

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“If someone opens fire from the balcony, I want all the guns I can shooting back. Unless, of course, there are schoolkids up there.”

- State Rep. Matt Whetstone, on why he

carries a gun on the House floor

Gov reorganization picking up steam

Local officials, candidates eye change

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

You know that crazy idea that Howey’s been yammering about for the past six months or so ... you know, dramatically reorganizing government at the state and local level? Well, I’ve been thinkin’, maybe he’s got something there

* * *

Out of the yolk of a potential property tax crisis and a populist uprising in the make, there has been a fascinating realization by key state and local political figures that Indiana’s 1851 era style of government is obsolete, duplicative, costly and unresponsive.

You may bear witness to the rising tide:

1.) **Democrat Joe Andrew** is calling for a constitutional convention. “I believe instead of talking about change, it comes from building consensus,” Andrew told HPR this morning. “A constitutional convention would allow us to look at township government and the complications of multiple bodies -- cities, counties and townships. There are overlapping jurisdictions of first responders with too many people not talking to each other.” Andrew asked, “What is the dollar value of township government? I believe we’re talking tens of millions of dollars. And how much is home rule worth?”

2.) **House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer**, at a Statehouse press conference on Tuesday, where he blamed everyone from local assessors to the Indiana Supreme Court for the property tax mess, told the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* that there are options to look at in the 2004 legislative session that could improve, but not solve, the situation. They include eliminating the township form of government

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LSA STUDY SHOWS VARYING TAX SHIFTS: An analysis prepared by the Legislative Services Agency shows that the average tax bill for owner-occupied homes has dropped in four of the six counties studied (Lesley Stedman, *Louisville Courier-Journal*). Even in Marion County, where many Indianapolis residents are complaining about huge tax increases as a result of a new property-assessment process, barely more than half of the bills for owner-occupied homes actually rose. The average Indianapolis increase was \$84, according to the study. In Vanderburgh County, nearly 54 percent of tax bills for owner-occupied homes increased. Still, the average bill actually fell by an average of 2 percent, or about \$19. In Hamilton County nearly 80 percent of tax bills for owner-occupied homes fell. The average bill was \$230 less than the previous year. In Howard County, where Kokomo is located, the average tax bill for an owner-occupied home went down 15 percent, or about \$112. Just 26 percent of taxpayers experienced increases. In Adams County, 66 percent of bills for owner-occupied homes rose. The average homeowner experienced a \$91 increase. In Wells County, about 56 percent of bills fell, by an average of \$11.

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and reorganizing county government in an attempt to save local tax dollars.

3.) Republican Fort Wayne mayoral candidate Linda Buskirk writing in her *"We Can Do Better"* election plan, explained, "I emphasize the need to promote cooperation between local units of government, even to the point of merger." The significance is that Buskirk's pronouncement comes in the heat of a mayoral campaign in a city where local Republicans excoriated Buskirk's former boss, Mayor Paul Helmke, for suggesting the same last decade.

4.) Floyd County Commissioner John Reisert says a forecast of slow population growth for Floyd County could push city and county governments to merge more departments in an effort to reduce costs in the face of a stagnant tax base (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). One of the things that Reisert said may have to be considered is combining the city and county police departments.

5.) Last April, East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick told the *Times of Northwest Indiana* editorial board, "I believe strongly in consolidation. I know that sounds odd, running for mayor of one city." Pastrick talked about uniting East Chicago, Hammond, Whiting, Highland and Munster into "Metrolake, Indiana," which would supplant Fort Wayne as Indiana's second largest city. "The five communities would make a larger city with a lot of clout and would make for a whole community," Pastrick said.

6.) Republican gubernatorial candidate David McIntosh, quoted in the July 24 Brian Howey statewide newspaper column, called for a reorganization of government on the county level and eliminating townships, saying, "We should be collapsing the unnecessary layers. We have to use this politically charged atmosphere for change."

McIntosh explained that it hit him during a recent Allen County Republican Lincoln Day dinner. "They introduced 75 elected officials and another 50 of them

weren't even there," McIntosh said.

He also related a conversation with the Center Township trustee in Delaware County who acknowledged to the candidate that "we could probably get along without my job."

