



The best 'listening' session ever?

By BRIAN A. HOWEY
INDIANAPOLIS - For House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer, it was "the greatest session in Indiana history." State Sen. Bob Meeks noted, "The House may make the headlines, but the Senate gets things done."

Gov. Mitch Daniels said Monday morning, "I want to commend every member of the General Assembly. People who feared gridlock or paralysis instead saw another session of dramatic change and progress for our state."

In some sense, it was. The 44-cent-per-pack cigarette tax increase creates what Gov. Daniels describes as "the most important health care legislation of our lifetimes." It came after a furor erupted when the House initially rejected the bill.

Daniels explained, "I have asked a host of people whether they can think of a better example and nobody has. I am excited about the passage of the plan and what it can mean for uninsured it means for Hoosiers and for



Gov. Mitch Daniels and House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer listened to each other and found common ground. (HPR Photos)



low-income children, and, of course, to try to bring down the second-highest smoking rate in America."

There was a second - by almost all accounts - honestly balanced budget after a decade of smoke and mirrors. And there was \$92 million for full-day kindergarten, \$33.5 million in 2008 and \$58.5 million in 2009. But

As after past General Assembly sessions, HPR will tell the story of this one through the key personalities that

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Pat Bauer's revelation

By LARRY BORST
INDIANAPOLIS - Sometime in the waning days of the 2007 legislative session, Speaker Pat Bauer must have had a revelation. A revelation that this was the time for him to not to be completely political. A revelation that Gov. Daniels really was a "good guy" and a person that, legislatively, deserved a few of those items listed in the administration's tattered legislative agenda.



What began in January as a session that was labeled as the Speaker vs. the Governor, ended with both being able to declare "victory." Up until the



"Four years after President Bush landed on an aircraft carrier and declared 'mission accomplished,' we are still in a war where more than 100 Americans have died in just the month of April. - Sen. Obama



last session week, the Speaker was firmly in control. There was even some doubt that the Speaker would allow any significant legislation, other than the budget, to pass.

The tone of the legislature was about to become different.

The course of the legislature changed with the pronouncement by Dr. Larry DeBoer that Indiana property tax payers, on average, were looking at a 24 percent tax increase. This then assured, that the pursuit of any long range property tax control program would be forgotten for the session. Instant relief became the watchword as it was in 2006. And, if there was ever a doubt about not legalizing slots at racetracks, those thoughts completely disappeared. One time money was needed. The franchise fees from the slots became a necessity in order to lower property tax bills for 2007 and 2008.

The final property tax relief program was pure compromise. The Governor's suggestion of a new County Board of Tax Review was included in the program as was a small amount of Local Option money. One afterthought by many: If the entire property tax bill will be deducted on the Federal forms, but then, will the follow-up rebate, be taxable as other income?

The Governor and many Democrats were locked in on providing health insurance for the low income uninsured. After a slow start Sen. Long found a Senate Rule that allowed for a Senate vote for an increase in the cigarette tax and pushed the idea along.

Budgets tend to come together more easily when there is an additional two billion plus dollars to spend for the next biennium. Compromises were made and the new money was spent: \$550M more for tax relief, \$200M more for universities. \$681M more for the school formula, \$92M more for FDK, \$223M more for Medicaid. The school formula somewhat favors urban districts, the complexity formula was simplified, but most educators seem happy.

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Brian A. Howey, Publisher
Mark Schoeff Jr., Washington Writer
Mark Curry, Washington Writer
Beverly Phillips, associate editor
Jack E. Howey, Editor

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Call 317-254-0535.

The Howey Political Report
PO Box 40265
Indianapolis, IN 46240-0265.

www.howeypolitics.com
BrianHowey@howeypolitics.com

Indianapolis Office: 317-506-0883.
Indianapolis Fax: 317-254-0535.
Washington, DC Office: 202-256-5822.
Business Office: 317-254-0535.

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The members of 2007 General Assembly did their job. Much of the Governor's agenda was accomplished. There also seemed to be a minimum of political posturing.

Speaker Bauer ably demonstrated that legislative experience is invaluable when all of the loose ends of such complex issues need to be tied together in order to complete the package. ❖

Kill Bill, Vol. 2 **By ABDUL HAKIM-SHABAZZ**

INDIANAPOLIS - Democratic Ways & Means Chairman Bill Crawford gets the blame for Marion County consolidation failing to pass out of the Indiana General Assembly. It's nothing personal, it's just a fact. And the sooner politicians in Marion County



Abdul Hakim Shabazz
Column

accept that reality, the better off a lot of them will be. Here's why Crawford gets the blame. Mayor Bart Peterson has been calling for consolidation to streamline local government and provide for savings and efficiencies. Republican Sen. Jim Merritt put the deal on the table that would have provided for fire and trustee consolidation, the two largest expenditures in township government. Bill Crawford said "no" and offered up fire and township assessor consolida-

tion. Crawford said the trustees were off the table because they do a good job of administering poor relief.

If the trustees do a good job of administering poor relief, then why did Crawford offer an amendment back in 2005 which called for trustee consolidation? It failed 46-50 and Crawford was one of the "yes" votes. I don't see anything changing since then, except the balance of political power has shifted in Marion County from a 7-2 Republican control of the townships to a 6-3 Democrat and four out of the six are black (which probably has more to do with it than anything else). I don't necessarily blame Crawford for wanting his power to hold on to power like a third world dictator. Heck, that was the only reason the Republicans opposed consolidation and what's good for the goose was good for the gander's domestic partner.

However, at least Crawford should have the political courage to admit that is why he threw Mayor Bart Peterson under a bus and let the measure die. If he was serious he would have endorsed the measure most likely to streamline the most government. By being more concerned about protecting township government, Crawford has put public safety in jeopardy because the recent contracts reached between the city and its police and fire unions were predicated upon, in part, by the passage of Indy Works. ❖



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pushed the events:

Luke Kenley

Just a few weeks ago, the General Assembly seemed poised to begin what could be described as a profound shift of government. Under a plan that was launched late - in mid-March - by State Sen. Luke Kenley (No. 21 on the 2007 HPR 50 Most Influential List), the state would have assumed education operating costs as well as those of juvenile detention.

