

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink, Inc. Founded in 1994, The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana.

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NewsLink Home Page: <http://www.inoffice.com/hpr>

Subscriptions: \$250 annually via fax or first class mail. Call 317-254-1533.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I’ll answer your question when I can answer your question....”

- U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, on whether he would take up

Dan Coats’ out-of-state trash issue, to the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.

Buyer, Managers Shift the Dynamic

Impeachment witnesses loom

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer took his distinct place in history last Saturday as he made the case against President Clinton’s “assault” on the “administration of justice” in the Senate’s impeachment trial.

With Chief Justice William Rehnquist presiding, Buyer defended the rule of law and emphasized President Clinton’s abuse of its concepts in his 75-minute address. “Do not be tempted to believe the argument that lying about sex doesn’t matter, that’s private,” Buyer said to the Senate despite speaking with a case of strep throat. “Acts which are not crimes when committed outside the judicial realm become crimes when they are committed inside the judicial system.”

Buyer quoted from James Madison’s interpretation of the British Blackstone Commentaries, telling the senators that Blackstone placed “bribery and perjury on an equal footing” (Adam Clymer, *New York Times*).

Buyer told senators, “What I am saying unto all of you is that there is no difference here, and that’s the pain of the case. There is no difference between a cash bribe or sitting before a federal judge and perjuring oneself. Whether it be in the underlying civil deposition or in fact the grand jury testimony, perjury and bribery are side by side.”

Buyer said that White County Superior Judge Robert Mrzlak in Monticello, Ind., would convict public officials facing the same charges and the same evidence.

U.S. Rep. Bill McCollum then presented a chart of federal sentencing guidelines, illustrating that a point system used by federal judges has perjury and obstruction of justice outweighing bribery in seriousness.

The thrust of Rep. Buyer’s case against President Clinton as one of 13 House managers completely changes the impeachment trial. Going into the prosecution’s case, there was heavy resistance to the calling of witnesses before the Senate, even from moderate Republicans and Majority Leader Trent Lott. In fact, there were very low expectations of Buyer and his 12 House colleagues, who were accustomed to raucous and ultimate partisanship in their own Judiciary Committee as well as in the well of the lower chamber.

By Sunday morning, the dynamic had dramatically

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Even though Indiana Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew still hasn't officially been nominated to be Democratic national chairman, the pondering over his success in the Hoosier State continues. HPR reported last week that Democratic Central Committee Finance Chair Peter Manous appeared to be the leading contender. But party sources say that Gov. Frank O'Bannon may be having some second thoughts due to the "mess" in Lake County - the East Chicago primary battle between Mayor Bob Pastrick and County Chairman Stephen Stiglich. Our sources say that Manous still has the edge, but if the "mess" becomes too sticky, former Marion County chair Kip

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Buyer, from page 1

shifted. *The New York Times* editorialized, "The presentation focused admirably on the heart of the case. In examining it, we can see how it is possible to embrace two propositions that appear in conflict on the surface."

CNN's Frank Sesno called Buyer's presentation "organized, powerful and at times impassioned." CNN's Jeff Greenfield called it the "most powerful argument presented" for removing President Clinton from office. Greta VanSusteren said the speech was "good rhetoric, but factually wrong" in some instances pertaining to the concept of sending a poor message to the military.

The New York Times quoted University of Chicago Law School Prof. Cass R. Sustein as saying, "What the Republicans want the question to be is: Did the President do what is alleged in the articles of impeachment. If that is the question, they're in better shape than if the question is: Should the President be removed from office? I think in the last few days the ball was moved a little bit in the direction of what the Republicans want the question to be."

Said Sustein, "What they showed is that perjury is an extremely serious offense and if the President perjured himself - and if people think that OK, - then there's a real problem for the country."

The Washington Post quoted U.S. Sen. Ken Conrad, D-ND, as saying, "They did a good job. Any fair-minded person would have to say they made a powerful presentation. The White House has to address the facts; they've got to deal with the fundamental question of the threshold for impeachment and what is the appropriate way to deal with the presidential misconduct contained in these charges."

Buyer's presentation and that of other House managers, including U.S. Rep. Henry Hyde's closing remarks, dominated Sunday news coverage in the United States and the world (although the *Indianapolis Star* did not play Buyer's role on its Sunday page 1). Buyer's picture appeared above the fold on page 1 of the *New York Times*.