7.) His Republican primary opponent, Mitch Daniels, also has been sounding out local officials about the accumulative layers of fat in government as he does his 92-county tour in 100 days. "There's a general agreement that we've got duplicative layers of government and the subject is worthy of debate," Daniels told HPR on Monday. He said many of his conversations have been with elected county and township officials, some of whom acknowledge the need for streamlining.

8.) State Sen. Vi Simpson, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, is recommending that anyone interested in reorganizing government read the Crowe Chizek *Compete Study* compiled in the mid 1990s. "One of the aspects of the *Compete Study* is to rethink not only township government and services, but a lot of others: How we deliver services at county and city level," Simpson told HPR. "Rather than studying it all over again, we ought to dust off the *Compete Study* and take another look. It's a good starting place."

Simpson and State Rep. Sue Scholer were two legislators who participated the *Compete Study* and introduced several government streamlining bills in the legislature that were not successful. "It has some really good recommendations. Some are obvious and some are pretty bold," Simpson said.

Simpson, who served as Monroe County auditor, noted that, "As a former county official, sometimes the number of autonomously elected officials with no reporting or oversight is cumbersome at best and perhaps not always as effective."

"There are possible options that can be considered," she said. "There are a lot of differences between counties. One size

may not fit all. For instance, you can't compare the needs of Ripley County with Lake County."

As for Andrew's call for a constitutional convention, Simpson said, "I hear a lot of talk of a constitutional convention in order to discuss what needs to be done. A constitutional convention is called when you have a new constitution to present. A lot of work has to be done prior to that. You don't just run a con-con. You have a lot of hearings and input first."

What about caps?

One quick reaction to the developing property tax story is reining in local government spending. "Local government spending is very crucial," Daniels said as he surveyed the tax situation. "The places where local government spending has been kept moderate, the tax rates have not been exacerbated by abrupt change."

Daniels was quoted in the *Johnson County Daily Journal* on Monday, saying, "We better let this thing settle in a little bit. There's still a lot we don't know."

The problem with caps is that local units of governments have seen a steady shift of burdens. For instance, following the crack cocaine crisis and the elevated crime rates of the early 1990s, President Clinton unveiled the "COPS" program that helped Gov. Frank O'Bannon and hundreds of local communities add 500 new police officers in Indiana. President Bush, with the help of Daniels, eliminated that money.

Cities and towns are responsible for solving the decades old combined sewer overflow problems. Counties are under the gun with bulging jail populations, clogged courts (brought about, in part, by all the new cops), and a significant percentage of deteriorating bridges that will need repairs. Local school corporations are facing the dilemma of replacing recently reduced state transportation funding and unfunded remediation efforts that will be needed to respond to President

Bush's No Child Left Behind strategy.

Simpson responds to the idea of caps by saying, "We already have caps and so if people think that putting some arbitrary caps solves all property tax problems they are showing their lack of knowledge of how the system works."

Simpson added, "We have the biggest detriment of all; it's called the ballot box. If people do not like the local officials, what they are doing or how they are spending money, they can vote a new person in. We get a very patriarchal approach sometimes; the state knows everything and is all wise. I have great faith in local government officials and even greater faith in the local voters. We've done damage by limiting their way to be creative and innovative."

For debate in 2004

When Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst led a hearing on the property tax situation across the state, he echoed what many are saying now: "We should take notice of what's going on around the state. But it's too early to make any judgment. There is not enough data yet."

And he indicated that it was "unlikely" there would be changes in the 2004 legislative session, suggesting that such changes would be fodder for debate in that year's governor's race.

But it is becoming clear that key participants of that election as well as the 2003 municipal elections are feeling the deep rumblings of discontent, are realizing they seek office in a creaking, Rube Goldberg-style government structure, and are coming to the conclusion that now might be the time to give Hoosiers a restructured government.

What I've presented to HPR readers today goes beyond candidates nibbling around the fringes of a concept originally ridiculed as coming from the Green Monster (or left field, in Fenway parlance). It is a developing trend, fueled by a significant discontent. ❖

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JEFFERSONVILLE CITY ATTORNEY CLEARED: The Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission has cleared Jeffersonville City Attorney Anne Marie Galligan of wrongdoing after investigating a complaint by City Councilman Ron Ellis about Galligan's involvement in a lawsuit involving the city and a land partnership in which she's a trustee (Jon Reiter, *Jeffersonville Evening News*). "This matter was investigated by our staff," a letter to Galligan from Commission Executive Secretary Donald R. Lundberg said. "After reviewing the complaint and studying results of the investigation, we have determined that the complaint does not raise a substantial question of misconduct that would warrant disciplinary action." Ellis raised questions about Galligan's involvement in the suit, claiming it presented a conflict of interest.

