

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“With all due respect, Rick McConnell is the Bob Dole of the Indiana Democrats...”

—Jonathan Weinzapfel, responding to former Congressman Frank McCloskey’s endorsement of his 8th CD opponent

Republican ‘revolt’ simmers in Warsaw

Kosciusko prosecutor stands up for Goldsmith

WARSAW - Rex Early was the keynote speaker at the Kosciusko County Republican Lincoln Day dinner on March 28. But the lasting impression of one of the largest dinners of its kind in this northern Indiana GOP stronghold was the sizzling showdown that looms between the Goldsmith and Early wings of the party.

It surfaced before 250 Republicans after Rex Early’s speech that was heard by, among others, Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, with Indianapolis attorney Eric Miller at his side. Following Early’s 20-minute address, each of the 40 candidates in attendance were given a minute to plug their campaigns.

Warsaw Times-Union reporter Dan Spaulding wrote, “Although Early got the prime spotlight, opponent Steve Goldsmith offered a fast-paced assessment of his campaign. The mayor ... called for smaller government, welfare reform, and more attention to crime and family values. ‘Put those together and we’ll put a Republican in the Statehouse in 1996,’ Goldsmith said.”

Spaulding added in his story that Goldsmith registered “a strong round of applause that matched one earlier given to Early.”

The climax came when Kosciusko County Prosecutor David Kolbe rose and spoke, endorsing Goldsmith. Kolbe had voiced his objections to county chairman Mike Miner of the Early keynote arrangement at the exclusion of Goldsmith and George Witwer.

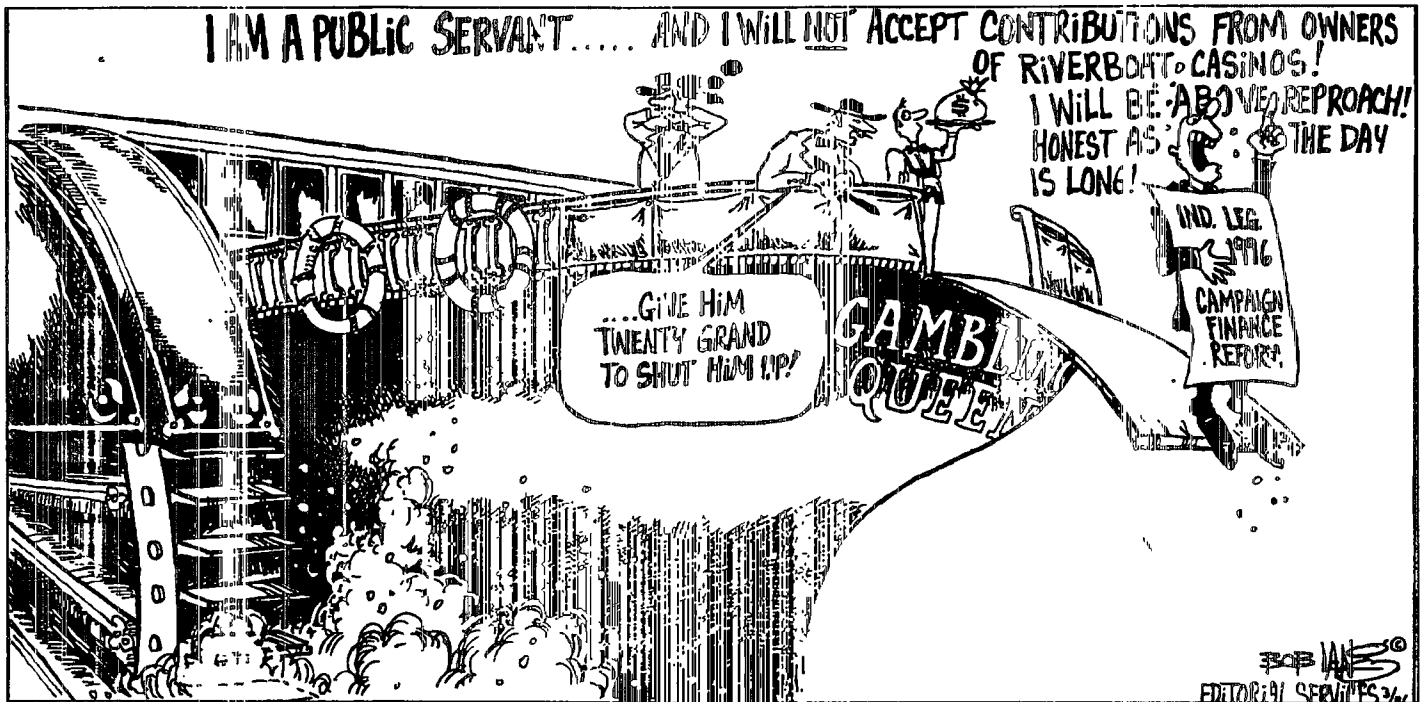
“If a candidate for governor is going to speak, either all should speak or none should speak,” said Kolbe. “The point of the Lincoln Day is to serve the Republican Party in the ideals of Lincoln. And I can tell you, quite frankly, that a number of people were offended by the setup.