But in the final week when a Legislative Services Agency report showed that residential property taxes would go up an average of 24 percent, most of the

long-term property tax reform broke away. Instead, there is \$550 million in a two-year spasm of property tax relief, that will bring the average increase to 8 percent, courtesy of the slots bill.

Some observers felt that the colossal stroke of slots should have provided long-term realignment. While there was some incremental flexibility for municipalities in an 0.25 percent income tax option, it just didn't seem that bold. It remains to be seen what voters hear in 2008.

"It's a start. We obviously have short-term and long-term issues in property taxes," said Daniels.

Kenley said on WXNT's **Abdul in the Morning Show** that "the property tax bill is 85 percent on the way to real reform. We've got a few things we need to keep working on. There may be a few things that will happen that will be unintended consequences. It's unfortunate but it's a necessary part and at least we know we're making change and driving away from a property tax based system." Kenley said that a capital projects review board has been added to every county. "Potentially that could be a huge impact," Kenley said. "People are not used to real grassroots democracy. I think they will do better on their buildings and control costs." Kenley said that local spending



Sen Kenley: The new Borst.

will decline "because we changed the system to become transparent as to who is raising taxes." Currently, Kenley said, "the consumer - they can't tell. All they know is they're (taxes) are going up."

But the fact is, this was a historic missed opportunity. Kenley is a policy wonk who has a tin ear when it comes to the political ramifications. This 2007 "perfect storm" of property taxes was foreseen by just about everyone in the Statehouse community due to trending and the inventory tax coming off the books, not to mention school capital projects and police and fire pensions.

Gov. Daniels did not pick up this crusade, so it was left to Sen. Kenley, who worked hard and came up with what we thought was a bold, innovative plan. But it was too late and too complicated to be digested. It took only one LSA report to throw the monkey wrench into the works and that shifted the entire focus from the long-term to the short-term.

The problem now is, there isn't likely to be another slots and a huge infusion of cash that can help bridge property taxes.

The **Lafayette Journal & Courier** editorialized this morning: In the area of property taxes, the Legislature disappointed once again. The "rebates" authorized by lawmakers are cumbersome and ineffective. This is not relief, but a makeshift attempt to pacify taxpayers. Perhaps worse, the money being used for the rebates relies on revenue from gambling enterprises. Not exactly a predictable revenue source. The money for the rebates is supposed to come from fees paid to allow slot machines -- up to 2,000 of them -- at Indiana's horse tracks. Every year, taxpayers ask for real relief from the growing burden of property taxes, and every year, lawmakers fail to deliver.

One thing is clear about Kenley: He is quickly assuming the mantle of former Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst. His hand was in every key piece of fiscal legislation.

Mitch Daniels

This was the "silent session" for the smartest man in the building. He did a great job of pushing and orchestrating what turned out to be a 44-cent cigarette tax increase that will help insure hundreds of thousands of low income Hoosiers.

He also got a partial victory on full-day kindergarten that had eluded Govs. Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan.

But unlike Govs. Doc Bowen, O'Bannon and Kernan, when a property tax reform opportunity was at hand, he didn't assume the alpha role. He preferred to let the legislature hash it out in a policy mosh pit.

Asked why he refused to make public comments (to the Statehouse press corps on a weekly basis), he answered, "It was just about results. When we think that may best be accomplished with a lot of commentary and



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maybe even forceful language, we'll try that. If we think being more quiet, doing our work in private directly with the legislators - and I would point out traveling the state and helping our fellow citizens see the reason for new innovations or new policies - we'll try that. It's only about the results and I will stand on the results we just achieved."

Asked if he "learned a lot" from his first two sessions, Daniels said yes, but "I also stand on the results of the first couple of years, too. Sure you learn, but I've listened a lot to members of the legislature that will help us get to a successful outcome." It was as if he was responding to the 2006 campaign beef Democrats used to retake the House: "He doesn't listen."

The governor shifted his MO.

"I was more than happy to let them occupy center stage and they performed very well on it," he said.

Democratic House Speaker Pat Bauer teased that he was lonely without Daniels but admitted the governor would have complicated matters in the public arena (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). "I think by staying out of it, he didn't blow up things," Bauer said.

"His newfound reticence he had during the session was deliberately done in order to allow the legislature to perform its duties, and he tried to play a supportive role," Kenley said (**Indianapolis Star**).

Gov. Daniels effusively praised Bauer. "He did a very good job" on the budget and the property tax relief package," the governor said, saying that the "uncontrolled escalation" of property taxes has been "stopped or slowed." He acknowledged that "there's a long way to go" on property tax reform. He applauded the flexibility the plan will give for local governments to raise income tax and cut property taxes. But he said a big challenge will be to slow and control local spending and urged local governments to consolidate.

"We took a first step on the long term with the passage of the bill that gives income tax options to locals," Daniels reminded reporters. "I would just point out that

were it exercised statewide it would result in twice as much in property taxes as the slots money. More than twice as much. But a first step in a direction we talked a lot about is flexibility; a shift away from property taxes to other sources. The next step has to be getting at the true root of the problem and that is local spending which takes you in

the direction of consolidation and in the direction of great efficiencies, fewer redundant offices "

Daniels called the slots bill "the best option available and I will sign it." He said he had three conditions for a slots bill to pass: that every cent be returned to taxpayers, that there be a net reduction in gambling statewide, and that the state gets

"reasonable value" for the 2,000 slot machines that will be placed at horse tracks in Anderson and Shelbyville.

