

The Howey Political Report



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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

“Change is difficult and people are resistant to change. Personally, I like Knox County the way it is. I don’t want to see 10,000 more people move to Knox County.” - State Rep. John Frenz, to the *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*

Hints of volatility in invasion’s wake

Casualties begin; where are WMD?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in *Indianapolis*

Military officers have begun walking up to the front doors of Hoosier parents with bad news.

It has become gut check time in Indiana and across the nation as the War in Iraq moves into *its second week*.

President Bush warned in a speech Wednesday that the war “is far from over” and dropped the phrase “ahead of schedule,” but Americans appear to be resolute in their support. A CNN poll released Wednesday showed 71 percent support the war, while a Zogby Poll had it at 67 percent. CBS-*New York Times* and Pew Research polls pegged President Bush’s approval rating at 67 percent, still well below his father’s support in the 1991 Gulf War

At this writing, 25 Americans have been killed, including U.S. Army Specialist Greg Sanders of Hobart and Marine Lance Cpl. David Fribley of Atwood, with nine missing in action and seven captured. Another 31 have been injured by friendly fire.

Americans have been greeted with a plethora of those awkward family interviews on the morning news shows. Leslie Sanders, the mother of Greg Sanders, was heroic in the face of her devastating news, reconciling her son’s call to arms with her own loss. Fribley was motivated to join the Marines after the Sept. 11 atrocities. But the father of a Baltimore soldier held up a photo of his son on Sunday and told President Bush he had taken “my only son.”

Political analyst Charlie Cook said he believes that support could be shallow, as polls wavered 5 to 6 percent depending on the news of the day. Americans are expecting a short war and with some Pentagon officials expecting a

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BORST WILL FUND EDUCATION, FLAT-LINE EVERYTHING ELSE: In a budget proposal they plan to present today, Senate Republicans will keep spending on Medicaid and prisons at current levels and take money from a variety of designated accounts to pay for increased education funding (Lesley Stedman, Louisville Courier-Journal). Senate Finance Committee Chairman Larry Borst said public school funding "is by far the most important thing in this bill. Everything is geared to giving them an increase. We flat-lined everything else. We are scraping all the balances we can find so we don't have cut" schools. There will be no tax increase.

KENLEY OFFERS NEW PLAN FOR SCHOOLS: Senate Republicans also plan to spend the money for schools much differently, proposing a funding formula that provides less funding for those districts that are losing enrollment and more for those that are growing (Louisville Courier-Journal). The architect of the proposed changes, Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, said the plan means money will be focused on children, regardless of where they go to school. He said the House plan simply ensures that every district receives



many as 3,000 casualties in a war measured in months -- not weeks -- those numbers can be expected to fluctuate.

Such volatility may be a reflection of the immediacy of this war. In Vietnam, Americans got the war in five- or 10-minute doses on the morning and evening news programs. In 1991, the ground war lasted only three days. In this invasion of Iraq, Americans are being bombarded with scenes and reports anytime they want it on the news channels and Internet.

The sickly yellow atmosphere in Baghdad due to sandstorms and oil fires, along with images of American soldiers fighting off the sand, POWs being interviewed, and this morning's incident of friendly fire that injured 31 offer a stressful element to daily life even as legendary CBS news mogul Don Hewitt called it "television's shining moment."

Military families are glued to the set, looking for images of their sons, fathers and brothers, while facing the reality that they could bear witness to their injury or death. It's a recipe for volatility.

Advent of the war has reflected uncertainty. In the days immediately following the beginning of hostilities, gaso-

line prices across Indiana fell about 30 cents a gallon (from about \$1.75 to \$1.47). Wall Street saw an upsurge during the first week, punctuated by a Monday falloff following the news of casualties last Sunday.

There has also been relief that the American homeland has not been hit with terrorist attacks. U.S. Rep. Mike Pence called it a reason to "celebrate" each day without such violence. But most Americans seem to think the dangers are lurking. In Indiana, the attempted hijacking of a gasoline tanker at Clermont on Monday, fitting an FBI profile of a possible second wave of attack, was unsettling.

