

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

The Howey Political Report is published 40 times a year by NewsLink, Inc. The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana. It neither endorses candidates nor advocates positions of public policy.

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Subscription information: \$250 annually for 40 editions via fax or first class mail. Call 317-685-0883.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“In the time of Napoleon, a defeated leader might spend his retirement exiled on an island. In the modern state legislature, he might come back as a lobbyist” —Dan Bernard, *Evansville Press*, on former Speaker Michael K. Phillips

‘96 events could erode party power

Slating can be blessing, curse for county chairs

RUSHVILLE - Republican Rush County Chairwoman Jean Ann Harcourt calls her precinct officials the lifeblood of the political process.

Yet, the modern dilemma since the demise of political patronage in post-Watergate Indiana remains: How does a chair reward the people who perform hundreds of hours of grassroots politicking?

“I’ve thought about slating,” said Harcourt, who also serves on the Republican National Committee. In an era when county chairs can no longer reward volunteers with jobs at the license branch, the highway department or a state reservoir, slating would be a way to thank the hard work with a sharing of power; to help make the vital decisions of what party member goes on the ballot.

The dilemma for party officials in 1996 goes further than slating. The whole power structure centered on the county chair is under scrutiny and, after ‘96, may be in dispute. The roots go back to the late 1970s when Dan Quayle left the party structure to run candidate-driven campaigns. He was followed by successful politicians like Win Moses and Evan Bayh.

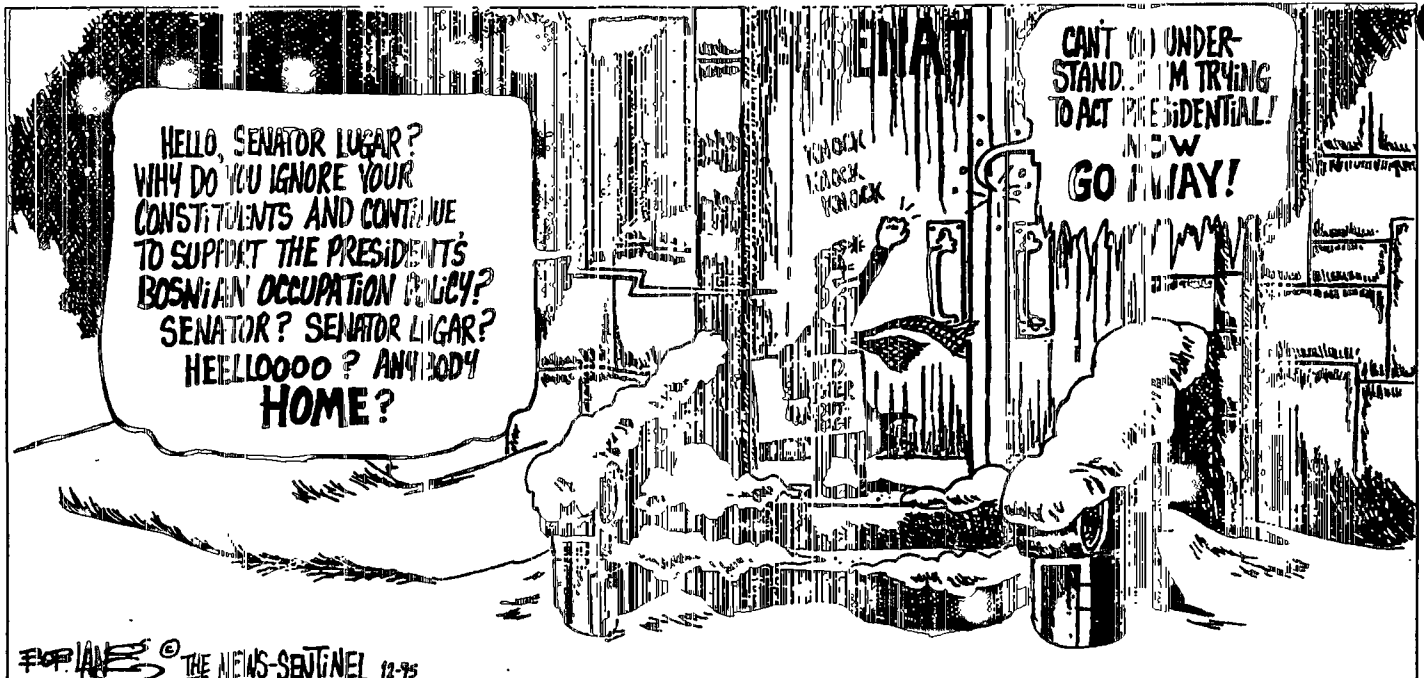
In 1980, about 50 Democratic county chairs publicly supported John Hillenbrand III for governor. State Sen. Wayne Townsend was a late entry in the race, and Hillenbrand barely defeated him in the primary, calling into question the true impact of the chairs. Except for the Democratic Ohio River counties, Democratic county chairs have seen a decline in their clout, best personified by Terre Haute Mayor Jim Jenkins bucking the Vigo County party and Bayh’s reliance on air war politics as opposed to grassroots party development.