"Given the incredible priority of property tax relief, to get us past the trending impact, this was the best available option," Daniels said. He said he would have preferred the slot licenses be auctioned off instead of accepting the \$500 million from the owners of the two tracks. "I'd have rather seen an auction. I think that's the only way you see what something's worth. I think we should have gotten more," Daniels said. "Time will tell whether we got full value or something else." He said the Indiana Toll Road lease got "59 times earnings, and this will be 4 times earnings."

Daniels called the cigarette tax increase "the most important health care legislation of our lifetime." He said it will provide health care for low income children and cut the smoking rate.

He praised Democrat State Sen. Vi Simpson and State Rep. Charlie Brown for getting it passed. Daniels said he started the session with 12 initiatives and seven were approved, two partially OK'd and three (Hoosier Lottery franchising, the Indiana Commerce Connector and a basic skills tax credit) failed.

Gov. Daniels was asked if the 2008 election will keep other big agenda items at bay until 2009.



Gov. Mitch Daniels and Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman at Monday's presser, his first at the Statehouse in over a month. He will be hitting the road today and Wednesday with press conferences at Gary, South Bend, Terre Haute, Evansville, and Clarksville. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



"I take general exception to your premise," Daniels said. "I heard the same thing last year: it's the short session ... nothing much ever happens. This year I heard a lot of people say, 'All we really have to do is the budget' and with the divided General Assembly, we'd be lucky to get that done. I don't accept that about next year either. I'm already at work thinking about those things. We don't have a day to waste let alone a session of the General Assembly in making progress on big issues that might make this a greater state. We've proved we can do that in a very bipartisan way."

Monday night at the Allen County GOP Lincoln Day Dinner, Daniels laid out goals for next year's legislature (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). He said he would like to see full-day kindergarten implemented statewide on a quicker timetable. He also said he wants to see more money for schools to give teachers higher salaries and smaller classrooms and more steps to shift the tax burden away from property taxes. If the state successfully pays off its debts and put money aside for an emergency, the governor said he is determined to see the state cut taxes.



Bauer & Bosma: Starts with a handshake (HPR Photo)

B. Patrick Bauer

Speaker Bauer, like Daniels, acknowledged the voices. "We ensured the public had a voice on these issues," Bauer said. "They spoke clearly and we listened."

Bauer said that from the beginning, Democrats sought to bring "bipartisan balance back to the operations. The 2007 session demonstrated the wisdom of that approach."

Bauer asked, "Remember what happened in 2005, when one party controlled the governor's office and both the Indiana House and Senate? That session ended with passage of a budget that increased property taxes by close to \$1 billion, and laid the groundwork for the property tax crisis that Indiana faces today. Today, House Democrats and Senate Republicans have worked together to produce a budget that is honestly balanced, increases school funding and provides tax relief that property owners actually will be able to see. It is the result of an open process that required both sides to work together and gave the public a chance to have input. Much credit must go to State Reps. William

Crawford and Bob Kuzman for their hard work."

Still, if anyone was responsible for shifting the focus from a structural, long-term property tax solution to the short-term, it was Bauer. He complained a couple of weeks ago that the Kenley proposals were too multi-dimensional.

Bauer said on Monday, "I am particularly pleased that we were able to provide \$550 million in property tax relief over the next two years and begin the process of creating lasting property tax reform for years to come. This marks a return to past bipartisan legislative commitments to protect the interests of families and owners of homes, businesses and farms."

But on Sunday, Democrats seemed to be trying to convince themselves that the "two-year bandage on the mummy," as the Chamber's Kevin Brinegar called it, would sell. "A lot of people don't see the effects of what we've done here in the General Assembly," Kuzman said of a letter that would be sent to homeowners next November.

The **South Bend Tribune** reported in today's editions that the passage of the property tax relief legislation appears to have ended the "fiscal Armageddon" projected by local officials following passage of circuit breaker legislation a year ago. "The disasters they were predicting have been averted," Bauer explained.

Bauer was in the maelstrom of one of the most controversial pieces of legislation, SJR-7, the gay marriage ban. It stalled in the House Rules Committee by design. But the way Bauer prepared that scenario was ingenious. As the issue reached its crescendo, the speaker orchestrated some of Indiana's top public corporations - Lilly, Cummins, Wellpoint, Emmis - to release letters saying how the legislation could prevent the type of talent to settle in Indiana.

It provided his members cover and it snuffed the amendment.

Asked about Bauer leaving his office in a huff Sunday surrounded by state police, Gov. Daniels said on Monday, "I don't think I did anything to agitate him. There was plenty of circumstance to be agitated about. It was a tense and difficult day and he was trying to get a lot done. I think he did a very good job of docking some very large boats and I have nothing but compliments for the way he handled his leadership responsibilities."

David Long

Senate President Pro Tem David Long finished his first session with generally high marks. The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette gave him a "B" grade, in part for inserting a pay raise for Senate leadership in the final hours (Bauer and Kenley received "As", Daniels a "C").

But members of the Republican caucus are giving him high marks. "Long did a stellar job," said State Sen. Brent Waltz. "He got consensus from women, the conservatives. He listened to everyone. It was the caucus that made the decisions."



Other members told HPR that the Pro Tem was organized. "I thought David Long did a very, very effective job in managing the process," said State Sen. Johnny Nugent, who arrived in the Senate in 1979 and watched the last Pro Tempore transition from the indicted Chip Edwards to Robert Garton in 1980. "There were a few little bumps, but it went as well as it could have. This session was a success due to that management."

Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman said, "I think most of the Senate members would tell you that it was rather seamless. The Senate is staid, procedural, traditional and that continued through with David Long as the leader. He gained a lot of respect, not only among the members, but from those who are out in the hallway and from the administration as well. He was great to work with."

The session wasn't without disappointments. Long said his caucus wasn't particularly happy that a key part of its long-term plan was jettisoned during final negotiations. "We got 85 percent of that loaf, and it's still a good one," he said, echoing statements from Sen. Kenley.