2000 ELECTION OVER FOR MOST VOTERS: Except for diehard Democrats, Americans have largely moved on from the controversy over the 2000 presidential election, according to a survey by Indiana University's Center on Congress (Steve Hinnefeld, *Bloomington Herald-Times*). The survey, done last fall and winter, found that a

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majority felt the government and the legal system did a good job of deciding the contest. "It's still a rallying cry for the Democratic faithful," said IU political science professor Edward Carmine, the center's director of research. "But independents as well as Republicans are pretty satisfied with the outcome of that election, and it's not likely to be much of an issue in 2004."

JUDGE CANDIDATE LEAVES TRIAL IN TEARS: Thirteen people testified Wednesday that someone forged their signature to vote in Schererville's primary (Post-Tribune). Four more said they handed their absentee ballot to Bob "Bosko" Grkinich, a precinct committeeman, instead of sealing and mailing it. That testimony came in the first day of the recount challenge filed in the town judge race, where incumbent Deborah Riga defeated challenger Kenneth Anderson by 11 votes. Anderson presented 11 cases of what he said was voter fraud before the noon lunch break. It was, at times, dramatic, as Grkinich pleaded the Fifth Amendment, protecting against self-incrimination, to the rapid fire of dozens of questions. And during the lunch break, Riga fled the room in tears. That was before a Riga campaign flier was entered as evidence,

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Andrew sets a different course from Bayh

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Less than two weeks after U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh orchestrated the Democratic Leadership Council's "national conversation" in Philadelphia, Joe Andrew is begging to differ on where the Democratic Party is heading, both nationally and here in Indiana.

"True new Democrats, as opposed to the DLC, are finding they have parallel interests," Andrew told HPR this morning. "I'm the first person who has gotten the New Democrats endorsements as well as from all these labor unions. And that's the difference between where Joe Andrew is going and where Evan Bayh is going."

He said that when the DLC was formed prior to Bill Clinton's ascension to the presidency, it was all about "finding a third way" from the liberal wing of the party and those who were mimicking conservatives in the party seeking to reclaim the "Reagan Democrats" who helped propel three consecutive Republican White House administrations.

In Andrew's view, the DLC has now shifted to become the "conservative" element of the Democratic Party. Sen. Bayh, who chairs the DLC, has issued blunt warnings to big labor for failing to adapt to a global economy as well as the current rise in popularity of presidential candidate Howard Dean.

"The administration is being run by the far right. The Democratic Party is in danger of being taken over by the far left," Bayh warned at the DLC's Philadelphia conversation on July 28. The *New York Times* reported that when a reporter asked whether Democratic woes were a result of Republican attacks or Democratic mistakes, Bayh responded with a curt two-word answer that silenced the room. "Assisted suicide."

Andrew, who said he is attracting numerous Dean supporters here in Indiana, said, "Evan Bayh versus Howard Dean: There is no upside there."

Andrew said he is articulating "a fusion of pro growth in the context of what I call new labor. It's centered around advanced manufacturing. It used to be that we relied on brawn for labor and now it's brains and these can be union jobs."

"The winning ticket isn't with one of those or the other," he said of the DLC and the New Democratic Network, the Washington group that endorsed his candidate earlier this summer. "Liberalism is not the future of the party. The DLC has become conservative, so we're back to one and two and we've forgotten this road up the middle."

When he picked up the New Democratic Network endorsement in June, Andrew said, "Nobody represents the middle class. Everybody who is working today believes they are part of the middle class. (Democrats) are fighting not for the working poor; we're fighting for people who just work."

In an interview with the *HPR* after his speech, Andrew defined New Democrat. "A New Democrat is somebody who is out there fighting for the middle class and speaking on behalf of middle class aspirations and making sure (people have) a quality job, we can fight crime, we can build roads, and our commutes are shorter, and, most importantly, all based on quality public schools. These are things that I hope to be a voice for and that Evan Bayh has been a voice for."

The significance of Andrew's remarks this morning is that he is becoming one of the first Hoosier Democrats openly seeking a different course from Sen. Bayh, who has been the cornerstone of the Indiana party since 1986.

