primary "duty" in raising kids.

There are numerous other perceptions. "If we're tough, we're a bitch," Yount explained. "A man is powerful. A woman is pushy if she does her job."

"When I joined the council, I had to prove myself even though I was elected," Yount said.

Webb compiled a list of elements necessary for women - both Republican and Democrat - to join the process and bring Indiana into political maturity:

- Plant the seed of political involvement to girls when they are young.

- Devise a mentoring program. She cited the Indiana Democrat's mayoral mentoring program as a good example. "I had no one to turn to," she said of her Senate run.

- Be prepared to deal with gender. "The higher the office, the harder it is to overcome," she said.

- Have clear expectations in your motivation to run. Realize that gender is a factor.

- Understand issues that are unfamiliar to women. "Most women have no military service," she used as an example, but added that running a campaign is "like an army, knowing the rules of engagement, knowing when to attack." She recommended the book *"The Art of War"* by Sun Tzu as essential reading for anyone running for public office.

- Expect enormous curiosity about your relationship with your spouse. She said people continually asked, "What does your husband think? Many people were surprised by the support of my husband and father."

- Line up volunteers and support early - at least one year in advance. Said Webb, "The reason it's important for women is you don't have that good old boys network to rely on."

- Never under-estimate your need for money.

- Hire a political consultant. Webb's consultant made observations like, "When meeting a couple, shake the woman's hand first. The woman has more control over the man than you think."

- Have the support of your family and friends.

- Be prepared for the time commitment. Consider a part-time housekeeper. Both Webb and Yount recalled exhausting campaign days, only to return home to piles of laundry and dishes.

Yount added, "Are we invading the boys' club? It's already happening."

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Jerry Gray, *New York Times* - Freshmen Republicans came to Washington in January as eager foot soldiers in their party's promised political revolution, but their unwavering determination has helped cause a legislative stall. The 73 new representatives who have been the driving force behind Speaker Newt Gingrich's conservative legislative agenda have started to veer out of the control of even their lionized leader. "Freshmen see themselves as having a mandate," said Rep. David McIntosh, a freshman Republican from Indiana who has become one of the conservative firebrands of his class. "We are trying to change the way business is done in Washington." At least 30 freshmen, led by McIntosh, have threatened to vote against all remaining spending bills and the huge reconciliation bill that is the catch-all legislation for the Republicans' ambitious plans for curbing spending, reducing taxes and making major changes in welfare and other social programs. The freshmen say they will vote against the bills unless House negotiators fight to protect legislation to limit lobbying by non-profit organizations that receive federal grants. "We are learning the system and know when the votes are important," McIntosh said. "We understand how this place works, and we won't do anything that would undo what this Republican Congress is trying to accomplish."

David Broder, *Washington Post* - If Bill Clinton and Bob Dole had entered into a secret conspiracy to convince the country that somebody else - almost anyone other than them - should be the next president of the United States, they could not have succeeded better than they did last week. In a single day, they demonstrated to a public hungering for leadership and conviction that they are singularly deficient in those qualities. On Tuesday morning, Dole told a group of Ohio reporters that - after six weeks of defending his decision to return a \$1,000 contribution to an organization of Republican gays - he wanted to say it was a mistake. Not on his part, mind you, but by his staff. That night, at a Houston fund-raiser for his re-election campaign, President Clinton told assembled fat cats that "you will be surprised to learn" that, like

many of them, he thought the top-bracket tax increases in his 1993 budget had been excessive. He didn't blame his staff. He blamed his party's Members of Congress.

Mary Dieter, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - Former President George Bush is watching the sea change in Washington from the sidelines largely because he broke the "no new taxes" pledge he took in his 1988 campaign. So it should be easy for the Indiana Family Institute to persuade many Hoosier legislators to sign the anti-tax pledge recently mailed to them. After all, 1996 is an election year, Indiana has an enormous budget balance of at least \$1.3 billion and there is no need for a tax increase on the horizon. Whether it is wise for policy-makers to box themselves in is another matter. Four, all Republicans, have already signed: Sen. Murray Clark and Reps. David Frizzell, Robert Behning and Woody Burton. So have six members of Congress, all Republicans: Sen. Dan Coats, Reps. David McIntosh, Mark Souder, Dan Burton, John Myers and John Hostettler. The document calls for the signer to pledge to "oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes." A non-partisan fiscal expert is skeptical of such pledges. "The ability for policy-makers to raise taxes, particularly if they are lowering a corresponding tax, is an appropriate thing for elected to be willing to discuss," said Bill Sheldrake, president of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute.

