

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“If the president chooses to govern as he campaigned, he will find a cooperative Congress....”

—U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, in his radio response

to President Clinton on Dec. 7

Coats bows out of 1998 race vs. Bayh McIntosh, Burton, Helmke, Goldsmith up next?

FORT WAYNE - U.S. Sen. Dan Coats will not seek re-election in 1998, which will likely set off another Republican free-for-all and catapult Gov. Evan Bayh as an odds-on favorite to reclaim his father's old Senate seat.

The announcement occurred at the Marriott in Fort Wayne this morning. Most observers believe that Bayh would easily defeat Coats in 1998. Sources tell HPR that an Indiana Manufacturer's Association poll last summer showed Bayh leading Coats by 25 points.

The Bayh camp professed “surprise” at Coats' decision, particularly its timing. “Certainly, Coats has been the candidate we expected to be their standard bearer in 1998,” said Bayh spokesman Fred Nation. “But it's in concert with the many things Sen. Coats has stood for - his philosophy of limiting the number of years in office.”

For the last two weeks, there has been increasing speculation that Coats - undefeated in six general House and Senate elections - might opt out of a race against Bayh, who won 63 percent of the vote in his 1992 re-election. Knowledgeable sources told HPR last week that Coats dislikes fundraising, something that he would have to spend virtually every hour outside Senate business doing. Coats confirmed that he was “stunned” at the amount of money Stephen Goldsmith and Frank O'Bannon had to raise in the 1996 governor's race (See HPR Interview, pages 6-7).

Coats' first four years in the Senate after Gov. Bob Orr selected him to fill out Dan Quayle's term in December 1988 were nothing short of a grinder. He had to seek re-election for the rest of Quayle's term in 1990, when he defeated Democrat Baron Hill, 54-46 percent. Two years later, Coats executed a brilliant campaign strategy and annihilated then-Secretary of State Joe Hogsett, 57-41 percent.

Other sources said Coats was looking at re-election as a “family decision.” That source continued, “When Dan and Marcia decide,

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Indiana's fastest growing source of political news



TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: South Bend City Councilman Steve Luecke gets the nod from Lt. Gov.-elect Joe Kernan to follow in his footsteps. Luecke was then unanimously elected to the post. It was a case of the ex-POW Kernan selecting a man who had been a conscientious objector. The whole process, directed by St. Joseph County Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan, was orderly, inclusive, and yet relied on the judgment of Kernan, who had been elected mayor three times.



Coats has been named deputy Republican Whip in the U.S. Senate by Senate assistant Majority Leader Don Nickles. Coats recently dropped his

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then he'll start campaigning."

What has ignited such talk is that Coats hadn't formed a skeletal campaign at a time when some party pros believed his fundraising should have been in full tilt and he should have been actively traveling the state.

In October, Coats told the Statehouse press corps that he would not announce a final decision until after the 1996 elections. Asked if there was a chance Coats would bypass a re-election battle, Coats spokesman Tim Goeglein said last week, "I have not heard that."

Goeglein said last Thursday that following the election, Coats wanted to take a break. He said the senator would make a decision in January. But Sunday night, a terse Goeglein was telling key reporters to be in Fort Wayne at 9 a.m. "for a big announcement."

"I want to leave when I am young enough to contribute somewhere else - young enough to resume a career outside government," Coats said Monday morning. "By committing the next eight years to running for and serving another term in the Senate, these goals would have become more difficult. Therefore it is not my intention to seek re-election to the Senate in 1998."

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, a former aide to Coats, said there was a minor "cottage industry"

of former Coats staffers who had been speculating on what the senator would do.

"His final decision wasn't locked until Friday," Souder said. "He agonized over it. He was really sounding out all kinds of people all over the country. If I could change his mind, I would change it."

A field of Republican contenders contemplating the Coats seat would include Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Herke, Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy, U.S. Reps. David McIntosh and Dan Burton, 1996 lieutenant governor nominee George Witwer, and Pat Kiely, president of the Indiana Manufacturer's Association.

Some Republicans have suggested Marilyn Quayle, but that contemplation would be ridiculous considering that Dan Quayle is fully committed to the 2000 presidential race.

