



# HOWEY

## *Political Report*

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## ‘A really futile and stupid gesture’

*After House meltdown, will Senate concur and go home?*

**“I think this situation absolutely requires ... a really futile and stupid gesture be done on somebody’s part.” - Otter, Animal House, 1978**

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By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

There’s the Indiana Senate and the Animal House.

In the Senate, there is the one remaining legislative figure -- President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton -- who has yet to make a spectacle of himself. He has shown restraint, refusing to blast Gov. Mitch Daniels’ State of the State tax hike. He has suggested a cigarette tax hike at a time when Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky are on the verge of doing the same. And Garton is supremely in command of the Republican-dominated Senate, with his old caucus foe Larry Borst gone.

For the taking, Sen. Garton can move into unclaimed territory, that of elder Hoosier statesman.

And there’s the Animal House of Representatives, graveyard of daylight-saving time. It is the Delta House of Indiana government. It is a place of food fights, beaver shooting (well, OK, make that canned deer hunting), and the kind of petty games and one-upsmanship you might expect in college ... no, make that junior high school. It is a place where Rep.

Brian Bosma led a walk-out last winter to push the marriage amendment, then won the speakership last October and November with a coarsened campaign that compro-



House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer was free to stonewall after the budget passed. If the Senate concurs, this session could be over and everyone would return in May or June or July or August. (HPR Photo)



**“You can fix potholes, but you can’t fix that.”**

— State Rep. Earl Harris on convicted East Chicago Councilman Frank Kollintzas fleeing, presumably to Greece, instead of serving an 11-year federal corruption sentence, to the *Post-Tribune*

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Schoeff: Daniels stays out of DC fray p. 4

Indy Star and ‘selective outrage’ p. 5

Howey: Hoosiers missing a revolution p.6

Columnists: Colwell, Weidenbener p.7

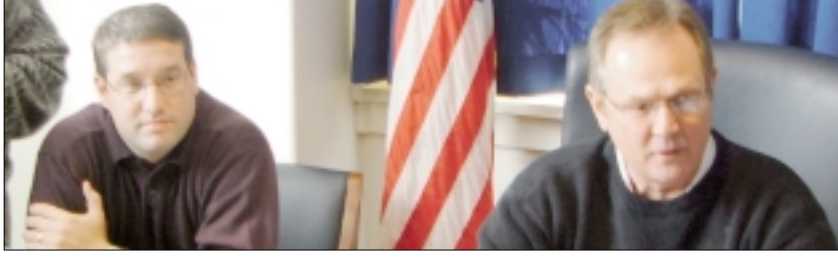
Ticker: Garton sees DST likely dead p.8

*Covering a Decade of Indiana Politics*



mised core principles (assuming that at Speaker Bosma's church, the Golden Rule is observed) and impugned the character of five vanquished Democrats. What would Jesus do?

The Animal House is a place sans heroes.  
It is a place where no one stood up and found a



A angry Gov. Mitch Daniels said House Democrats 'car bombed' the session and "kept moving the goalposts." State Reps. Bob Kuzman and Russ Stilwell were, in turn, defiant. (HPR Photos by Brian A. Howey)

course of moderation, accommodation and recognition that Indiana needs leaders, not sophomores and frightened freshmen. Instead, it was a place of the kind of over-reach Republicans attempted in 1995, setting the stage for forfeiting majority status in 1996 for the next eight years. There were power grabs over appointing Marion County judges, a new Colts stadium and an inspector general's bill. House Republicans dismayed their own supportive business community by blocking Mayor Bart Peterson's "Indianapolis Works" legislation that appeared to have a foundation based on time-honored Republican principles: less government; more efficient government; less taxes.

House Republicans found themselves in a grab-bag tax hike mode, at various times calling for increases on Indianapolis residents, a regional tax, restaurant tax, gasoline tax, cigarette taxes, and more taxes on Colts players, their NFL opponents, and fans. They jettisoned funding for the Indiana Convention Center, a regional economic engine.