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Dan Quayle still was being encouraged to get back in the race as he was greeted by attendees at a dinner honoring longtime South Bend civic leaders Mary Lou and Judd Leighton. He won't. It's too late. But there have to be times when the former vice president wonders if he made a mistake in getting out of the race. Mistake? Yes, if Quayle got out because he thought he couldn't make it this time and chances for the presidency would be better in some future presidential year. This was his time, his chance. Most likely it will not come again. Mistake? No, if Quayle's reason was to have more time with his family.

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in Lake County, then went to Vanderburgh County, then to Lawrenceburg in southeast Indiana, and ended up in Steuben County in the far northeast. Andrew told 9th CD Democrats that while Gov. *Evan Bayh* has "mastered the air war," in political advertising, "we forgot the ground-war" and that stung the party in 1994 when Democrats stayed home. Andrew has committed his tenure to rebuilding the party at the precinct level.

Former congressman *Jim Jontz* is "back pounding the pavement in the nation's capital, campaigning once again on behalf of the same environmental issues that contributed to his (House) election defeat three years ago (*Associated Press*). Jontz is director of the National Audubon Society's Endangered Species Coalition and is fighting the watering down of the 22-year-old Endangered Species Act.

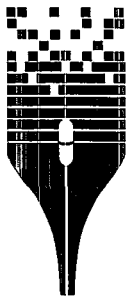
Republican gubernatorial contender *George Witwer* announced his plan to fund annual tax cuts by capping the growth of state spending to the rate of inflation. In the first year of his plan, Witwer said, Indiana could refund \$1.2 billion to Hoosier taxpayers; property taxes could be cut in half in eight years and be totally eliminated in 25 years. "Any one of these plans is well within

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Lugar's New Hampshire chair says race 'wide open' without Powell

HPR INTERVIEW

"We're prepared to strike within hours after Clinton Powell's announcement. We will strike with full force and full vigor...."
- Jim Rubens



CONCORD, N.H. - Last June, HPR sat in on a meeting with U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar and New Hampshire State Sen. Jim Rubens as they chatted over a cup of coffee on the upcoming presidential race.

Rubens was one of the few Granite State office holders not committed to a presidential candidate and he grilled Lugar over the issues. "If I were to back you, I'd want you to do well," Rubens said.

On Oct. 12, Rubens agreed to chair Lugar's New Hampshire steering committee. It came just prior to an American Research poll that showed Lugar with 6 percent of the vote, above Sen. Phil Gramm's 4 percent, while Sen. Bob Dole's numbers dropped.

HPR talked to Rubens about why he signed on with the campaign, and how Lugar might break through.

HPR: Why did you make your commitment to Sen. Lugar?

Rubens: I thought for a very long time. My only problem with Sen. Lugar all along was the wasted vote syndrome. The longer I thought about it, the harder I thought, I decided we have to go for a man who has character and integrity above all else. America needs that. We can not continue with a president without character and integrity. We cannot make that mistake again. If such a candidate is not high in the polls, that does not excuse America from needing such a person. So I decided I have to go for the best candidate. After the candidate's debate a week ago, Sen. Lugar has started moving in the polls. That debate really gave him a little bit of prominence. The local poll shows him moving from 2 to 6 percent. Now this is contingent on Gen. Powell not running, but we have Sen. Dole in first and slipping. We have Mr. Buchanan in the second position and flat at 10 percent. Alexander has spent a ton of money and has generated a lot of press coverage and he's been flat at 8 percent, despite excellent press coverage. The only people who are moving now are Sen. Gramm, who has slipped to 4 percent despite spending a lot of time up here. He's had a full-time, very aggressive campaign up here

and he's moving backwards. Lugar is moving up. So the real competition to Sen. Lugar right now is Colin Powell. Because what is missing right now among the existing contenders in both parties is the character, integrity and trust factor - the most important component of any presidential candidate. People feel that Colin Powell is doing so well because he embodies character, integrity and principle. He's someone they can trust and look up to as a leader. Sen. Lugar is the only announced candidate who embodies those same characteristics.

HPR: You mention that you don't want to waste your vote. What is the scenario for Lugar to break out and either win or do well in New Hampshire?

Rubens: He doesn't have to win. He needs to be moving and, personally, I'm hoping for a third place finish here. That will make him one of the top viable candidates so when he moves on to the other primaries, that he can be considered on his merits.

HPR: Are the videos the campaign is sending out having an impact?

Rubens: Certainly. We are sending out in the range of 700 to 1,000 videos a day. They are superlative - six or seven minutes long. And they really convey the character, personality and integrity issue.

HPR: Are the videos pushing him up in the polls?

Rubens: It's hard to know. It may have been the debate. I think more people saw the debate than saw the videos so far.