“In that atmosphere, I felt it was appropriate not only to speak for Goldsmith, but in the dynamic of the meeting, to note the dynam-

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TICKER T A P E

PLAY OF THE WEEK: State Rep. Rick McConnell won the endorsement of former congressman Frank McCloskey. "I think Rick has shown he can do the job in the Indiana legislature," McCloskey said. "I think he would make an excellent congressman." McConnell responded to the unexpected endorsement by saying, "The very best part of it, on a personal level, is that he obviously thinks I'm capable of doing the job." McConnell's opponent, Jonathan Weinzapfel, was a former aide to McCloskey. But early in the campaign, some 8th CD Democrats were peeved at Weinzapfel for questioning McCloskey's 1994 campaign.

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Kolbe: 'They're looking into one-way mirrors...'

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ic," said Kolbe.

Kolbe is Goldsmith's Kosciusko coordinator. He also won the prosecutor's office in 1994 as an "outsider" candidate. "I had always supported the Republican Party in terms of voting," Kolbe explained. "I wasn't very active in terms of party organization. When I decided to run in '93, I spoke with the chairman, who was a very good friend. I went through all the normal protocol. But not having been a regular in the party organization, there were concerns that the Old Guard didn't know me. I ran with an awful lot of resistance from the Old Guard."

After an acrimonious campaign in the 1994 May primary, Kolbe won 58 out of 62 precincts.

Kolbe believes that his prosecutor's race represented a "shift in power" that may not fully manifest itself in Kosciusko County and in other Hoosier GOP strongholds until the party chairmanship battles of 1997. He calls Miner and the Old Guard "borderline myopia."

"They're looking into one-way mirrors. They can see themselves and we can see them. But who do they represent?" Kolbe asked.

From a Republican standpoint, this gubernatorial battle represents a definitive

showdown between the Early and Goldsmith wings. "It all comes down to who is best for the people? Someone loyal to the party, or those who demonstrate qualities for the people,"

Kolbe said. "We have to put party membership and loyalty in perspective. Unless Steve really blows it, the newer breed of Republican is going to prevail."

"I hope the Old Guard will pass the mantle along diplomatically. The change could occur in less confrontational terms. But I think the nature of the beast is that it won't. I think the process will play out."

There are a number of elements to watch in this intriguing Republican passion play. The chinks in the Old Guard armor have already appeared:

- In Marion County, Chairman John Sweezy couldn't carry the 10th CD nomination for Bill Hudnut during February slating. Marvin Scott, the man who won the slating, is now trailing Virginia Blankenbaker - who disavowed the entire slating process - in a poll she commissioned.

- Sixty-five GOP county chairmen and 10 district chairs or vice chairs have endorsed Early and appear on his campaign letterhead. If they don't carry their counties for Early, it sets

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Dole-McIntosh? Just like we'll be in the Kentucky Derby....

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh's name came up in the *Wall Street Journal* as a veep possibility for Bob Dole. McIntosh is too close to Quayle. Too many residuals. HR still stung by Gov. Whitman's rejection. New prediction: Dole-Kasich. Why? More photogenic than Engler.

REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR

STATUS

COMMENTS

Rex Early, Steve Goldsmith, George Witwer

Leans Goldsmith

Goldsmith's "cynical politics at its worst" ad aimed at Early made little sense over the week-end. In the times HPR saw it, Early was running a different ad, taking Goldsmith *out of context*.

REPUBLICAN 10TH CD

Virginia Blankenkaker, Marvin Scott

Leans Blankenkaker

Scott brings in U.S. Reps. Dan Burton and Mark Souder to speak on his behalf. Souder less controversial than he was in the 3rd CD. Scott might have benefitted from the fireworks. He still faces uphill climb against Virginia.