This year, two-thirds of the Republican county chairs are backing Rex Early for governor in his race against the anti-establishment Steve Goldsmith. Should Early lose - and particularly if he loses counties where he has backing of the chair - a similar trend of weak

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HUMOR

M I L L

Devil's Dictionary

By Ambrose Bierce

Dissemble, n. To put a clean shirt upon the character.

Dog, n. A kind of additional or subsidiary Deity designed to catch the overflow and surplus of the world's worship.

Destiny, n. A tyrant's authority for crime and a fool's excuse for failure.

Wendellisms

By Wendell Trogdon, Indianapolis News

Washington should follow the lead of the new towns of Avon and Monrovia. They're both managing to operate without budgets.

Hillary Rodham Clinton's book would have been out earlier... had she not lost the manuscript for two years.

Slating: the 'Big Tent' replaced smoke-filled room

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ening the local party apparatus could ensue.

These high stakes have not been lost on the younger, progressive party chairs. They are constantly searching for mechanisms that can strengthen the human fabric of the party, and one of those options is slating.

There are currently two very different forms of slating in motion here in Indiana. In Allen County, Republicans used an extremely passive, benign form of slating that serves the purpose of giving precinct officials a perception of power. Prior to the 1994 congressional primary, all candidates were invited to formally address precinct officials on a Saturday morning in March. But no vote was taken. Instead, precinct volunteers were armed with firsthand information on the candidates and their public performances. What that did was allow them to go back into their neighborhoods and "talk up" the candidate that impressed them the most.

The winner of that race, Mark Souder, as it turns out had in place the best grassroots organization of the field and that allowed him to emerge from a five-person primary with a decisive victory.

Earlier this week, controversy flared in Marion County, which has a much more institutionalized slating process that its critics believe

has evolved well beyond the original intentions that had roots in the 1964 election debacle.

The entire ticket had been drubbed in the LBJ landslide, ushering in L. Keith Bulen as chairman in 1965. He created the Republican Action Council which was designed as a "Big Tent" mechanism to bring all constituencies to the table and broaden the ticket while closing the door on the so-called "smoke-filled room" politics.

Bulen picked a slating committee that included elected officials, party appointees and fund-raisers. It ensured that a ticket could include such diverse factions as those of Father Larry Voelker, a moderate priest from the south side, and libertarian conservative State Rep. Bob Jones. By 1967, slating allowed Richard Lugar to win a mayoral nomination over post-World War II-era Mayor Alex Clark.

Today, party activists like Larry Landis maintain that "the original idea has been stood on its head." The post-Watergate reforms sowed the seeds for an end to license branch patronage a dozen years later. And Marion County moved from one, huge multi-member Indiana House district to smaller multi-member districts, and finally, one-man districts.

All of this, along with the Baby Boom era explosion of television, has created a

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PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Catching a glimpse at Bill Schreiber's long strange trip

INDIANAPOLIS - John Gregg was jubilant.

