

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

The Howey Political Report is published 40 times a year 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.

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Subscription information: \$250 annually for 40 editions via fax or first class mail. Call 317-685-0883.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I’m trying to figure out if Bayh will run against Dan Coats in the general election or the Republican primary”

—State Rep. Mike Young, who is also Rex Early’s campaign manager

The Incumbent Preservation Pact

Bayh, GOP cut a deal toward the status quo

INDIANAPOLIS - Why would Republican Speaker Paul Mannweiler and Senate President Bob Garton cut a deal with Democratic Gov. Evan Bayh on a tax cut...in the earliest days of the Indiana General Assembly?

Let us consider the contemporary backdrop to this political love-in.

First, there is Wall Street where the bulls have been running wild, giving America a stock market that has cracked the historic 5,000 barrier and shows no sign of retreating. When my folks and my fellow Baby Boomers were growing up, a robust stock market meant a fat chicken in every pot and a shiny car in many garages.

But in the America of the ‘90s, that isn’t the case. The richest 1 percent of the population are fattening up on this booming market. Meanwhile, the rest of us struggle. In corporate America, major corporations like AT&T are laying off thousands of people in order to become leaner and meaner. Those who still have jobs see paltry pay raises and eroding benefits which shift costs to the family check-book.

Americans are nostalgic for the days when a corporation feels for the little guy. Thus, when that Massachusetts mill burned down and the kindly owner called his workers together to say he owes it to them to rebuild, it makes CBS News and brings tears.

Then there is Washington, D.C.

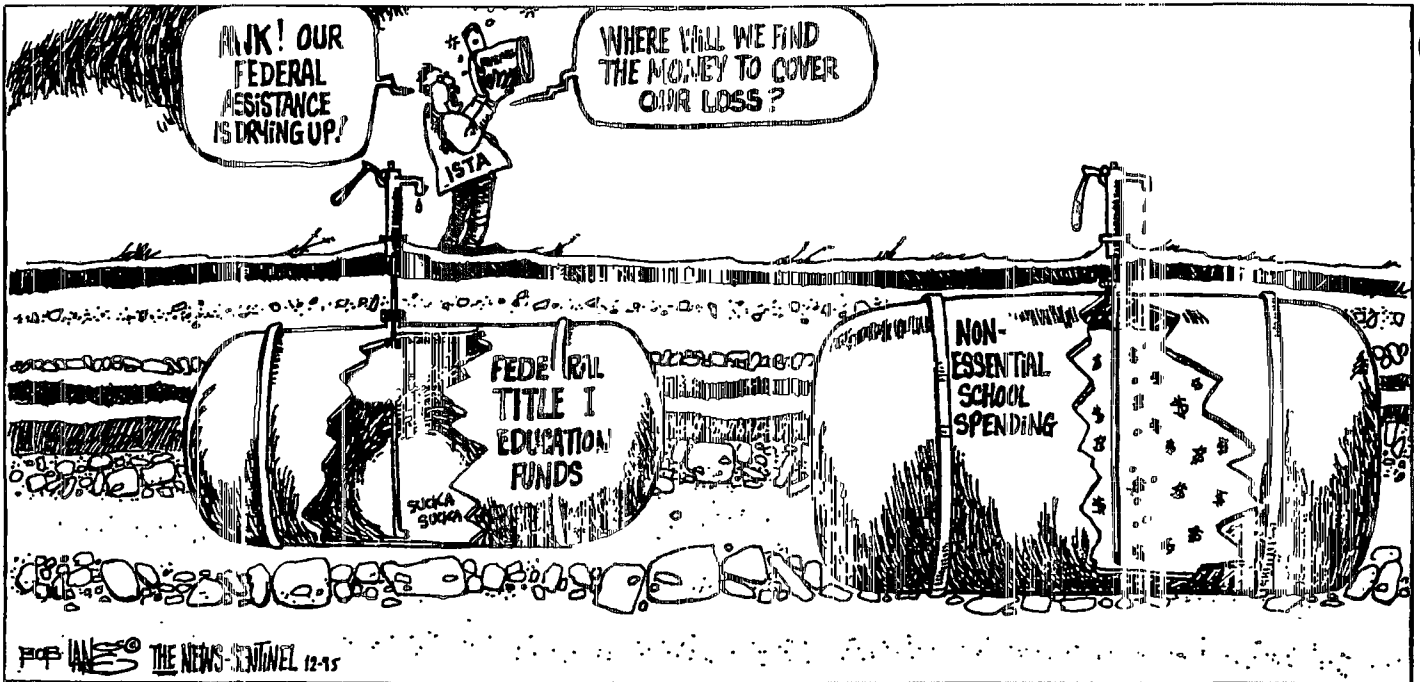
Americans are witnessing the bitterest battle over the future of government. It has shut down civil service and revealed to the masses President Bill Clinton, Sen. Bob Dole and Speaker Newt Gingrich as a spiteful, petty, nose-busting, laggardly bunch.