McIntosh, seen as the Indiana GOP's brightest rising star, and Burton, who just became chairman of the powerful House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, would have to give up their House seats to run in 1998. But Burton has long wanted to be in the Senate and has a massive campaign war chest of more than \$1.5 million.

McIntosh has never been one to shy away from a tough political battle, opting to run in the 2nd CD in 1994 against Auditor of State Ann DeVore, who then forgot to file her primary

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candidacy, and U.S. Rep. Phil Sharp, who abruptly retired after 20 years in office. McIntosh might provide the best political matchup for Bayh as a youthful, telegenic conservative who just ran an Indy TV campaign.

"David McIntosh hasn't even started his Christmas shopping, let alone figured out what he'll do in two years," said his press spokesman, Chris Jones.

Souder, who said he is not interested, said he would be surprised anyone from the Indiana Congressional delegation would challenge Bayh in 1998. The reason? If Bayh wins, there is a decent chance he'll be the vice presidential nominee in 2000. "We could conceivably have two Senate seats and a governor's race up in the next four years," Souder explained. "Why take a high-risk shot at Bayh? Besides, with a 10-vote margin, the excitement is in the House right now. Why go to the Senate?"

As for McIntosh, Souder said, "Dave is going to be a senator or a governor someday. Would he want to risk that against Bayh? But if

1998 Watch

he ran, I would support him." Helmke, who is mired in a Fort Wayne annexation controversy, has told HPR that he is eager to move his political career on to a statewide platform. The seat has had geographical roots in Northeast Indiana since 1980 when Quayle (from Huntington) upset Birch Bayh, and then was followed by Coats, who hails from Fort Wayne. Helmke's baggage is that he angered some Republicans for his early support of Clinton administration initiatives and in 1993 was publicly rebuked by then Indiana Republican Chairman Rex Early for doing so. But Helmke was re-elected to a third term in 1995 by a landslide and has drawn back from his Yale classmates, Bill and Hillary Clinton.

For Goldsmith, running against Evan Bayh would be a rematch of sorts from his first statewide run in 1988. Goldsmith is coming off a disappointing gubernatorial loss last month, and is said to have long wanted to go to the Senate. His 1988 lieutenant governor candidacy was marred by talk that he wanted to succeed

Quayle at a time when the state ticket was in the process of being drubbed by Bayh.

Goldsmith has lost two statewide races. His 1996 performance in which he raised an amazing \$9 million has been skewered by numerous GOP sources for his lack of people skills, bad grassroots organizing, and a sullen attitude toward his current office of mayor after the defeat.

But Helmke and Goldsmith wouldn't have to give up an office to run, although Goldsmith has refused to commit to remaining as mayor. Another problem for Goldsmith is that after the Meridian Street police controversy damaged his gubernatorial run, seeking another statewide post as mayor could produce a campaign more jittery and vulnerable than the one he just finished.

Kiely could be the intriguing option for Republicans. He was on Orr's short list in 1988 for the Coats seat. Kiely established himself as a powerful chairman of the Indiana House Ways and Means Committee before he stepped aside in the early 1990s. The problem Kiely faces in a race against Bayh is that the out-going governor's mantra has been "no new taxes," while Kiely participated in two of the state's largest tax increases in 1982 and 1987.

The other key factor here is whether anyone could defeat Evan Bayh, who enjoys popularity of historic proportions.

Coats, while not possessing Bayh's supposed "glamor," boyish good looks and adorable twin toddlers, has never voted to raise taxes. Coats initiated the "American Project Renewal" legislation that attempted to bring compassion into the Republican Revolution and was co-opted by President Clinton through a mutual campaign consultant - the scandalous Dick Morris. It would have produced an interesting contrast between Bayh, perceived as a "caretaker" governor, and activist conservative Coats, who successfully championed the line item veto.

When stacking that up against his own family values, it appears that Dan Coats simply didn't think it was worth it.



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challenge to become chairman of the Senate Labor Committee.

Long-time Porter County Democratic activist Helen Boothe has been removed as a precinct committeewoman and bounced from the party by County Chairman Leon West. Her transgression was that she shared voter registration data she had compiled with Porter County Republicans to make that information more accessible to average citizens. Boothe can appeal the decision to the 1st CD chairman, who happens to be Leon West. If she is not reinstated, she can make her case to her congressman, U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky.

Cam Carter joins his old Lugar presidential campaign boss, Craig Whitney, at the Hudson Institute. Carter leaves the EvansGroup to become Hudson's director of planning and development. Another Lugar presidential campaign veteran, communications director Terry Holt, has also had a lifestyle change. Holt married Jackie Emigh on Nov. 29 in Key West.

Marion County Democratic Chairman Kip Tew, who will head up PSI Energy's governmental affairs unit, tells HPR that he will decide in the next two weeks whether he will

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Bob Lang to be honored at Columbia Club

The Howey Political Report and The Tax Research Analysis Center in conjunction with the Columbia Club Foundation, will host a reception for award-winning Hoosier cartoonist Bob Lang from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Columbia Club, 121 Monument Circle, Indianapolis, on the second floor.

A display of Lang's art will be on exhibition at the Columbia Club from Jan. 6 through Jan. 31.

Bill Soards II will emcee the event and HPR Publisher Brian Howey will give an update on the upcoming session of the Indiana General Assembly.

There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. This event is open to all HPR subscribers. Please RSVP at 317-761-7518.

O'Bannon-Kernan appointments head up Statehouse transition

INDIANAPOLIS - Here is a list of key Statehouse appointments:

O'Bannon-Kernan administration: Tom New, chief of staff to Gov.-Elect Frank O'Bannon; David Johnson, transition director; Peggy Boehm, state budget director; Robert Kovach, executive assistant to the governor for legislative affairs; Peter J. Manous, Lake County liaison to the transition office; Betty Cockrum, commissioner of the Department of Administration; Amy Stewart, deputy chief of staff; Addison Simpson, executive assistant to the governor; Craig Hartzler, executive assistant for policy development; Melvin Carraway, superintendent of state police; Gary Gibson, commissioner of Bureau of Motor Vehicles; Sen. Kathy Smith, executive assistant to the governor for education; Fred Biesecker, counsel to the governor; Kenneth L. Miller, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Revenue; Charles W. Phillips, director, Indiana Department of Financial Institutions; Gerald Quigley, executive director of the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency; John J. Thar, executive director of the Indiana Gaming Commission; F. Garth Dickey, director, Public Employees' Retirement Fund of Indiana; and F. Gerald Handfield Jr., director of the Indiana Commission on Public Records and State Archivist.

Staff appointments for Lt. Gov.-elect Joe Kernan: Mary Downes, chief of staff; Thomas McKenna, executive assistant for operations in the lieutenant governor's office; Steve Rogers, executive assistant for legislation and communications; Sherlonda Anderson, director of administration; Tina Dennis, press secretary; Hans Detlefsen, special assistant; Megan Murphy, special assistant; Stephanie Smith, administrative assistant and scheduler.

House Committee Chairs: Rep. Rolland Webber, Aged and Aging; Rep. Bob Bischoff, Agriculture and Rural Development; Rep. Jim Bottorff, Commerce and Economic Development; Rep. Michael Dvorak, Courts and Criminal Code; Rep. Vanessa Summers, Economic Growth and Regulatory Relief; Rep.

Paul Robertson, Education; Rep. Tom Kromkowski, Elections and Apportionment; Rep. Dale Sturtz, Environmental Affairs; Rep. Vernon Smith, Families, Children and Human Affairs; Rep. Ron Tabaczynski, Financial Institutions; Rep. Craig Fry, Insurance, Corporations and Small Business; Rep. Jesse Villalpando, Judiciary; Rep. Ron Liggett, Labor and Employment; Rep. Dan Stevenson, Local Government; Rep. Mark Lytle, Natural Resources; Rep. Charlie Brown, Public Health; Rep. Bill Bailey, Public Policy, Ethics and Veterans Affairs; Rep. Larry Lutz, Public Safety; Rep. Gary Cook, Roads and Transportation; Rep. Tom Alevizos, Rules and Legislative Procedure; Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, Ways and Means. All chairs are Democrats.

Senate Committee Chairs: Sen. Johnny Nugent, Agriculture and Small Business; Sen. Harold "Potch" Wheeler, Appointments and Claims; Sen. Morris Mills, Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Sen. Robert Meeks, Corrections, Criminal and Civil Procedures; Sen. Thomas Weatherwax, Education; Sen. Sue Landske, Elections; Sen. Luke Kenley, Ethics; Sen. Lawrence Borst, Finance; Sen. Allen Paul, Financial Institutions; Sen. Beverly Gard, Governmental and Regulatory Affairs; Sen. Patricia Miller, Health and Environmental Affairs; Sen. Richard Workman, Insurance and Interstate Cooperation; Sen. Richard Bray, Judiciary; Sen. Greg Server, Natural Resources; Sen. Joseph Harrison, Pensions and Labor; Sen. Steven Johnson, Planning and Public Services; Sen. Tom Wyss, Public Policy; Sen. Marvin Riegsecker, Roads and Transportation; and Sen. Robert Garton, Rules and Legislative Procedure. All chairs are Republicans.

Senate Republican Leadership: Sen. Sue Landske, assistant president pro tempore; Sen. Kent Adams, assistant majority floor leader; Sen. Becky Skillman and Sen. James W. Merritt, Jr., assistant majority caucus; Sen. Joe Zakas, majority whip; and Sen. Teresa Lubbers, assistant majority whip.

Indiana Democrats have chance to formulate new party distinctions

INDIANAPOLIS - For Indiana Democrats, the darkest days in modern times may have come during the spring of 1995.

The party was still licking its wounds from the previous November when it lost three Congressional seats, the Indiana House and all statewide offices. Constituent organizations such as the Indiana Building Trades Council and the Indiana State Teachers Association were under a full frontal assault in the legislature on prevailing wage and fair share. Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith was the early favorite to win the governorship.

Today, Indiana Democrats have turned that gloomy outlook into Frank O'Bannon's historic reclamation of the governor's office and the Indiana House. But the other great opportunity facing O'Bannon and state Chairman Joe Andrew is to redefine their political party that, from a thematic view, hasn't varied from Republicans to any great degree.

The Indiana political spectrum has been one of blandness, except for the prevailing wage fight, a quirk. Virtually everyone is a "conservative" to the point where that term has lost its distinction, not unlike "lager beer" has. Indiana House Democratic leadership is pro-life on abortion, for instance, where Republicans are pro-choice. Gov. Evan Bayh has been accused of being a "Republican governor." He sought and received historic federal waivers on welfare that has vaulted Indiana along with Wisconsin as a leading public assistance reformer.

O'Bannon won the governorship not because of any ideological distinction with Goldsmith (they both were opposed to higher taxes) but more on the trust factor. Both O'Bannon and Goldsmith favored varying degrees of the school choice concept.

Incoming 10th District congresswoman Julia Carson, who has the perception of being further left than many other Democrats, left her mark in Center Township as instituting a work-for-welfare program. And U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer is leading a new centrist caucus in Congress and has even pondered moving into a third party.

What Democrats were able to do successfully is move into centrist territory that played well to moderate/swing voters, particularly females. On a national level, President Clinton usurped Dan Quayle's "family values" themes and added support of the Brady gun control bill, and he defended teachers. The assault weapons ban repeal vote in Congress sent many moderate Republican women into Democratic hands.

There are deep cracks appearing elsewhere in the conservative mantle. Bloomington *Herald-Times* reporter Steve Hinnfield offered up the latest scrutiny on prevailing wage reforms in the Bloomington area. His lead: "Some state legislators claimed two years ago that changing Indiana's prevailing wage law would save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars on public construction projects. In Monroe and Lawrence counties, it hasn't happened."

In a comparison of school projects in Bedford and North Lawrence schools bid under both the old prevailing wage in 1995 and under the common wage of 1996, a bricklayer made \$18 an hour under the old system and \$18.95 under the new. An electrician received \$21.88 under the old system and \$22.20 under the new.

Another example is fair share. Robert Margraf of the ISTA tells HPR that his union has thrived under the new rules that no longer require teachers to contribute dues. In fact, Margraf said, fair share provisions made the union lazy. Once repealed, "We raised more money, organized better and won more elections than when we had it," Margraf said.

With impact data coming in on both fair share and prevailing wage, what has happened is that two key components of the Democratic constituency have not only altered their modus operandi, but have thrived in both a political and professional environment.

What this means for Indiana Democrats is key constituencies are activated and receptive to a new definition of what it means to be a Democratic voter.

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continue as chairman.

It's now State Rep. Candy Marendt, R-Indianapolis. Formerly Candy Morris, the Republican legislator married Tom Marendt on Dec. 8 at the Statehouse rotunda and has announced that she will take her new husband's last name.

Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy's office is expecting the 46th House District recount to wind up on Monday, with no change in the final results between Election Day victor Vern Tincer over Republican David Lohr.

The Federal Election Commission cited 34 campaign committees for failure to file pre-general election financial disclosure reports. Included on that list was that of 5th CD Democrat, Doug Clark.

Indiana Common Cause has called on legislators to "explore" options for reforming Indiana elections, to endorse a comprehensive reform package that would include increased enforcement, additional disclosure, contribution limits for individuals and PACs, and voluntary spending limits coupled with partial public financing. Said Julia Vaughn of Common Cause, "We believe that none of the individual proposals

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offered at the last committee meeting constitute comprehensive reform. But, if packaged together, the Behning-Skillman proposal and the Rogers proposal would be a good starting point."

Sen. Richard Lugar tells HPR that it is a "reasonable assumption" that he will seek re-election in 2000. As for a second presidential bid, Lugar said, "I have not ruled that out, but for me to be successful, I would have to have much higher name recognition in a great number of states." Lugar said he was dismayed to find his name recognition in Texas back in April 1995 below 40 percent. By September, it had risen into the 60th percentile. Thus, a second presidential bid would be unlikely unless "I became famous. Something would have to happen." Asked if a decision would have to be made by 1998, Lugar responded, "I don't know. I might become famous in 1999."

Chicago Sun-Times columnist Robert Novak was virtually alone on NBC's Meet the Press in telling viewers to keep an eye on Dan Quayle in the 2000 presidential race. "He's running," Novak said - something HPR readers have known for weeks.

U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton writes:

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Coats says he could defeat Bayh, but was stunned by the needed money

FORT WAYNE - U.S. Sen. Dan Coats stunned the Indiana political establishment today by announcing he would not seek re-election in a probable race against Gov. Evan Bayh.

For years, Coats and his top aides had maintained that Indiana's junior senator did not see public service in the Senate as a career capstone.

Over the past several weeks, there had been growing speculation that Coats might pass on what would have been an epic battle against popular Gov. Evan Bayh in 1998, because he had not put a campaign staff in place and was not raising money.

HPR caught up with Coats at the Fort Wayne Marriott and conducted this interview with him just after he made his surprising announcement.

HPR: What led to your decision?

Coats: This is something I have been contemplating ever since my race in 1992. I have long considered that politics, at least for me, should be a public service and not a lifetime service. I have always said I wanted a career outside of politics after politics. So I guess the question comes, when do you make that decision? I have been doing this for 22 years, counting my time with Dan Quayle. I'll be 55 in 1998 and I didn't want to be in my 60s when I started another career. You have to have the passion and commitment to make a career change and I think now is the time to do that. I would have been challenged by a race against Evan Bayh. I believe I could have won. I believe 1998 will be a very good year for Republicans. I believe Indiana Republicans, because of President Clinton's problems and because of a history of off-year elections, are ready to come back. They need a good race to engage in and show people they are alive and well in Indiana. I believe that my own experience, my campaigning skills would have made me a very viable and successful candidate. This is very much a personal decision that I know will be very difficult for a lot of people. I believe this

race is still winnable. I believe a good candidate, if he is willing to dedicate the time and effort, will get the money, and would have history on his side or her side. I will do what I can to support them. I am not one of those who is saying that I am handing the seat to the governor.

HPR: How to you see Evan Bayh as being vulnerable? How would you attack him?

Coats: We hear a lot about New Democrats; the so-called New Democrats. But

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they sound an awful lot like Republicans. And yet, the history of this is when they go to Washington, they vote party line. They won't walk the walk. What he did at the state level will be hard to do at the national level. I think, and I say this tongue in cheek, that perhaps there's a lot of room for Evan in the Republican Party if he wanted to run a successful race in '98. Now, obviously that won't happen. I think my style of campaigning and relating would have been a sharp contrast. I run retail campaigns in bowling alleys and restaurants and state fairs and parades. I like to mix with people. Obviously if I would have done this race, I would have had to put all my work in the Senate on the shelf for two years. I didn't want to do that. But more importantly, I wanted a career outside of politics, so I didn't want to do that.