It was two days after the 1990 election, which had propelled the Sanborn Democrat into the position of Indiana House Majority Leader. He pulled Bill Schreiber into a back room at the Statehouse and emotionally basked in his new position.

"I said, 'Schreiber, I got elected Majority Leader!'"

"Congratulations, Bud," Schreiber responded before asking this question: "Do you know who was Majority Leader under Dick Bodine?"

"No," said Gregg.

"Then hold the thought," Schreiber admonished.

He had other wisdom for Gregg, such as attaining that all important majority in the Indiana House. "Inasmuch as your goal is to have 51 horses," Schreiber reminded him, "you may find after the election that you've rounded up a few cows."

Bill Schreiber - humanitarian, Democrat, political strategist, playwright, father, friend, Deadhead - died at age 51 on Jan. 11, three months after he was diagnosed with cancer.

Why is he so important to Hoosiers?

From an immediate standpoint, he is the architect of Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon's 1996 election strategy. The plan is still in place, but its execution will be tougher in Schreiber's absence. The shoes will be hard to fill.

From a historic perspective, Schreiber was a rare individual that could operate either in the limelight, or behind the scenes. He was the 1975 Democratic nominee for mayor of Indianapolis, where he lashed out at Richard G. Lugar's Unigov which combined the governments of the city and Marion County. From

Schreiber's perspective, it created a political monolith; a virtual one-party system that subdued the existing natural political currents.

Twenty years later, this political perception has been borne out. The Democrats could only raise a feeble opponent against Mayor Stephen Goldsmith in the last election despite dramatic changes that in normal circumstances would have called for a vigorous contest.

Prior to '75, he was treasurer for Robert F. Kennedy's tragic 1968 presidential campaign. After his mayoral race, he worked for U.S. Rep. Andy Jacobs, House Speaker Michael K. Phillips, and O'Bannon. He penned a play on Vice President Alben Barkley.

But more dramatically, Schreiber was the kind of person who could have profound impact on another even with little contact. That's where I fall into place behind Bill Schreiber's legacy. The political business is full of those who bristle with towering egos, leap to add insult on top of assault, and take advantage of those who exhibit weakness.

Schreiber once worked on a campaign for a legislator who had had a past scrape with the law. The allegations were exploited by the opponent and this is how Schreiber responded.

A TV ad was devised showing a photo of the candidate's family. The opponent's allegation was raised, and mud splattered the photo. A second allegation...more mud. A third allegation...mud.

"He has been described as a political strategist," Jacobs said. "Fair enough, but not enough. He seemed like the very essence of life itself."

O'Bannon calls him a "man without rancor, admired even by his opponents."

"In defeat, he was resolute. In victory he was magnanimous," said O'Bannon, adding that "he wore power like an old cloak. He accepted everything but intolerance."

The last time I saw Schreiber was the day at Andy Jacobs' house when the congressman announced he wouldn't seek re-election.

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TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: *Sen. Richard Lugar's TV ad campaign in Iowa in which he points to his backing of the 2nd Amendment, but also notes his support of the assault weapons ban. The ad campaign features this tag line: "Being a conservative doesn't mean you have to lose your common sense." It is aimed at "soft" Bob Dole supporters in Iowa likely to attend the Feb. 12 caucuses.*

■ ■ ■
State Rep. Chet Dobis became the first Democrat to announce a campaign for lieutenant governor. Frank 'n Chet: now there's a sexy ticket....

Attorney General Pam Carter responded to a recent HPR article in which Republicans suggested she would be vulnerable to defeat since she had small majorities in Marion and Allen counties in 1992. Carter responds that she has been the only modern Democrat to carry Marion County at all in a first election. Carter notes that Gov. Evan Bayh did not carry Marion County in his 1986 race for secretary of state nor in his 1988 race for governor. "Not only is that astounding, it's unusual," Carter said.

The Chicago Tribune's Sue Ellen Christian writes in a front page Wednesday article on Sen.

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DeLaney believes 10th CD resists national trends due to cohesion

INDIANAPOLIS - It's been 12 years since Ann DeLaney's historic run for lieutenant governor. She announced for the 10th CD on Tuesday with her cute granddaughter in tow.