HPR: Is there a scenario where Lugar can win the New Hampshire primary?

Rubens: That would be very, very speculative. At this point, either Gen. Powell or Sen. Dole will be the winner, depending on who's in the race. That's our big unknown right now, which we expect to know by Nov. 11. If Colin Powell is not in the race, in my view, it's wide open...wide open.

HPR: The crucial period will be December and January. Give me a feel for what the campaign dynamic will be in the state then.

Rubens: Lugar will be in the state inten-

sively. Now he's going to have the advantage, with the Senate out of session, to be here on the weekdays. He'll get a lot more access to newspaper coverage on the weekdays. He hasn't been able to do that because of the critical work in the Senate. There will be a heavy commitment to be here during the week days. We find that when we talk to our grassroots people here in New Hampshire, the thing that attracts them to Sen. Lugar is when they can meet him and get to know the man. That will be our most crucial activity. New Hampshire is a small state and people can look at the man, not the media image. They can look at the man and when they see that, it's tremendously attractive to the voter.

HPR: Will you do that in living room meetings.

Rubens: We will do that in shopping malls, in grocery stores, on the street. That will be a lot more volume than coffees right now. There will be sufficient number of gathers in December and January where he can do that.

HPR: At what point do New Hampshire voters fully engage? Has that happened yet?

Rubens: No. We're getting close. I think when Gen. Powell announces that he's running in early November, it will begin to attract a lot more attention. The information we're getting right now is that he's not running. When he

announces that he is not running, as we expect, it's going to break things wide open. Sen. Dole has worked this state intensively and is dropping in the polls. Undecideds and Gen. Powell are the largest category.

HPR: Most Republican presidential front-runners win the nomination. What's the difference with Bob Dole at this juncture?

Rubens: I can't really guess. Sen. Dole is an outstanding candidate. But the fact that Colin Powell tops him in the polls right now without even campaigning or a platform indicates a tremendous vacuum in the political process, a gaping Grand Canyon. I clearly think it's the desire of the voters for those features, character, integrity, trust. That's why I think Gen. Powell is doing so well. If Sen. Lugar had the media coverage and the recognizability and if people thought he had a shot, they would look at him and find those same characteristics. Except Sen. Lugar has over four decades of experience in getting things done. He has a specific platform. He has a voting record.

HPR: It will be crucial for the Lugar campaign to move quickly if Gen. Powell declines to get into the race.

Rubens: We're prepared to strike within hours after Colin Powell's announcement. We will strike with full force and full vigor.

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reach," Witwer said. "All we have to do is cap the growth on state spending to the rate of inflation plus population growth. Then, instead of a future that holds ever-rising taxes and slow economic growth...we will have just the reverse: annual tax cuts, rising wages and tremendous opportunity for all."

O'Bannon honored Floyd County Democratic Chairman Warren Nash with a Sagamore of the Wabash this past weekend in Batesville.

House Speaker Paul Mannweiler tells HPR that he believes most of the conservative House freshman class will win re-election, even though eight of them won in distinctly Democratic districts. "I think we can hang on to most of them and I think we can pick up a couple the Democrats have because of retirements," Mannweiler said. "I think we'll be back to where we are now, maybe even pick up a seat or two."

J.D. Lux worked 9th CD Democrats for their support in winning the Indiana Senate seat being vacated by Jean Leising, who is seeking a rematch against U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton. Lux is a Shelbyville attorney.

Greg Zoeller has conducted a

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Lugar notes: The Powell and Dole puzzle pieces

■ The *Boston Globe* reported on Sunday that Gen. Colin Powell has gathered together the "political equivalent" to the Joint Chiefs of Staff to weigh a Republican presidential bid. The *Globe* cited sources from that inner circle that claim Powell will make the race, although other sources close to the general urged caution on a presumed candidacy.

■ The *New York Times'* R.W. Apple Jr. writes of the Lugar strategy: "The campaign's first target is Maine. Lugar hopes to surprise everyone in a straw poll there next month and use that to increase interest in his candidacy in New Hampshire and Iowa. If Dole stumbles, Lugar hopes to inherit voters interested in forming a broad consensus."

■ Lugar campaign manager Mark Lubbers tells the story of Lugar sending Gen. Powell an editorial from a Northeastern

Indiana newspaper on how Lugar and Powell teamed up to get the Gulf War Resolution passed through Congress in 1991. Powell sent the editorial back with a hand-written note to Lugar which, paraphrased, read, "I sure kind of like that title."

■ Mark Helmke, Lugar's communications director, told George Stuteville of the *Indianapolis Star/News* that he made an improper \$1,000 political contribution to James K. Lake "under duress" in March 1994. Lake is part of the Mike Espy probe.

