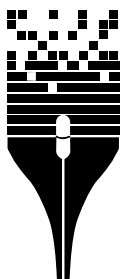


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Brian A. Howey, publisher

Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington writer

Jack E. Howey, editor

The Howey Political Report Office: 317-254-1533
PO Box 40265 Fax: 317-968-0487
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265 Mobile: 317-506-0883

brianhowey@howeypolitics.com
www.howeypolitics.com

Washington office: 202-775-3242;
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I owe folks there an answer and I believe I owe it to them in the next few months. (There are) no fixed deadlines but in common-sense terms I can't wait til summertime. ”

- OMB Director Mitch Daniels, to the *Christian Science Monitor*, on running for Indiana governor

Hoosier clout shifts back to Washington

2003 HPR 50 Most Influential List

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis
and **MARK SCHOEFF JR.** in Washington

For five years running, HPR has presented its *50 Most Influential List* of the Hoosier political scene. It's one of our favorite editions because it establishes regular mileposts where readers can gauge the ebb and flow of power and clout. With input from HPR staff and readers, it is a consensus, though not scientific. It's meant to ignite discussion, debate, and, perhaps, even a bit of rancor.

President George W. Bush's performance over the next few weeks and months is generating an unusual perspective this year. He appears to be at a precipice at this writing, preparing for a war that the world and American public are yet to be convinced needs to be fought. A war with Iraq, a number of Indiana political figures have told us, will probably result in a retaliatory domestic terror attack, possibly at or beyond the scale of Sept. 11. These two elements can have a major impact on the economy and public opinion.

There are many Hoosier figures whose political futures could hang in the balance of either a resounding Bush victory over the next few months, or a precipitous plummet in power if his gambles fall flat. Mitch Daniels, Chris Chocoma, Baron Hill, and other gubernatorial contenders that emerge for 2004 could be impacted.

This year, because of war and the economy, the height of power shifts back to Washington, after we astutely identified the key Statehouse players in 2002 who, by the way, played their roles as we predicted (see the 1999-2002 HPR To 50 lists at www.howeypolitics.com).

Here now is the *2003 HPR 50 Most Influential*:

1. U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar: Not only does Lugar return to the No. 1 position in Indiana, he is extremely influential in the entire world. Back as chair of his cherished Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Lugar has targeted his attentions to a post-war Iraq, and identifying nuclear and radiological weapons of mass destruction. He has indicated an increased role in Africa, which has been reduced to a catastrophic state in the midst of an AIDS pandemic. Even without the chair, Lugar was critical in steering the Bush administration toward a multi-lateral approach with the United Nations concerning Iraq. He was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize, which appears to be in the offing for his Nunn-Lugar role. He unveiled the Lugar Doctrine, which

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NBC POLL HAS BUSH APPROVAL AT 54 PERCENT: An NBC News poll released on Wednesday played President Bush's approval rating at just 54 percent.

SIMPSON SAYS 'I'M IN TO STAY': Forget all the "exploratory committee" stuff. State Sen. Vi Simpson is running for governor. Bloomington's 18-year Democratic state senator made her ambitions and intentions perfectly clear Wednesday, declaring, "I'm in it to stay." During an hourlong interview on WGCL-AM 1370's "Afternoon Edition" talk show, Simpson stated her absolute intention to seek the Democratic nomination and dismissed any notion that she is actually playing for a spot as lieutenant governor. But when asked whether she'd settle for a No. 2 spot on the ticket with Joe Andrew, she had a spirited retort. "No, I would not," she said. "In fact, I would be more interested in making the offer to him." Simpson said she intends to take on a potentially damaging event from her past head-on. That was the failure of an engineering business she co-created in the mid-1980s, a failure that included federal tax liabilities she paid off. Simpson said she has no doubt any Republican opponent will

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mandates that the United States move against weapons of mass destruction wherever they are. While he seems at odds with the White House on critical issues at times, President Bush can find no senator more loyal than he on roll call votes, siding with the chief executive 100 percent of the time. Al Hunt of the *Wall Street Journal* termed Lugar's first term as chair of foreign relations the most enlightened since the days of the Marshall Plan and the Truman Doctrine. We see Lugar as poised for an epic grand flourish to an already incredible career.