HPR discussed that impending race plus a number of trends that will make 1996 a fascinating year.

HPR: Why are you running for Congress as opposed to the attorney general's race?

DeLaney: Well, the 10th Congressional seat is something that I have looked at for years and years. I didn't know when or if Andy would step down.

HPR: How will your experiences as chair of the Democratic State Committee translate down into a Congressional race?

DeLaney: It helps in the primary contest and in some districts, it may be more of a liability. This district leans Democratic so it will be much less risky for the general election than virtually anywhere else with the possible exception of Pete Visclosky's district.

HPR: Obviously we are awaiting to see how the budget crisis in Washington is resolved. What's your read on the national dynamic and the potential impact it may have on this race?

DeLaney: The odds are pretty good that it's going to be a Democratic year. The issue is no longer whether there will be a balanced budget. In fact, both sides have recognized and proposed a balance budget, even within the arbitrary number of seven years. The question now is about what programs are cut. Basically, it's the issue of how the balanced budget is used to cut certain programs because of ideological reasons, not because of financing those programs. Since that's the issue, I don't see a budget agreement being reached at all between now and the election. The Republican freshmen took so much heat over the government shutdown, I don't think we'll see that happen again. And I really hope - really hope - that we don't see the government fall down on its debt obligations.

HPR: That is a very real possibility...

DeLaney: Right. It's a distinct possibility. In fact, they have had threats made to impeach the Secretary of the Treasury for trying to figure

a way to meet those debt obligations absent the Congress acting. But I think that is going to wreak enough havoc on the financial markets that they will hesitate to do that. I think what this budget debate is going to be a bout is the next election.

HPR: I sense that unless you're a federal government employee, this budget showdown hasn't really affected too many Americans other than being a daily irritant at news time. At what point do you believe this issue will move front and center with the average voter?

DeLaney: It's already gotten there.

Putting the federal employees aside, I think the budget debate has impacted so many people directly and indirectly that it has really raised the awareness. I really do. First we suffered inconvenience of the budget shutdown, but now they are so much more aware of it, even 30 days ago. I think it's raised the level of public scrutiny on the debate, certainly, whether it's affected them or not.

HPR: Will you be running against some of the planks in the Contract With America?

DeLaney: There's no question some of the issues on how the balanced budget was done will be debated back and forth, absolutely. As for whether the Contract will be debated back and forth depends on the Republican opponent.

HPR: How does Speaker Newt Gingrich factor in your campaign plans?

DeLaney: He's still a very prodigious fund-raiser for Republicans. So I assume if he's willing to come back into Indiana whether it's in the 4th or the 8th or the 10th, whoever the Republican candidate is will welcome him. As far as his public popularity, every poll shows his negatives are much higher than his positives. Part of that is personality-driven. But part of that is ideologically driven. People have thought for some time that some of the measures passed by this Republican Congress go too far, whether it's gutting the Environmental Protection Agency or slashing student loans, or threatening the quality of care for Medicare, that most of the provisions that back have gone too far. And that will continue to be a problem for them as long



"Since that's the issue, I don't see a budget agreement being reached at all between now and the election

...."
- Ann DeLaney



as their ideology stays constant.

HPR: Has this Republican Congress had an impact on the Democratic Party? Have there been any good things, like members having to live under their own laws and that type of thing?

DeLaney: One of the things coming out of this Congress is that it's helped to define the differences between the two parties. Part of what happened in 1994, despite complacency on the part of Democratic incumbents, was the realization on the part of some voters that the Democrats were in charge. They didn't think there was that much difference between the two parties philosophically. And one of the things that has come out of this Republican control of this Congress is that it has crystalized the differences ideologically. I think that's to the Democrats' advantage.

HPR: What did you learn from the '94 campaign?

DeLaney: In part, the lesson there is that when there's a national tide sweeping, it doesn't matter how good the Democratic candidate may be or how well funded, they'll go the way of that national tide, whatever it is. But those historical realignments happen only periodically.