And there is fratricide, a growing rivalry between Bosma and State Rep. Mike Murphy, the Marion County Republican chairman who ham-handled the judges bill into a partisan over-reach instead of making it an urban county initiative.

## Bauer's shrill response

The shrill response ... that really futile and stupid gesture ... was readily supplied by the former speaker, now Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer. With last March's walkout still fresh in his mind, he led his 47 Democratic colleagues on a 48-hour retribution binge that gutted some 130 bills, including ones that would have reorganized Indianapolis government, paved the way for a new Colts stadium, and moved the state to daylight-saving time. Holding a stack of late amendments -- hardly a new tactic -- Bauer shook blustered, "I'm

sure that nobody can digest that much in a week, let alone 24 hours, 12 hours."

Bosma's tactical mistake as a rookie speaker was passing a budget last week, instead of using it for leverage. Bauer was able to tell the press with a straight face that

House Democrats signed off on the budget and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, and that is all they were duty-bound to do.

## A floor below

A floor below the Indiana Senate and the Animal House was Gov.

Mitch Daniels. He was a pillar of restraint until Wednesday morning, the day after Monaco Coach of Wakarusa announced it was laying off 5 percent of its workforce. Monaco was the place where Daniels had gone to pick up his used touring governor's office just last Friday. The new RV1 will be rolling through Indiana's growing methamphetamine territory, in a state rubeled and goldberged by three cascading time zones.

On Wednesday, Daniels' restraint was pierced by his comparison of Rep. Bauer to terrorists.

"Indiana's drive for growth and reform was car-bombed yesterday by the Indiana House minority," a calm Daniels said as he was flanked by Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman. "Any pretense notwithstanding, it is clear that this cynical action was planned from the start of the session."

Daniels continued, "I have done all I could since arriving in office to work for change on a bipartisan basis. I have spent hours reaching out in meetings large and small. I have seen that bills the Democrats said they objected to were set aside. I have accepted a raft of changes in bills I proposed personally. Even through yesterday, I offered additional compromises, but every time the goal post was moved."

The governor said Republicans agreed to scrap a Marion County judge bill and made 11th hour compromises on the inspector general bill, agreeing to give prosecutorial power to the attorney general. But any deals appeared to disintegrate over license branch payments to parties and, as Rep. Russ Stilwell explained, the closure of rural BMV offices.

Daniels continued, "I like to assume the best about folks until they prove you can't. These people liked being in charge and they like business as usual, and they're not about to let a little thing like the people voting for change make a difference. If you want to know why Indiana's economy fell behind, why state government is broke, broken, and awash in



scandal, just look at Mr. Bauer. I shouldn't be surprised that a throwback politician like Mr. Bauer would put party over jobs, reform, public safety, or the protection of children. But it's harder to understand why not one House Democrat had the courage or conscience to stay at work when he told them to walk off the job. I guess they were just following orders."

And, Gov. Daniels added, "I'm embarrassed for them, but it was their choice. We're going to create a pro-jobs economic climate with or without them. We're going to clean up the scandals and the waste they left behind whether they like it or not."

House Democrats called for an apology today. Gov. Daniels, asked about term limits, noted the governor has them and it might be a "good idea" for the legislature.

## A concurred budget?

Daniels and Skillman huddled with Garton and Bosma Wednesday morning to survey the carnage. One surprise idea for the ISTA hoping to score a better deal on education funding could come if the Senate concurs with the House budget, pre-empting any conference committee. Then everyone would go home.

Reliable sources tell HPR that RV1 will begin traveling to Democratic districts (it will be in Rep. Peggy Welch's territory in Bloomington this afternoon), turning up the heat. RV1 will be visiting districts represented by Democratic Reps. Teri Austin, Scott Reske, Phil Pflum, Dale Grubb, Bob Kuzman, Vern Tincher, Joe Micon, Jerry Denbo, David Orentlicher, Ryan Dvorak and Craig Fry in the coming days and weeks. All of these seats can be expected to be in play in 2006. Orentlicher will almost certainly have a well-financed Republican opponent.