It reflects the growing fissures in the party. When Howard Dean spoke at the Jefferson-Jackson dinner, he was widely hailed. Many Hoosier Democrats differed from Bayh on the Iraq war. Labor has long complained about "carrying the water for Evan" with no other choice. Now they appear to have one. ❖

Reed undecided on whether to seek fourth term

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana School Supt. Suellen Reed, undecided on whether to seek a fourth term in what could be a contested and volatile Republican party nomination process, said she plans to meet with governor candidate Mitch Daniels in the next week and make a final decision by the end of August.

"They haven't talked directly," said Terry Spradlin, Reed's legislative liaison, about his boss and Daniels. "I don't think she's officially made a decision. Any given day, her mood and attitude changes. She's enjoyed her 11 years as the first female state school superintendent. Part of her would like to see the fruits of her labor occur. Other days, politics wears her out."

Stories that Republican candidate Mitch Daniels has asked her not to run were denied by both. "It would be very presumptuous on my part to be suggesting who ought to be on the ticket since I haven't been nominated yet," Daniels said. "I like Suellen Reed immensely and I'll look forward to talking education issues with her and compare notes."

As for Reed remaining on the Republican ticket in 2004, McIntosh said that's a decision "not for the Indianapolis crowd," but for Republican convention delegates. "We saw eye to eye on some things, and we had different views on others," McIntosh said of Reed.

With the Title I portion of the No Child Left Behind results to be announced by the Indiana Department of Education showing 117 schools failing the federal guidelines, down by 56 schools from the year before, a new wrinkle may emerge on education issues for Hoosier Republicans.

Carol D'Amico recently left the Bush administration and did little to douse any speculation that she might seek Reed's job at the GOP convention next June. In her resignation statement as U.S.

deputy education secretary in charge of vocational and adult programs, D'Amico said, "Two years ago, we identified goals that have been met, and now I would like to return to education at the state and institution level, where I look forward to making a difference."

Supt. Reed and U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh have been lobbying the Bush administration for technical corrections that would lower the thresholds involving special education and non-English proficient students. D'Amico is an ardent advocate of No Child Left Behind that could ultimately prove to be controversial in Indiana in the coming months.

Testifying before Congress last April, D'Amico explained, "The important first step of the President's goal for the federal role in elementary and secondary education was achieved in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This legislation marks a new era of education reform, and represents a significant change to federal involvement in education." D'Amico added, "The challenge is clear; too many American high schools are failing to prepare their students for the future. Good schools do exist, but they continue to be the exception."

David McIntosh, now fighting Daniels for the Republican nomination, reported meeting with Noble County school superintendents last week and found them to be extremely concerned. "They see it as a big storm cloud on the horizon," said McIntosh. "They are very worried. Now we've got a big problem with schools being driven by No Child Left Behind. It's put us between a rock and a hard place." Those worries, said McIntosh, include what he calls the "unfunded mandates." No Child Left Behind confronts local school districts with increased performance standards, but very little federal money has accompanied the No Child Left Behind standards.

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showing a photo of Riga and Grkinich together, smiling.

UNSCIENTIFIC 'POLL' REVEALING: They expect Vi Simpson or Mitch Daniels to become governor, Mark Kruzan to become mayor, and don't like George W. Bush (Kurt Van der Dussen, Bloomington Herald-Times). Or new-terrain I-69. But they do like the Bloomington and Monroe County no-smoking ordinances. That's the skinny from The Herald-Times' unofficial and unscientific annual poll of Monroe County fairgoers. The poll is a totally voluntarily, not-so-random, self-selecting -- and hence totally unscientific -- walk-up-and-take-part survey the H-T conducts during fair week. Questions seek people's views about pending political races, plus issues of note. This year, 229 people filled out the survey during the week. It shows they're really, really optimistic about IU's basketball prospects, very divided about keeping U.S. troops in Iraq and unusually Democrat-leaning (for once) in pending elections. For governor, local Democratic candidate state Sen. Vi Simpson was the leader with 74 write-in votes. Her Democratic opponent, former state and national party chairman Joe Andrew got exactly zero. Among Republicans, former Bush budget director Mitch

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Daniels got 40 votes to just two for 2000 GOP candidate David McIntosh, with zero for the third major candidate, conservative activist Eric Miller.