HPR: President Clinton runs about as well in the 10th CD (47 percent in 1992; Dukakis 51 percent in 1988) as anywhere in Indiana. How will he impact your race?

DeLaney: I don't see him as having that big of an impact. The difference between the 10th and other districts in Indiana is that it's a relatively cohesive district. One media market; it's obviously all contained in Marion County. It's a much easier district to run in than any other district in the state. It is easier for a candidate to be well known than in any district in the state. I

think a candidate running in the 10th can run on his or her own merits a lot easier than running in a district with 18 or 22 counties and vastly different interests between urban and rural areas. Certainly Marvin Scott came closer in '94 than any Republican candidate had come in awhile. Yet, it wasn't that close. I think that's because a candidate in the 10th can relate so easily to voters.

HPR: You were last on the ballot in 1984. How have politics changed since then?

DeLaney: Voters have gotten a lot more independent in these last 12 years. Party affiliation has diminished in importance. I think that's true pretty much across the board. I don't think there's a district that hasn't felt the increased independence of voters.

HPR: Indiana has only elected two females to Congress - Katie Hall and Jill Long. Do you feel you're still cutting new ground?

DeLaney: Those issues at that level have gone by the wayside. We've elected only two members of Congress, that's true. But we've elected a woman attorney general, a woman secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction, state treasurer. There's been a lot of change in that regard. Voters are looking beyond that.

HPR: How far is Indiana away from electing women along demographic lines?

DeLaney: The one study I saw if we kept gaining seats in the legislature, in 50 years we'd be an parity. We've got a long way to go in that regard.

HPR: If Bill Hudnut gets into the race, will his residency be an issue?

DeLaney: No. Republicans tried that against Evan Bayh and it backfired. Voters will make that decision for themselves.

Hudnut says he's still pondering 10th CD run

CHICAGO - Bill Hudnut has ruled out a run for mayor of Indianapolis, and he told HPR he hasn't decided on a 10th CD run.

"It's still sort of up in the air," Hudnut said Tuesday. "I'll know by the end of this month. The big question I have to ask is this consistent with my personal and professional situation?"

Hudnut huddled with a group of Presby-

terian friends last Sunday in downtown Indy and indicated he would need \$350,000 to make the race, sources tell HPR. Those sources indicated that believe Hudnut will run for Congress.

"It's not an easy decision," Hudnut said. "But I love being in Congress and I love politics."

As for being mayor again, he said, "I don't think so. I did that for 16 years."

TICKER T A P E

Richard Lugar, "But for all his credentials, Lugar isn't breaking into the big time. The problem: Lugar is made for the fireside chat, not the 15-second soundbite. He is a candidate two generations late." Still, Lugar's campaign office in Washington received a call Wednesday morning from an Illinois voter pledging \$1,000 to the campaign based on the Tribune article.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Lawrence Borst tells the Evansville Press that the agreement reached between Gov. Bayh and legislative Republicans comes down "on the side of caution." Borst said that while the agreement will immediately cut taxes on license plates and property taxes, it won't decide on a college tuition tax credit until after Congress makes decisions on block grants to the states. And Borst couldn't resist one little jab at Bayh, reminding reporters that "Evan wanted a tax increase" last time around.

How was Bayh's State of the State address reported around the state? The banner headline in the Jan. 11 Evansville Courier was typical: "Bayh hails Indiana's direction: Harmony reigns; GOP in step."

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Report newsletter called the tax pact between Bayh and Republicans

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shock to many lobbyists and legislators (especially Democrats who were not consulted)." The *Report* added, "One staff insider told the Indiana Chamber that, after determining their priorities, the Republican leaders essentially told the governor that he could either get on the train or get run over by it." Finally, it predicted, "Only time will tell whether this plan holds together and becomes law, but signals we're getting at this point indicate that it will."

AP's Mike Smith quotes State Rep. Joseph O'Day, D-Evansville, as viewing the tax pact this way: "I'm not opposed to what they say they are going to do. The opposition I have is that I was not involved and the people in my district were not being represented."