Orentlicher

A Senate concurred budget and early exit would set the stage for a special session in May or June to deal with jet-tisoned legislation: Colts, DST, ethics, etc. A source in the Daniels administration called it a "75 percent chance" of a special session.

State Sen. Marvin Riegsecker said publicly what Senate and gubernatorial sources were suggesting under their breaths. "I think we're all offended because people wanted us to go down a different path than we have been on for a number of years," Riegsecker told the *Elkhart Truth*. "There's clearly a need for us to do things differently. Another option is to send lawmakers home, or at least end this session and begin again. It's obvious the House has failed miserably."

## Twisting in the wind

Left twisting, twisting in the wind is Indianapolis

Mayor Bart Peterson, who said in his State of the City speech Wednesday night, "Indianapolis Works didn't pass the first day. It has been the victim of partisan squabbling every step of the way. If Indianapolis Works is, as charged, a radical departure from the way we have done business in this state, I say it's about time we did business in this state a new way."

Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell said of the Colts deal, "There's not a single person who thinks the Colts bill is dead. We are optimistic it will be resurrected." Campbell noted that Peterson and Garton have a 16-year relationship. "We've been in close contact," he said.

Lost in the shuffle is Speaker Bosma's own private negotiations with the Colts. Presumably, Garton and ultimately Daniels will be in the driver's seat there.

Peterson wasn't the only one upset with the legislature, which is quickly becoming the lowest rung on the Indiana political foodchain.

Republican Tippecanoe County Commissioner Ruth Shedd told the *Lafayette Journal & Courier*, "When the Democrats were in power, the Republicans did the same thing. And now it's just turned around. But to me it's a game with both parties. And I just think that they need to lay these issues aside and go forward with the business that we've elected them to do."

Democratic City Councilman Lon Heide said, "If they're in session, I think they (Democrats) should be there." At Anderson, State Rep. Teri Austin was whistling past the graveyard. "I wouldn't term this a walkout," she said, presumably with a straight face. (*Anderson Herald-Bulletin*). "There were conversations and negotiations going on all day in an attempt to reach a compromise." Uh-huh. Austin, too, will almost certainly find a well-financed opponent in 2006.

## Thrashing around the same ruts

In the 2004 campaign, Gov. Daniels observed an Indiana political establishment "thrashing around in the same rut" and "mistaking the edge of the rut for the horizon."

On Wednesday, by comparing Bauer to a terrorist, the new governor risked the perception that he would join the thrashing. His dilemma will be to stoke the heat from the grassroots without being smeared by the same mud that Bosma and Bauer have been launching at each other.

Almost two years before the next election, Bauer and Bosma seem more obsessed with 2006 than reigning in their own egos and initiating statesmanship. Republicans insist their 2004 walkout was for an attempt to vote for something. Democrats they say, were trying to prevent votes this year.

What Hoosiers ended up with was an Animal House foodfight. Hoosiers are searching for statescraft but ended up with futile gestures. ❖



## Gov. Daniels stays out of Washington fray

*New governor concentrates on state politics*

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON -- Gov. Mitch Daniels entered office in January with perhaps the most Washington experience of any Hoosier chief executive in history. As a former chief of staff for Sen. Richard Lugar, political director for President Ronald Reagan, and budget director for President George W. Bush, he knows his way around the nation's capital. But he's going to keep it mostly at arm's length while he's in Indianapolis.

When it comes to weighing in on national policy and legislation, Daniels is going to choose his spots. "I want to be kind of surgical when I come down here," he said at a breakfast meeting with Hoosier reporters on Tuesday while he was in Washington for the annual meeting of the National Governors Association. "I like to spend my time on the things I think I can actually have an impact on. I don't feel the need to be heard on every subject to get it on the record."

As an example, he pointed to the effort to save the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center, a southern Indiana military facility employing 4,000 people that is trying to stay out of the next round of base closures. While he was in town for the governors meeting, Daniels met with the secretary of the Navy and other Pentagon officials. The closure list will be drafted by the middle of May and submitted to Congress in the fall.