There have been protests on both sides. A pro-war event at the Kruse Auto Auction at Auburn last Saturday drew an estimated 15,000, according to WPTA-TV in Fort Wayne, while anti-war rallies late last week drew 300 people in South Bend and Bloomington, 30 in Lafayette and several dozen in Fort Wayne. Hoosiers from Northwest Indiana migrated to Chicago, where hundreds were held at bay by Chicago police on Lake Shore Drive, lending eerie visuals of scenes ghosting from 1968. A handful of protesters peace-

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fully occupied the Indianapolis offices of U.S. Sens. Evan Bayh and Richard Lugar last week and were arrested.

On Wednesday, President Bush told the nation from Florida, "I can assure you there will be a day of reckoning for Iraq, and that day is drawing near.

"As they approach Baghdad, our fighting units are facing the most desperate elements of a doomed regime. We cannot know the duration of this war, but we are prepared for the battle ahead."

But, perhaps the most unsettling element of the invasion is the absence, thus far, of any use or stockpile discovery of weapons of mass destruction. There is relief that American soldiers and cities in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and

Turkey haven't faced the chemically-tipped Scuds.

But President Bush's pretext for this war was WMD and not Saddam Hussein's genocide, and it was a position embraced by most of the Hoosier congressional delegation.

Once the mop-up is completed, and if no such weapons are found, that could be a politically explosive fallout from this war, not only across the world, but here in the heartland. The original pretext was supposed to be the Iraqi link to al Qaeda and Sept. 11. Then it was WMD.

Perhaps Saddam's most devastating attack could be fired from his grave. ❖

Republicans try to exploit Bayh's Estrada vote

INDIANAPOLIS - Perhaps the most calculating politician in Indiana is U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh. His political machine has mastered tactical and strategic action. So it was with great interest that he cast his vote in the Senate impeding the nomination of Miguel Estrada to the U.S. Court of Appeals.

With Hispanics settling in Indiana in growing numbers (some Hispanic leaders tell HPR they believe 100,000 now live in Indianapolis), Bayh seemed to cast his first significant vote against this emerging constituency. Edward Peralta, president of Hispanic Voices of Northwest Indiana, sent a letter to Bayh saying, "We cannot understand why the members of the Democratic Party ... have chosen to impede (Estrada's) ascension to this court seat for what appears to be political reasons." Peralta added, "This is especially upsetting to us because Hispanic-Americans are under-represented in our judicial system at the higher levels."

Attorney Peter Rusthoven in his *Indianapolis Eye* column wrote, "Miguel Estrada, whose nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit is being filibustered by Senate Democrats, is the latest victim of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision transforming abortion into a "constitutional right" by judicial fiat. The 'A-word' is rarely uttered by the 44 senators blocking Estrada (including Evan Bayh, Indiana's self-proclaimed 'moderate'). But their stated pretexts are a smokescreen for the Scarlet Letter that (thanks to Roe) has made key appointments to the 'nonpolitical' of the three federal branches the focus of fiercely partisan political warfare."

Rusthoven added, "Every Democratic senator who wants to be president knows this is litmus-test territory for groups with de facto veto power on the nomination. Evan Bayh learned in 2000 that straying from orthodox doctrine on partial birth abortion made him an unacceptable Al Gore running mate. Evan Bayh is a very quick study."

So Bayh has made a tactical decision: Vote to enhance his 2004 ticket potential, at the risk of alienating a growing constituency back home.

Indiana Republicans tried to exploit the latter, with Republican Chairman Jim Kittle Jr. assailing Bayh for the vote outside the senator's office, with protest placards behind him and the new Indianapolis Hispanic TV station in front. ❖

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an increase in funding every year, even if they are losing population. Kenley's funding formula also uses a "complexity index" to measure the difficulty of educating students in each district. It considers the area's poverty, the number of students in the federal free-lunch program, how many of the students' parents graduated from high school, and the number of students who speak English as a second language. Dan Clark, a lobbyist for the Indiana State Teachers Association, said Kenley's theories have some merit. "Having the dollars following the student intuitively makes sense," Clark said. But he said the Republican plan works only if the formula directs significant amounts to schools that have a high complexity index, which are generally those that are losing students. "The amount of dollars for the complexity index in the formula is so inadequate it won't come close to addressing the needs of those students," Clark said.