■ Lubbers and pollster Brian Vargus will discuss the potential success of the Lugar presidential campaign on WNDY-TV's *Mike Pence Show* at 7 p.m. this Saturday.

■ Lugar addresses the American Conservative Union on Wednesday and campaigns in New England on Oct. 29-30.

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private statewide tour on behalf of his looming Republican attorney general campaign, meeting with key officials in most of the state's big counties. Zoeller is expected to formally announce his candidacy after the city elections.

Jim Kittle will co-chair Virginia Blankenbaker's 10th CD Republican campaign. Also, Linda Carroll is raising money for the campaign and Steve Hilbert will host a fund-raiser.

Dan Holtz has established an exploratory committee for the 3rd CD Republican race. Holtz is expected to face State Sen. Joe Zakas in the May primary.

James Zieba has joined the Indiana Chamber as director of education policy. Zieba served as the Senate reading clerk in 1987-88 and has interned with the Senate staff and governor. Zieba will work under Kevin Brinegar.

HPR's Brian Howey will be doing televised election analysis in two Hoosier TV markets early next month. Howey will appear with the South Bend Tribune's Jack Colwell on WNIT-TV at 3 p.m. Nov. 5 to discuss Indiana mayoral races. Howey will also provide post-election analysis on WANE-TV's morning news program in Fort Wayne with anchor/reporter Steve Roggie on Nov. 8.

Mannweiler against supplemental budget

INDIANAPOLIS - House Speaker Paul Mannweiler will be reluctant to open a supplemental budget during the 1996 legislative short session, despite the Congressional "devolution" and a gubernatorial race where a tax cut appears to be a political fulcrum.

"I would hope at this point in time that there would be no supplemental budget," Mannweiler said. "I told my caucus (last) week just because the state has a surplus, I feel strongly that it doesn't have to be spent. So I would anticipate and hope that there would be no supplemental budget. That might change concerning the effective dates of the federal legislation roll out. We'll have to look at what they've done, but I would hope they wouldn't do anything that would be effective immediately."

Fred Nation, a spokesman for Gov. Evan Bayh, reiterated a similar desire against a supplemental budget, but took a wait and see approach to what happens in Congress before making that stance definitive.

Congress is in the midst of fashioning a federal budget that could shift a number of programs - job training, school lunches, Medicaid, long-term health care for nursing homes - to the states with funding provided in the form of block grants. Mannweiler believes the full weight of that shift will be felt during the next biennium in the 1997 long session.

"At this point, I'm not sure what we'll be responsible for and I'm not sure if anyone in Congress or the White House knows either."

Mannweiler serves on the executive committee of the National Conference of Legislators and that position has allowed him to stay ahead of the curve in anticipating the coming changes.

A year ago, Mannweiler was House Minority Leader and was surprised to find himself speaker after the November 1994 election. The ensuing three months was chaotic, with insufficient staffing levels that left the House leadership ill-prepared to craft a biennial budget and a school funding formula.

While he doesn't anticipate the federal shift will come this year, if it does, Mannweiler believes that leadership will be able to meet the challenge. "Obviously the committees and struc-

ture are in place," he explained. "They've been through the long session. They've been through the budget so I think it's much easier this time. The Ways and Means chairman has a year under his belt as chairman and the committee members have a year of experience. I don't think that

1996 would be a problem if that were to happen. But I just hope that Congress wouldn't do anything that would require immediate action."

An alleged \$1.3 billion surplus has already impacted the 1996 gubernatorial race and some have predicted that calls for tax cuts would prompt calls for reopening the biennial budget.

Mannweiler said he has spoken briefly with the four GOP gubernatorial candidates as well as Gov. Bayh over tax cuts. "We shouldn't be out there sending false hope to the public, so I guess we should examine that once the session starts. We have to be cautious. The governor has been saying that. But again if we do have the money, in my mind I wouldn't be against reducing auto excises taxes more if it's a possibility."

The same goes for Rex Early's call for \$25 license plates, "but, certainly, not next year. If I recall that's hundreds of millions of dollars. Maybe five or six hundred million dollars. That's not a bad target for the year 2001 or 2002," the speaker said.

Mannweiler downplayed notions that the ardently conservative section of his caucus won't make any power moves to finish off their agenda in view of many tough re-election battles those members will face.

"I'm comfortable that we were able to make some dramatic shifts in how the state of Indiana was approaching many of these taxing problems," he said of the potential for the other conservative shoe to drop. "I think the vast majority of work was done last session. I think everyone is comfortable with those solutions. I don't anticipate a great deal of change in the short session."