Nugent said that Long handled that setback "in a very professional manner" and added, "At the end of the day, you write a bill that can pass."

Long also conceded that the estimates released in the waning days of the session that predicted higher tax bills than expected pushed the focus onto immediate relief. "The numbers surprised everyone," he said (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). "It forced us to put more than we really thought was prudent into property tax relief."

Long played a big role in the slots legislation. Gov. Daniels wanted an overall reduction in gaming if 2,000 machines were going to be added to Hoosier Park and Indiana Downs. The "reduction" came via HB 1510, which will provide funding for 16 new police officers at the Indiana Gaming Commission to root out more than 10,000 illegal gambling and gives the agency the power to revoke alcohol, tobacco, lottery and business permits for retailers found violating state law.

"That was very important, not only in neutralizing the net gain of the slots-at-the-tracks bill but really creating a net loss of illegal gambling in this state," said Long



Senate President Pro Tempore David Long got good marks from just about everyone this session. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

(**Louisville Courier-Journal**).

And House and Senate Republicans had "palpable tensions," as one member described, in part stoked when State Rep. Mike Murphy referred to the Senate as the "House of Lords."

Brian Bosma

It was a tough session for the House minority leader. His caucus had to endure budget amendments that were not entertained. On the final weekend, Gov. Daniels said he was actually hoping that Bauer would be able to command 51 Democratic votes for the budget he will sign.

It passed 51-49.

Bosma called the property rebates "terrible public policy. It's a silly idea to take people's money and then send them part of it back. It doesn't have to be that way. We could lower bills now. If you think you're going to go home and people are going to thank you for this, guess again."

Bosma's spin was this: House Republicans stood firm to protect Hoosier property taxpayers from outrageously high increases to their 2007 property tax bills. At the beginning of budget negotiations, nothing was done to address the projected 24 percent average property tax increase across the state. House Republicans demanded \$300 million in property tax relief over the biennium for Hoosier property taxpayers. The \$300 million requested would have brought the annual increase in property tax rates to 5 to 6 percent.

Bosma has to believe that the property tax patch will play in his favor when he seeks to reclaim the speakership in 2008.

He watched the collapse of SJR-7, which means that social conservatives will have to restart the three-year process. He also saw a moratorium on charter schools.

And, by several accounts, House Republicans feuded with Senate Republicans.

Bob Meeks

State Sen. Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, was equally proud of the budget bill (Wensits, **South Bend Tribune**). "I thought we did exactly what we set out to do," Meeks said. The LaGrange Republican said the legislation provides a balanced budget that stays within expected revenues, funds local schools and higher education and, "did it all



without a tax increase."

Bill Crawford

Sources tell HPR that in the budget negotiations, Crawford spent a great deal of time seeking to "clip the wings" of Gov. Daniels on such topics as Major Moves funding. So much so that it left little time to negotiate and that prompted the Democrats to come back with a stronger position on education funding while tamping down House Republican attempts to add \$100 million in property tax relief.

But Crawford's most conspicuous moment came at the end when he allowed Mayor Bart Peterson's Indy Works package to collapse over township trustees. With late encouragement from Gov. Daniels, State Sen. James Merritt pushed a plan that would achieve the fire consolidations via a vote from the city council - not the township boards - but it allowed township assessor and trustee duties to be shifted to the mayor's office.

That was a deal crusher for Crawford, who was protecting his ally - Center Township Trustee Carl Drummer - and four other newly elected Democratic trustees (though Warren Township Trustee Jeff Bennett has agreed to consolidate with IFD).

WXNT's Abdul Hakim-Shabazz said that Crawford proposed an amendment in a 2005 Indy Works bill when Republicans held most of the township trustee positions. Crawford said that then-State Rep. Eddie Mahern had carried that legislation. "I have never proposed the elimination of trustees," Crawford said.

Bart Peterson

If there was a big loser in this session, it was Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson who saw his Indy Works plan crumble at the hands of Ways & Means Chairman Bill Crawford. Other mayors didn't fare well either. The Journal Gazette gave them a collective "D" grade.

On Saturday, Peterson warned that if fire consolidation was not achieved, "It's almost a sure thing that we will end up increasing income taxes by one-tenth of 1 percent in order to accomplish our public safety goals here in Indianapolis. We're fighting a war against crime. We need money and/or cost savings" (**Indianapolis Star**).



Gov. Daniels tried to help Mayor Peterson get Indy Works passed late this session, but it found opposition from House Democrats. (HPR Photo)

But Indy Works died not due to fire consolidation, but over the preservation of township trustees and assessors. In essence, the two party's flipped positions. In the last two sessions, it was House Republicans that skewered Indy Works.

Merging the depart-

ments would produce \$15 million in savings per year, Peterson said. The mayor originally called for eliminating township trustees, shifting township assessor duties to the county assessor's office and merging Marion County's township fire departments with the Indianapolis Fire Department. On Saturday, he dropped his push to eliminate the assessors and trustees.

Earlier this session, Democrats in the House approved a bill that would allow the fire and assessor mergers, while Republicans in charge of the Senate passed a version that would allow the fire consolidation and elimination of the trustees. The Senate version, though, would leave fire merger decisions up to township boards, while the House plan would leave it to the City-County Council, which Peterson prefers. On Friday, Peterson was supporting and counting on legislation carried by Crawford for fire consolidation. Mayoral spokesman Justin Ohmiller said the mayor was willing to cede consolidation of townships. But it all came crashing down over the weekend. Asked if he split with the mayor, Crawford said, "Absolutely. When I introduced the bill at the mayor's request, I stated very clearly that I would not include trustees. The reason is when you look at it in subjective analysis, it is the county assessor that has the ability to assume responsibility of the local township assessors. You need a social worker framework and the trustees are more subjective in administering relief."