BRINEGAR CALLS FOR 'DRASTIC STEPS' WITH BUDGET: Business and education leaders painted a dreary picture Wednesday of Indiana's budget situation, saying the \$850 million state deficit could produce serious problems in funding

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education (Steve Hinnefeld, Bloomington Herald-Times). Kevin Brinegar, president of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, said state tax revenues are likely to remain flat until next year, after declining the past two years. "In order to live with-in that, you have to take some very drastic steps," he said. The drastic cuts that Brinegar hinted at could mean laying off teachers and eliminating popular school programs, Monroe County school superintendents told an audience of 65 people at the Bloomington Convention Center of Monroe County. For higher education, they could lead to steep tuition increases and caps on enrollment, officials said. "If we don't fund K-12 and standards and assessments, we have missed a tremendous opportunity," said Steve Ferguson, an IU trustee and a member of the Indiana Education Roundtable.

MEEKS EXPLAINS FLIP: Senate Republicans want to spend all the money Indiana gets from tobacco companies over the next two years -- about \$250 million -- on health programs such as the HoosierRx prescription drug subsidy for low-income seniors, Meeks said. This would help free up \$35 million to \$40 million a year for an economic development plan GOP lawmakers will unveil next week, Meeks said. The Senate has reject-

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Hoosier mayors make a plea for new jobs

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - A week after nearly a dozen Indiana counties passed some type of income taxes to blunt hemorrhaging budgets, it was the cities' turn to plea for help in the legislature.

Mayors of Indiana's largest cities gathered at the Statehouse to push the passage of the House version of economic development. "It is imperative that the legislature do something very bold to create jobs and new kinds of businesses," said Democrat Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard. "Nothing less than the economic future of this state depends on it."

Republican Mayors Duane Dedelow of Hammond and Russell Lloyd Jr of Evansville made the pitch bipartisan. "We remain very grateful for the gains made last session with statewide tax restructuring, and our first goal is to preserve those gains," said Dedelow. "But we must build on that success and finish the job with an economic development package that takes Indiana to the next level."

Lloyd, like Richard and Dedelow facing tough challenges for re-election next November, added, "I fear that without a very significant investment now in economic development, what today we're calling a budget crisis will soon come to be seen as Indiana's normal state of affairs."

What are the mayors asking for? Basically the essence of HB 2008 that would distribute \$353.5 million over the next 10 years into the 21st Century Research and Technology Fund, Indiana Venture Fund, Energize Indiana Growth Scholars Fund, Indiana Technology Grant Fund, Rural Development and Administration Funds, and the Value Added Research Fund. Other Midwestern states have earmarked \$1 billion a year.

Asked by reporters if there was an intensive lobbying effort under way, Richard replied, "Understatement."

But one of the big city mayors told HPR that in a meeting with Senate

Finance Chairman Larry Borst, Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton, and House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer, the mayors were essentially rebuffed and told to quit complaining.

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson was asked if no economic package was better than a two-year package. "Perhaps," he said.

Like the counties, mayors and their cities are facing a brutal reality. While legislators and governors brag of "holding the line on taxes," municipalities are facing billions of dollars in what Kokomo Mayor James Trobaugh calls "unfunded mandates." Trobaugh, president of IACT, says the price tag for solving combined sewer overflows stands between \$3 and \$5 billion. Peterson says Indianapolis faces \$1 billion in costs; Richard said Fort Wayne has spent \$140 million and faces up to \$250 million more. Trobaugh's Kokomo is looking at a \$120 million price tag. The bind is that most of the big cities have already passed some type of income tax. "We really can't generate more revenue using the income taxes," Trobaugh said. "We need income from jobs and payroll taxes."

In essence, cities and counties need an economic rebound to grow out of their tough bind. It's a plan that has Reagan and Bush written all over it, something Republican legislators such as Borst and Garton might be expected to respect.