U.S. Rep. Steve Largent appeared with U.S. Rep. Mark Souder before 500 Republicans in Fort Wayne on Wednesday, taking the place of angry House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Largent stressed that House Republicans should be given the latitude to make decisions on their own.

Souder was featured on the Jan. 15 front page of *Roll Call*, under the headline, "Speaker's Punishment of Renegade

Watch for GOP gubernatorial race to heat up; legislators bailing out of Dem 7th CD primary

If Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon keeps speaking as he did at Tuesday's memorial service for Bill Schreiber, he will be even more formidable than his supporters have been suggesting.

O'Bannon used a metaphor of a giant tree falling, with the smaller trees "snapping back into position."

"The silence," O'Bannon intoned with his Southern Indiana drawl, "is more complete and oppressive than any silence before."

■ On the campaign finance front, the O'Bannon For Indiana Committee announced \$2.294 million cash on hand after raising \$1.76 million in 1995. "It is more than any Democratic candidate for governor in Indiana has ever had in the bank the year before the election," said Tom New, campaign manager.

That compares with a \$3 million war chest that Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith has, and \$1.11 million for Rex Early, who raised \$1.69 million in 1995 and spent \$575,000. George Witwer raised \$286,000 in 1995.

■ Goldsmith tells Mary Beth Schneider of the *Indianapolis Star/News* that he will announce his candidacy for governor on Feb. 5. But HPR forecasts that the campaign fireworks may begin as early as next week on the GOP side.

■ Republican George Witwer will unveil a property tax reduction plan at a Statehouse press conference Thursday morning. The Witwer campaign said his plan will go "far beyond the recently announced bipartisan property tax reduction."

■ Another burst of rumors centered on whether U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton might join Andy Jacobs and John Myers on the growing House retirees list. No dice, says Holly Baker of Hamilton's staff. He is planning to file on Jan. 24.

■ In the 7th CD, former State Sen. Ed Pease is expected to announce for the GOP nomination. On the Democratic front, several

key Democrats are bailing out of the Democratic primary. Maureen Groppy from the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* talked with Pat Ralston ("Terre Haute is more concerned with the governor's race than Congress"), State Sen. Vi Simpson ("I don't see running for Congress is necessarily a higher office"), and State Sen. Sue Crosby ("The thought of going to

HORSE RACE

Washington is about as uninviting as it could be") and didn't find much interest.

■ Still in the 7th CD Democratic mix are State Sen. Mike Gery, who tells HPR sources he's disinclined to run but hasn't ruled it out, and State Rep. Sheila Klinker, who's giving it real thought, and Terre Haute Councilman Bill Thompson, who will decide in two weeks.

■ In the 8th CD, former New York Yankee Don Mattingly was approached by some Evansville and DC Democrats to run as a Democrat, but declined. Jonathan Weinzapfel officially kicked off his campaign in Posey County's St. Philip, a town founded by his family. He accused U.S. Rep. John Hostettler and Speaker Newt Gingrich of believing in the "survival of the richest."

■ State Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew has yet to give his Gen. Sherman speech on the attorney general's race. Democratic Executive Director Mike Harmless tells HPR that Andrew has been in contact with potential candidates. State Rep. Jesse Villalpando from Griffith is reported to be giving the race some thought.

■ In the 3rd CD, 1994 nominee Rich Burkett will announce on Thursday. He has been telling district Republicans he could have won if he had had their support. Elkhart stockbroker Dan Holtz said he will announce later this month.

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Harrison Ullman, *Nuvo* - (Oliver) Stone shows us a Nixon White House that has a portrait of a pensive Jack Kennedy conveniently displayed in a well-traveled lobby. Nixon passes it often, usually coming or going from some failed comparison or confrontation with the Kennedy memory. Finally, late in the film and late in the Watergate affair, Nixon stops before the portrait, stares at JFK, then mutters to him ... "You showed them what they want to be. I show them what they really are." I think Nixon was right. Look at what we Americans have become since Kennedy. Look at us, left with our greed and lonely for our ideals. No wonder we stay so angry with Nixon. No wonder he is so hard to forgive.