Marion County Republican Chairman Tom John said, "Peterson promised our citizens millions in savings, but his own Democrat Party delivered only more government. Our party offered the mayor everything he originally asked for in his Indy Works proposals, and in the end, he couldn't even get his own party's support. This is an utter failure of leadership." ❖



Bren to host brunch with Hillary

CARMEL - The Clintons are returning to Carmel. U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton will attend a Saturday fundraiser hosted by Bren Simon. It is a continuation of a long relationship between the Clintons and Simons.

"A lot of people have preconceived notions about who Hillary is and what she's like," said Simon, who is holding the brunch for 200 to 300 people at her Hamilton County estate (**Gannett News Service**). "Once they get into the room with her and they listen to her, everything changes. They totally get who she is and how capable she is. She's nothing like the media has portrayed her."

Simon said Clinton is the best candidate because she's "the one that can hit the ground running."

Obama observes 'Mission Accomplished'

CHICAGO - U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, who has a 2 percent lead in the latest Rasmussen Poll, released the following statement on the Anniversary of the "Mission Accomplished" speech. "Four years after President Bush landed on an aircraft carrier and declared 'Mission Accomplished,' we are still in a war where more than one hundred

American service members have died in just the month of April. We grieve for them today and urge the President to avoid making another tragic mistake by signing the bill that will end this war and bring our troops home. We are now one signature away from ending this war. The majority of the American people and their Congress now agree that there is no military solution to the conflict in Iraq." ❖



Bren Simon with President Clinton (top) and Sen. Hillary Clinton.

2008 Presidential Polls

Republican	Date	Giuliani	McCain	Thompson	Romney	Comp. Spread
Zogby	03/22 - 03/26	27%	13%	9%	9%	Giuliani +14%
USA Today/Gallup	04/13 - 04/15	35%	22%	10%	9%	Giuliani+13%
Rasmussen	04/23 - 04/26	30%	14%	14%	11%	Giuliani +16%
Time	04/05 - 04/09	35%	20%	10%	10%	Giuliani +15%
CNN	04/10 - 04/12	27%	24%	11%	10%	Giuliani +3%
Cook/RT	03/29- 04-01	34%	17%	10%	6%	Giuliani +17%
Fox News	04/17 - 04/18	35%	16%	8%	10%	Giuliani +19%
Pew Research	03/21 - 03/25	33%	23%	--%	8%	Giuliani +10
LATimes/Bloombg	04/5 - 04/09	29%	12%	15%	8%	Giuliani + 22
NBC/WSJ	04/20 - 04/23	33%	22%	17%	12%	Giuliani +11%
Democrat	Date	Clinton	Obama	Edwards	Gore	Comp. Spread
Zogby	03/22 - 03/26	32%	22%	13%		Clinton +10%
USA Today/Gallup	04/13 - 04/15	31%	26%	16%	15%	Clinton +5%
Rasmussen	04/23 - 04/26	30%	32%	17%	--	Obama +2%
Time	04/05 - 04/09	33%	26%	25%	--%	Clinton +7%
CNN	04/10 - 04/12	30%	26%	12%	15%	Clinton + 4%
Cook/RT	03/29 - 04/01	41%	17%	19%	--	Clinton +24%
Pew Research	03/21 - 03/25	35%	26%	16%	12%	Clinton +9%
Fox News	04/17 - 04/18	41%	20%	12%	16%	Clinton +21%
LATimes/Bloomb	04/05 - 04/09	33%	23%	14%	13%	Clinton +10
NBC/WSJ	04/20 - 04/23	36%	31%	20%	--	Clinton +5%

Hoosier Support: Giuliani (\$172,450 raised in Indiana): Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi, Stephen Goldsmith, Tim Durham, Beurt SerVass, Steve Hilbert. **McCain:** Gov. Mitch Daniels. **Romney (\$83,750):** Attorney General Steve Carter; Secretary of State Todd Rokita, James Bopp, Dan Dumezich, Bob Grand, Chris Chocola. **Thompson:** U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Edwards (\$85,000 raised in Indiana):** Robin Winston, 9th CD Chair Mike Jones, Ann and Ed DeLaney, Bruce Kehoe, James Voyles. **Clinton (\$71,000):** Bren Simon. ❖



2007 Mayoral

Carmel: Republican: Mayor James Brainard, John Koven. **2003 Republican Primary Results:** Brainard 5,067, Wilson 1,707, Snyder 1,034. **2007 Forecast:** Even though there is an earnest debate on the city's debt, it's hard to fathom Brainard losing this primary. **Primary Status:** Likely Brainard

Crown Point: Republican: Mayor Dan Klein, Gayle Van Sessen; Democrat Dan Jordan, Karin Mason, David Uran. **2003 Republican Primary Results:** Klein 1,447, Van Sessen 1,157, Roth 760. **2003 General Results:** Klein (R) 4,289. Isailovich (D) 2,158. **2007 Forecast:** Here's the **Post-Tribune's** Rich James take: Crown Point Republicans were thirsting for a winner in 2003 after 12 years of Jim Metros, the city's first Democratic mayor. Dan Klein won the primary with just 43 percent of the vote, as two strong female candidates - including this year's challenger, Gayle Van Sessen - split the rest. Van Sessen lost to Klein by a scant 300 votes. Yet, Klein has picked up more barnacles than most first-term mayors. The city's firefighters are adamant about ousting Klein, who has tried to micromanage the department and has gone through fire chiefs about as frequently as Britney Spears goes into rehab. Klein also has had a tendency to be a little less than forthcoming about issues in the city, a situation that has drawn the wrath of some developers. Klein also has drawn the ire of some old-time Republicans by virtually shunning county GOP Chairman John Curley, while he plays ball with money-man Dan Dumezich and Secretary of State Todd Rokita. Van Sessen, on the other hand, angered some folks by her reaction to her 2003 loss. Yet, Van Sessen, the executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, works daily with Republican business types. Word is that some Democrats are going to cross over and vote for Van Sessen, largely because they remain upset about some of Klein's campaign tactics against Wayne Isailovich in fall 2003. Does all that mean Van Sessen will win? Not necessarily. This is still Crown Point, the last bastion of real, old-school Republicanism in Lake County. Whether some of them can bring themselves to put a woman in the mayor's office remains questionable. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP.