The problem is that legislators have painted themselves into a corner. They have squandered a decade of Build Indiana Funds to buy American Legion uniforms and fund museums and halls of fame; they have passed deficit budgets; they refused to restructure the tax system for half a decade, and finally did so kicking and screaming. Now Borst talks of a state facing "total disrepair" while ignoring tax increases or gaming money, seeking instead to raid various funds.

Mayors want "bold ideas" but may instead just get Borsted. ❖

A house cleaning in the Lake County GOP

MERRILLVILLE - Reform of the Indiana Republican Party has had several red letter dates over the past two years: Mike McDaniel's stepping down; Jim Kittle Jr.'s election in January 2002; the election of last year that saw pickups of Indiana House and Congressional seats; and Fred Klipsch's placement as national committeeman.

But the final bit of housecleaning, outside the governor's office, occurred on March 20, when Lake County Republican Chairman Roger Chiabai was forced to resign. A GOP hearing found that Chiabai had compromised the Lake County party by committing voter fraud, financial mismanagement, and had deep ties to Lake County Democrats, particularly East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick.

In fact, earlier in the month, Chiabai as a member of the Lake County Election Board voted against allegations that Pastrick actually resided at Ogden Dunes. Pastrick's opponent, former judge and state senator Lonnie Randolph, asked Chiabai to recuse himself because of close ties to the mayor.

Prior to that, Chiabai had been the subject of a Republican investigation and hearing that took place at Warsaw.

Chiabai had been the target of Peter Thayer, a long-time East Chicago Republican who had alleged as far back as 1986 that Chiabai, former Lake County Chairman Joseph Kotso, and East Chicago City Chairman Robert J. Cantrell had actually been Democrats, working as Republicans on behalf of the Pastrick machine. Thayer said that Kotso, Cantrell and Chiabai repeatedly appointed Democrats to fill GOP precinct, county and election board positions, as well as state convention delegates.

Thayer also alleged that Chiabai appointed Democrats to serve on precinct election boards, "thus jeopardizing the checks and balances" of maintaining fair elections. He pointed to the 1999 mayoral race surrounding Pastrick's primary race

against Stephen Stiglich.

And, Thayer alleged, Chiabai misappropriated "thousands of dollars."

For years, Thayer and Joe Hero of the St. John GOP had complained and were either called "nuts" by former State Chairman Gordon Durnil, or their charges weren't investigated during the McDaniel era. A *Hammond Times* article on Feb. 20, 1986 quoted Durnil as expressing little concern about Democrats serving in GOP precinct positions. "No question, it's a local problem," Durnil said. In April 1986, Durnil warned Kotso about appointing Democrats, but refused to take action.

After the February hearing and a meeting on March 19, Chiabai was forced to resign, and was replaced by Winfield Township Trustee John Curley.

Luke Messer, executive director of the state GOP, said Curley's appointment marks the beginning of a new era to strengthen the Lake County Republican Party. "This resignation ends an investigation into questionable decisions and appointments by Mr. Chiabai," Messer said. "We can now move forward, with Republicans all over Lake County, to rebuild this organization and turn it into one of the premier Republican operations in the state. ... Today, we are here to build a new Republican Party in Lake County."

How clean of a start is still subject to debate. Hero claims the state committee violated its own rules by not following proper steps to appoint a new chairman. He sees Curley as a "stalking horse" for Chiabai and added, "We need a clean start." And Hammond Mayor Duane Dedelow Jr. has expressed concern that Chiabai's appointees still maintain their positions.

As for the statewide implications, the Lake County GOP is the third-largest concentration of Republican voters in Indiana. And Lake County is a place where statewide Democrats forge huge pluralities. A main cog of the Democratic strategy, inside the GOP, is now gone. ❖

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ed O'Bannon's request to issue tobacco bonds for Energize Indiana, the governor's 10-year, \$1.25 billion economic development plan to help revive the state's economy (*Indianapolis Star*). Senate Republicans also won't touch \$245 million in tobacco settlement savings accumulated since 1998, as O'Bannon has proposed. And they're balking at the governor's request for more money for Medicaid and prisons. Last month, though, they rebuked House Democrats for proposing to freeze such spending, calling it unrealistic and irresponsible. Now that it's their turn to write a budget, Senate Republicans say curbing Medicaid growth and finding a way to pay for additional prison inmates is O'Bannon's problem. When questioned about the Republicans' about-face, Senate Budget Chairman Meeks laughed and said: "The legislature is weak."