Rev. Gregory Wilson, *Michigan City News-Dispatch* - I challenge each and every one of you to live a life in which you strive to see each person as a brother and a sister. Look for the ways in which you are similar, not different. Strive to learn something new about a different culture. The immediate imperative is to reclaim not only the dream that Dr. King had but to take up the responsibility within self to reclaim it, restate it and reshape it. The spirit and fervor which Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. exuded must not be forgotten.

Mary Dieter, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - Having come of age in a less conservative time, (Bill) Schreiber held the ideals of Bobby Kennedy in his soul and grieved privately that America had failed to do much to improve race relations. But he was also a pragmatist who adapted to new ideas and embraced new methods in the practice of politics. Opponents reviled but respected him. "We battled him furiously, but he was a dear, dear friend," said Marion County GOP Chairman John Sweezy. "His word was always good." Allies reveled in Schreiber's ability to turn a phrase, to summon a literary allusion, to instantly analyze a dilemma, and prescribe a solution. But "if you asked him a question, you'd better be damn sure you wanted the answer," said Diane Masariu. "He

wasn't going to coddle you or candy-coat it."

Russ Pulliam, *Indianapolis News* - Gov. Evan Bayh may not have been thinking two years ahead as he delivered his State of the State address last week. But his move in the family values direction clearly will put him in a stronger position to challenge Sen. Dan Coats for Coats' U.S. Senate seat in 1998. Republicans expressed surprise and pleasure regarding Bayh's plea for rebuilding the family. Bayh could have been speaking to the men's Promise Keepers rally at the Convention Center with some of his solid commentary on the responsibility of mothers and especially fathers. "Like it? Heck, we wrote it," responded Rep. Ralph Ayres. Sen. Dick Thompson wondered aloud if he had been listening to a Dan Quayle speech. Bayh's new family values thrust should fill a major gap in his plan to challenge Coats. Bayh can already make a claim to being an economic conservative. On the other hand, this pursuit of a generally moderate to conservative course may make it hard for him to challenge Coats. Other than the fact that he is a Democrat and Coats is a Republican, Bayh may have a hard time persuading the voters he can do better.

David Broder, *Washington Post* - The Republicans have a penchant for the picayune. In South Carolina, for example, Pat Buchanan reminded the audience that he stood foursquare for keeping women out of The Citadel. The next president, presumably, will not have a lot to say about those questions. On the other hand, there is Sen. Dick Lugar, who is afflicted with the crippling notion that an important office deserves a serious campaign. So when Buchanan asked a barbed question about why we should be wasting money on foreign aid, when Medicare and Medicaid are facing cuts, Lugar told the audience just how useful foreign aid has been in disarming Russia and nudging the Middle East toward peace. The real reward for his thoughtfulness is that he is running about even in the polls with Alan Keyes.

TICKER T A P E

Republicans Stir Up a New Storm." It quoted *U.S. Rep. David McIntosh* borrowing a front page headline from the *New York Post*, accusing Gingrich of having a "cry baby attitude" on the vote Souder and *U.S. Rep. John Hostettler* broke on on Jan. 5. *Roll Call* also quoted the Jan. 3 edition of HPR in which Souder called Gingrich "absolutely a political liability."

Dan Bernard of the *Evansville Press* caught up with former *House Speaker Michael K. Phillips*, who calls himself a "part-time lobbyist." Said Phillips, "My primary livelihood is still going to be practicing law in Boonville. I'll be going back and forth." It's a continuation of a trend. Three out of the last four speakers - Phillips, *Phil Bainbridge* and *Kermit Burrous* - have all had lobbying careers. The lone exception is Republican *J. Roberts Dailey*.

And how's this for hometown press coverage: *Evansville Courier* reporter *Tim D. Barker* reported on a Saturday morning meeting a handful of *Pocket City* residents had with four legislators by writing, "It was a pleasant affair, marked by plenty of back-patting."