REPUBLICAN 7TH CD

Jeff Baldwin, John Meyers, Ed Pease, Dan Pool, John Lee Smith, Dick Thompson, Cathy Willing and 8 others

Tossup

Thompson surfaces on the air. Sources say polling shows him with lead. Pease back on the air with limited cable in Indy. All campaigns are working to distinguish John Meyers from U.S. Rep. John Myers. Still believe this is too crazy.

REPUBLICAN 3RD CD

Brad Allamong, Rich Burkett, Dan Holtz, Brian Haygood, Ted Noell, Joe Zakas

Leans Zakas

At the Kosciusko County Lincoln Day, Holtz pre-empts State Sen. Potch Wheeler. On Wheeler's second try, Holtz pops back up to introduce 12-year-old family member. Wheeler stands, looks at Holtz and drawls, "You done yet?"

DEMOCRATIC 8TH CD

Rick McConnell, Jonathon Weinzapfel

LEANS McCONNELL

McCloskey endorsement big boost for McConnell, particularly in Bloomington. Weinzapfel response appears to be "sour grapes." This one now leans to McConnell.

DEMOCRATIC 3RD INDIANA HOUSE

Charlie Brown, Marvin Wright

LEANS BROWN

This is the other seat involved in the ethics inquiry, but the only one with a primary race. Early indications are that Brown will weather this storm, although more bad news from the committee could propel Wright.

TICKER TAPE

■ ■ ■
This is Dan Quayle's current line about whether he will seek the presidency: "I have seven presidential elections to go before I'm 73. God willing during one of those years we may very well run again." That quote came during a visit to Ithaca, N.Y., and Quayle had used the same line in Chicago earlier in the same week while on a 33-city book tour detailing the success of five American families. In Ithaca, Quayle was greeted by a standing ovation and a sign that read, "Dole in '96; Quayle in 2004."

Look for the Clinton-Gore '96 campaign to get a rousing send-off in Indiana - but this time with a backdrop of cities and dunes, not the rolling hills of I-64. The Chicago Tribune's James Warren reports that President Clinton may leave Washington by rail on Aug. 26, heading to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Vice President Gore would arrive in Chicago the same time, but coming from the West. It takes a page from Harry S Truman's '48 campaign aboard the train Ferdinand Magellan, in which he logged 21,928 miles in 33 days.

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats celebrates the Senate's passage of a presidential line-item veto. Coats

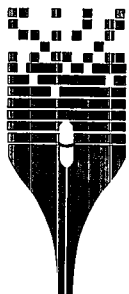
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Modisett responds to Goldsmith, claims he was soft on drug dealers

HPR INTERVIEW

"If you take the last two years of his administration and the first two years of my administration and compare the average sentence received for a cocaine dealer, there was a 72 percent increase in the length of the sentence...."

- Jeff Modisett



INDIANAPOLIS - In the March 28 HPR Interview, Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith said that Gov. Evan Bayh and Jeff Modisett helped derail a bill that would have provided tougher penalties for cocaine dealers.

When Modisett, who succeeded Goldsmith as Marion County prosecutor, received his HPR, he asked for a chance to give his side of the story.

Thus the HPR Interview enters into a new phase - a vehicle for discourse on the issues. In the process, Modisett provided a little spot analysis of the GOP primary from his Democratic perspective.

HPR: Last week, Mayor Goldsmith stated that you and Gov. Bayh resisted his efforts at legislative remedy on tougher sentences for cocaine dealers. Put that in perspective from your view point.

Modisett: On one level, I find it rather interesting to find myself injected into the Republican primary, but I guess I should be flattered. I really wasn't surprised to see Steve falling back on this old issue and one that was used unsuccessfully against me in the 1990 prosecutor's race. Steve is trying to raise this issue because I had the audacity to point out during a fly-around that his record as prosecutor and as mayor on public safety issues is perhaps not as strong as he would like everyone else to believe. I guess that makes me fair game.

HPR: What happened with the cocaine dealer sentencing legislation?