INDIANAPOLIS DROPS SEWER SUIT: Indianapolis officials have dropped their appeal of a strict federal water discharge permit they said put them in a legal bind with terms that were impossible to meet (*Indianapolis Star*). In 2001, city officials agreed to the permit -- knowing they could not comply with a provision that prohibits overflows from the sewer system that harm

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water quality -- because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had issued a letter promising the city wouldn't be fined as long as it made progress on improvements

HENRY COUNTY SEEKS \$4 MILLION LOAN: The Henry County Council took steps Wednesday to deal with anticipated budget shortages caused by delays in property reassessment (Muncie Star Press). The council authorized advertising for loans totaling \$3.893 million, with \$3.013 million going to the general fund, \$257,000 to the park fund, \$254,000 to the health department and \$365,000 for the debt service fund.

SBC BILL DEAD: A controversial bill that would benefit SBC Communications, the state's largest phone company, will not receive a vote in the Senate and could be dead for the session (Louisville Courier-Journal). Sen. James Merritt, chairman of the Utility and Regulatory Affairs Committee, said yesterday that the types of detailed issues contained in House Bill 1627 should be addressed by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, not a part-time legislature. The bill's opponents hailed the decision as a victory for telephone customers who could see

2003, 2004 Racing Form

Gary Mayoral: Republican: Open. **Democrat:** Mayor Scott King, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Dozier Allen, Roosevelt Allen, Douglas Grimes. **1995 Results:** King (D) 23,588, Williams (I) 5,482, Boswell (R) 1,108, McCraney (I) 96. **1999 Results:** King (D) 11,467. **2003 Forecast:** King won the endorsement of the 4th Council District, which includes neighborhoods such as Midtown, Marshalltown and parts of Tolleston and has for years been a King stronghold. King got 15 endorsement votes in the Friday night balloting, more than double Karen Freeman-Wilson's seven. Roosevelt Allen got two votes and Douglas Grimes one in the mayor's race. Freeman-Wilson was endorsed by the 3rd District. **General Status:** *Solid King.*

HORSE RACE

Hammond Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Duane Dedelow. **Democrat:** Tom McDermott Jr.. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Results:** Dedelow (R) 10,192, Philpot (D) 8,527, Robinson (L) 278. **2003 Outlook:** New Lake County Republican Chairman John Curley wants to recruit a Hispanics into the Republican Party in the city. Mayor Dedelow met with Curley on Friday to discuss the new chairman's plan for the county (Michael Puente, *Post-Tribune*). As a Republican in a very Democratic city, Dedelow also wants attention paid to North Lake County in the recruitment of Republicans. "John and I discussed what he wanted to do countywide. It seems like he's got a reasonable plan," Dedelow said. "If he work's with me, I'll work with him. ... I think things can change with the right leadership." However, Dedelow and Curley disagree on the issue of Michael McPhillips continuing to serve as assistant director of the Lake County Board of Elections and Registration Office in Crown Point. Dedelow wants McPhillips out, contending he gave a contribution to the McDermott campaign. "John wants to give (McPhillips) the benefit of the doubt. It's his call as chairman," Dedelow said. Dedelow said he was "very concerned" that he never was asked by the state party for input on who should be county chairman after the party decided Chiabai had to be replaced (Lazarus, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). **General Status:** *Tossup.*

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Treasurer Greg Jordan. **Democrat:** Mayor Bart Peterson. **Libertarian:** Open. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Results:** Peterson (D) 102,870, Gilroy (R) 83,044, Horning (L) 7,772, Gibson (OP) 2,145. **2003 Forecast:** *Indianapolis Star* writes about Peterson's "perfect storm" involving key negotiations with the Colts, IPD and United Airlines. Any or all three could damage Peterson politically, the story contended. To some extent that is true. Think about it, Peterson is grappling with an eccentric pro football owner, a bankrupt airline in a flagging industry and the police. Of the three, Peterson should think about getting a deal done with the cops. IPD under Peterson has been a positive attribute of the administration, with crime in the district down, and no wild scandals that seemed to repeatedly rock the department during the Goldsmith era. Even when IPD did get controversial (Black Expo towing binge), council Republicans comically ("thugs and gorillas") shifted the total emphasis to a GOP liability. With council maps drawn by the Supreme Court nearing completion, the last critical pre-primary exercises will be in place. We believe Peterson is on sound footing for re-election. **General Status:** *Likely Peterson.*