Americans elected for change in 1992 when they voted Clinton in and George Bush out. They voted for change in 1994 when they routed the Democratic Congress from their calcified roosts.

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HUMOR



Devil's Dictionary

By Ambrose Bierce

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

Peace, n. In international affairs, a period of cheating between two periods of fighting.

Pedigree, n. The known part of the route from an arboreal ancestor with a swim bladder to an urban descendant with a cigarette.

Wendellisms

By Wendell Trogon, Indianapolis News

Washington is a strange place. Sen. Bob Dole is more welcome at the White House than at the Republican House of Representatives.

HPR, new publication headed for the Internet

The *Howey Political Report* and a new publication, *The Midwest Report*, will be available to subscribers over the Internet later this month.

NewsLink, Inc., publisher Brian A. Howey said a subscription service is being established on the world wide web. Subscribers will receive a password so they can download the HPR. HPR will still be available in its current mail and fax forms

In addition, NewsLink, Inc., will begin publishing *The Midwest Report*, a regional version of the HPR aimed specifically at Internet subscribers.

"Having a presence on the world wide web will greatly increase our exposure for both the *Howey Political Report* and the *Midwest Report*," Howey said.

The Midwest Report will be a bi-monthly trend analysis publication tracking issues, polling, and presidential, gubernatorial, Congressional and legislative races in the Big Ten states (except Pennsylvania).

"There are a number of state political newsletters in the Midwest, but nothing that analyzes this distinct region in the American heartland," Howey said.

The Midwest Report will focus on an Internet market primarily based on the American East and West Coasts, as well as for-

eign markets.

"Outside of regional newspapers like the *Chicago Tribune*, there is no publication that puts political events into perspective from the Midwest," Howey said. "We are extremely confi-



dent that our background will allow NewsLink to fill the role better than any other entity."

Howey also announced that cartoonist Bob Lang will join in a cooperative effort to market the publications, Howey's syndicated column and Lang's cartoons. Howey and Lang will use *The Midwest Report* as a publication vehicle to expand their syndicated services in the region and nationally.

As for syndication efforts, Howey has 30 Indiana newspapers running his weekly column. Lang's cartoons run in the HPR, the *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel*, *Columbia City Post & Mail*, *The Limbaugh Letter*, *Frost Illustrated*, *The Conservative Daily*, *Indiana Family Institute*, *The Christian Advocate*, *Hudson Institute*, and the *Ken Hamblin Newsletter*.

Indiana will be crucial Congressional battleground

COVINGTON - U.S. Rep. John Myers' abrupt retirement announcement last week-end means that Indiana will play an even bigger role in the battle for Congress this November. HPR sees six of Indiana's 10 Congressional Districts as potentially being within the statistical margin of error. Here is a rundown of those six seats:

2nd CD

Former State Rep. Marc Carmichael has committed to this race, setting up a classic contrast. He will face U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, who defeated Joe Hogsett by running against President Clinton in 1994. Carmichael can be expected to aim his campaign against House Speaker Newt Gingrich. And McIntosh has created a national reputation for taking on lobbying interests. Carmichael, who established himself as a giant-killer when he upset Indiana House Speaker J. Roberts Dailey in 1986, is a lobbyist. This is the matchup McIntosh wanted. He's got more than \$250,000 cash, but expect the Democrats to flood this race with money.

1994: McIntosh 93,592; Hogsett 78,241

HPR forecast: Leans R

3rd CD

The National Republican Congressional Committee has announced it has targeted U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer for defeat. Republicans have traditionally run well in the 3rd in presidential election years. State Sen. Joe Zakas announced his candidacy on Jan. 4 before a large and enthusiastic crowd in Mishawaka and it's his nomination to lose. His principal rivals are expected to be Elkhart stockbroker Dan Holtz and Michigan City Chamber president Brad Allamong.

1994: Roemer 72,497; Burkett 58,878

HPR forecast: Toss-up

7th CD

Myers' withdrawal creates one of two open seats. Former Greencastle Mayor Mike Harmless has to be tantalized over trying this race again, although his highly anticipated '94

campaign fell flat in the GOP tsunami. As State Sen. Bob Hellman notes, would a Democrat rush into a 6th CD race if Dan Burton retired? State Sen. Richard Thompson and State Rep. Dan Pool challenged Myers in '94. They and Danville attorney Jeff Baldwin will likely be the strongest contenders for the GOP nomination.

1994: Myers 104,359; Harmless 55,941.

HPR forecast: Leans R

HORSE R A C E

8th CD

Freshman U.S. Rep. John Hostettler seems vulnerable, but then again, no one will accuse him of being a Newtoid Robot now. This will be a nationally targeted race with a Democratic primary battle brewing between State Rep. Rick McConnell and former McCloskey aide Jonathan Weinzapfel. The nomination edge goes to McConnell, although Weinzapfel has the potential to be feisty.

1994: Hostettler 93,529; McCloskey 84,857

HPR forecast: Toss-up

9th CD

This is a rematch between U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton and State Sen. Jean Leising. Hamilton gets the early edge. But Leising is extremely credible, seems to get under Hamilton's skin and will raise money. If a GOP wave arises, watch out.

1994: Hamilton 91,459; Leising 84,315

HPR forecast: Leans D

10th CD

Here's the second open seat. Paging Bill Hudnut; paging Bill Hudnut. If he makes this race, he'd be the GOP front-runner against Virginia Blankenbaker and '94 nominee Marvin Scott. On the Democratic side, a race between Ann DeLaney and Julia Carson is too close to call.

1994: Jacobs 58,573; Scott 50,998

HPR forecast: Leans D

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PLAY OF THE WEEK: Gov. Evan Bayh constantly reminds us of what a powerful pol he is. His agreement with legislative Republicans will make his last session a harmonious one. By November, there will be a lot of talk about the "Bayh" tax cut, or, perhaps, the "Bayh-partisan" tax cut. It sets him up perfectly for his 1998 Senate race.



The first instance of "Newting" has occurred on the Indiana campaign trail in the 8th CD race. Democratic *State Rep. Rick McConnell* said that Congress should balance the budget by cutting corporate welfare. "Speaker Newt Gingrich promised last year that when it comes to balancing the budget, 'Everything is on the table,'" McConnell said. "In reality, it seems like some of these items are a little bit more on the table than others." (Dan Bernard, Evansville Press) A spokesman for U.S. Rep. John Hostettler agreed. Michael Jahr said his boss also opposes corporate handouts and his voting record will prove it.

McConnell has picked up the endorsements of Democratic chairs *Gary Phillips* in Gibson County, *Mary Lou Terrell* in Knox County and *Jeff Lehman* in Greene County. He has also named Warren Mathies as his

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Souder says Gingrich panicked, then tried to 'bully' freshmen GOP

WASHINGTON - Last week, HPR broke a national story that Indiana U.S. Rep. Mark Souder was calling a visit by House Speaker Newt Gingrich a liability.

Then Souder and U.S. Rep. John Hostettler were part of a 401-17 vote that re-opened the government last Friday. By Wednesday, Gingrich had postponed fund-raisers for the two freshmen that the Georgia Republican had initiated.

Gingrich's office offered several explanations, including the weather, and, from spokesman Tony Blankley, because the Speaker would "prioritize" his appointments with those who had voted to end the partial government shutdown.

HPR interview Souder on Wednesday morning about what is turning out to be a fascinating spectacle.

HPR: What precipitated the Speaker's cancellation of his Jan. 17 visit?

Souder: The first sign of relative chaos came on Thursday with the announcement of a freshman press conference. It turned out the leadership had called the freshman press conference and the freshmen were just starting to drift in during the morning. Newt was the one who said we were going to have a press conference and he was mad when the freshmen cancelled. What we communicated back was, 'Who are you to be calling freshman press conferences?' We decide as a class. Then he met with the freshman class at 2 o'clock where he floated out this new deal that he had which was that we would pay all federal workers, that we would tell all the others that we were going to pay them, and do a form of a (Continuing Resolution) until March 16. He told us there were 20 to 30 moderates who were about ready to vote with the Democrats either on a motion to recommit or on a discharge petition that had forced his hand. He also said it would be immoral not to pay the government workers. Not much happened. He then took off for another meeting with the moderate Republicans. Later in the afternoon, he met with the Conservative Action Team that Dan Burton heads, and then came

back with a fairly conservative spin. Among other things, he said that the moderates, Dan Burton, Bob Dornan and others were sympathetic to the Speaker. In the meantime, a group of freshmen regrouped, went to that meeting and said, 'We've been thinking about this. This is a lousy deal. I got upset and said, 'Is it true that the moderates are holding this up?' (U.S. Rep.) Greg Ganske, who was at the moderates' meeting, wrote me a note and said, "This isn't true. A higher percentage of them want to hold the line than the conservatives.'

HPR: This was Thursday night?

Souder: Yes. He told us there would be no plan until he came back to the conference Friday morning. He did say this, which was straight forward: "I do not have to listen to the conference and if I make a decision you can't bind me. You can replace me as Speaker, but you can't make the decision."

HPR: Is there a chance Republicans will replace him as Speaker?

Souder: No.

HPR: Then what happened?

Souder: When we got outside, the media was in a frenzy, and in my opinion the Speaker panicked. In the leadership meeting, he started thrashing around for a compromise proposal.

HPR: When did you learn about the proposal that you and John Hostettler voted against Friday.

Souder: I was over at the Capitol Hill Club late Thursday night with a couple of other members having a hamburger when (U.S. Rep.) John Boehner drifted in and said, "By the way, the Speaker is having a meeting with the media right now to announce a new proposal." We were incredulous: What? We were told it would not happen until morning.

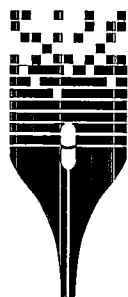
HPR: What happened on Friday?

Souder: The Speaker holds the shortest conference we've ever had. He walks in, said this is what the deal is. Bing, bing, bing. I'm taking names of the people who vote against it, not for any retribution, but if any of you complain against another Member, I will be able to look at my list and I will not listen to you. And he said,

HPR INTERVIEW

"Mark Anderson from (Gingrich's) staff called and said it was because of the weather. The weather next week. We in Northeastern Indiana would like their weather forecasting system. I call it NewtRad...."

- Mark Souder



"If you don't want me as Speaker, get yourself another Speaker." And he walked out. The freshmen met and decided what to do and we ended up bitterly divided because nobody can defend the substance of the vote Friday night. What it came down to was if we voted no on Friday night, were we giving a rebuff to the Speaker.

HPR: When did you hear from Gingrich that he wasn't going to do the Indiana swing on Jan. 17?

Souder: Yesterday (Jan. 9).

HPR: Did you hear from him personally?

Souder: No. Mark Anderson from his staff called and said it was because of the weather.

HPR: The weather?

Souder: The weather next week.

HPR: They've got a good forecaster.

Souder: We in Northeast Indiana would like their weather forecasting system. I call it NewtRad, as opposed to NextRad.

HPR: Where do you stand now? Are you going to be perpetually in Gingrich's doghouse?

Souder: If being in his doghouse means doing what he said he was going to do the day before, then I'll be in his doghouse for awhile. What would have been a rebellion is if the 15 of us had voted with the Democrats on the previous question. We told him what we were doing. I call it well-behaved dissidence. This is what the people who elected us would do if they were in our shoes.

HPR: Was the cancellation a shot out of the blue?

Souder: Dan Meyer from the speaker's office came up to me Friday night right after the vote on the floor and asked, "Are you still OK

with the fund-raiser?" I said yes. And understand something. They invited themselves. I didn't invite Gingrich. And they had cancelled once before right before the '94 election when I didn't ask for them and they announced they were coming in. I told Meyer that it wasn't going to be a big advantage, but it's an honor to have the Speaker come to Fort Wayne. And he is my leader and I vote with him 90 percent of the time.

HPR: Did the Speaker want to cancel then?

Souder: Meyer said, "No, I've talked with him and we're going to go ahead with it. I just wanted to make sure it wasn't going to cause a lot of confusion with your media." So we both decided to go ahead. Now, square that with yesterday. What really happened was they are worried about the next vote, not the last vote. So they are flexing their muscles because they think they can bully us.

HPR: Your perception of Sen. Bob Dole at this point?

Souder: He's the one who ultimately to put the pressure on our Speaker. It's clear to everybody that the Speaker dramatically shifted gears between Tuesday and Friday.

HPR: Between this and the Hillary Clinton stories, it's like two Shakespearean tales are being written before our eyes.

Souder: If they had just come to us and said, "Hey, we need to reopen the government because Hillary is about ready to get hammered. We need to reopen the government to let them be the story for awhile." But we made our own story and we walked on our own story. Never walk on your own story. They don't get it.

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campaign chairman.

State Sen. John Sinks, who has announced his retirement after this session, is expected to run for the Allen County Council this November. Current Councilman Dan Heath, who lost a 1989 Congressional race against Jill Long, will vacate his council seat to run for judge.

Tenth CD Republican candidate Virginia Blankenbaker called for White House officials and Members of Congress to forfeit their pay during the shutdown. In 1981, Blankenbaker refused to accept her per diem checks during a special session in protest of a stalemate.

The Times of Northwest Indiana reported last weekend that it was unlikely that the Lake County Council would pass a .5 percent income tax needed for the proposed Planet Park stadium that would house the Chicago Bears.

Kevin Corcoran has left the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel for The Times. The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette's new Statehouse reporter is Leslie Stedman.

Gary Mayor Scott King appeared on WMAQ-TV's "City Desk" show with Dick Kay on Sunday. Kay asked King if the tax wouldn't "go right into Mike

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Hostettler's camp waits Gingrich clarification

EVANSVILLE - Curt Smith, top aide to U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, knew Speaker Newt Gingrich's plan to have 40 fund-raisers in 10 days was under duress because of the Eastern "Bliz-zard of '96 and budget talks.

Yet he was surprised on Tuesday when he was beeped and told by a Gingrich spokesman that the Jan. 17 fund-raiser was being "postponed."

"He said they'd get back to us in a couple of weeks. Then I pick up the paper today and

read Tony Blankley's quote about prioritizing because of Friday's vote."

Said Smith, "John doesn't take PAC money. He doesn't want anyone to question votes in relation to fund-raisers. If that's the quid pro quo, we will not have the Speaker in."

Hostettler, who will report \$75,000 cash on hand at year's end, had anticipated 250 people for the breakfast and a dozen for a \$1,000 reception. "I can make lemonade out of lemons," Smith said. "We'll let the Speaker clarify things."

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McCaskey's pocket? King responded, "That's not true. What the public money is for bonds for 40 percent of the stadium and convention center." King also told Kay that he believes that he can get guarantees that most of the project's construction jobs would go to Northwest Indiana residents."

Suzette Raggs has been named Gary's deputy mayor, the first woman to hold that title.

A bill sponsored by Evansville Republican **Sen. Greg Server** and **Rep. Vaneta Becker** proposes to cap PAC contributions to \$1,000 per candidate per year. Currently, those donations are unlimited. Server complained that he spent \$190,000 on his 1992 re-election. State Sen. **Richard Thompson** said the bill will "probably" get a committee hearing (*Dan Bernard, Evansville Press*).

A faulty computer printer was responsible for a discrepancy of more than 900 absentee ballots in Vanderburgh County last November (*Paul Minnis, Evansville Press*).

A Crown Point woman running for president claims to have the support of **Jesus Christ, Abraham Lincoln, Isis** and **Thomas Jefferson**. **Heather Anne Harder**, a Democrat,

New Lugar TV ads try to justify December bomb; point again to security as big issue

Sen. Dick Lugar's presidential campaign has released a follow up TV ad to those on nuclear terrorism.

The campaign hopes the new ads will justify the first flight of four ads that many observers panned.

"Those ads were really weird," said Eric Caddell, political reporter for the *Keene Sentinel* in Southwestern New Hampshire.

Caddell, however, reports that at a recent appearance in Manchester, "Lugar was downright fiery." But, he added, "It may be too little, too late."

Lugar himself defended the ads before the Concord Rotary Club. In an Associated Press dispatch, Lugar explained, "Those ads have had mixed results. Some of you have said to me that these are scary ads, they are melodramatic and hardly worthy of a presidential campaign."

Lugar added, "The most dire threat on an American city is not a missile projected 5,500 miles and shot by the Russians. It is in fact leftovers from the Cold War."

Lugar's new ad, titled "Genuine Coverage," began running Tuesday in Iowa and on Wednesday in New Hampshire. The 30-second ad will run 37 times during the next week on WMUR-TV, New Hampshire's lone station.

Here is the text of the ad, produced by Mark Lubbers, Susan Tyndal and Mike Day in Indianapolis last weekend:

Announcer: "Dick Lugar knew he was right to tell us about nuclear terrorism. And now three national magazines have proved it."

Lugar: "The fact is that this is not the sort of thing that is discovered by a poll, by a person seeking popularity, by a person with their finger in the wind. I've tried to devote my time and effort to those things that were truly important, those things that can change the lives of people in their communities, in this country and the world."

Announcer: "Dick Lugar. Everything a president should be."

AP political analyst Sally Buzbee said that the new flight of ads are designed to justify

the December ads that featured a little girl asking, "Mommy, won't the bomb wake everybody up?"

Wrote Buzbee "Rivals ridiculed Lugar for fear-mongering about an esoteric issue. This month, *Scientific American*, *Popular Mechanics* and *Time* all ran stories about a nuclear terrorism threat. The bigger issue, however, is

LUGAR WATCH

whether Americans would base their votes on such a threat, even if they considered it real. If so, Lugar's foreign policy experience would appeal. But most pollsters believe Americans, if they vote on issues, vote on economics and mostly ignore foreign policy. Others vote purely on character or personality. Lugar is certainly serious and intelligent, but little known and not very charismatic."

She concluded, "Lugar says he follows his convictions rather than polls - certainly appealing to voters looking for strong beliefs and character. But in a Republican nominating contest dotted with conservative true believers, that message may not be unique."

■ **Lugar notes:** President Clinton's approval rating has begun to drop, now at its lowest point in a year. In a USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll, Clinton's ratings fell from 51 percent three weeks ago (just as the partial government shutdown began) to 42 percent last weekend when it ended.

■ Clinton is a so within the statistical margin of error for the first time in a head-to-head matchup with U.S. Sen. Bob Dole. In the same poll, Clinton now leads Dole, 47-46 percent. Among registered voters, Dole led 49-46 percent. The same poll on Nov. 18 had Clinton leading Dole 55-39 percent. The poll was a survey of 1,000 adults with a 3 percent margin of error.

■ Lugar has named Caterpillar, Inc. Chairman Donald V. Fites as his Illinois campaign chairman.

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Jason Whitlock, *Kansas City Star* - The sad-sack, Irsay-family-owned Colts think they should be taken seriously. I know a counterfeit NFL team when I see one. I grew up in Indianapolis. I have firsthand knowledge of these Colts.