"I want to work on things like Crane, where if I put enough time in, if I find the right people, if I make the right arguments, I might make a real difference," Daniels said. "When there are things of specific importance to Indiana, like Crane, or some grant that we're well suited for, we'll go after it hammer and tongs." Otherwise, he'll concentrate on state business in Indianapolis. "We've got a big, big set of assignments at home, so I hope you understand why my thoughts are basically there," he said.

### **Bringing More Grants Home**

One area that is on his mind when it comes to

Washington is increasing the amount of federal grants the state wins. During his campaign last fall, Daniels criticized Indiana's low ranking in a national survey. The state was 45th in the nation in competitive grants won per capita in 2002, according to an organization called Federal Funds Information for States.

Daniels plans to establish an office in Indianapolis that will work with state agencies and other groups to make the grant process more strategic. "Where we're coming up short is not having anybody specifically assigned to scan for opportunities and then to know the state well enough to connect opportunities with potential applicants," he said.

Deborah Hohlt, a Washington lobbyist who is working with the Daniels administration on reviewing other states' grant practices, said Indiana's "is not coordinated now. Everyone is applying willy-nilly." Daniels jumped in, "Or we're not applying."

During the campaign, then-Gov. Joseph Kernan defended the state's effort to procure federal funds, saying that his administration had a Washington office for that purpose. He also said that Indiana would not have been eligible for most of the grants Daniels cited in his criticism. Hohlt is likely to play a central role in Indiana's lobbying efforts in Washington.

One group of state constituents that want to win more grants is colleges and universities. Indiana University seeks to increase the amount of federal money in its budget by 25 percent over the next two years, in part to offset higher costs without raising tuition.

Tom Healy, IU vice president for government relations, said he has met with state officials to discuss how Indiana's Washington office will be set up. He's confident that more federal dollars can be found. "When you combine the political knowhow of the Daniels administration with the expertise we have and in other institutions like Purdue, it makes for better proposals that have a greater chance for funding," he said.

### **Daniels Disses Earmarks**

Although he wants to bring more discretionary grants home, Daniels remains dismissive of federal earmarks, which critics say are a mechanism for members of Congress to send pork barrel spending back home. While he was budget director, Daniels stridently opposed earmarks, drawing the ire of powerful appropriators on Capitol Hill.

When asked on Tuesday whether he would fight for earmarks now that he is governor, Daniels gave the kind of succinct reply that was his trademark during congressional



Gov. Daniels left Bush and drew a Bauer. (White House photo)



hearings. "No," he said firmly, after swallowing a bite of his oatmeal. "I don't think it's a good practice. (Congress) ought to trust employees of the federal government to decide where federal dollars are spent. If our delegation secures them, it may wind up being something I'm happy about."

But the bigger grants that get, the more political they become. Congress is loath to put much discretion in the hands of federal agency officials, so grants that are subject to open competition tend to be targeted and small, making earmarks more important. Earmarks have grown in popularity since the Republicans took control of Congress in 1994.

Still, Daniels, a former Eli Lilly executive, maintains his wariness of federal spending. He said that he doesn't plan to oppose President Bush's budget.

"Government overspending hurts Indiana," he said. "Where do you think that money comes from? More federal spending is not in Indiana's interest."

### **Coordinate Hoosier Federal Priorities**

Having said that, he will sometimes highlight state legislative priorities. "I'm going to trust our congressional delegation," he said. "I'll let them know when I see something that

is very much in our interest or not." But he doesn't think a governor has that much influence on the federal spigot. "Most (federal funding) will come whether I issue press releases or don't. Maybe all of it."

Daniels also will look to the state's delegation to take the lead on changing funding formulas, such as those included in highway legislation, to benefit Indiana, which is now classified as a donor state. While Congress works on the new highway bill, Daniels said he will be "cheering on the delegation. My impression is the extent of (Indiana's) donor status will not get better but it won't get worse."