And here's one last story out of Evansville. Bernard reported on two bills imposing restrictions on

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riverboat casinos and off-track betting parlors passing out of the House Public Policy Committee. His lead read, "In what could be the beginning of an anti-gambling backlash, lawmakers have taken a preliminary vote to keep felons from working at riverboat casinos, and minors out of off-track betting parlors."

Where should the National Weather Service put its NexRad radar? U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer says the Grissom Aeroplex makes sense, Rep. Tim Roemer wants it in South Bend and Rep. Mark Souder advocates Fort Wayne. Souder may have an edge, since Northwest Ohio wants it in Fort Wayne, too. But don't expect a decision soon. The recent federal government shutdown has delayed site testing for at least three weeks.

"One of the best."

That's how Washington Political Analyst Charles Cook describes the Howey Political Report

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Slating: From mechanism of outreach to discipline

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generation of people much more withdrawn than their parents and grandparents, and less trusting of each other and in an array of social institutions. As Robert D. Putnam, director of The Center for International Affairs at Harvard University, wrote in a recent *Chicago Tribune* op-ed piece, "Television narrows the gap between us and Bosnia, but widens the distance between us and our neighbors."

Indiana county party chairs are constantly faced with dozens or, in some cases, hundreds of precinct and ward vacancies due to this lack of volunteerism. When Bulen instituted slating, most people who participated were elected by their neighbors. Today, many are appointees of county chairs who don't even live in the legislative or congressional districts they are charged with making decisions on.

Earlier this week, Republican 10th CD candidate Virginia Blankenbaker notified the Marion County political organization that she would not take part in the slating process. And Democrat Ann DeLaney hinted at her campaign

liftoff under the Statehouse rotunda that she also might not participate.

"It's a strange, strange thing," said Blankenbaker, who bucked the slating process in 1988 in a Senate race against current Councilman Toby McClarnoch. "What really troubled me this time was this loyalty statement that said I would now and in the future have to support slated candidates. It would be hypocritical for us to go through slating if I'm going to run anyway."

She points to a call Blankenbaker volunteer Kurtis Moore received from Washington Township Republican Jeff Long informing him he was "disinvited" to the slating because of his campaign activities.

"The original idea behind this was once a mechanism for outreach," Landis said. "Now it's a mechanism for party discipline."

Ultimately, any kind of party cohesion or discipline is at stake if the events of the 1994 gubernatorial race or a Blankenbaker primary victory further demonstrate the decline of the chair's clout.

Bill Schreiber

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Jacobs' home swarmed with political people that day, both Republican and Democrat. Ominously, it seemed to cue the end of an era of civility, or to borrow from Don McLean's "American Pie" hit song from the 1970s, "the day the music died." For a political generation, the 10th Congressional seat Jacobs occupied was contested in a polite, issues-oriented manner. Now, this open seat is a target of both national parties and the predictions are that rancor will follow.

Schreiber had been spinning mischief about Jacobs' retirement in the weeks leading up to the event. He had quietly been pushing a "Frank n' Andy" ticket for the fall of '96. The cancer that would retire Schreiber was evident that day, but there was ample passion in his eyes.

"Death ends life, but it doesn't end relationships," Jacobs said. "It lives on in the hearts and minds of all of us."

Perhaps the apt legacy of Bill Schreiber can be applied to the 10th District, as well as the

3rd in Northern Indiana, or the 9th in Southeastern Indiana, or the 8th in the Southwest: all competitive districts where the future control of Congress could be decided.

Perhaps if Hoosiers recall Schreiber's philosophy, as Jacobs put it before the hundreds of people who turned out at the Statehouse rotunda, we might have invigorated respect for the political system. "We are here to help each other and have a little fun before they put us in a box," Jacobs said.

Gov. Evan Bayh speculated that Schreiber was probably looking down at this tribute, seated at a table with Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson and Hubert Humphrey.

My suspicions are that Schreiber, instead, might be enjoying the company of Jerry Garcia of his beloved Grateful Dead, musing about "what a long strange trip it's been."

Or as Phil Lesh of the Dead put it, "To me, the Grateful Dead is life - the life of the spirit and the life of the mind, as opposed to standing in line and marking time in the 20th century."