LUGAR SQUELCHES CABINET SPECULATION: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar quickly squelched rumors Monday that he would be on President Bush's short list to replace Secretary of State Colin Powell if Bush wins re-election (Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "The senator feels very strongly that he's serving the country and the administration well right where he is, the United States Senate," spokesman Nick Weber said. Lugar refused all requests to talk about the speculation, which surfaced in a Washington Post story about Powell's intention to resign in January 2005 when Bush's term expires.

WYSS CONTEMPLATES LEGISLATION AFTER TRUCK FIRE: State lawmakers are brainstorming new laws to prevent the actions that led to the horrific truck fire on Interstate 465 last month from ever happening again (Johnson County Daily Journal). State Sen. Thomas J. Wyss said reconsidering current seat-belt laws and regulating materials that are transported with vehicle passengers will be a primary issue for state law-

2003 Racing Form
2003 Indiana Mayoral Races

East Chicago Mayoral: Republican: None. **Democrat:** Mayor Robert Pastrick, Councilman George Pabey. **1999 Primary Results:** Pastrick 5,772, Stephen Stiglich 3,790. **1999 General Results:** Pastrick (D) 3,027, Acost (R) 629. **2003 Forecast:** Pastrick on Monday made his first appearance in the two-week-old trial that could result in his primary victory being thrown out. Pastrick smiled and appeared confident

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while his own attorneys conceded that as many as 135 absentee votes cast for him in the May 6 primary were either bad or questionable (Michael Puente, *Post-Tribune*). Still, Pastrick's attorney Terrance Smith argued that the "bad" absentee votes that attorneys for primary loser George Pabey presented during the trial fell well short of the 278 votes Pastrick beat Pabey by, the margin of victory coming in the form of absentee ballots. Therefore, Pabey's attorneys failed to meet the burden of proof in showing widespread voter fraud, Smith said. Smith asked that Special Judge Steven E. King dismiss the lawsuit in its entirety and uphold Pastrick's victory. But after hearing lengthy arguments from Pabey's attorney Nathaniel Ruff on why the lawsuit should not be dismissed, King, without taking a break to consider the motion, denied Pastrick's request for dismissal. Once proceedings in the East Chicago mayoral trial ends this week, new court proceedings, in the form of a grand jury inquiry, could begin (Michael Puente, *Post-Tribune*). That's because Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter says he intends to forward to a grand jury statements made by witnesses thus far into the trial, some appearing to be blatant examples of voter fraud and at least one extreme case of witness tampering. "We're going to look into every one of them. We're not just writing them off," Carter told the *Post-Tribune* on Saturday. "We're going to present those allegations to a grand jury to see if it rises to criminal violations." **Court Status: TOSSUP.**

Elkhart Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Dave Miller. **Democrat:** James Perron. **1995 Results:** Perron (D) 5,017, McDowell (R) 4,869. **1999 Results:** Miller (R) 4,959, Perron (D) 3,902. **2003 Forecast:** Miller and Perron say they will focus on the future in their campaign runs for mayor. Time will tell. In the early going, however, neither candidate has passed on opportunities to jab his opponent. Since the May primary, Perron has issued 17 press releases. Most of them propose ideas and plans, but three have attacked Miller's follow-through on 1999 campaign promises and claims of recent successes (Rick Meyer, *Elkhart Truth*). Miller isn't shy about making negative comments about his opponent either, including references to Perron losing a defamation lawsuit over ghost writing a letter in the People's Forum of the *Truth* in January 1994. "Voters look for vision, credibility and effectiveness," said Elizabeth A. Bennion, assistant professor of political science at Indiana University South Bend. "We have a solid record of significant accomplishments in a relatively short period of time," Miller said. "We've overcome great obstacles to accomplish many of these things and felt that we needed some more time to continue that process. We didn't want the city to fall back. "We will concentrate on building the city for life and all that entails in the hundred different areas of everyday life for citizens and families," Miller added. "I expect to focus on the future. Citizens are sick and tired of negative campaigns." In 16 years as Elkhart mayor, Perron's list of accomplishments is long. Perron said he's proud of his record and able to defend it, but he won't campaign on it. "My record as mayor speaks for itself, but the election is about the future," Perron said. "That's why I've called for a number of summits to allow our campaign to contribute something positive." **General Status: Leans Miller**