Modisett: In the 1990 session, there was a bill that was put forth by a Republican legislator on Steve Goldsmith's behalf that had to do with cocaine sentencing. It may have been this was around the time he was still smarting over the Indianapolis Star expose on his plea policies in cocaine which showed that Steve was plea bargaining most A felonies. For whatever reason he did propose this legislation which was actually a restructuring of the cocaine sentencing laws. But it was a faulty bill because although it would have imposed mandatory sentences for anybody who had any amount of cocaine, any measureable amount, it also lowered the mini-

imum mandatory sentence for some Class A felony drug dealers. So what he was saying is, right now we've got one level for people under three grams which he thought was too light and we have another level for anybody over three grams and he thought there was a certain amount over three grams that was not enough of a problem to warrant a 20-year minimum mandatory sentence. We did not play an active role in this legislation at all because we could see that it was a trick bag. But we did quietly indicate to the General Assembly that the governor was not excited about this because he didn't want to lower the minimum mandatory sentence for any cocaine dealer. I communicated that to some people in the General Assembly. Our version was actually more conservative than Goldsmith's version. We sent the word that we would be happy to talk about a bill that increased the penalties for drug dealers but didn't lower them. The next thing we knew about it, the legislation died and the next time we heard about it, Drew Young was making the same accusation that Steve Goldsmith is now.

HPR: Did the Bayh administration come up with a new cocaine sentencing structure on its own?

Modisett: There was a lot of discussion about the right way to approach the issue of drugs in general. I think if you go over the record, the Bayh administration ... has proposed more anti-drug legislation than any other administration. We've increased the penalties for many drug dealers. We've added an intentional killing in the course of a drug deal into aggravating circumstances that would qualify for the death penalty. We've added fees on all drug dealing convictions that have added millions of dollars for anti-drug efforts in local communities. I thought it was interesting at the very time that Goldsmith thought I was blocking the legislation he wanted ... he himself was plea bargaining Class A felony drug dealers down to Class B felonies, which is something I refused to do as prosecutor. If you take the last two years of his administration as prosecutor - '89 and '90 - and the first two years of my

administration, and compare the average sentence received for a cocaine dealer, there was a 72 percent increase in the length of the sentence. It went from eight years to almost 14 years. So it's more than a little disingenuous for him to either remotely point the finger elsewhere when it comes to complaining about crack cocaine when he himself was plea bargaining right and left as prosecutor.

HPR: Goldsmith made the point that he didn't sentence people, judges sentence people.

Modisett: That makes very little sense. It's obviously a system and decisions are made by police who have an impact, screening prosecutors who have an impact, by the trial prosecutor, and by the judges. And every one has a role to play and has an influence on the ultimate influence on that case. Judges almost always follow the recommendation of the prosecutor's office. You just have to make sure your minimum sentence during the plea agreement is something adequate enough. It's the prosecutor's job to know who the judge is, to know what his or her sentencing predictions are and adjust your plea agreement accordingly or go to trial. The thing that surprises me is that there may have been a time when people would accept that but Steve is going to realize that there's a lot more scrutiny in this campaign over any other that he's run.

HPR: What is your perspective on Goldsmith's handling of crack cocaine in Indianapolis?

Modisett: I went to Steve personally and complained about the fact that crack was getting a foothold in our community and that, in my opinion, one of the problems was the IPD's narcotics unit was so decentralized that some of the narcotics detectives weren't sharing the same amount of intelligence as they did in a centralized unit. When he set up the four districts with four narcotics unit, he set it up as competition to see who would do the best narcotics work, not realizing that when he set it up in a competitive way the intelligence sharing basically dried up.

HPR: Have you made a decision on the attorney general's race?

Modisett: I don't have any current intention of entering that race.

HPR: What should gubernatorial candidates be talking about and stressing on the crime issue? Goldsmith has talked about reallocation of resources into public safety. Early is talking about chain gangs and bumping bad kids out of school.

Modisett: In comparing those two, I would have to say Rex's suggestion have a better feeling this early among voters. But as someone who has a background in law enforcement, I would have to say that that's not going to have any impact. In other words, chain gangs look good, they make the public feel like something is happening against crime, and they are very, very expensive. The only people you could take a chance of putting on a chain gang are people who you probably don't need to spend that kind of money on. You'd like to put to hard labor the most violent criminals who deserve the harsher treatment, but you can't take the security risk. It's really more for public perception rather than a correctional standpoint. As far as kicking kids out of school, I couldn't agree with Rex more on making our school environment more attuned to learning. But that's only half the issue. The other half is, what are we going to do about these kids who get kicked out of school so that they don't go from merely being disruptive to committing rape or murder. You have to think it through.

HPR: And Goldsmith?