Buyer: I await their case

Rep. Buyer, speaking to the *Kokomo Tribune* shortly after his speech, said, "These arguments that were presented and will be presented by the White

House were the same arguments presented in the trial of federal judges, and the Senate rejected their arguments.

"We should now take a breath and permit the White House to put on their defense. I will eagerly wait."

Buyer told Dave Kitchell of the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*, "I am sick. I have strep throat. I have this fever. Twice I've laid down the last two nights. I've taken Aleve, Advil and Amoxicillin."

White House: Case botched

On Tuesday, attorney Charles Ruff began presenting President Clinton's defense. In a speech that was extremely academic, Ruff claimed that the House managers had rushed to judgment.

Ruff denied that Clinton commit perjury or obstructed justice (points the New York Times Sunday editorial conceded he had). Ruff said the standard of evidence is not beyond a reasonable doubt.

CNN's Jeff Greenfield said Ruff "was essentially laying a foundation. He's saying, 'Look, the House managers botched the case at the most fundamental level.'"

Lugar supports witnesses

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar said that the House managers presented "a very strong case that the President is guilty" of perjury and obstruction of justice. Lugar said he favors the calling of witnesses.

"I believe that counsel for the President must present the best defense case of which they are capable. It appears to me that they might wish to call their own witnesses and to cross-examine witnesses who have provided abundant evidence of the President's perjury and obstruction of justice," he said.

In a statement issued on Jan. 6, Lugar said, "I have listened carefully to many proposals that would conserve the time of members of the Senate and spare the American people from the anxiety that

a lengthy deliberation might impose. I share concerns that there be no unreasonable delays in performing the Senate's constitutional responsibilities and that as a trial proceeds, all branches of government maintain vigilance with regard to our national security and well-being.

"However, I believe that before I vote on the question of removing a president from office, I should hear all of the evidence that led the House of Representatives to vote articles of impeachment and as complete a defense as President Clinton and his attorneys wish to make in response. Both sides should have complete freedom to call witnesses and to cross-examine witnesses."

Lugar continued, "This is not a trial that I look forward to, but it is clearly a responsibility that I assumed when I was sworn into the Senate with an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States. All senators took another oath at the beginning of the trial of President Clinton to 'do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws.' I intend to fulfill these two oaths to the best of my ability."

Bayh gets testy

The *Indianapolis Star* reported that U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh "gets testy" when the topic of Clinton's impeachment trial comes up. It noted that Evan and Susan Bayh spent a night at the White House in 1994, sat next to the President for dinner and watched the Super Bowl with him.

"That will have absolutely nothing to do with my decision," said Bayh, who was confronted with the impeachment trial less than 24 hours into his term. "I intend to be true to my oath as a juror and render an impartial justice without regard to friendship or favor."

Bayh continued, "History is being made right now, and it doesn't get more profound than this. What I care about is what my children will say about this. What will be said 100 years from now? ❖

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Tew would be the governor's fallback guy.

Hudson Institute economist Bill Styring told Muncie taxpayers that the Indiana Constitution does not allow tax abatements, mortgage exemptions or deductions. "The Indiana Constitution is clear as a bell," said Styring. "All property must be uniformly assessed and taxed unless it is specifically exempt" (Rick Yencer, Muncie Star Press). Styring told the Association of Concerned Taxpayers and the League of Women Voters of Muncie and Delaware County that he believed any taxpayer suit challenging the constitutionality of tax abatements would likely win. "By not playing the game, communities would offer a lower permanent tax burden." He also said, "Tax abatement might be a bad idea, but is unavoidable."

Anderson Mayor J. Mark Lawler will announce sometime in February that he is seeking a fourth term. Lawler will be opposed in the Democratic Party primary by Anderson police Detective Kevin Smith and possibly Larry Turner.

Jesse "The Body/The Mind" Ventura would never have made the ballot in Indiana, claims Julia Vaughn of Common Cause. Speaking to the Reform Party of

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Indiana in Lafayette, Vaughn said, "Because the public money in his campaign enabled him to purchase advertisements, he was suddenly rising in the polls and won on Election Day. That could not happen in Indiana." (Azura Domschke, Lafayette Journal and Courier). "We do have campaign finance laws, but who gets the money? Republicans and Democrats. The state does not recognize third-party candidates." As for Gov. Frank O'Bannon's campaign finance proposals, Vaughn said, "The governor's proposal would make things a little better in Indiana. It's going to be a tough sell." Said Don Miller, Indiana Reform Party chairman, "No one on either side of the aisle supports campaign finance reform. They like everything the way it is. But in all the polls, 70 percent of the American people would like to see campaign finance reform."