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Linda Buskirk. **Democrat:** Mayor Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Results:** Richard (D) 21,607, Buskirk (R) 21,531. **2003 Forecast:** Lincoln National, which already has moved its corporate headquarters out of Fort Wayne, announced it was cutting 800 jobs, includ-

ing some in the Summit city. It was originally thought that Allen County tax bills would be due a week after the election, but that has now been moved back to late December. However, tax bills are expected to be in the mail prior to the election. How this will impact the mayoral race is anyone's guess. **General Status:** *Leans Buskirk.*

Indianapolis Mayor: **Republican:** Treasurer Greg Jordan. **Democrat:** Mayor Bart Peterson. **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:** Peterson appeared before the City-County Council to present his trimmed down budget. The chambers were jammed with both irate citizens angry about high property tax bills and Peterson supporters. Jordan called the pattern of deception coming from the mayor's office "troubling" and "unacceptable." Jordan responded to revelations that contrary to Peterson's own news release issued last week, most of Peterson's spending cuts were made up of accounting gimmicks involving IndyGo funds rather than real cuts in city spending (HPR). Peterson announced \$11.8 million in spending cuts that included \$8.7 million in pass-through funds for the bus company. Real spending cuts only amount to \$3.1 million, according to the *Indianapolis Star*. Peterson's July 25 news release stated: "Mayor Peterson noted that these cuts were ordered for the only budget over which he has direct control, the city budget, which funds Indianapolis police and fire services, parks, public works and other basic city services." The bus company budget is independent of the city budget. Peterson's response, equally troubling, is that he "wasn't really thinking about it," said Jordan. "Bart Peterson purports to be a businessman," said Jordan. "Did he intentionally misrepresent these cuts or doesn't he know what is going on in his own budget?" **General Status:** *Likely Peterson.*

Indiana 2004 Gubernatorial

Governor 2004: **Republican:** Mitch Daniels, David McIntosh, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris, Bob Parker. **Democrat:** Joe Andrew, State Sen. Vi Simpson, Roy Graham. **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:** The *Post-Tribune's* Rich James wrote that Andrew is "considered the favorite, although far from a lock" for the nomination. What's our take? We don't see a favorite in the Democratic race. The WISH/Vargus poll in July had Simpson with better name ID. Andrew has tried to create the perception that he has a money edge, though there is nothing to quantify that. Andrew has more labor endorsements, though no one can put a number on that. Simpson did pick up a International Union of Operating Engineers Local #841 endorsement out of Vigo County this week. Simpson has an edge with legislative endorsements, including the majority of the Lake and Vanderburgh county delegations, though State Rep. Win Moses is backing Andrew. There have been no independent head-to-head horse race polls. So it's a real stretch to be calling either candidate a "front-runner" at this point. Bloomington attorney Roy Graham is entering the race, possibly as a proxy for the anti-Interstate 69 crowd. Names being bandied around for Andrew's running mate include Democratic Chairman Joe Hogsett and Democratic Central Committeewoman Bren Simon. That's a nice parlor game, but ... it's August 2003. McIntosh announced that it has named Dave Pearson as its general consultant and David Buskill as Co-Campaign Manager and Operations Manager for the 2004 gubernatorial campaign. Daniels said the long-debated revamping of the state's assessment guidelines and tax structure could have been handled better. "The postponement for political purposes was a real disservice," Daniels said (*Johnson County Daily Journal*). "It turned what could have been a gradual change into something very abrupt and probably very unfair." Before proposing any changes, however, he thinks more time is needed to gauge the results. "We better let this thing settle in a little bit," he said. "There's still a lot we don't know." **General Status:** *Tossup*
- Brian A. Howey in Indianapolis ❖

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makers in their next session. Thirteen employees of RPT Painting of Franklin were riding in the back of a box truck with painting materials on July 29 when the rear of the truck burst into flames, killing one man and critically injuring 12 others.

Investigators know the blaze started when a flammable liquid paint material caught on fire, but they don't know what sparked it. "This isn't something that happens every day, and it may never happen again," Wyss said. "Most importantly, it should have never happened the first time." Wyss said he is considering legislation regarding whether anyone should be allowed in a moving vehicle on a public roadway without being restrained.

LINCOLN NATIONAL TO CUT FORT WAYNE JOBS: Lincoln National Corp. will shed up to 800 jobs companywide, including in Fort Wayne, as it slims down to face weaker market conditions (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Spokeswoman Liz Gagne declined to speculate Monday on how many Fort Wayne jobs will be lost, and said only, "We do expect reductions to occur."

HOSTETTLER URGED TO RAISE MORE MONEY: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler stands out this year for his slow start in fund raising

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(Associated Press). According to reports filed with the Federal Election Commission, the conservative, five-term lawmaker has raised only \$1,800 this year and has slightly more than \$5,000 in his campaign account. In an era in which lackluster fund raising is often viewed as a sign of weakness, Republican strategists have privately urged Hostettler to become more aggressive in raising money, according to officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. Democrats already have a challenger raising money and organizing a campaign. Jon Jennings has a background in basketball, practically a religion in Indiana, as well as government. He reported raising more than \$100,000 and had more than \$63,000 in the bank as of June 30

INDIANAPOLIS COUNCIL MAY FACE BACKLASH: A vote taken last year has come back to haunt 11 City-County Council members running for re-election this year. The issue: property taxes (Indianapolis Star). The vote to raise taxes by roughly \$30 million was taken last Sept. 16 as the council wrapped up a grueling summer budget battle. Forgotten for several months, that vote has been resurrected by higher property tax bills that have angered many Marion County homeowners. "I have a list of City-County Council members and how

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Mike Redmond, Indianapolis Eye - Well, those spoilsports in the United States Senate have ruined my chances to make a pile of money and retire to an island in the South Pacific. I speak, of course, of the Pentagon's "Policy Analysis Market," an online trading site where you could invest in predictions of terror attacks and political upheaval. I was planning to make a killing, so to speak, in assassination futures. Then the Senate got wind of the scheme and a few days later, it all came to a shrieking halt. Darn. Actually, I wasn't really planning to invest. For one thing, investing takes money, and who has that? For another, I found myself agreeing with Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon and Sen. Byron Dorgan of South Dakota, both of whom called the idea "grotesque." Dorgan also called it "unbelievably stupid," a view with which I concur. Heck, I even found myself siding with Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz -- and that's a first -- when he said he was shocked. I, too, was shocked, but not surprised. It was, after all, a product of DARPA (Dumb Ass Research Projects Agency), which puts it under the guidance of our old pal John Poindexter. You remember Poindexter. Indiana native. Retired rear admiral. Convicted in the Iran-Contra scandal. Mr. Total Information Awareness, who wants to electronically monitor millions of Americans — their credit card bills, Internet habits, and maybe even which reality shows they prefer — in order to root out the terrorists. Or, to use the short version, Mr. Whacko. ❖

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - If the presidential election were held today, President Bush would win. Probably. Political handicappers give the edge to Bush but caution that a lot can happen in 15 months. In fact, growing unease with developments in Iraq and the

White House's exaggeration about Saddam Hussein's efforts to buy nuclear material has cut into Bush's popularity in the past several weeks. Republicans who were exuding confidence two weeks ago now warn that overconfidence can be deadly. Nevertheless, one GOP adviser said if the presidential campaign environment were a poker hand, Republicans would be pleased with the cards they've been dealt: a popular incumbent who has more money to date than almost all the Democratic contenders lumped together - and no front-runner. ❖

Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - Like a freshman football player thrust into games for most of the season, freshman Congressman Chris Chocola can't be considered a novice any more. He has a voting record to which he can point with pride, and to which an opponent can point with disdain. Chocola, the Republican from Bristol who was elected last fall, already has been in Congress for deliberations on war, taxes and deficit. So, how does he like it? Here are some questions and Chocola's responses during a recent interview in Washington. Any surprises, pleasant or otherwise, about service in Congress? "It's essentially what I expected," Chocola says. He expected to support President Bush and has had an opportunity to do so on tax cuts and budget decisions. He works with House Republican leaders as he had anticipated in "a team sport." After being chairman of CTB International Inc., the Milford-based family business he headed, isn't it kind of frustrating for him now as just one of 435 House members? "It's not frustrating because I'm doing what I said I wanted to do," Chocola responds. He says he can play a significant role in his first term, with roll calls often close, and with everybody, whether freshman or veteran, having just one vote. ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Fear and loathing (of their own constituents)

INDIANAPOLIS - Here's a great parlor game for you *HPR Daily Wire* readers. Out of the copy running four days a week (really five, the *HPR* weekly's *Ticker Tape* is really today's *Daily Wire*), try predicting the "Quote of the Week."