Modisett: I think more police officers on the street do make a difference. All I would suggest to anyone covering this campaign is to look very, very carefully. Some people believe Steve is just juggling numbers. I've been told they've taken the traffic patrol or parking meter previously listed as county employees and included them as police officers. I don't know if that's true, but someone might want to check whether we're comparing apples to apples.

HPR: Are Hoosier officials communicating enough to win a drug war?

Modisett: Through multi-jurisdictional tasks forces to fight drugs, there are a lot of detectives who could be brought into the loop for intelligence sharing. And some of that is being done. But more of that needs to be done. We need a statewide gang-tracking computer system and start sharing that information.

TICKER

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was chief sponsor of the legislation that had seen more than 200 passage attempts since the 1870s. Coats said the fact that Congress was willing to cede authority "shows the depth of our frustration in our inability to get a handle on spending and curb the insatiable appetite of those who want to use the spending process." U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield, an opponent, remarked, "This is the greatest effort to shift the balance of power to the White House that has happened since Franklin Roosevelt's attempt to pack the Supreme Court."

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar reached a legislative milestone: the Senate passage of the farm bill, the most dramatic change of U.S. agriculture policy since the New Deal. "From now on the federal government will stop trying to control how much food, feed and fiber our nation produces," Lugar said. "Instead, we will trust the market for the first time in a long while to direct those signals."

U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer co-authored a bill that won House approval last week banning partial birth abortions. "I am extremely pleased that Congress has voted to ban such a gruesome and brutal act," said Roemer (Alison

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Glass, Michigan City News-Dispatch).

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh reacted to a Wall Street Journal veep "long list" last week by saying, "My wife, Ruthie, said she would rather spend a little more time at home in Muncie. We both know my becoming vice president is very unlikely" (Michael McBride, Muncie Star). McIntosh's name entered the veep sweeps along with fellow House freshmen Sue Myrick and Steve Largent after GOP nominee Bob Dole met with the class.

Michigan City Mayor Sheila Bergerson Brillson "upbraided" City Councilwoman Joie Winski for urging the investigation of the mayor's husband in a gambling stock purchase (Dan Rosenberg, Michigan City News-Dispatch). Winski reacted to a gambling newsletter article which asked, "Hasn't the Securities Exchange Commission been asked to investigate the potential short trading in stocks of two of the three Michigan City applicants by someone ... close to the process?" Winski specifically asked whether Michael Brillson has traded Aztec or Casino America stock. The Mayor responded, "The public trust and my personal integrity and reputation have been impugned by the thinly-veiled

COLUMNISTS' ON INDIANA

Harrison Ullman, Nuvo - From time to time, Mike Pence invites me to talk with him on his radio and television shows. Mike is a Conservative - a radical conservative who stands so distantly to the right that I sometimes need squinted eyes to find him in the crowd of the Hoosier righteous who clutter our politics and governments. But Mike is also a good man. Mike often introduces me as his favorite Liberal. He is wrong about that, too. I am not a Liberal. As we use the word now, there is no meaning left in the Liberal word. After all, we Hoosiers have had no Liberals in public life since Eugene Debs died in 1926. The *Indianapolis Star* sometimes tells us that Congressman Andy Jacobs is a Liberal. He is not. In any of the other industrial states, Jacobs would be like most Americans - a little to the right on economic issues, a little to the left on social issues. No Mike, I'm not a liberal. I am a radical moderate.

Morton Marcus, Indianapolis Business Journal - I was talking to my class in Bloomington last week about a diagram in the textbook concerning local tax revenue. I went on at great length about recent trends and what they meant. It was a good discourse, so I repeated it the next day with my Indianapolis students. After these classes, I realized that I had misread the diagram. What I saw was correct and made good sense, but it was not supported by the diagram in the text. Yet not a single student had raised a question about the discussion. This silence really disturbs me. Why didn't they call me on the error? Weren't they listening? However, do not be too critical of these students. Do you and I question those in authority above us? Or are we programmed to accept information uncritically?

William Safire, New York Times - After the June 16 election in Russia, or after the runoff that is likely to follow, Bob Dole will probably visit the winner in Moscow, I am told by a key adviser. On the way home he will stop off in

Warsaw, where he can get along with a young Communist president; in Bosnia where his activism on bombing led Clinton to save NATO from irrelevancy; and in Prague, where President Vaclav Havel last week called "for a signal that the West truly wants us and sees us as part of the Western sphere of civilization." The voters and the world will be watching the group Dole chooses to take along on such a pre-convention trip. I can see Jean Kirkpatrick and Richard Lugar, potential secretaries of state; John McCain, who carries weight on Defense; Paul Wolfowitz and Richard Perle, possible national security advisers; and for educational purposes, the House budget chairman, John Kasich, long shot for vice president.