2. OMB Director Mitch Daniels:

Whereas Lugar can command huge changes across the world, we've seen no political figure who can change a state's political environment more than what Daniels has the capability of doing in Indiana later this spring. If he enters the governor's race, and we fully expect him to, he dramatically alters the landscape here. Ditto if he doesn't. Daniels is the man of the hour. That's not to say he's a shoo-in for governor in 2004, but he would enter as a significant front-runner in both a GOP primary and the general election. Oh, by the way, he presides over

the \$2 trillion federal budget. But that federal budget may be a ticking time bomb for Daniels. It has gone slipped back into a deficit—thanks to terrorism and a sagging economy—on his watch. Now he must play miser as he tries to hold domestic non-entitlement spending to a 4 percent increase for fiscal year 2004. Daniels is incandescently bright, thinks on his feet and has a razor-sharp wit. Usually, he's the smartest person in the room. His Achilles Heel is that often he acts like it. No one doubts that he's tough. But does he have enough softness to be effective in the grip-and-grin phase of a gubernatorial campaign? Can Mitch Daniels project warmth? Those are the crucial questions for him in 2004.

3. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh: Even though he bowed out of the 2004 gubernatorial race, Evan Bayh is the most intriguing, if not the most influential, politician in Indiana because he's still developing. When he says he's a centrist Democrat, he seems to mean it. He has been generous toward the huge Bush tax plan, limiting his criticism to tweaking it. He has a platform as the chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council to shape an agenda

that will appeal to moderates. If he uses the DLC pulpit vigorously, he could put his mark on an array of domestic policies, staking out the ground that is just to the left of Georgia Democratic Sen. Zell Miller. Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Bayh also has begun to carve a niche for himself in foreign policy. Now that he's been named to the Senate Armed Services Committee, he has an enhanced opportunity to weigh in on U.S. policy toward Iraq. If he can combine his own foreign policy framework (rather than just adopting Lugar positions and saying "me, too") with his domestic signatures (education, welfare reform, taxes) and his fundraising power, he can become an all-around political player.

4. State Sen. Larry Borst: This is the first of several "groupings" on the list with this trio of legislative leaders coming ahead of Gov. O'Bannon because true power has shifted to the legislature from a weak governor occupying a weak governorship. Borst gets the top spot because because he's the most creative of the bunch, having authored the historic June 2002 tax restructuring proposal while outmaneuvering Bauer and winning O'Bannon's approval. We expect Borst to play a similar leading role in the 2003 biennial budget. Borst is the master of legislative finance and was at the top of his game in 2002. It will be fascinating to watch him make decisions this time around, many of which will not be attractive to Republicans.

5. Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton: True power resides in the Indiana Senate. That is the hurdle that has to pass muster in order for anything to become law. Garton pretty much vetoed the first two Borst tax restructuring plans in March of 2002. It was his decision in May and June to let the process go forward after revenues came in substantially under target. Garton is at his pinnacle of power, and is perhaps the most feared man in the Statehouse. Public servants in the Senate and governor's office are petri-

fied of angering him. Garton is the most vindictive man in the legislature, as Sens. Luke Kenley, Teresa Lubbers and Murray Clark will attest. Garton says he's a changed man and will be a more inclusive leader. We're skeptical. But what is clear is he is a true powerhouse in the Statehouse. And one thing worth noting: when you look at Indiana at the bottom of many lists, the one constant this past generation has been a Republican Senate.

6. House Speaker B. Patrick

Bauer: One of the most controversial figures in the legislature, Bauer pulled off a coup by winning the speakership when many observers felt that his years on the Ways and Means Committee would have earned him enough enemies to prevent him from doing so. Bauer had to fend off attacks from his caucus and from the news media. Veteran *South Bend Tribune* columnist Jack Colwell noted that the *Indianapolis Star* treats Osama bin Laden with more respect. Bauer appears to be making the rare shift from the financial track in the legislature to leadership. Former Speaker John Gregg noted, "Bauer has really grown and I'm sure he, Borst and Garton will come up with a plan."

7. Gov. Frank O'Bannon: In the five years we've been doing this list, this is the lowest a sitting governor has been. We are consistently amazed that O'Bannon has such limited working relationship not only with the legislature, but key people in his own party. Ways and Means Chairman William Crawford was not in the loop when Energize Indiana was forged. It is now being dismantled by House Democrats. Leaders in both parties say O'Bannon paid them scant attention throughout most of the tax restructuring in 2002. In an interview with HPR after the special session ended, O'Bannon called himself a "facilitator" governor. He still matters, because he can command the bully pulpit, sign and veto bills, but his actions in the last couple of years remind us of when an embattled President Clinton had to remind the press that the presiden-

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raise it, and "I'm going to handle it the way I always have and say I know more than anybody else the hazards of running a small business."

MOSBY DECLINES EVANSVILLE MAYORAL RUN: David Mosby, saying Democrats need to avoid a costly and divisive primary, announced Wednesday that he will not run for mayor of Evansville (Herb Marynell, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Mosby's decision leaves state Rep. Jonathan Weinzapfel as the only Democrat looking to unseat Republican Mayor Russ Lloyd Jr. Weinzapfel entered the race Tuesday.

HARCOURT ELECTED GOP VICE CHAIR: Jean Ann Harcourt was elected vice chair of the Indiana Republican Party. She has also told HPR that she will not be a candidate for lieutenant governor in 2004.

HILL NAMED DEPUTY WHIP: U.S. Rep. Baron Hill, D-Ind., has been appointed chief deputy whip for the 108th U.S. Congress (Columbus Republic). Hill will join six other Democrat chief deputy whips appointed by House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, D-Md. The position is the third tier of House Democratic leadership, below Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and

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Hoyer. Hill said he was appointed to represent moderate voices which he feels are widespread in southern Indiana. "I hope to bring Indiana values to the leadership of the Democratic caucus," he said.

PRALL ENTERS BLOOMINGTON MAYORAL RACE: Bloomington accountant and taxpayer activist Fred Prall didn't dawdle on entering the 2003 mayor's race (Bloomington Herald-Times). He filed to be a candidate in the Republican primary first thing Wednesday morning, the opening day of election filing. Prall is an avowed conservative who is making his first run for elected office. He owns the Prall & Co. accounting firm, with 10 employees at offices in Bloomington and New Castle.

PENCE ADDRESSES NATIONAL LIFE RALLY: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence addressed thousands of pro-life activists gathered at the National March for Life in Washington on Wednesday. The activists descended upon Washington, DC from around the nation for the annual protest against the 1973 Supreme Court decision, Roe v. Wade. "I am mostly here today, as a father and as an American, to say thank you, from the bottom of my heart for the work which you have accomplished in the cause

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cy was "still relevant" in 1995.

8. GOP Chairman Jim Kittle:

He's the Hoosier steed shooting out of a hornet-infested starting gate. Kittle took over the Indiana Republican Party a year ago, raised \$6 million in nine months, came within an eyelash of winning the Indiana House, helped win all the statewides, and picked up a Congressional seat. The sleeping GOP giant has awakened under Kittle and now his aim is to retake the governor's office. Kittle rises into the top 10 because his performance and money-raising abilities are critical factors in the GOP luring Daniels to come back and run. Without Kittle setting the table, there would be little prospect of Daniels running.

9. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence: He has had a green light from House Republican leadership since his 2000 campaign. Now he's working his way up the ladder as deputy majority whip. Pence is the most media-savvy House member in the Indiana delegation. A former radio talk show host, he's smart and articulate and knows better than anyone else how to get his message out. He is conservative but has learned since 1990 how to avoid scaring people with his right-wing stances. Pence is on his way to becoming a force among the House conservative faction, putting his capital gains tax cut plan on the table to counter Bush's proposal. But on foreign policy, he's lock step with Bush, calling war with Iraq inevitable. If Iraq goes bad, however, Pence may be vulnerable as a hawk who flew too close to the sun.

10. Indianapolis Mayor Bart

Peterson: The mayor of the state's largest city is up for his first re-election and every indication is that he will win in commanding fashion. That makes Peterson a real player statewide. If the Democrats lose the governor's office in 2004, Peterson may be the most commanding Democrat in a post-O'Bannon era (other than Bayh) and in the best position to try to reclaim the governor's office

four years later. Having said all that, a mayor is only as powerful as the latest police scandal.

11. State Sen. Vi Simpson: She has risen to the top of the tiny Senate Democratic caucus and made it relevant. The walk-out she led two years ago shifted the dynamic on the last biennial budget. She was one of the original lone voices calling for the need for tax restructuring before it became vogue. While Republicans won't be able to resist labeling her a liberal, she believes she can back up her fiscal prudence over the past decade. This session, she is attempting to drive the most profound health care reforms in recent memory. If she can demonstrate fund-raising abilities early and hone a sharp message that resonates with Democrats and independents, Simpson will become not only the first major party gubernatorial candidate in Indiana history, but one with a shot at the nomination.