An area where Daniels believes he can have a more direct impact is managing highway money once it gets to Indiana. He said the state has been "bungling the gas tax calculation." Making improvements in that area "alone is going to increase our transportation receipts substantially."

Even though Daniels wants to leave the congressional delegation to its own devices, establishing a strong Washington presence for the governor's office can help draw together Hoosier members of Congress to work for the state. One Washington-based Indiana lobbyist laments that the state's delegation rarely meets formally to consider Indiana interests on Capitol Hill. ❖

## Selective outrage

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - The headlines in Monday's *Indianapolis Star* were bold and sanctimonious: "Lobbying draws scrutiny: Gambling firm's ties to 2 legislators are criticized." It told of Centaur Inc.'s business relationships with State Rep. David Frizzell and State Sen. Jeff Drozda, two of the most unlikely votes for slots. Throw State Sen. Brent Waltz, who defeated Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst, into that category. He, too, was to be a non-slots voting shill for the gaming industry, according to the *Star*, which refused to endorse him.

This was the same newspaper that urged voters to throw the "150 turkeys out" last spring, then took a pass on the Waltz-Borst race despite its vast public policy implications.

**There's no question that Centaur's** exposed relationships are of dubious nature. But there's a double standard. A couple of years ago, the *Bloomington Herald-Times* reported the incestuous relationships between state funded Ivy Tech and its employment of Senate President Bob Garton, former Speaker B. Patrick Bauer, Rep. Craig Fry and several dozen legislative spouses and offspring. The *Star* took a pass on that one, too, as well as the proliferation of thousands of illegal video poker machines in scores of bars, restaurants and legion halls, all while stiffening the state's defense

against the "expansion of gambling."

In Monday's *Star*, a page 1 sidebar declared, "Gambling's rise in state creates hidden victims: Some say Indiana must address human toll of problem betting." And it again compared the gaming industry with crack cocaine. Slots addict Chuck Alcoser said in a bold above-the-fold quote, "It's no different than smoking crack. The only difference is, if I was on crack, you could tell just by looking at me."

**The *Star* went on to report,** "The financial toll of problem gambling is impossible to calculate, experts say." That leaves policy makers with anecdote and hyperbole.

But if you turned to page D11 in that very same edition's sports section, right under the standing head that invites high school and college scores to be phoned in, there's a thing called, "*Today's Line*." There you can find the point spreads for an illegal gambling activity called bookmaking. The *Star* told you that Southern Illinois was favored over Indiana State by 5 1/2 points. It told you that Southwest Missouri State was a 3 1/2-point favorite over the Evansville Purple Aces.

***Star* editor Dennis Ryerson told HPR** on Wednesday, "Fans seem to want to know which team is favored. Fans have asked for it." And the social impact of bookmaking? Ryerson pleaded ignorance. "I don't know how many end up betting as a result," he said. "I know of very few newspapers that don't do this." ❖



## Hoosiers are missing the bloom of a new revolution

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS -- I remember autumn 1989.

The Warsaw Pact showed fissures, and then a crumble, and then a torrent of democracy as the restless populations of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia stirred and voted with their feet and velvet voices.

The guns and jackboots fell silent. And then came that day -- Nov. 9, 1989 -- when the Berlin Wall fissured, cracked and came down. I remember that German Chancellor Helmut Kohl spoke emotionally with the whole world watching as the people from the East and West joined hands and heeded that clarion call of President Reagan and that wall came down.



So it should be with great euphoria when one of the most respected voices of foreign policy, *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman, declared on *Nightline* and *This Week* that, in essence, the Middle Eastern equivalent to the Berlin Wall is showing fissures and crumbles and tumbles.

We saw it on Jan. 30 when 8 million Iraqis thumbed their noses at the terrorists and displayed their purple fingers. Suddenly, the democratic process appeared to open in some of the most despot-hardened places ... Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Palestine and, most recently, Lebanon, where assassination was followed by a Berlin Wall moment. A puppet government was jettisoned and, as Friedman would put it, people left the Arab basement for the Arab street seeking freedom.