Indiana 2004 Gubernatorial

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris. **Democrat:** Joe Andrew, State Sen. Vi Simpson. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** Simpson got 4th CD endorsement; Andrew the 3rd CD. It's Showtime! for Clark, Kenley and Simpson here in the Senate homestretch. Can any one of them distinguish themselves as statespersons and translate it into an attribute for 2004? **Status:** *Leans D.* ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Bad timing for Star series, and a missed conclusion

The *Indianapolis Star* should be congratulated for spending last week thoroughly examining Indiana and the sorry state of its economy. Its team of reporters and columnists did a good job of articulating the loss of jobs, personal income, decades of political timidity, the conservative nature of the state and its people, and the huge opportunity that may soon disappear from our midst. We had heard much of it before in bits and pieces, and the series pulled much of it together in a comprehensive read.

Here are several observations. The first is that the state's largest newspaper should have been sounding these alarms years ago. It did in the months leading up to tax restructuring in 2002, but the thrust of its political coverage in the past has been much more narrow. It has reported and editorialized on special interests and their influence over the legislature, the out-of-control slush for lawmakers most of us know as the Build Indiana Fund, and the perceived evils of the gaming industry.

Another observation is that the timing of this series was unfortunate. When Hoosiers really needed to concentrate on its economic mess, the reality was that people were almost wholly absorbed in two other areas — war and basketball. The series should have created a buzz, but in sifting through my various friendships this past week, no one brought it up.

The *Star's* conclusions were predictable. Editorially, it urged the state to invest in research and development, recruit high-tech industries, and make greater investments in education. It emphasized the historic conservatism of

the state, which it equated with people of caution, paranoia of outsiders, isolation, and a series of lost opportunities because the political apparatus wasn't mature enough to recognize priorities.

The bankruptcy from its canal construction that resulted in the 1851 Constitution interfaced with the state's other miscues, such as the spurning of Henry Ford's auto production for the masses a century ago and failure to enact banking reforms two decades ago, has prompted the flight of capital and jobs.

What the *Star* glided past with one passing reference by ex-Democratic Chairman Peter Manous, is the inherent weakness of its political infrastructure. Manous mentioned the weak Indiana governorship, with a simple majority overriding gubernatorial vetoes.

And then the *Star* passed on the obvious conclusion I've reached: That Indiana needs to rewrite its constitution in order to update its governmental structures and their ability to fund their activities.

The *Star* also failed to challenge leading conservative thinkers in the state to redefine conservatism. It doesn't have to be equated with caution, weakness, isolation and fear.

Conservatism should be defined by Hoosier opinion makers as progressive government always looking for efficiencies; to offer a compassionate safety net for the most vulnerable; and taxation with proper representation.

How can the *Star*, which corporately has reinvented itself in the most comprehensive nature since Gannett Corporation took control, ignore the fact that Indiana now relies on antiquated, wasteful and poorly performing governmental structure? If you don't believe it, just read this entire newsletter. ❖

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increased choices for local phone service.

GREGG SAYS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MUST COME FROM WITHIN: A Knox County Development Corporation meeting heard the words of Vincennes attorney John Gregg, former Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives on Wednesday (Vincennes Sun-Commercial). Gregg said the past successes of Vincennes came from within, and the future economic success of the city must come from the same source. "The success we can have here, we've already had," he said. "But it won't come from Indianapolis or Washington D.C., it will come from you and me. We have to do it ourselves. We've got family businesses here that are 100 years old, and they did it without the government."

KELTY VOWS REMATCH WITH MOSES: Political pratfalls often show up in the strangest places, such as a Web site advertising a bipartisan war rally meant to unite Indiana behind America's troops. But the Internet site for Saturday's Rally for America -- rallyamerica.org -- briefly contained a direct link to Matt Kelty's campaign Web site (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Kelty - a co-organizer of the event - said his campaign Web site provided Web space for the

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rally site. But he was not aware initially that there was a direct link to "Hoosiers for Kelty." That page focuses on his race against Democrat Rep. Win Moses Jr. last fall. Moses squeaked out a win, but Republican Kelty has made it clear he looks forward to a rematch in two years.

WAYNE NEWTON TO PERFORM FOR GOP: The Indiana Republican Party is bringing the biggest name in Las Vegas to Indianapolis. Wayne Newton will perform his full Las Vegas Show at the Indiana Republican Party Spring Dinner on April 11 at the Indiana Convention Center. "Wayne Newton is a legendary entertainer," said Indiana Republican Party Chairman, Jim Kittle Jr. "He was performing in Las Vegas while Elvis Presley was still driving a truck and the Beatles were scrambling for gigs in Liverpool. We are thrilled to be able to bring a performer of his acclaim to Indianapolis to sing, not only for the Republican Party faithful, but anyone who wants to see his show without taking a trip out west."



COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal*

Gazette - First they tried to make it a crime to place bets on line or to wage money on virtual slot machines.

In 1998, lawmakers proposed a \$500 fine and three months in jail for cyber wagers and stiffer penalties for the operators of online gambling sites. It eventually occurred to Congress that to enforce a law like this would mean sending SWAT teams into private homes to catch online bettors in the act. It also dawned on them that because many (if not most) gambling Web sites are not physically located in the United States, the prohibition against them would be toothless. So that rocky legislative path was abandoned. The next approach was to try to make it illegal for gambling institutions (on land or on line) to accept credit card payment for gambling. Casinos and other perfectly legal onsite gambling operations were rightfully indignant that Congress would even flirt with the idea of banning credit card use for a legitimate business. As for applying the no-credit-card rule just to online betting: Geography foiled it. That pesky matter of U.S. laws applying only to U.S. people or businesses got in the way again. Another half-baked legislative proposal in the trash can. Now the focus is on banning credit card companies from letting their cards to be used for gambling. Stand back and watch it flop, too. The flaws are almost endless. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* -

Mike Waite ought to be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for mayor of South Bend. This is not an endorsement. Waite, though I have found him to be sincere and well-meaning in his past political quests, should not be mayor. Nor should he be the Democratic nominee. Mayor Stephen J. Luecke deserves the nomination and a chance at re-election. Although Waite might serve ably in some elective

office, he lacks the administrative skill and experience so vital for mayor. But Waite should be on the ballot, a candidate challenging Luecke for the Democratic nomination. Waite wants to be on the ballot. He filed as a candidate. Thou shalt not run, decreed Owen D. "Butch" Morgan, the St. Joseph County Democratic chairman. And darned if the County Election Board didn't agree with Morgan and throw Waite off the ballot. The reason? Waite voted in 1995 in the Republican primary election. What? That's eight years ago. Couldn't somebody decide to switch parties after eight years? Not according to an Indiana law that says a person is stuck with a party label from the last primary election vote when it comes to determining qualification as a candidate for a party nomination. Waite could have sought an audience with Butch Morgan and pleaded: "Oh Great Butcheroo, I have come to understand the righteousness of your cause, the nobility of your leadership and pray that I may be forgiven my transgressions in the forces of Republican darkness. Lo, let me stand in the sunlight as a candidate for a nomination of the party of Jefferson, Jackson, Roosevelt, Kennedy and Wesolowski." Waite didn't ask for Morgan's blessing. ❖

Mike Leonard, *Bloomington Herald-*

Times - One of the stupider moves I've made recently was adding digital cable to my home, thinking that the channel listing for BBC meant that I'd be getting the international perspective of the British Broadcasting Corp.'s heralded news programming. That perspective would be so valuable now that we're at war with Iraq and every news broadcast on television, with the possible exception of PBS, is heavily weighted toward a U.S. point of view. ❖