12. Joe Andrew: He has risen to the top of not only Indiana Democrats, but nationally. Now he comes home to run for governor. He's expected to have a significant national fund-raising base. He's popular with the rank and file and labor. A Princeton graduate, like Daniels, both share an acidly sharp wit, great sense of humor, excellent speaking skills, and unbounding energy. Should he and Daniels end up squaring off in 2004, it could be one of the most entertaining and intellectually stimulating showdowns in Hoosier history, perhaps the glibbest governor's race in America.

13. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer: Buyer proved to everyone during the last election that he's a formidable politician. He pounded former U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns into the ground in an incumbent v. incumbent race that some thought would be a barnburner. Now he has one of the most Republican-leaning districts in the nation all to himself. He knows how to raise money and how to handle the grind of a tough campaign. Although no one would

accuse him of being eloquent, he works hard and knows how to put himself at a political advantage on hot issues to gain the most advantage, even in hostile territory. In the old 5th CD, he even won a majority of union households in his 2000 race. The pugnacious Buyer could be in a position down the road to run for a Senate nomination.

14. Ambassador James Morris:

Successfully nominated by President Bush to serve as United States ambassador to the United Nations Agencies on Food and Agriculture Organizations in Rome, Morris could end up playing a huge role in a post-war Iraq as well as on the decimated African continent. Morris is a former Indiana University trustee and CEO of the Indianapolis Water Company who also has an impressive resume as a founder of the Indiana Sports Corporation, Youthlinks Indiana and the Indianapolis Campaign for Healthy Babies (at a time when the city led the nation in infant mortality). Now he works to try and assure at least one meal a day for people who need it the most.

15. Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan:

Obviously he falls because his political career is winding down. Kernan has been one of the most respectable, enjoyable and perplexing figures on the Hoosier political scene. He might have had it all, though he didn't want it. He commands resilient respect throughout the Indiana political establishment, yet a number of key Democratic political operatives have been telling HPR that his 2004 gubernatorial campaign wasn't doing the things it needed to do to become truly competitive. His name ID, even in his home media market of South Bend, was low for a three-term mayor and two term LG.

16. Democratic Chairman Peter

Manous: This is the guy on the hot spot. Manous follows two popular and highly-successful chairmen in Andrew and Robin Winston. He now faces an invigorated Indiana Republican Party that is raising money again and will lure home its

favorite son to run for governor. He's seen his party's heirs pass on the state's top political prize. Manous must also contend with the notion that the Democratic dynasty is running on fumes and is ready to be retired. In the face of this, he staved off a GOP takeover of the Indiana House despite a national trend and three presidential visits last fall. But that may pale in the face of challenges he faces in the next two years. We think Manous crept out into dangerous territory when he tried to hand-pick the 2004 gubernatorial nominee instead of letting it play out in the early stages.

17. Ways and Means Chairman

William Crawford: The Indianapolis Democrat may have one of the toughest jobs in the legislature: Getting a budget passed out of the House and then reconciled. He could also play a key role in any deal to keep the Colts in the Circle City.

18. Marty Morris: Lugar may be the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, but it's a safe bet that his personal office chief of staff will continue to be the second-most powerful person in Lugarland. Morris will make sure that Lugar remains as prominent on the Indiana political stage as he will be on the world policy stage. When Morris tells you something, you can count on it.

19. Kevin Brinegar: Here's our next grouping: Key Statehouse lobbyists. We lead off with the Indiana Chamber's Brinegar because he appears to have the ear of Borst and Kernan, making him a player in both political parties, much to the chagrin of some Democrats who believe the party has become too pro-business at the expense of its natural constituencies. His role in forming the Alliance for Indiana's future was a landmark effort that helped create the atmosphere for the passage of HB1001ss. He aggravated House Democrats for committing resources against several incumbents who voted for tax restructuring, although he said the Chamber backed more Democrats than in any other cycle and

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of life. Because of all of you, and the millions of Americans you represent, abortion is in steep decline in America today. Abortion is less available, less legal, and less morally acceptable than at any time since 1973. You alone have exposed the empty promises of the Left, who offer choice but deliver only heartache and disappointment and a national conscience seared by pain," said Pence. Pence called on Congress to enact adoption reform, speed resources to crisis pregnancy centers, and bring an end to Partial Birth Abortion. Pence also called on President Bush to appoint principled pro-life judges.

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PART OF BUDGET IN TROUBLE: The central piece of legislation in the governor's economic-development plan won't leave the House Public Health Committee unscathed, Chairman Charlie Brown said yesterday (Lesley Stedman, Louisville Courier-Journal). House Bill 1002, which trades 40 percent of the state's future tobacco-settlement payments for a smaller upfront sum, will need changes to gain support from committee members, he said after three hours of testimony on the proposal. "One hundred percent of that bill is not doable," said Brown, D-

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Gary. Instead, the committee will consider changes that would attempt to guarantee continued funding for the health-related programs now paid for with tobacco-settlement dollars. Those include Hoosier Rx, a prescription drug program for seniors; CHIPS, a health insurance program for poor children; and the state's anti-smoking campaign.

BENJAMIN PLEADS GUILTY: Former Lake County Auditor Peter Benjamin has pleaded guilty to racketeering and money laundering charges as part of a federal plea agreement accepted Wednesday (Post-Tribune). U.S. District Judge Allen Sharp accepted the agreement, which also includes the dismissal of seven other charges in the nine-count indictment. The dismissed charges include counts of mail fraud, bank fraud and witness tampering, according to court documents. Benjamin, 55, is facing a total maximum sentence of 40 years in prison — a 20-year maximum sentence for each count to which he pleaded.

DANIELS WANTS 4 PERCENT SPENDING CAP: President George W. Bush will propose slowing the rate of growth in federal spending next fiscal year to about 4 percent, less than half the increase anticipated for this year, White House

refused to engage in a number of other races. Brinegar faces a critical session when there will be an urge to roll back some of the gains of business in 2002.

20. Pat Kiely: The Indiana Manufacturing Association's top guy is an extremely influential proponent of a pro-manufacturing climate, often working in tandem with Borst, though he doesn't have as much influence with House Democrats. Kiely could have become a credible gubernatorial candidate if he wanted it.

21. Dan Clark: If any sector of public policy is under the gun, it's education, which is looking at a flat-lined budget in a time of tougher standards and mandates. Clark will be pushing one of the ISTA's toughest tacks this year. Clark played a huge role in the Alliance last year, and on the final day of the special session it was the ISTA signing off on the Borst deal that seemed to turn the tide in the House. As a trio, Clark, Brinegar and Kiely maintain a strong command of their organization's issues and the respect (and/or fear) of legislators who get in the way. All three have big PAC bucks at their disposal.

22. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson: Carson is another House member who knows her base and how to turn it out. In defeating Brose McVey, she prevailed in what will probably be the tightest race for the rest of her career. She's not afraid to be liberal, but can also be quietly conservative in her own way. While most pundits were breathlessly giving Bush a mandate after the 2002 election, Carson's win was evidence that most voters probably still prefer to have some creative tension in government. The president is not a juggernaut of biblical proportion.

23. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton: He has to find something other than scandal investigations to occupy his time now that he's no longer chairman of the House Government Reform Committee. In the recent Lilly controversy over limits on vaccination lawsuits, Burton demonstrated

that his independent nature remains in tact. He wasn't afraid to battle the Indianapolis behemoth. He'll continue to keep things interesting in Hoosier politics.

24. Ambassador Dan Coats: Indiana's former Republican senator was a leading candidate to be President Bush's secretary of defense in late 2000 before Donald Rumsfeld was selected. During a trip to Washington in October, he seemed to have much more fun discussing a possible gubernatorial run in Indiana than he did parsing U.S.-German tension. Now that France has come out stridently against military intervention in Iraq, the similar German position may harden. Coats' work in Berlin is likely to get tougher rather than easier as we get closer to a confrontation with Saddam. It's not clear that there's much he can do to repair the government-to-government U.S.-German relationship. It may be beyond his pay grade, making a return to Indiana seem even more inviting.

25. House Majority Leader Russ Stilwell: He's following in the footsteps of his mentor, former Speaker Michael K. Phillips and becomes a major power in the House and an advocate for labor. He obviously has the confidence of Speaker Bauer.

26. Ken Zeller: The AFL-CIO will have a major say in Democratic gubernatorial politics. His organization's tangle with U.S. Rep. Baron Hill might be one reason the Congressman chose to keep his district. Labor has also been vociferously urging the Democratic Party to turn into something more than Conservative Lite and these opinions will weigh in significantly as the next gubernatorial nominee is selected and the party seeks its soul.

27. Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard: Another cluster, that of incumbent mayors who are not assured of a smooth re-election in 2003. Both Richard and Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd will attract big bucks and will keep a huge presence in the state's second and third largest media markets. Richard will likely

be in a rematch with Republican Linda Buskirk, winning by less than a half percent in 1999. Republicans believe demographics and newly annexed areas will benefit them. The Fort Wayne Democratic organization seems vulnerable after Rep. Win Moses' near defeat last year. But crime is down and Richard is getting good marks on economic issues.

28. Evansville Mayor Russell

Lloyd Jr.: The first-term Republican is seeking re-election in a city that hasn't spurned an incumbent mayor in 50 years. He's got a number of brick and mortar projects coming to fruition this year and has lured a minor league baseball team to the city. Lloyd is expected to face a fierce challenge from State Rep. Jonathon Weinzapfel.

29. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder: No one is a better politician in the Indiana delegation. (And we say that with great admiration.) This guy knows how to count votes -- whether it's on an issue before the House or in a primary contest against former Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke. Souder took what was supposed to be a tight race and turned it into a route, marshalling Washington support from conservative interest groups and the White House as well as help from fervent grass-roots advocates in the district. It's hard to label the earnest Souder quirky anymore. When you win as convincingly as he did, it's called knowing what you believe and understanding your base. He has given himself some breathing room on his term-limit pledge. With the strong Republican tilt of his new district, he'll be around as long as he would like.

30. Lee Hamilton: In retirement, this foreign policy sage is in great demand as a pundit and analyst. He is effectively using his base as director of the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington to put his ideas into the policy milieu. As vice chairman of the Sept. 11 commission, he'll have ample opportunity to help shape homeland security and intelligence policy. We could envi-

sion him returning home as president of Indiana University. He would certainly be a tremendous role model for IU students.

31. State Sen. Murray Clark:

One more cluster, this time of what might be called the "third tier" Republican gubernatorial contenders. Clark heads this grouping for several reasons. He has raised \$467,000. He's got the Senate platform, has shown some boldness in his willingness to challenge Garton's leadership without losing face, and he was on the 2000 ticket. He's liked and admired in GOP circles and has some significant support from big money names despite the Daniels anvil that hangs over him. He also translates well to retail politics. There are scenarios where Clark emerges as a real contender if Daniels takes an unexpected pass.

32. David McIntosh: OK, go ahead and laugh. But remember, this is a guy who has \$10 million worth of name ID and would likely lead any current poll of GOP gubernatorial contenders. But having said that, McIntosh has got huge problems. His December announcement ceremony was flat and lacked supporters. He is still suffering from his lackadaisical 2000 challenge to Gov. O'Bannon. He angered Republican Central Committee members in the 2002 convention over his tax plank while Republicans in the legislature were voting for tax increases. It seems there is a sharp divide between McIntosh's first six years in public life, and the last four.

33. Eric Miller: Go ahead and laugh some more, but then recall the name "John R. Price," who came within an eyelash of winning the 1998 U.S. Senate primary. Miller has out-raised Clark, is riding a taxation-on-churches issue that will stoke his his base, and could benefit should the Roe v. Wade abortion issue explode into the political forefront. Many Republicans are getting frequent Doc Bowen letters pushing his candidacy. In the "no Mitch" scenario, it's easy to see Miller playing well to that

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budget director Mitch Daniels said (Bloomberg News Service). Bush will propose that Congress hold spending increases outside of entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare to just over \$30 billion when he submits his fiscal year 2004 budget request to Congress next month, Daniels said in a conference call with reporters. A 4 percent increase in spending next year would compare with a 9 percent increase expected this fiscal year, he said. Congress hasn't finished setting spending levels for this year. Bush will present his budget plan for next year on Feb. 3. Daniels said a 4 percent increase is in line with projected increases in family incomes next year. Bush will oppose efforts in Congress to increase the budget and fight to keep government spending from increasing more than that of the "typical American family," he said.

ROVE SAYS BUSH WILL TARGET CLONING, PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTIONS: White House senior adviser Karl Rove, outlining plans that would have sounded improbable just three months ago, said yesterday that bans on late-term abortions and human cloning are high on President Bush's agenda and should be achievable in the new Congress (Mike Allen,

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Washington Post). Rove, during a rare appearance before reporters, said the two measures are part of "the immediate tasks at hand." He stopped short of promising a White House push to overturn the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision, which determined that a woman's constitutional privacy rights entitled her to get an abortion in the first trimester of her pregnancy. But he said he would not make "prognostications about what might be years in the future."

MILLER, CLARK LEAD GOP PACK IN MONEY:

Conservative activist Eric Miller and State Sen. Murray Clark are winning the early fund-raising scramble in the race for the Republican nomination for governor in 2004 (Indianapolis Star). While Miller so far has the most cash of the five Republicans actively seeking the party's nomination, Clark outraised all of them in 2002. The latest campaign finance reports show that at the end of 2002, Miller had about \$478,000 in his campaign fund, while Clark had about \$467,000. David McIntosh, the 2002 nominee, reported about \$109,000 in cash on hand, while State Sen. Luke Kenley had \$105,000.

HINKLE ENTERS INDIANAPOLIS MAYORAL RACE: State Rep. Phil Hinkle joined a Republican field that includes Marion County Treasurer Greg

32 percent base that Price got in 1998 and these are people who tend to turn out in primary elections. Here's the caveat in Nos. 30 through 32: If Daniels gets in, this tier stands the best chance of losing its relevancy. If Mitch doesn't, one of these candidates will likely emerge as a true contender.

34. House Minority Leader Brian Bosma: He's the top Republican in the House who will articulate a pro-business position on the biennial budget, but with little impact. Why is he this high on the list? How about this: Speaker in waiting.

35. Supt. Suellen Reed: She's a voice on the education debate, though she is aggravating many legislators by calling for a 3 percent education increase when many think a flat-lined budget there is the best scenario. She also could face a realistic challenge next year at the GOP convention, possibly from Carol D'Amico.

36. U.S. Rep. Baron Hill: Hill is exhibit B in the non-Bush mandate argument. In a race that many thought should be closer against an established GOP candidate with deep district roots, Hill demonstrated his fiercely competitive nature and tenacious approach to campaigning. Republicans may have missed their chance in 2000 and 2002 to beat him. He'll just get stronger in the district. He's smart, hardworking, and tough. He stood up against union pressure to vote in favor of trade agreements, and then won re-election handily without labor help. It may have kept him from running for governor, but he can easily become ensconced in his House seat. If his staff would continue to dial down its defensiveness, Hill might be set for some smooth sailing.

37. Secretary of State Todd Rokita: A true rising star in the GOP, coming off two impressive wins in 2002 at the convention and in the general election while being out-spent.

38. Attorney General Steve Carter: He is consistently compiling a reputation as a consumer watchdog. A possible LG selection in 2004.

39. U.S. Rep. John Hostettler: He

commands the top political organization in Southwestern Indiana, and coasted to his easiest victory last year. Yet Hostettler will always seem vulnerable at the onset of any election cycle because his district has a Democratic bent. Hostettler is one of the most iconoclastic members of the House, frequently voting in tiny minorities on odd issues.

40. Michael Gerson: David Frum may take credit for the phrase "axis of evil," but it was Gerson, a former aide to Sen. Coats, who edited from "axis of hatred" to make it more poetic. As chief speechwriter for Bush, Gerson is the wordsmith at the nexus of policy and communication with historic access to No. 43. The way most of us know Bush - as in his National Cathedral speech on Sept. 14, 2002 - is through Gerson's words.

41. U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky: Perhaps the state's most liberal officeholder, he falls in the list this year as the Hoosier steel industry appears to be consolidating and stabilizing.

42. U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola: The newest Hoosier Member who will be under the gun in 2004 in what could be a repeat donnybrook of last year.

43. Bob Grand: The money and strategic force behind Rokita; and a key confidant of Kittle.

44. Mike Fichter/Betty Cockrum: With the Bush administration taking a number of pro-life steps and U.S. Supreme Court nominations potentially placing the *Roe vs. Wade* decision up for review, Fichter, the executive director of Indiana Right to Life, and Cockrum, the former Indiana budget director who now heads up Planned Parenthood, will be in the spotlight articulating opposing views as the issue shifts to the states.