This has followed other beacons: the 2004 elections in Afghanistan, the Rose Revolution of Georgia, and the Orange Revolution of Ukraine.

**And I'm not sure that Hoosiers** are understanding the implications of what's happening. I'm not picking up the kind of conversations that stirred us so vividly in 1989, or in the following years when we watched the most improbable thing: the hammer and sickle being lowered from the Kremlin.

I'm not sure we are understanding what it means for Israel to leave walled off Gaza or Sharon pulling up the stakes to the settlements. I'm not sure Hoosiers are getting the implications of democracy seeping into the Palestinian mindset or the idea that when the last Tel Aviv bomb blast was heard, the blame was quickly assigned to ... Syria.

We seem to be toiling in our own winter stupor of depression and our own lack of statesmanship at the Statehouse. We can't tell what time it is; when the jobs will

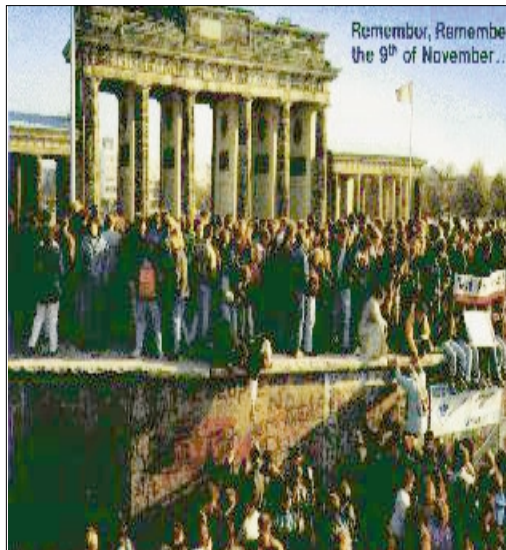
come back or what jobs we may lose.

On Tuesday, Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar appeared on the White House lawn to answer questions from the press after meeting with President Bush.

**QUESTION:** Sen. Lugar, coming out of this conversation, what was discussed on Lebanon? And is there a sense that the president's policy about bringing democracy into the Middle East is now spilling into Lebanon? What's the situation there, as well, with Syria?

Lugar responded, "The president and President Chirac of France were on the same wavelength -- because, perhaps, of Chirac's close friendship with Hariri, the gentleman who was assassinated in Lebanon -- that the Syrians have got to go, not only the Syrian military, but the several thousand secret service people that seem to be embedded in that country. Furthermore, more affirmatively, that Lebanon has a very large group of people interested in democracy -- it has a very large Christian population. The American University in Beirut, there's a very stalwart situation there if you're looking for a platform for democracy.

**"This is a new revolution," Lugar explained.** "We don't know how you would call it yet, by which color or which flower. But nevertheless, something is happening here that's clearly in affinity with the other developments, such as the election in Palestine, the first ballots even in Saudi Arabia, for example."



Indiana is a red state and it backed President Bush on the war in Iraq. It has been a fitful war. Bush placed his entire presidency on the brink and the neo-cons were suggesting that a free and central Iraq could be a fissure, a crumble...

We are seeing epic statesmanship here

and across the pond in the wake of war. The ramifications are potentially the most profound since 1989.

If only the puny minds in Indianapolis and out-state could understand.



**Leslie Stedman Weidenbener**, *Louisville*

*Courier-Journal* - Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels has received plenty of criticism within Indiana for his decision to offer a tax increase on the highest-wage Hoosiers for one year. While there are some who say they're willing to pay, there are others who feel that Daniels -- just elected in November -- hadn't done enough to cut government before he claimed the need for a tax increase, albeit temporary. Officials in his own party have mostly dismissed the idea, although Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, R-Columbus, has said repeatedly the proposal is still on the table. Daniels appears unscathed by the criticisms from the public and his own party. But the attacks from outside the state -- from national organizations, national newspapers -- seem to have irked him a bit. "We'll tend to our own business here in Indiana, thank you very much," Daniels said recently in reaction to a Wall Street Journal editorial that included this passage: "In Washington, President Bush called Mr. Daniels 'The Blade' for his budget carving. It's a shame that the people he's giving the knife to in Indianapolis are his own voters." It's true, he did not campaign on a tax increase proposal. And yes, he spoke repeatedly of the need to make state government more efficient, to curtail spending and make cuts. But Daniels always said his top priority was balancing the budget. He said Indiana can't move forward until its books are in the black. And he never ruled out a tax increase. In a debate at Indiana University Southeast, after Daniels was asked specifically about increasing taxes or cutting education, the Republican said, "Absolutely no alternative can be left off the table." If voters -- or the national media -- feel deceived, they weren't paying enough attention. ❖

**Rich James**, *Post-Tribune* - Despite living in the political trenches for much of the last three decades, I can't really say I know Edwardo Maldonado. From everything I've heard, he's a decent bloke. Unfortunately for Maldonado, the East Chicago city controller until Mayor George Pabey took over, he was too faithful a foot soldier in the East Chicago administration -- one of the last vestiges of machine politics in America. Maldonado was one of six city officials -- three administrators and three city councilmen -- indicted for their roles in the 1999 sidewalks-for-votes scandal. Life took a nasty turn for Maldonado, 35, last week when U.S. District Judge Robert Miller Jr. sentenced him to eight years in prison. Eight years and he didn't even pocket a dime. Almost seems surreal. Doesn't seem fair. Some people can go AWOL from the National Guard and end up being president. Go figure. As much as Maldonado is a crook, he also is a victim. He is a pawn in the way the feds manipulate the justice system. To be sure, the feds want bigger people than

Maldonado. He's a rung on a ladder the feds think could lead to Tom Capps and former Mayor Robert Pastrick. If any of the three can help the feds up the East Chicago ladder, they'll be in line for reduced sentences. If they can't, they'll end up spending more time in prison than they deserve. That's the politics of justice. ❖

**Jack Colwell**, *South Bend Tribune* - This is a tale of

two governors, their states separated by a common boundary, their approaches to fiscal problems separated by \$2 billion and a clock. One is Mitch Daniels, the Republican governor of Indiana, just beginning his first term. The other is Jennifer Granholm, the Democratic governor of Michigan, in the middle of her first term. In their state of the state addresses, both cited economic woes and budget deficits common in states long dependent on manufacturing. They veered in opposite directions in quest of remedy. Daniels stressed the deficit. He said it must be eliminated now, in the very first year of the two-year budget the legislature seeks to enact. He called for a change in school funding that would mean a big cut in what many school districts were anticipating, a delay of school bond issues, a freeze on once-sacred property tax relief and help from the clock -- a switch to daylight-saving time to help fight joblessness. Granholm called instead for a different approach: Damn the deficit. Full speed ahead. She proposed much more for schools, helping schools with building projects, accelerating spending for infrastructure projects and \$2 billion to help fight joblessness -- a bond issue to promote research and technology jobs. ❖

**Gary Gerard**, *Warsaw Times-Union* - Indiana's

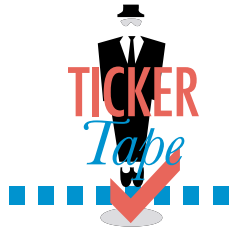
dogged determination to remain in the Stone Ages of time technology essentially shortens the business day to seven hours for companies doing business in adjacent time zones. It really does make a difference. Scott Jones is the former chairman of TechNet Indiana. A few years back, he wrote a piece for a group of Hoosiers in favor of DST. I used this same material in a 2001 column on DST and it still rings true today. Jones writes, "When 47 other states began to practice DST and most of Indiana didn't, we placed ourselves on a unique 'island.' We got out of sync with the rest of the country, and for customers, airlines, shipping companies and others trying to communicate with us, we created a self-imposed handicap for businesses located here and those trying to do business here." And that's not all. DST saves energy. Based on consumption figures for 1974 and 1975, The Department of Transportation says observing Daylight Saving Time in March and April saves the equivalent in energy of 10,000 barrels of oil each day -- a total of 600,000 barrels in each of those two years. ❖



## DST will be difficult to revive says Garton

INDIANAPOLIS - It will be difficult to revive legislation requiring that all of Indiana observe daylight-saving time, the Senate's leader said yesterday. The House bill containing the provision was derailed Tuesday night -- along with dozens of other bills -- when Democrats refused to take the floor (*Louisville Courier-Journal*).

Tuesday was the deadline for bills to pass the house in which they originated. The Senate didn't consider legislation for statewide daylight-saving time, a concept Gov. Mitch Daniels strongly supports. While bills that fail to clear each house sometimes are revived later, some are not. Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, R-Columbus, said it could be difficult to amend daylight-saving time legislation into another bill. "The daylight-saving time issue should stand on its own," Garton said. Garton said that he could not immediately think of a "home bill" into which daylight-saving time language could be inserted. The issue might be a priority for Daniels, but Garton said the Senate would not alter its strict rules for anyone other than Senate Republicans. "The standards haven't changed," Garton said. Sen. Teresa Lubbers, R-Indianapolis, was planning to be the Senate sponsor of the bill before it was derailed in the House. "I thought they would handle it on the House side," Lubbers said yesterday. "I really thought we would have a bill coming to the Senate. They've put us in a very difficult situation." Sen. Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, said the Senate should not take up an issue that would put sena-



tors on the "hot seat" with voters unless they knew it would pass the House. "Why should we put all our folks in harm's way over that issue?" Meeks said Tuesday. "They (House members) ought to be the ones to take action first. They apparently don't want to." State Sen. David Ford told the *Muncie Star Press*, "I don't think the Senate is going to want to fight that battle if it is not going anywhere in the House anyway."

## Visclosky secures South Shore funding

MERRILLVILLE - U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky from Indiana's first district announced today he has secured unlimited matching funding for an extension of the South Shore commuter rail, provided a permanent funding source from state or local government is secured (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Plans call for additional South Shore lines to Valparaiso and to Lowell, but Northwest Indiana legislators so far have been unsuccessful in securing any type of local funding.

## Bayh weighs bankruptcy implicatins

WASHINGTON - The plights of people who fall behind on their bills because of whopping medical expenses or much longer overseas military deployments than they anticipated are weighing on Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., as he considers whether to make it tougher for many people to escape their debts. The Senate is debating an overhaul of the nation's bankruptcy law that would require middle-class and wealthy people to pay off at least some of their debts. People whose income is above the state's median -- in Indiana, that's about \$65,000 for a family of four -- would have to pay back some of their debts. Bayh voted for a nearly identical bankruptcy bill in 2001. He said he "hasn't

focused" on how he will vote this year but appeared to leave open the possibility of a shift. Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., will vote for the legislation.

## Conservatives shift to pulpit endorsements

WASHINGTON - Social conservatives, frustrated by the lack of movement on a marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution, are shifting their focus to passing legislation this year that would allow religious leaders to endorse political candidates from the pulpit (*The Hill*). Proponents of legislation sponsored by Rep. Walter Jones (R-N.C.) say it is a step on the long journey to collecting enough support to pass a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Rep. Mike Pence, who heads the conservative Republican Study Committee, said the Jones bill will be a top priority.

## Henry County prosecutor returns from Iraq

NEW CASTLE - More than a year ago, Kit Crane traded his suit and tie for 75 pounds of body armor and ammunition (*Muncie Star Press*). Now, after almost 14 months of Army Reserve duty in Iraq, the Henry County prosecutor has returned to his regular uniform and base - the county's justice center in downtown New Castle.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq hit 1,500 mark

BAGHDAD - The U.S. death toll in Iraq hit the 1,500 mark this week with the death of a soldier killed in action south of Baghdad, the military announced Thursday (*CNN*).