Mike Leonard, Bloomington Herald-Times - John Seffrin calls it a "sea change," though he also could have opted for the trendier "paradigm shift." The cigarette industry clearly has been knocked back on their butts over the last few weeks, as seven states have joined in multi-billion litigation against the nation's top cigarette makers. "It would be, of course, overly optimistic and naive of me to say we've won the war," says Seffrin, the former Indiana University professor who is now CEO of the American Cancer Society. But another shoe is about to drop, and soon. The FDA will declare cigarettes to be a commodity under their purview and subject to new regulations. "The decision has already been made," asserts Seffrin.

Brian Howey, HPA - Goldsmith calls Early's attempt at raising the crime issue and using a crime victim as "cynical politics at its worst." Yet the issue begs to be addressed. How? "Crime should be addressed and it should be through policy discussions, program suggestions about what the state should do, what the next governor should do that will have an impact on crime," said Goldsmith. Anxious Hoosiers from Elkhart to Jeffersonville are waiting for something more substantive than 30-second TV commercials.

PERHAPS

WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

CARMEL - Well, it wasn't quite "Limos for Diapers" - the '94 Republican caucus attack ad that State Reps. Mike Young and Sam Turpin came up with and then couldn't prove.

But this weekend's revelation that Steve Hilbert's mother-in-law, Germaine "Suzy" Tomlinson, was arrested on welfare fraud with a '94 Cadillac parked in the driveway of her Carmel free-standing condo and \$89,000 in the bank was just too delicious.

Hilbert, of course, is the CEO of Conseco, who made \$117 million in 1995 and is widely regarded as one of the wealthiest Hoosiers. But the fascinating aspect of Hilbert is that he has snaked his way into the political lives of this state's most powerful politicians. He hired Ways and Means Chairman Turpin and now the Brownsburg Republican and Conseco execs have been subpoenaed before a grand jury in connection with the Lawrenceburg riverboat casino.

Hilbert chipped in \$20 million to Dan Quayle's and Al Hubbard's Circle Investments firm two months ago.

Hilbert and key Conseco execs have contributed close to \$130,000 to the political campaign of Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith. Gov. Evan Bayh has also been a big beneficiary. Both the governor and the mayor attended Hilbert's now famous \$250,000 Indy 500 race pool party last May.

Goldsmith this year and Bayh in '98 may well find out that Hilbert's money has strings attached in the form of public scrutiny over where the CEO's gambling interests lie and overlap with the general public.

The public policy realm may be more interesting for Bayh than Goldsmith. Bayh refused to renominate an earnest, black Fort Wayne attorney as an Indiana State University trustee in favor of Hilbert last spring. Hilbert finally got around to attending his first board of trustees meeting last month. It has the classic show-up-late, leave-early mentality of a political favor signed, sealed and delivered.

Then last week, Bayh let a bill die that

would have opened an opportunity for a pari-mutual racetrack at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, a move ardently opposed by Hilbert, who is an owner of Hoosier Park at Anderson.

The fact that Suzy Tomlinson became one of the first Hoosiers arrested for welfare fraud - an initiative earnestly pursued by Gov. Bayh - may well show just how independent the governor is from the gold of a favorite benefactor. Yet the arrest of this particular babysitter (who interrupted her foodstamp consumption for a trip to France) and the numerous nuances it revealed was chief fodder for thousands of Saturday night dinner party conversations around the capital. It was funnier than Jimmy Carter's "lust" for the Polish people, a challenge to the press from Gary Hart, the sexual foibles of a former lottery director, or Dan Quayle's most fractured syntax.

Let's face it, the extended Hilbert family has become Indiana's favorite soap opera. The richest man in the state sees a woman named Tomisue jump out of a cake and marries her (guys who make \$117 million a year can do that). He hires the Ways and Means chairman, who just happened to swing by the June 1995 Lawrenceburg casino hearings and said, in all seriousness, "It's a state function, and I wanted to see how they're operating."

The big question for Hilbert watchers is how many politicians sniffing his cash will get caught in the subplots of his Shakespearean comedy.