45. Allen County GOP Chairman Steve Shine: Consistently the prototypical GOP county chair up in Allen County.

46. St. Joe County Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan: Yes, his 2nd CD candidate, Jill Long Thompson, lost, but her campaign would have been better served if he had been more involved.

Morgan, however, pulled out the St. Joseph County sheriff and prosecutor from the jaws of defeat.

47. Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez: As Hispanics are now the largest minority group in the United States and Indiana's Hispanic population is at 3.5 percent and growing rapidly, Dominguez becomes that group's most conspicuous officeholder.

48. Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy: Presides over the Marion County Democratic Party, which is growing more powerful each year.

49. Tim Goeglein: At Karl Rove's right hand, Goeglein, another former Coats aide, helps Bush stoke up, and mollify, his crucial conservative base.

50. Jack Colwell: This is the publisher's prerogative. Colwell has been Indiana's top political writer and columnist for four decades at the *South Bend Tribune*. He's retiring, though will still write his weekly Sunday column. Colwell is part of a vanishing breed of journalist who writes about politics with knowledge, accuracy, fairness, and passion.

* * *

Honorable Mention

(in no particular order)

Robin Winston: Former Democratic chairman and key advisor to Gov. O'Bannon and Chairman Peter Manous.

Steve Chancellor: The CEO of Black Beauty Coal gave \$244,000 to GOP candidates in 2000 and was a top giver to the Bush presidential campaign.

Tom Sugar: Sen. Bayh's chief of staff and a key gatekeeper if that call from the 2004 presidential nominee comes.

Marion County Sheriff Frank Anderson: A 2004 LG candidate?

Al Hubbard: The former GOP chair brought "The Blade" to Bush.

Deborah Daniels: Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

State Rep. Scott Pelath: Tight with Bauer, heads House Public Policy, and a possible challenger to Chocola.

Jean Ann Harcourt: New vice chair of GOP.

Tim Roemer: Retired after an illustrious career in the U.S. House, he will serve on the Sept. 11 commission.

Myles Brand: Former IU president moves over to head the NCAA and will push for new academic reforms.

Judy O'Bannon: Indiana's beloved First Lady.

State Sen. Luke Kenley: A GOP gubernatorial candidate.

Tom New/David Johnson: Key advisors to Gov. O'Bannon.

Luke Messer: Executive Director of the Indiana GOP.

Tim Henderson: Dem's dollar guy.
State Rep. Jeff Espich: Should the GOP take control of the House in 2004 ...

Treasurer Tim Berry: Possible 2004 Republican LG candidate.

Joe Loftus: A super lobbyist at Barnes & Thornburg who can do magic in a budget bill with Sen. Borst.

State Sen. Becky Skillman: Now second in the Senate Republican caucus, she is another potential LG contender.

State Sen. David Ford: An announced Republican LG candidate

Steve Ferguson: An IU trustee with the ear of Sen. Simpson.

Jim Moseley: Second at USDA.

State Rep. Peggy Welch: Young legislator who knows how to move bills.

Ron Gifford: One of the most astute Statehouse analysts.

Karl Berron: Top Realtor lobbyist.

John Hammond III: One of the most influential lobbyists.

Phil Bainbridge: He has the ear of both Bauer and Borst.

Dave Gogol: Key Washington lobbyist as Indiana pushes life science sector.

Jim Purucker: Big clout on gaming issues.

Shaw Friedman: Possibly a future Democratic state chairman.

Jay Potesta: Sheetmetals boss and key labor opinion shaper.

Dan Parker: Sen. Bayh's guy on the Democratic State Committee.

State Rep. Win Moses: Bauer's 51st vote? ❖

TICKER T A P E

Jordan and businessman Bob Parker for the 2003 Indianapolis mayoral race (Matthew Tully, Indianapolis Star). The three want to take on a well-financed sitting mayor. "Money isn't everything," said Hinkle, who promised a "door-to-door" campaign while acknowledging he has virtually no money.

DECKER, ROSWARSKI ENTER LAFAYETTE MAYORAL RACE: Democratic councilman Tony Roswarski, 42, entered the Lafayette mayor's race on Saturday, promising to involve citizens in a hands-on administration. If successful in the May primary, he could face two-term Republican City Clerk Lisa Decker, 38, in the November general election (Joe Thomas, Lafayette Journal & Courier). She officially threw her hat in the ring Friday by forming her own campaign committee. ❖

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