I'm buying a beer at the Antheum's Biergarten for anyone who can guess what it is any given week.

The "Quote of the Week" is usually something that is:

- A.) Extremely witty or funny;
- B.) Extremely stupid;
- C.) Articulates either the feelings of the masses, their government, or both on any given week;
- D.) Projects great irony;
- E.) Is a precursor to what **HPR** strives to do every week, which is to keep our readers ahead of the curve.

Some weeks, the "Quote of the Week" is very easy, like when Muncie City Councilman Jack Isenbarger explained his vote against renaming Broadway for Dr. Martin Luther King by saying, "I just wanted to."

I loved -- looooooved -- that one for it's clarity and arrogance. I also appreciated this week's, thanks to State Rep. Matt Whetstone. So you won't have to scroll back to Page One, I'll repeat it here:

"If someone opens fire from the balcony, I want all the guns I can shooting back. Unless, of course, there are schoolkids up there."

The *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette's* Niki Kelly first reported this true gem. She was reporting that one in every six members of the Indiana General Assembly has gun permits, and that Whetstone, Sens. John Waterman and Johnny Nugent, and Reps. Jeff Drozda, Gerald Torr pack heat on the House and Senate floors.

Whetstone's quote conjured Wild West imagery. Imagine a gang of terrorists opening fire from the House balcony, and Whetstone, Torr and Drozda immediately returning fire. One can hope that these representatives can ascertain in a split second whether school kids are up there. Apparently, lobbyists don't count.

I actually interviewed a lawmaker who was under gunfire. U.S. Rep. Shepard J. Crumpacker Jr. was on the House floor back in the 1950s with Rep. E. Ross Adair when Puerto Rican nationalists sprayed the chamber with gunfire. Neither Crumpacker or Adair didn't fire back (they was unarmed); they froze. And, he told me, those who were shot were the one's who scrambled for cover.

Carrying a gun on the House or Senate floor belies the real and most glaring security threat at the Statehouse, that wide open western exposure where a truck bomb could be driven right into the first floor (just like what happened in the unsolved Tippecanoe County Courthouse in 1998). In an age when Al Qaeda operatives were checking out the RCA Dome website for targets, this continuing security threat is simply inexcusable.

But Whetstone's comments and guns reveal something that's always fascinated me: Many legislators are afraid of their constituents. Most of this is fear of retribution at the ballot box for taking principled stands on tough issues. They forget that if the stand is principled and backed with logic, the Hoosier folk will understand. As we've seen with the building property tax fiasco, if these men and women had taken action five or six years ago, we probably wouldn't have the mess we have today.

And taxpayers wouldn't be thinking about storming the Statehouse dressed as Indians, with pitchforks, and vats of tar and bags of feathers. ❖

TICKER T A P E

they voted," said Northside resident Judy Goldstein, clutching that list at Monday's council meeting -- her first. "That's important for people to know."

LIST OF LAWMAKERS PACKING HEAT: (Asterisks indicate those of carry guns on to the House or Senate floors) Sen. Allie Craycraft, D-Selma; Sen. Larry Lutz, D-Evansville; Rep. Kent Adams, R-Warsaw; *Sen. Jeff Drozda, R-Westfield; Sen. Joe Harrison, R-Attica; Sen. Brandt Hershman, R-Wheatfield; *Sen. Johnny Nugent, R-Lawrenceburg; Sen. Allen Paul, R-Richmond; *Sen. John Waterman, R-Shelburn; Sen. Tom Wyss, R-Fort Wayne; Rep. Robert Alderman, R-Fort Wayne; Rep. Jim Buck, R-Kokomo; Rep. Woody Burton, R-Greenwood; Rep. Dan Leonard, R-Huntington; Rep. William Ruppel, R-North Manchester; *Rep. Gerald Torr, R-Carmel; *Rep. John Ulmer, R-Goshen; *Rep. Matt Whetstone, R-Brownsburg; Rep. David Yount, R-Columbus; Rep. R. Tiny Adams, D-Muncie; Rep. Jim Bottorff, D-Jeffersonville; Rep. Ben GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne; Rep. Terry Goodin, D-Crothersville; Rep. Tom Kromkowski, D-South Bend; Rep. Linda Lawson, D-Hammond (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). ❖