East Chicago: Democrat Mayor George Pabey, Councilman Anthony Copeland, Edward Williams, Alicia Lopez-Rodriguez. **2003 Democratic Primary Results:** Pastrick 4,083, Pabey 3,805, Randolph 2,289. **2003 General Results:** Pastrick (D) 3,571. Santos (R) 1,027. **2004 Special Democratic Primary:** Pabey 6,697, Pastrick 3,514, Randolph 140. **2004 Special General Results:** Pabey 5013, Santos (R) 417. **2007 Forecast:** Copeland had outspent incumbent Mayor Pabey \$63,449 to \$58,931.



Pabey reported raising no money since the last filing period in January (**Post-Tribune**). Candidates Alicia Lopez-Rodriguez and Ed Williams' campaigns reported donations of \$16,000 and \$15,000 respectively from a political action committee called the United Political Fund of Lake County, which recently changed its name from Citizens for Cvitkovich, former North Township Trustee Gregory Cvitkovich's campaign committee. Copeland won his federal court battle with the city Wednesday, earning himself a permit to hold a political rally in a city park (Times). City administrators had denied Copeland a permit for a May 5 rally in Veteran's Memorial Park because of a longstanding city policy forbidding politicians from using public parks to pontificate before elections. But Robert Miller, chief judge in the federal Northern District of Indiana, agreed with Copeland that the city policy violated the First Amendment right to engage in free speech in public forums. Miller ordered the city to grant Copeland the permit and denied the city's request that Copeland post a \$10,000 bond for the permit in case anyone was injured at the rally, which is expected to attract at least 200 people. "When the mayor gets elected, he thinks he controls everything. He don't. These are public parks," Copeland said. **Primary Status:** LIKELY PABEY.

Elkhart: Democrat: Councilman Arvis Dawson, Dick Moore. Republican: Councilman Jim Pettit, Neil Herman, Martin McCloskey. **2003 General Results:** Miller (R) 4,730, Perron (D) 3,533. **2007 Forecast:** We give Moore a slight edge over Councilman Dawson on the Dem side. Ditto for Pettit for the GOP. **Primary Status:** LEANS DAWSON; LEANS PETTIT.

Fort Wayne: Republican: Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters, Matthew Kelty, Ivan Hood, Wilbert "Duke" Brown. Democrat: Tom Henry, Fred Steinke, Tom Cook. **2003 Results:** Richard (D) 27,251, Buskirk (R) 19,701. **2007 Forecast:** There has been a perceptible shift in this race ... again. Former Allen County Sheriff Joe Squadrito and former police chief Neal Herman endorsed Peters. Insiders tell HPR that the 6-3 vote by the Fort Wayne City Council on the Harrison Square project is another indicator that the public is more aligned with Peters' position than Kelty, who actively opposed it. Peters has begun a heavy rotation of TV. Going in Kelty's favor is his evangelical base that tends to turn out in low-vote primaries. Our sources say this race is too close to call. **Primary Status:** Republican TOSSUP; Democrat: Safe Henry.

Gary: Democrats: Mayor Rudy Clay, Karen Freeman-Wilson, Chuck Hughes, Darren Washington, John Henry Hall, Larry Anderson, Ulysses (Lish) Burnett, Larry Evans, Norman L. Roby, Pierre Strickland, Theresa Moses Sturdivant. Republican: Jayson Reeves, Charles R. Smith Jr. **2003 Results:** King (D) 10,028, Smith (R) 1,201. **2007 Forecast:** We think Clay wins easily in a crowded field. **Status:** LIKELY CLAY

Hobart: Democrat: Mayor Linda Buzinec, Brian



Snedecor, Donald Potrebic. **2007 Forecast:** The **Times of Northwest Indiana** endorsed Buzinec today. **Post-Tribune's** Rich James' column wrote: Democrats, on the other hand, never have had a problem voting for women, which is partly why Hobart Mayor Linda Buzinec is seeking a fourth term. But almost 12 years in office is a lot of time to make enemies. Buzinec has picked up more than her fair share. Her least-favorite fan right now is Brian Snedecor, her primary opponent and the man who stepped down as police chief after accusing the mayor - much like Klein - of micromanaging the department. While Hobart police are understandably working for Snedecor, so are the city firefighters. When Buzinec temporarily closed a fire station, proposed using part-time firefighters and tried to assume control of the Fire Commission, the reaction wasn't pretty. And Buzinec angered some folks over the downtown redevelopment project, as well as the proposed sale of Robinson Lake Park. So, do the Buzinec negatives mean Snedecor's a winner? Not necessarily. Although Snedecor is viewed as a genuinely nice fellow, he's short on government experience. And the unknown factor is Don Potrebic, a former Hobart and county councilman. I've got to think his candidacy hurts Buzinec. **Primary Status:** LEANS BUZINEC.