HPR: Would you consider a race for governor in 2000 against Frank O'Bannon?

Coats: No, I'm not looking at getting back into politics. I think I have great potential and opportunities outside of politics. I want to explore those.

HPR: What kind of career would you be looking at outside of politics?

Coats: Well, I'll have two years to explore those opportunities. I have always put my future in God's hands. I would like the opportunity to advance my Project for American

Renewal. Anyone who has heard my speeches know that many of the major problems facing this country can't be solved legislatively. They will be solved outside of that. There are a number of organizations that can advance that. So that would be a very real possibility. I haven't foreclosed anything. We love Indiana. Our home is here. There will be many opportunities in Indiana.

HPR: What kind of impact did your 1990 and 1992 campaigns have on your family and, subsequently, the decision you are announcing today?

Coats: That was hard. I wouldn't want to do it again. But the family was enormously supportive on that effort. We made it through that effort. They are now grown and our last child left for college this fall. My wife was 100 percent in favor of my running again and she would have campaigned with me. It really

Well, I was stunned by the amount of money they had to spend in the governor's race. This thing seems to be growing in geometric rates.

would have been easier in '98; much easier than in 1990 and 1992. Looking back at it, I really question the time it took for me and others, particularly others to run in 1990 and 1992, but we came through it. Really, this would be a good time for them. So from that standpoint, that was not a negative thing.

HPR: How much money do you think you would have had to raise to defeat Evan Bayh?

Coats: Well, I was stunned by the amount of money they had to spend in the governor's race. This thing seems to be growing in geometric rates. I don't know the answer. In answer to that, I think I would have had to raise much more than I did in 1990 and 1992. That would have been a daunting task. I'm confident I could have done it. I know how to do it. But it's not the kind of thing very many people in public service look forward to. The amount that is needed is something that is becoming a real problem for everybody.

HPR: What will be your priorities in the Senate over the next two years?

Coats: First of all, the advance the Project for American Renewal. It goes to the heart of many problems we have in America. I think we're on the verge of doing some good things. A lot of it is rhetorical, rather than legislative. Some of it is legislative. Second, to work on national security issues through the Conference Committee and as a member of the Armed Services Committee. Thirdly, to work on issues that affect children and families, education issues. So I'll have a full two years to be a full-time senator. I won't have to dilute that effort raising money for a campaign.

HPR: I've speculated about potential successors - McIntosh, Burton, Helmke, Goldsmith, Gilroy. Will it be important for the Republicans to coalesce around one candidate so they can save their resources to meet Evan Bayh? Would you encourage that? And do you see a frontrunner?

Coats: I'm reluctant to speculate on that or send a signal that I don't think somebody is capable. I do want to be very much a part of that. I see myself as someone who can consult and advise and to work along side the person to secure the nomination. I think that's a decision that needs to be made in the near future, but not right now.

HPR: Would a bloody primary give Evan Bayh even more of an advantage than he might already possess?

Coats: That's a double-edged sword. I had a tough primary in my first race and it was the best thing that could have happened to me because I could take my themes and my issues to the people over a long period of time and it proved to be a great springboard to both a successful election and successful fundraising. And they don't necessarily have to be bloody. They don't have to be that negative. You can run a positive campaign and that's the way we did it. That's the way it can be done and the winner can be enhanced by the process.

HPR: Will this race continue to be a priority with the Republican Senatorial Committee?

Coats: It will if I have anything to say. I believe I can convince them that this can be a winnable race.

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"One of the main lessons from November was that the center reasserted itself in American politics. I did not see the President or the new Congress getting much of a mandate from the people on a single dominant issue. The issues were simply too diffuse. But there was a clear signal from the people about how they wanted their leaders to govern - from the center. People reject revolution. They want moderation and incremental improvement. They are suspicious of grand schemes, and reject huge new governmental programs."

The Indianapolis Press Club roasted outgoing Bayh press spokesman Fred Nation last week. When Nation arrived at the reception, he called out, "Is Jack Crawford here?" Nation tweaked emcee and WISH-TV Statehouse reporter Jim Shella, saying, "I am so tired of talking about the governor's favorite color." Shella speculated on Nation's new job at the Indianapolis 500 and the task of "making Tony George seem interesting." Shella suggested that Nation say to George, "Tony, have you thought about having twins?"