U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno is considering federal capital punishment against four Hoosiers: Jamell L. "Sneaky" Rouson, William Curtis, Tajuan Allen and Michael Weber. All but Weber have been charged with murder. Weber is charged with arson in a fire that killed his wife and four children in Hebron. The Gary Post-Tribune reported that DA Jon DeGuilio sent the four cases to Reno for

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Clinton hits another grand slam

State of the Union address underscores how great a politician he is

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

The words of the late L. Keith Bulen still echo when the subject came to President Bill Clinton: "Best politician I've ever heard, seen or dreamed of."

And there Clinton was Tuesday night giving the State of the Union speech many thought he shouldn't give, pulling out - quite effectively - all the stops. There was great news. "The longest peace time economic expansion in history." And "the lowest peace time unemployment rate since 1957." A \$70 billion surplus, and surpluses for the next 25 years.

As the good news rolled out, U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay could be seen rapidly chewing his gum and squirming.

When Clinton began talking about his USA accounts, he said, "Listen to this" and he wagged the ever-so familiar crooked finger at us again, subtly reminding us of his infamous Monica denial that came almost a year before.

Hoosier U.S. Rep. John Hostettler could be seen standing solemnly, his hands clasped in front of him. "Regardless of what is happening in the Senate, he still is the president," said Hostettler in the *Evansville Courier & Press*.

More good news: The Clinton agenda. Five thousand new schools. Welfare cut in half. Saving Social Security by investing the surplus. For Northwest Indiana, Clinton said, "I've told Japan that if the steel imports do not decrease, we will respond."

Then, the most astounding moment: The President's tribute to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. "I honor her," he said. She shot back one of those sly "You rascal" looks. Then he mouthed the words, "I love you."

Now, who else could have pulled that off?

When it was over, President Clinton had delivered the second longest State of

the Union speech in history, declaring this, the end of the "American century" and also, "This is our moment."

But it was clearly his moment.

The speech had Republicans yammering, knowing that no matter how hard they try and what they do, Bill Clinton in his role as a masterful politician will always be one step ahead of them; always surviving them.

CONGRESS WATCH

"The President probably accomplished what he wanted - to show that he was in command," said ABC's Sam Donaldson. CNN's Jeff Greenfield likened it to an old horror movie, where the corpse is buried, and at midnight, "the hand claws out of the grave."

From a policy standpoint, Republicans seemed most critical of President Clinton's speech on taxes. U.S. Rep. David McIntosh expressed his disappointment in Clinton's refusal to back his initiative to end the marriage penalty.

"Bill Clinton should join us in ending the marriage penalty to strengthen families, not undermine them."

Having said that, McIntosh hopped on board the Saving Social Security bandwagon. "Social Security is too important to too many seniors for politics and partisanship."

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder responded to the speech, saying, "I'm frustrated. It's frustrating to listen to because it's completely unrealistic. He thinks government is the engine that creates jobs. The era of big government is back" (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*).

With Clinton emerging with a 66 percent approval rating (ABC News), Tuesday was a good day for Bill Clinton, who believes he's got one more State of the Union to give. ❖

Investigation of Burton appears unlikely; House members won't file formal complaint

Timing can be everything.

Last September, U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, fearing an expose in *Vanity Fair*, vetted his own illegitimate child to the Indiana news media. The story that prompted Burton's actions didn't appear until December in *Salon*, an Internet magazine, and in *NUVO Newsweekly* in Indianapolis.

Now, in a nation and a capital fatigued by scandal, there are forces at work to have Burton investigated for ghost employment, the same charge that ended the political career of Indiana Supt. of Public Instruction Harold Negley and Indiana Clerk of Courts Dwayne Brown.

Following Russ Baker's article, the Congressional Accountability Project sent letters to Reps. James Hansen and Howard Berman seeking an inquiry into Burton for:

- Keeping a ghost employee, Claudia Keller, on his congressional payroll;

- Determining whether Burton defrauded the federal government by hiring a ghost employee;

- Determining whether Burton defrauded his own campaign committee and converted campaign funds to personal use by hiring ghost employees;

- Whether Burton extorted campaign contributions.

Baker's article revealed that Rep. Burton, "though he has had no serious opposition, has paid campaign salaries every single month, even in non-election years, to two people: Claudia Keller and Sharon Delph." Campaign records show that Burton has paid a \$40,000 annual salary to Keller, as well as expenses and bonuses, and \$2,400 to \$4,000 a year for Keller's rent.