David Broder, *Washington Post* - Adam Meyerson, vice president of the Heritage Foundation, has just published the first issue of a revamped magazine, now titled "Policy Review: The Journal of American Citizenship." The last five words were added to the title, he told me, to signal a new focus on the institutions of civil society that are solving problems more effectively than large, centralized bureaucratic government. Meyerson plans to expand on the theme, already struck by Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., and his Project for American Renewal, that devolution of power from Washington to states and localities is not enough in itself to restore the health of American society.

David Scott Coker, *Evansville Courier* - Over the past several months, Rep. John Hostettler has been acquiring a public education...a relentless drumbeat of charges, countercharges and attacks from all quarters, both in Washington as well as Southwestern Indiana. First it was organized labor which weighed in with a megabuck television advertising campaign criticizing Hostettler's support of the Republican leadership's "Contract with America." Then it was senior citizens who were calling the congressman's Evansville office to present over 1,000 signatures on petitions opposing reductions in Medicare and Medicaid. Next it was a group of doctors, the Physicians for Social Responsibility, which gave the young Congressman an F for his environmental voting record. Finally, (he) was a target of criticism from the *Advocate*, a national gay and lesbian magazine which described him as one of the 10 worst congressmen. Hostettler's positions and voting record on many issues have equally disappointed many of his supporters on the righthand side of the political

spectrum, notably his opposition to term limits legislation, the balanced budget amendment and other issues. What Hostettler is probably learning in his first intense trial by political fire is that contemporary American politics holds no truck for amateurs.

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - Logansport's Robert Sater, a substance abuse counselor at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Marion, is circulating a petition to recall U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. Sater is fed up with Buyer's stance on federal budget issues affecting veterans, senior citizens and Medicaid recipients. There's just one problem: Indiana doesn't have any provision for recall elections. When it comes to total recall, the Amazing Kreskin has more powers than Indiana residents.

Rick A. Richards, *Gary Post-Tribune* - All along it seemed inevitable. Now that Gary has set a record with 132 homicides that most likely will reclaim the title as the nation's murder capital, there will be lots of handwringing and predictable accounts of how a great steel town is now a shell of its former self. But before the finger pointing begins - and it assuredly will start soon - make no mistake that the gang and drug problem fueling Gary's murderous appetite is not confined to the city limits. That was evident during a trip home during the holidays. Cambridge City has a population smaller than many Northwest Indiana high schools, but the day I arrived the talk of the town was about the 17-year-old who had been shot to death by her boyfriend. In South Bend where a record 27 homicides were recorded in 1995, city officials have declared an emergency.

Deborah Sederberg, *Michigan City News-Dispatch* - I would love to see Gary rebound. I am afraid, however, that the Bears deal could turn into a burden on the shoulders of people who cannot afford to carry another load of trouble.

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explained, "Abraham Lincoln is one that's very close to this campaign and is working very intently with it. I think it's interesting because he's a Republican."

The *Chicago Tribune's* Michael Tackett reports that loss of Catholic support has paralleled the Democratic Party's decline. It reached a high point when 70 percent of U.S. Catholics voted for John F. Kennedy in 1960. Now, only 27 percent call themselves Catholic. Representing 25 percent of the vote nationwide, White House pollster Stanley Greenberg believes Catholic voters will determine the outcome of the 1996 election.

Three Democrats and one Republican are seeking the 77th House District seat being vacated by State Rep. Jeff Hayes. Glenda B. Hampton, a teacher's union lobbyist, was the latest to enter the race. Other Democrats include Brian Hasler, a former aide to U.S. Rep. Frank McCloskey, and Norbert Woolley, a utility president. Republican Jeff Devine, who ran for Congress in 1994, is considering the race.

Scripps-Howard's Washington news staff has made these predictions for 1996: President Clinton will defeat Sen. Bob Dole by a razor-thin margin; Speaker

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Gingrich will be forced to step aside by "jittery House freshmen...without so much as a look backward."

In the wake of House Speaker Newt Gingrich's cancellation of his Jan. 17 Indiana visit, former Seattle Seahawk and U.S. Rep. Steve Largent will appear on behalf of U.S. Rep. Mark Souder in Fort Wayne.