Turpin is already being judged by the company he keeps. The Goldsmith campaign is in complete denial over the pitfalls explosive gambling money in the political arena can have on this year's campaign. His three opponents, Rex Early, George Witwer and, more significantly, Frank O'Bannon, have disavowed the Hilbert allure.

What do you want to bet that the Hilbert soap opera doesn't appear on *Hard Copy*, *Inside Edition* or an O'Bannon ad before the next Conseco dividend?

TICKER T A P E

accusations in this letter purportedly written by Winski."

Gov. Evan Bayh signed his last bill into law - providing there is no special session - HEA 1402 which allows parents and communities to increase school involvement. "In Indiana, we have recognized that parents are a child's first and best teachers," Bayh said at Central ES in Pike Township.

Former Congresswoman Jill Long joins Gov. Bayh, Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon, AG Pam Carter and Democratic State Chairman Joe Andrew for the annual 4th Congressional District dinner at 6:30 p.m. April 27 at Fort Wayne's Grand Wayne Center.

The three Republican gubernatorial candidates will appear jointly from 2 to 4 p.m. April 4 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Indianapolis, sponsored by the Indiana Manufacturer's Association, and at the Allen County Lincoln Day Dinner at 6:30 p.m. April 23.

Third CD Republican hopeful Dan Holtz faxed out a handwritten note correcting a newsletter his campaign had put out that left out parts of headlines and misconstrued a letter to the editor as an endorsement from that newspaper. "Our campaign is about family, faith, freedom and

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restoring the American dream. We regret any error in judgment regarding the LaPorte straw poll and our recent newsletter," Holtz said. "However, we are proud of the fact that we took the immediate initiative to clarify our comments."

Friends of the late Ed Lewis will gather from 5 to 7:30 p.m. April 4 at the Indianapolis Athletic Club to honor his memory.

'There is no question that '97 is the year we'll begin to see changes'

From page 2
the stage for a major recasting effort at the helm in March 1997.

■ St. Joseph County Chairman Carl Baxmeyer is at odds with the current front-runner in the 3rd CD race, State Sen. Joe Zakas, to the point that Baxmeyer is not hosting a Lincoln Day dinner there before the primary.

Current Allen County Chairman Steve Shine, viewed by Kolbe as the trailblazer, is wresting control of the party from the Old Guard and placing it in the hands of younger, high-tech activists. Shine defeated long-time Fort Wayne city chairman Alan McMahon with 67 percent of the vote in March 1994 despite last-minute attempts to fill precinct vacancies. Shine won the race with a campaign that resembled the earliest stages of a Congressional race: meeting with precinct officials in groups of 10s and 20s in dozens of evening and weekend "coffee klatsch" type gatherings. In those meetings, Shine stressed "inclusion" for party decision making and top caliber events that in the past, only the wealthiest Republicans could attend.

Kolbe believes that many less-populated

counties will follow the Allen County example in 1997, particularly if Goldsmith not only wins the governorship, but does so by carrying counties in the primary chaired by Early supporters.

"There is no question that 1997 is the year we'll begin to see the changes," Kolbe said. "But you have to remember that the next precinct elections don't occur until '98. It's possible that some of the Old Guard will be voted in again. But what we'll see is a grassroots emerging."

■ **GUBERNATORIAL NOTES:** The *Times-Union's* Dan Spaulding said it was too bad Miner didn't conduct a straw poll. "I would have loved to have seen the results," he said.

■ Witwer appeared briefly at the Kosciusko event. A campaign representative delivered a short message.

■ Early's speech was his standard stumper, calling for renewed classroom discipline, chain gangs and property tax reform. He added, "More important than crime and property taxes - and that is - I'm against class basketball." Warsaw's Tigers were 1996 state finalists.

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With the Tax Research Analysis Center presents its first special event for subscribers and guests:

Campaign '96 Pre-Primary Briefing

Know what's happening before it happens

10:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 23

Capehart, Riley and Steele Rooms

The Columbia Club ■ 121 Monument Circle ■ Indianapolis

Featured speakers and panelists include:

- Chris Sautter, Democratic consultant, Washington DC
- Brose McVey, Republican consultant, Indianapolis
- Sheila Suess Kennedy, director of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union
- Dr. David Reed, economist, Marian College
- Dick Robinson, columnist, Terre Haute Tribune-Star
- Host: Brian Howey, publisher, HPR