The *Washington Post's* take on the Keller relationship with Burton was this, in a page 1 story written by Howard Kurtz and Juliet Eilperin: "Rep. Dan Burton (R-

Ind.) has approved nearly \$400,000 in payments and salary to his campaign manager, a part-time clown, who appeared simultaneously on his political and official House payrolls."

The *Post* story said "such dual employment can be problematic" and that it was against the law for lawmakers to "use their office budgets to subsidize their campaigns, or vice versa." It added, "And most Capitol Hill staffers take time off to work on their bosses' campaigns."

Burton's staff was initially fuzzy on Keller's office duties, but finally told the *Post* that she performed constituent work, answering letters, special events, and visas.

Since then, Gary Ruskin of the CAP complained that it is virtually impossible to get an ethics complaint heard in Congress due to new ethics rules passed in 1997. He said that no member of Congress has offered to file a formal complaint against Burton.

Locally, Marion County Prosecutor Scott Newman's office begged off on investigating the case. "If it's campaign money we don't have anything to do with that," said spokeswoman Beverly Phillips. "If government funds were paid to her in Washington, that's a federal issue."

Efforts to reach Indiana Southern District Attorney Judy Stewart were unsuccessful.

Roll Call reported that U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, will take over the House Ethics Committee and will decide whether to investigate.

HPR Forecast: There appears to be scandal fatigue setting in, particularly in the House still reeling from the impeachment battles; as well as with the news media, both nationally and here in Indianapolis. Ghost employment appears to be easier to prosecute at the state level than within the federal government. ❖

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review. Since the Northern District of Indiana was created in 1928, no one has been sentenced to death in a federal case.

Nearly 500 people took to the streets of Fort Wayne last Saturday for the annual March for Life anti-abortion protest.

Garrett Mayor Herbert Kleeman announced he will seek a third term (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). No one else has announced for the office.

Don Sexton, a vice president and manager of Lake City Bank, has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for mayor in Columbia City. The incumbent, 72-year-old Joe Zickgraf, is seeking re-election. Other mayoral candidates include Republicans Kathleen Heuer and Ron Glassley, and Democrat Jerry Freewalt.

Randolph County Prosecutor David Daly has ended his probe of the Winchester Police Department and Mayor Jack Fowler (Muncie Star Press). Last November, Daly announced an "inquiry" and invited the public to make complaints against the WPD and Fowler. Only one person did. Last fall, Fowler ordered Winchester police not to make public intoxication arrests after several

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local taverns complained of harassment. Said Daly, "It has been real quiet. I haven't heard anything from anybody and I do pay attention to it. Apparently the mayor is not doing what he had admitted to be doing."

The Indianapolis Star reported that Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy has a \$700,000 to \$318,000 fundraising lead over Democratic mayoral candidate Bart Petersn. Gilroy inherited \$460,000 from outgoing Mayor Stephen Goldsmith.

Even though President Clinton was fending off an impeachment challenge in the U.S. Senate, U.S. Rep. David McIntosh was asking him to declare Indiana a disaster after this month's snow and ice storms. "The extreme severity of winter storms has devastated local communities," McIntosh wrote to Clinton. "Indiana is in great need of federal funds to assist local communities with snow and ice removal."

An Anderson Police Department photographer was suspended for destroying three "inappropriate" photographs of Madison County Prosecutor Marian Dunnichay. The Anderson Herald-Bulletin reported that photographer Mike Lee took "revealing" photographs of Dunnichay as she leaned over the body of a murder

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

Evansville Mayoral: Republican: County Commissioner Russell Lloyd Jr..

Democrat: Rick Borries, City Councilwoman Gail Riecken, County Councilman Phil Hoy. **1995 Results:** McDonald 19,162, Frary 9,565. **1999 Forecast:** Gail Riecken announces she will run for mayor. Her consultant, Chris Sautter, said a Penn & Schoen Poll shows her leading Borries by a 54-29 percent margin. In the favorabl/unfavorable rating, Riecken had a 75/10. "So she's starting out in a pretty strong position,"

Sautter said. Sautter also disputed Horse Race's contention that Riecken "didn't finish strong" in her 8th CD race against U.S. Rep. John Hostettler in 1998. "She started 26 points behind and lost by

5 percent," Sautter said. Key development in Riecken's announcement wake will be whether Hoy gets into the race and creates a three-way dynamic. But given the polling data, Riecken's out-performance of Mayor Frank McDonald on the '95 ticket, and her strong showing in the 8th CD race, she becomes the person to beat in '99, both in the primary and general elections.

Status: *LEANS RIECKEN.*

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Allen County Sheriff Joe Squadrito, Linda

Buskirk. **Democrat:** Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Forecast:** A draft Helmke movement has begun. The *Journal Gazette* reports that the "forces looking to change Helmke's mind are getting stronger." Helmke said that while his heart tells him to run, his mind says no. He is expected to endorse his Public Works Director, Linda Buskirk. The other big speculation in Fort Wayne is whether former police chief Neil Moore will run and in which party. Moore told the *Journal Gazette* he is leaning toward running as a Republican and would make his decision in February. Republicans seem to be viewing Moore's potential candidacy in two ways: a moderate drawing votes away from Sheriff Squadrito and helping Buskirk; or a moderate but tougher choice than Buskirk, thus helping the sheriff. Meanwhile, Democrat Graham Richard announced his candidacy before 100 supporters in the partially restored lobby of the old Indiana Hotel (*News-Sentinel*). Richard served in the Indiana Senate from 1974 to 1978 and had unsuccessful candidacies for lieutenant governor and superintendent of public instruction. He described himself as a "creative problem solver" with "bold and honest leadership." The *News-Sentinel* reported that supporters of Richard say he "has the organization, the strategy and the vision to take back the mayors office." Meanwhile, Allen County GOP Chair Steve Shine says that Richard's legislative record was "liberal and one I don't think comports with sound fiscal management of a city." **Status:** *Leans Squadrito.*

Muncie Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Dan Canan. **Democrat:** Louis Coulter, Ralph Smith Jr. **1995 Results:** Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. **1999 Forecast:** Canan announces for a second term this week. At the moment, he would appear to be in decent shape, but there are clouds on his horizon. The Democrats have a chance to unite now that Delaware County Chairman Phil Nichols has resigned. And Mayor Canan ran out of salt last week, perhaps not his fault, but this mayor and many others seem to be worried about what kind of knuckleball Morther Nature can toss their way. Lining up for the Democrats is Lewis Coulter, a tavern and restaurant owner who said, "I am tired of seeing factories closing and businesses leaving Muncie." Coulter served nine years on Muncie's Urban Enterprise Association board. He served eight years on the Delaware County Civic Center Authority. He is vice president of the Indiana Licensed Beverage Association. In 1992, he lost in the Democratic primary for county commissioner. He said the city needs to do a better job on economic development. He called the UEA "one of the greatest redevelopment tools in Muncie." These issues could resonate after Muncie saw Ball Corporation leave town, both in the primary and against Canan. Coulter attacked Canan saying the city should do a better job of removing snow. Smith is an Air Force veteran. **Status:** *Leans Canan.*

HORSE R A C E

BRIAN A. HOWEY ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Morton Kondracke, *Roll Call* -

The Republican vision of the 2000 election's killer ad shows Vice President Al Gore in the Rose Garden on Dec. 19, 1998, saying, "I'm proud to present to you my friend, America's great president, Bill Clinton." And a voice comments: "If YOU don't feel proud, vote Republican." Democrats haven't dreamed up an alternative spot yet, but their political calculation is that far-right Clinton-haters are seizing control of the GOP, that the public is mad about it, and that Democrats will profit handsomely from the excess. Which is right? Poll results support each side. Texas Gov. George W. Bush leads Gore in test votes by up to 20 points, yet voters prefer the performance of congressional Democrats over Republicans by even bigger margins. My guess, though, assuming that Clinton's Senate trial doesn't run completely amok and if no serious new ethical charges arise against Clinton and Gore, is that 2000 won't primarily be about morals. By fall 2000, what politicians did on impeachment 1998 and early 1999 is likely to be forgotten - much as what they did on the Persian Gulf War in 1990 and 1991 had little effect in 1992, even for President George Bush. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal*

Gazette - Dan Coats' departure from the Senate may have been a bit premature. Mere weeks after he retired, the ground has begun to shift on an issue that was dear to his heart but on which Coats was thwarted year after year after year: trash. ❖

Larry Shores, *Muncie Star Press* -

Any day now they'll be calling Frank O'Bannon Indiana's "Educational Governor" or maybe even "Children's Governor," so strong is his attachment to

early childhood education and the welfare of Indiana's younger residents. He proved that again during his State of the State address that zeroed in on some of his keen interests. O'Bannon came out strongly for full-day kindergarten, with the state picking up the extra cost of the expensive (nearly \$100 million a year) program. ❖

Jim Gordon, *Gary Post-Tribune* -

Last night I used an Internet search engine to look for this term. TEOTWAWKI. I got 157 hits. TEOTWAWKI may sound like the Incan architect who laid out the ancient city of Machu Picchu or the god who served as model for those long-faced statues on Easter Island, but it's not. It's an acronym for "The end of the world as we know it." Gauging the level of public concern by the frequency an issue arises on the Worldwide Web is a dicey proposition, since a vociferous few can make themselves sound like thousands in cyberspace. But there are other signs that apprehension is mounting as the 20th century ebbs. The latest issue of the Utne Reader arrived in my mailbox with a supplement; the "Y2K Citizen's Action Guide," and much of the Jan. 18 edition of *Time* was devoted to millennium madness, surveying anxiety over Y2K and the belief of some that 2000 will bring an apocalypse predicted in the Bible and elsewhere. I first wrote about the century's-end apocalyptic prophecies and the potential computer problems in a column in May 1996 and predicted, "(W)e will no doubt hear a lot more about all this as we approach Dec. 31, 1999." My prediction was an understatement. Make that "a lot, lot, lot, lot more." If the apocalypics are right, there's not much we can do except make peace with our maker. ❖

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victim.

Indiana's recreational vehicle industry has declared 1998 a banner year (David Schreiber, Elkhart Truth). Through November, RV manufacturers shipped out 273,700 units to dealers. That was the best shipment level since 1978 when 390,000 units were shipped. Schreiber reported, "All indications point to the good times continuing," the article said.

While Gov. O'Bannon did not make a call for free textbooks during his State of the State address last week, his staff says the debate is not dead. "The governor is for free textbooks," said spokesman Phil Bremen (Bloomington Herald-Times). "He thinks Indiana ought to join the vast majority of states where a free public education means what it says." State school Supt. Suellen Reed is against free textbooks, saying that the estimated \$73 million annual cost could be better used for reforms such as full-day kindergarten. Full-day kindergarten is expected to have a \$75 million to \$100 million annual price tag.

Auburn Mayor Norman Rohm has announced he won't seek a third term. Norman Yoder, who lost to Rohm in the 1991 Republican primary, announced his candidacy.

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He is a contractor and a former board of public works member. Democrat Mike Walter announced his candidacy. Walter is an attorney and a city councilman.

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh said he has a strong relationship with new House Speaker Denny Hastert. He said Hastert asked him in 1992 to speak at a town meeting in his district on small business regulations. "Denny and I have been friends ever since," McIntosh said. "Since my first day in the House, I've looked to Denny as a mentor and have sought his advice."

NEXT EDITION OF HPR will appear on Thursday Feb. 4 unless breaking news events dictate otherwise. ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Blizzards of the '70s

CHICAGO - Who could forget the winter of 1977? There was Chicago Mayor Michael Bilandic finishing out the late Boss Daley's term and striding toward winning his own nomination. Then a blizzard hit, Big Windy was paralyzed for days, and on Election Day a few weeks later, Jane Byrne had drifted into office.

Any Hoosier mayor knows that story. As midnight '99 rang in, snow and ice began invading our state until some 50 counties and Gov. O'Bannon had declared snow emergencies.

How a city handles that could be a political opportunity or pratfall set for the Act of God category.

In Muncie, the *Star Press* reported that newly declared Democrat Lewis Coulter said the city should be doing a better job of snow removal, especially on neighborhood streets. That is ominous news for a first-term mayor, as Republican Dan Canan is. Last week, Canan acknowledged, "We are out of salt completely." It

was the second time the city had been saltless in less than a week and 100 tons later. Canan said the city probably should build a larger salt storage facility. Ouch!

In Indianapolis, Mayor Stephen Goldsmith isn't seeking re-election, and thus the political heat over his city's poor handling of snow removal hasn't translated into political terms - yet. Democrat Bart Peterson offered the city a fleet of front end loaders and graders from his Precedent Companies, but the city declined. Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy still hadn't surfaced on the issues.

Now, here's the fun part. January '78 started out like '99 - snowy and cold with some bad conditions early. It was just softening us up for the Blizzard of '78 at the end of the month which shut the entire state down for a week.

Smart mayors in elections years always bone up for winter. We bet Bob Pastrick has mountains of salt ready and waiting in East Chicago. And smart challengers will be watching. ❖

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