State Rep. Bob Alderman is vowing to halt the riverboat casino that was approved for East Chicago by the Indiana Gaming Commission earlier this week. "This has only just begun," said Alderman, who chairs the House Public Policy Committee. "I would caution the people of East Chicago not to invest a lot of money just yet." Alderman has filed legislation that would halt licensing of casinos during 1996.

"One of the best..."

That's how Washington Political Analyst Charles Cook describes the Howey Political Report

Call 317-685-0833 for subscription information

We're witnessing the Incumbent Protection Plan

From page 1

There is a plausible scenario that in 1996 American voters (or those that bother to show up) will make even more changes, perhaps electing a Democratic Congress and a Republican president.

About four months ago, Gov. Bayh approached Republican leaders in the Indiana legislature on what to do with a \$1.3 billion surplus. These negotiations continued in relative secrecy up until 11:20 a.m. Tuesday. Ten minutes later, Bayh was standing at a Statehouse media conference room podium flanked by Mannweiler and Garton and Republican House leaders Sam Turpin and Brian Bosma.

There would be an immediate 50 percent reduction in license plates, a doubling of the homestead property tax credit from 4 to 8 percent, a \$250 million sum to be applied to a \$7 billion pension liability, and a \$500 per child college tax credit.

Why would legislative Republicans would be so eager to embrace a Democratic governor, particularly when they can override Bayh's vetoes with a simple majority? The answer - a steering wheel - is in the hands of most adult Hoosiers.

What we're witnessing is an opinion poll-driven tax cut, an extended Christmas for Hoosiers who own their own cars and homes and who have kids headed for college. If you were to go down any polling list, license plates and property taxes are the most hated. Conservatives argue for pro-growth tax cuts, like eliminating inventory or inheritance taxes. But the general public has to be skeptical of trickle down benefits after the way many corporations have behaved.

You might also call this the Incumbent Preservation Package, with all apologies to Indiana House Democrats, Rex Early and U.S. Sen. Dan Coats.

Tuesday's press conference was noteworthy for who wasn't up on the stage: Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon, House Democrats and Senate Republicans, other than Garton.

State Sen. Bob Hellman was comfortable with the deal, believing it reduces the chances that the GOP's Conservative Caucus will push for reforms similar to prevailing wage and fair

share that occurred during the 1995 session.

House Minority Leader John Gregg expressed his amazement that Republicans cut a deal so early since they have simple majority veto override power. "It tells me their caucus wasn't unanimous in what they wanted," Gregg said, predicting that by next November, the move will be universally called the "Bayh tax cut."

Politically, this initiative allows Bayh and House Republican leaders to provide a clear contrast to their wrangling brothers and sisters in Washington.

It's the capstone image for Evan Bayh in a memorable six months. We've seen the governor announce the huge surplus, lead the Indiana State Police to an occupied Gary, unveil plans for billion dollar auto plants in Kokomo and Princeton, become the father of twin boys, and now he shares a stage with legislative Republicans espousing praise. These images will be compiled for his 1998 race against Coats.

This fall, O'Bannon, who was informed of the negotiations prior to the press conference, might get some residual glow from these cuts. The Republican he'd like to face for governor, Rex Early, just had his main issue, \$25 license plates, significantly compromised, although State Rep. Mike Young counters, "It just shows that Rex is right."

But the real winners will be House Republicans who were stung by the prevailing wage reforms of the 1995 session. Many had won '94 races in Democratic districts and will face severe challenges this fall.

Republican Reps. James Vanleer in Muncie, Irene Heffley in Indianapolis, John Kimmel in Terre Haute or Jon Padfield in Kokomo will be able to go back to their Democratic districts and point out how they joined the Democratic governor to bring check-book friendly tax cuts.

■ **State of state notes:** Bayh's final address reiterated the deal he struck with legislative Republicans on Tuesday. Plus, Bayh called for identifying fathers as a condition for female recipients and their children to receive welfare and foodstamps. He also proposed increasing penalties for those convicted of child molestation and sexual misconduct.