Nation noted Indianapolis Star auto racing columnist Robin Miller's criticism of his new job as spokesman for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

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Miller suggested that Nation "didn't know anything about auto racing." Said Nation, "I told him, 'I've read your columns for years.'"

Indiana State Police Superintendent Lloyd Jennings, referring to Nation's daily trips between his home in Terre Haute and the Statehouse, turned to Nation and said, "I've talked to all the troopers on I-70. This is your last warning."

Indiana House Democrats have renewed their calls for the legislative "Hoosier Family Plan." It will include elimination of textbook fees, saving taxpayers \$50 million; doubling the income tax deduction for dependents under 18 years of age, saving \$53 million; increasing funding for home health care for the elderly (cost, \$20 million); creating a college tuition tax deduction of up to \$5,000 per child; and creating an earned income tax credit for families with income below \$10,000.

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Happy
New Year's**

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

A.M. Rosenthal, *New York Times* - In Central Indiana, a conservative Republican member of Congress is proposing to his constituents an answer to a question constantly put to themselves by Americans horrified by the ever-increasing oppression through which the Communist Chinese government rules its own country and occupied Tibet. The answer that Rep. Dan Burton is giving his constituents is this: Boycott Chinese products. Do it now during this holiday buying season, and keep it up when it is over. Send a message that at least in Indiana, Americans have had enough of China's abuses of human rights and will not contribute their money to those who commit them. Burton shames members of Congress, conservative or liberal, who followed or encouraged President Clinton in abandoning human rights. For many Americans, there is a strong religious motivation. Harry Wu, who spent 19 years in a Chinese slave-labor camp and struggles for those still there, wrote Burton that the Communists were cracking down harder than ever on Chinese who would not renounce their church. "That China can benefit from the celebration of Christ's birth while at the same time persecute Chinese Christians is criminal," he said.

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - Christmas is a time for children to be wishing, and asking for things they will not receive. Such is the case with about 7,000 Indiana children who may never get that bright Christmas this year. In fact, their lives may not be bright either, and that has importance not only to them and their families, but all of us. About 7,000 Hoosier children are diagnosed as emotionally handicapped. Since Sept. 10, these children have been in state funding limbo. That was the day the Indiana Supreme Court deadlocked on a decision to hear a lawsuit challenging the state's funding of treatment for the children. Justice Frank Sullivan, whose wife, Cheryl, was named in the suit in her capacity as an administrator for the Indiana Family and Social Services

Administration, excused himself from voting in the case. Chief Justice Randall Shepard and Justice Ted Boehm voted to hear the case. The case is known as Y.A. vs. Bayh. Although the state constitution does guarantee treatment for the insane, the court acknowledged that giving state-funded care to only 400 children seemed "woefully inadequate." Unfortunately for the children, the court ruled it was not at liberty to order the state to raise enough money to provide the care.

Russ Pulliam, *Indianapolis News* - Like (Stephen) Goldsmith, George Witwer still has a future in Indiana politics - perhaps through the same political action committee that brought Witwer to statewide attention in 1994. Through the Opportunity Project of Indiana, he played a major part in the 1994 conservative/Republican wave that led to the ascension of the GOP in the Indiana House. At first glance, those gains might appear to have been wiped out by the Goldsmith-Witwer loss to O'Bannon-Kernan. The Democrats also took the House in spite of a 50/50 split. But OPI-supported candidates from 1994 were batting about .500 in this year's election. State Reps. Dean Young, Jim Buck, Brent Steele, Jon Padfield and Dennis Kruse were re-elected this year. What now? Witwer expects to remain active in Indiana politics and is thinking about reviving a political action committee to help elect conservative candidates in 1998.

Morton Marcus, *Indianapolis Business Journal* - Rep. Dan Burton will be able to lead investigations in Whitewater, foreign campaign contributions to Democrats, and other issues that are potentially embarrassing to the Clinton administration. But Dan Burton's Government Oversight and Reform Committee has oversight of the U.S. Bureau of Census. As to the final decisions on the Census of 2000, this committee will determine how that census is conducted and what Americans will learn about themselves through this vast effort.