Jeffersonville: Mayor Rob Waiz Jr. Tom Galligan. **Republican:** **2003 Democratic Primary:** Waiz 2,187, Galligan 1,708, Muncy 252, Ogden 166. **2003 General Results:** Waiz (D) 3,711, Raymond (R) 2,354, Fisher (L) 118. **2007 Forecast:** GJeffersonville's Democratic primary for mayor is shaping up as a decision on leadership style. Waiz said the choice is between his "cooperation and collaboration" leadership in contrast with former Mayor Tom Galligan's "confrontation and lawsuits." Galligan said voters have to decide if "they want to muddle along" with Waiz, "or do they want a mayor who is proactive?" "I got things done," Galligan said (Hershberg, **Louisville Courier-Journal**). The differences being highlighted by the candidates in their campaigns for the May 8 primary are sticking with voters. "Rob's image is more reserved and buttoned-down and cautious," said Mike Nelson, 66, a Jeffersonville resident who is retired. "Tommy is more aggressive. He is more of an active person." Among the economic development trophies that Waiz claims are the 1,000-job expansion of Jeffboat Inc. in recent years and the move of MedVenture Inc., a high-tech medical equipment company, from Louisville to Jeffersonville. Galligan said among his achievements are attracting many businesses to the Clark Maritime Center and other



Mayor Burke breaking ground on 13th Street. He hopes to beat the Democratic primary jinx next Tuesday.

locations and development of the riverfront's restaurant row. "We went to Finland" to resolve litigation with the DeMars Haka Development Co., which owned key riverfront property needed for development, Galligan said. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP.

Kokomo: Democrat: Councilman Greg Goodnight, Councilman Bob Hayes, Andy Castner. Republican: Mayor Matt McKillip, Councilman Rick Hamilton, Tom Hamilton, Lewis G. Freeman. **2003 Primary Results:** Republican: McKillips 1,565, Donoghue 972, Bolinger 327, McKay 243, T. Hamilton 38. Democrat: Castner 1,360, Lushin 1,358, Alexander 969, Ellis 34. **2003 General Results:** McKillip (R) 5,229, Castner (D) 4101, Dunlap (I) 832. **2007 Forecast:** We believe that Goodnight is in the driver's seat on the Democratic side. And we think that McKillip survives in the primary because his evangelical support is likely to turnout. **Primary Status:** LEANS MCKILLIP; LIKELY GOODNIGHT.

Terre Haute: Democrat: Mayor Kevin Burke, James Horrall, Dale Smith, John Walters. Republican: Duke Bennett. **2003 Democratic Primary Results:** Burke 6,339, Mayor Anderson 2,436, Jenkins 2,414, Walters 148. **2003 General Results:** Burke (D) 7,338, Bennett (R) 3,847. **2007 Forecast:** We think that Burke breaks the three-primary incumbent losing streak and dispatches former Chief Horrall. But it will likely be close. **Primary Status:** LEANS BURKE.

Michigan City: Democrat: Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Joie Winski, Jim LaRocco. **2003 Results:** Oberlie (D) 3,316. **2007 Forecast:** Former LaPorte County Democratic chairman Shaw Friedman is backing Mayor Oberlie. **Primary Status:** Leans Oberlie.

New Albany: Democrat: Mayor James Garner, Doug England. Republican: Randy Hubbard. **2003 Democratic Primary Results:** Garner 2,512, Scharlow 814, Clemons 714, Goldberg 552, Kersey 68, Tuttle 48. **2003 General Results:** Garner (D) 5,971, Overton (R) 3,893, Hughes (L) 196. **2007 Forecast:** This appears to be a barnburner. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP.

South Bend: Republican: Juan Manigault, Terry Miller. Democrat: Mayor Stephen Luecke. **2003 General Results:** Luecke (D) 10,598, Schmidt (R) 4,188. **2007 Forecast:** We believe this race has tightened. A couple weeks ago, we thought Manigault was the man to beat, but our sources are telling us many of the old guard are siding with Miller. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP ❖



Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - What is sacred to zealots of one faith often is evil witchcraft to believers of another philosophy. So it is with privatization. Privatizing what long has been run by government is viewed by its adherents with an almost religious zeal. They firmly believe private interests, working with a profit motive, can do a better job than government employees in myriad areas of providing services for the public. Opponents often view privatization proposals as risky schemes, political witchcraft aimed more at a quick fix than long-term improvement in service. They firmly believe many of these proposals are designed to reward corporate friends and obtain political contributions. As so often is the case with such diametrically opposed views, the truth lies somewhere in between. No doubt about it. Government bureaucracy can be inefficient. Corporate bureaucracy can be inefficient, too. Crooks in government jobs can bilk the public. So can corporate crooks. Dedicated employees, whether public or private, are a key ingredient in making any system work. Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is one of the crusaders for privatization. He cites examples of how turning to the private sector can reduce duplication and costs. Daniels notes how six departmental print shops in state government "sat side by side a few blocks from the nearest Kinko's." Whether sending all the business to Kinko's is the solution can be debated. But the duplication of services with six print shops seems impossible to defend. Daniels privatization of the Toll Road, selling the right to operate it for 75 years to a private consortium, also seems impossible to defend to many who live near the road and will pay much higher tolls to help fund projects elsewhere. Now the issue is privatizing of prisons. The riot at the New Castle Correctional Facility brings debate over the wisdom or lack thereof in the Daniels administration contract with GEO Group of Florida to run the prison and the deal with Arizona to house more than a thousand of its inmates in that facility. "Prison for profit is not a good idea," said House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend. He said the governor should have known that bringing Arizona law-breakers to the state was not in Indiana's best interests. Daniels brushed off the criticism as just another case of jumping on "any different idea." He said the deal enables the state to obtain revenue for prison space that was not being utilized. Privatization disputes are not everywhere along political lines. They are in Indiana because of the push by Daniels for privatization of not just the Toll Road and prisons but also other highways, other services and the Hoosier Lottery. He is a true believer in the concept. Democratic legislators believe just as firmly that he is going too far and ignoring public opinion and the public good. Democratic as well as Republican governors, however, have looked at or proposed privatization in some other states. ❖



Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star - Gov. Mitch Daniels continued his missing-governor routine last week, avoiding the spotlight after a riot broke out at the New Castle Correctional Facility. As Tuesday afternoon arrived, smoke-filled images from the Indiana prison filled time on local and national television. It'd be hard to imagine a more appropriate moment for a governor to address his state -- to stand before the TV cameras and say something about the buck stopping at his desk while promising to take every corrective step that needs to be taken. But Daniels hid like Howard Hughes, continuing his months-long strategy of avoiding controversy in the apparent hope of boosting his re-election chances. And if the "Where's Mitch?" routine weren't bad enough, Daniels exacerbated it with a spin-doctored statement that called the riot a "relatively minor" incident. Minor? This certainly wasn't Attica. But it also wasn't minor. Daniels' tight-lipped strategy has included months of avoiding public positions on everything from gambling to same-sex marriage. At a recent political dinner, he said a silent Mitch is "less likely to step in it." That's true. Still, it's sad to see a former straight-talker keeping his mouth shut like a frightened 6-year-old in the dentist's chair. Those close to the governor say he tired of seeing his words spark controversy. He seems to forget that most of the flaps came when he lectured smugly or acted like the only smart guy in Indiana. There's a middle ground between sanctimonious and silent. Daniels should climb out of his bunker and find it. Indiana needs a leader who is willing to speak up. You might remember the days when Daniels did just that. ❖

Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal - In the late-session negotiations about property tax relief, an intriguing proposal by a Senate Republican to eliminate a decades-old property tax replacement system fell away, left to be discussed in future years. The plan drawn up by Senate Tax Chairman Luke Kenley would have stopped the subsidies the state pays to local governments to keep property tax bills lower. That's done through a credit against taxes owed. You can see it on your tax statement. Kenley wants to stop paying the \$2 billion in annual subsidies and then use the money for school expenses and other state-related functions that are now paid for with property taxes. The plan would amount to a sort of swap. Although the tax credits would go away, so would some property tax levies. So, at least initially, the impact on the average property owners would be negligible. Kenley says that over time, however, property taxes would decrease as the state took over the increasing costs of schools. But in the end, the proposal proved too controversial for the narrowly divided House, where Democrats control with a 51-49 margin. ❖



Peterson, Gonzales, Brooks take aim at crime

INDIANAPOLIS - Mayor Bart Peterson will join United States Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, United States Attorney Susan Brooks and community leaders at a press conference discussing anti-gang and crime prevention efforts at 1:30 p.m. today.



Compromise came on I-69 funding

INDIANAPOLIS - The session ended at midnight Sunday with the Legislature passing a two-year, \$26 billion state budget that increases school funding, provides \$550 million in property tax relief later this year and allocates \$1.03 billion in funding for highway projects such as the southern section of I-69 (**Evansville Courier & Press**). Gov. Mitch Daniels said Monday he would sign the budget bill into law. The construction fund is stocked with proceeds from the 2006 lease of the northern Indiana toll road, money the Indiana Department of Transportation intended to use on highway projects across the state. It includes \$119 million for the first two years of I-69 construction through Southwestern Indiana. But the budget House Democrats approved in February appropriated no funds to INDOT. Senate Republicans added the funding back in April, prompting House-Senate conference committee negotiations over the weekend. House Democrats argued they could not allocate a lump sum to INDOT without a guarantee the agency would build I-69 and other highways on its priority list and not substitute other projects. Projects should be itemized within the state budget, Democrats said. Senate Republicans and the Republican admin-

istration adamantly disagreed, saying an itemized list was unconstitutional because the legislative branch would be intruding upon executive branch duties. Besides, INDOT needed flexibility to pay for surprises. "I try not to talk in terms of (veto) threats; but we made it very plain this (itemized list) was unacceptable in its original form. The biggest reason why is that it's really foolish to limit our flexibility," Daniels said Monday.

Palfrey apologizes for outing Tobias

WASHINGTON - A woman apologized Monday for outing a former top State Department official as a client of her escort service but said it was necessary to prove her company was doing legal business. A federal grand jury indicted Deborah Jeane Palfrey in March on charges of running a high-class call girl ring in the nation's capital from her home in Vallejo, Calif. She maintains the escort service did not engage in prostitution. Palfrey said she turned over phone records to **ABC News** hoping the documents would unveil thousands of clients, such as Randall Tobias, and compel them to testify on her behalf. Tobias, who resigned Friday as head of the Bush administration's foreign aid programs, confirmed to ABC News that he used Palfrey's escort firm, Pamela Martin & Associates, but said he only received legal services such as massages. Prosecutors accused Palfrey of seeking to intimidate witnesses by outing them publicly. Palfrey's civil attorney said he does not know how many people will be outed by ABC, which is planning to air a report Friday on its "20/20" newsmagazine.

Pence says his support for Iraq War not open ended

BERNE - U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, R-6th, has from the outset been a staunch defender of America's military presence in Iraq and President Bush's recent troop surge (**Decatur**

Daily Democrat). Late last week Pence also had harsh words for Capitol Hill Democrats, who passed legislation that tied funding for the mission in Iraq to a timetable for withdrawing troops from Iraq, saying "the supplemental appropriations bill is fiscally irresponsible and constitutionally flawed and I cannot support it." But Friday, during a stop in Berne, Pence said his support of the United States' military presence in Iraq, while currently strong, is not open-ended. "To me, there is no long-term military solution in Iraq; only political and diplomatic solutions," Pence said. "And it's the president's strategy to provide enough military support to allow the other avenues to take place. But, if by the end of the year we are not able to secure Baghdad, or if the Iraqis do not take the steps to achieve ... all that is necessary for their government to be successful, then we should reconsider our tactical profile in Iraq. "There is no military solution for Iraq, and we don't have an open-ended commitment there," he said.

Ex-GOP official pleads guilty

FORT WAYNE - A judge sentenced the former executive director of the Allen County Republican Party to three years' probation Monday for forging 11 township candidates' signatures last summer (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). Douglas T. Foy, 41, of the 6900 block of Ordway Drive, was charged in December with 11 felony counts of falsely making a declaration of candidacy or part of a declaration of candidacy between June 29 and July 3. He faced up to three years in prison on each charge and was scheduled to face a jury trial Friday. Instead, he pleaded guilty Monday morning in Allen Superior Court to all charges as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors.