THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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GOP's Senate tap dance in full force

Rusthoven a player, but watch Gilroy, McIntosh

WASHINGTON - The floor at the Indiana Society of Washington was scattered with Republicans and Democrats in a bipartisan celebration of the presidential inauguration - including Evan Bayh and David McIntosh.

And an interesting dance occurred between the two. The two-term Muncie Republican set out to greet Bayh during the ball. "It was clear McIntosh was being very assertive," said one source. "Bayh, on the other hand, was very elusive and kept moving away from McIntosh. Finally, David trapped him, offered his hand, and all Evan could do was smile and nod."

Sources said "you could cut the tension of the McIntosh/Bayh dynamic with a knife."

Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke didn't notice the McIntosh/Bayh dynamic, but did have a "pleasant" and low-key conversation with Bayh.

It was Susan Bayh who asked the pointed question. "Are you running against us? If you're going to run, you better do it quickly. Our poll shows us at 80 percent."

These reports from gala Washington come on the heels of reports that McIntosh and Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy probably won't seek the 1998 senatorial nomination - the most conspicuous coming in Mary Beth Schneider's column in Sunday's *Indianapolis Star*. And it comes with talk that the rocketing star on the GOP horizon is Indianapolis attorney and former Reagan speechwriter Peter Rusthoven.

But Gilroy's and McIntosh's actions and words tell a different story. Both appear to weighing the Senate option methodically.

"He is very serious," said McIntosh spokesman Chris Jones on Monday, reiterating that his boss is still evaluating a run at Bayh. "He is taking a very deliberative look at things and talking to a lot of peo-

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"Oh man! Boy! He sure didn't get much for his money...."

–Tom New, Gov. O'Bannon's chief of staff, commenting to the Indianapolis Star on Stephen Goldsmith raising $11 million in 1996

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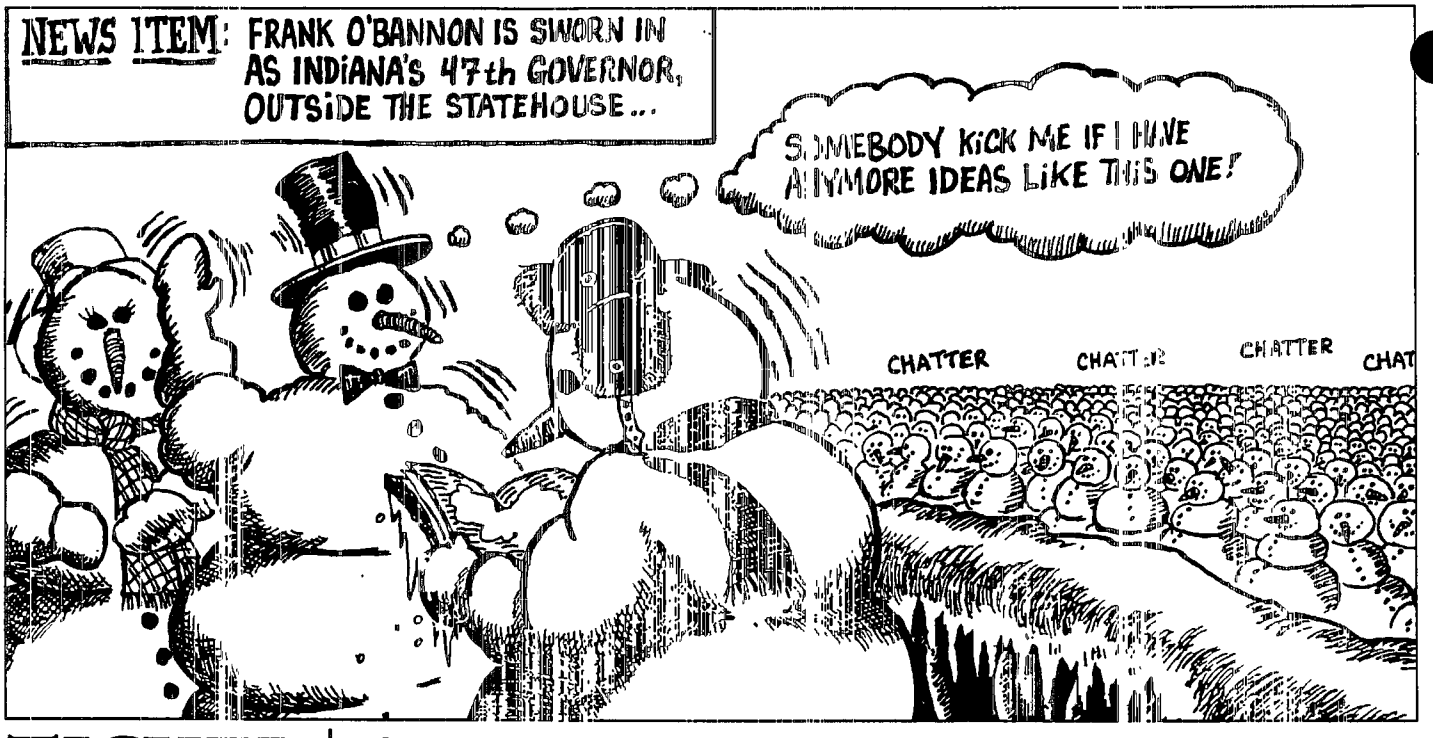

TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: Give Allen County Republican Chairman Steve Shine credit for coining a phrase Republicans will be using often between now and 1998: FOE, or "Friend of Evan," in a Journal Gazette op-ed piece published last Sunday (See story, page 8).

Financial reports from the 1996 gubernatorial election show that Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith raised $11.6 million and spent all but $171,000. Gov. Frank O'Bannon raised $7 million. It showed that Goldsmith was so confident of victory that he began making campaign funds available to legislative Republicans.

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ple." McIntosh has been meeting with Republicans across the state discussing not only 1998, but a potential run for governor in 2000 should Bayh win. His time frame for a decision is still mid-February.

The buzz on McIntosh is that he is simply milking the situation for statewide publicity, but Jones discounted that. "We haven't been going to the press," he said. "We have just responded to reporters."

Gilroy, too, has been very active. She wrote Gov. Frank O'Bannon with a list of people he should nominate for the Indiana Board of Education, an unusual move that suggests ambition. Another letter is going out this week to contributors.

Gilroy sent a statewide letter out to supporters this week that outlined the GOP's challenge to prevent Bayh's ascent as well as a sharp critique of Gov. Frank O'Bannon's leadership.

"We must decide soon on the strongest possible candidate to field against Evan Bayh for the U.S. Senate seat," Gilroy wrote. "We have to raise the funding necessary to wage successful statewide campaigns in 1998. If we come up short again, there will be no excuse sufficient to explain away our failure to the next generation of Hoosiers."

Gilroy continued, "I am about to embark on a statewide mission aimed at reinvigorating the party and elevating the debate about Indiana's future. I will not shy away from taking on the tough issues of education, crime, tax relief, campaign finance, welfare reform and workforce development. I will speak out, too, about the values we share - about the need to strengthen the family, revere the church and revive the moral spirit of our youth.

"Unfortunately," Gilroy said, "these are the very challenges the Bayh-O'Bannon administration has avoided confronting effectively over the past eight years. And there is little evidence to suggest that our new governor will do anything other than continue this tradition of risk avoidance. This is not the forward looking leadership that Hoosiers deserve.

"At some point, extreme caution is less than conservatism; at some point, the mantle of leadership is sacrificed on the alter of self-preservation. Together, we can do better," Gilroy said. "This year, I will travel to every region of the state several times to get our message across."

Rusthoven is taking a long, hard look at the race. "Over the last few weeks a number of people have very strongly urged me to consider this very seriously," said Rusthoven. "Linda and I are considering and exploring this."

Rusthoven added, "The sooner one gets going, the better it will be retaining this seat."

Gala Indiana Society Ball report features the wives of the Hoosier powerful

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: Horse Race wasn't invited to the Indiana Society's Unofficial Inaugural Ball, but we crashed it anyway, raising eyebrows when we nuzzled Mrs. Bayh's hair and drank directly from the punch blow, inadvertently slobbering over the shrimp bowl. However, it wasn't a total disaster as we refrained from the kind of carpet bombing that can clear a room. Anyway, here is our report from the gala:

■ ■ ■

This was a "coming out" of sorts for Gov. Frank O'Bannon in the Washington wonderland. At an event attended by more Democrats than Republicans, he and Sen. Dick Lugar received the warmest ovations.

The only no-show was lameduck Sen. Dan Coats, but a surprise was the normally extremely shy wife of U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, who was actually coaxed onto the stage as the Indiana delegation was announced. Co-hosting the event were Sally Roemer, wife of U.S. Rep. Tim, and Ruthie McIntosh, wife of U.S. Rep. Dave. Both deserve the status of "up and comers" on the Washington scene. Ruthie McIntosh, in particular, was extraordinarily charismatic.

When it came time to sing the state song, "Back Home Again in Indiana," Tim Roemer had to read the words off the back of the program, while everyone else was belting it out.

Also radiant was Susan Bayh, who worked the room on behalf of Evan, sans twins. Encore! Encore!

Rusthoven calls himself a "Reagan conservative." He notes that "I have a commitment to ideas and values that I believe are important. I am very deeply and personally committed to talking about the issues in ways that aren't strident."

Rusthoven's wife, Linda, worked on Rex Early's 1996 gubernatorial campaign and Early is openly backing the attorney who works for Barnes & Thornburg.

Helmke is also weighing his options. He and his brother Mark worked the Indiana Society ball and are making a lot of phone calls. "We're trying to analyze whether its doable in November," Helmke said.

As for actually defeating Bayh, Helmke said, "I think it is possible, but it's going to be tough. A lot of things will have to go the right way."

Helmke's thoughts on whether the race is "doable" were the subject of analysis by Stuart Rothenberg of the Washington-based *Rothenberg Political Report*. He rates the Indiana Senate seat as "highly vulnerable" for a Democratic takeover.

"The early announcement by Sen. Dan Coats that he won't seek another term is a significant blow to the GOP," Rothenberg explained. "It opens up a reliably Republican seat to a strong Democrat, Evan Bayh, who begins as a clear favorite. Bayh would have been a tough opponent for Coats anyway, but the open seat makes the Democrat even more intimidating."

People of both parties are weighing in on who will emerge. Former Lugar aide Kevin Shaw Kellems said Democrats are telling him that "a fully-funded, fully-executed campaign in 1998 by Sue Anne Gilroy would be Evan Bayh's worst nightmare."

Marc Carmichael, McIntosh's 1996 opponent, commented on his past opponent, "I think he's going to do it. He can raise the money. McIntosh has the luxury of waiting and that puts the rest of them on hold."

Carmichael also added, "Evan Bayh is not invincible."

TICKER TAPE

The South Bend Tribune reports that the "indictment of a former controller of the Indiana Toll Road apparently is connected to the toll road's contract for gasoline sales awarded in 1995 to an Illinois businessman with interests in riverboat casinos. Reporter Marti Goodlad Heline reported that government prosecutors plan to call expert witnesses to explain fuel price manipulations at the trial of Joseph F. Agostino, the former controller. The gas contract was award to Gas City, Ltd., of Frankfort, Ill., which is owned by William J. McEnery, an investor in riverboat casinos in Illinois and Indiana.

U.S. Reps. Dan Burton and Steve Buyer both voted to oppose part of the House Ethics Committee's sanctions against Speaker Newt Gingrich. "I fully support the committee's recommendation of a reprimand," Burton explained, "However, I feel that a financial penalty is inappropriate." Burton said the fine was "excessive" unless it is made clear a member purposely misled the Ethic Committee. Buyer said the $300,000 House fine of Gingrich was "excessive and not fitting the violations. I am concerned about what I believe to be a damaging precedent set with regard to the monetary damages the

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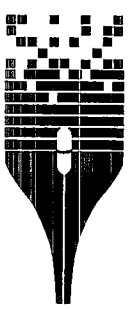
Gilroy deliberating Senate race; sees herself as GOP 'messenger'

HPR INTERVIEW

"I don't know about soccer moms because I'm a hockey mom, and hockey moms know what is going on. We know what the issues are and we're very worried about what our future is for our children...."
- Sue Anne Gilroy



INDIANAPOLIS - This week's interview is with Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy.

HPR: You seem to be a politician with a lot of options. Where are you at with regards to the 1998 Senate race?

Gilroy: The first time I talked to you, I was in Terre Haute when I got the call that Sen. Coats had decided retire. I was in the Saratoga Restaurant and people started coming up to me to say, "You should run," and "You're the one who should run." And that was when the first thought came. So what I have done is accept every single call I have received from county chairmen, from party leaders who are obviously very interested in making sure we have the strongest candidate. I have begun to give thought with my family as to where we best can serve. I've spent two years really preparing for heightened service. We've spent two years getting this place in shape, which has been no easy task, and have really had great success in regards to service and legislation. I've spent a great deal of time over evenings and weekends just trying to project to 1998 and what this Republican team is going to look like.

HPR: What time frame do you want to make that decision?

Gilroy: To be fair to the party, I've been in conversation with McIntosh, Kiely and Rusthoven - three individuals for whom I have great respect. All of us are making sure we are taking in all the right considerations. I think within the next few weeks, and certainly within the next few months, during the Lincoln Day season. That's what we use the off-year for. Because we don't have an election this year, there's a sense we have a little more time than most people think. By losing Coats, who is a great conservative and a great communicator, requires us to make sure whoever picks up the mantle is one that carries that same strong conservative message.

HPR: What do you, McIntosh, Rusthoven and Kiely talk about?

Gilroy: We all agree that there must be in the end a concerted coalition within the party that will guarantee success, so there is not a battle between money, energy or enthusiasm for the job we have to take on in the fall. It also is an on-going evaluation as to how this fits each of our lives and who is most ready. I think each of us recognize that we bring much to the table in terms of contrast to the potential Democratic candidate, in terms of our ability to raise money, statewide name recognition and carrying the kind of message I believe this state believes in.

HPR: What are the chances of one candidate emerging. Paul Helmke and Peter Rusthoven are telling me that if they decide to get in, they're in to stay.

Gilroy: I'm not sure if anyone has had a chance to see how assertive, focused and direct I can be. When the time is right and when I'm ready to accept the challenge, I think what you're hearing from them is that same kind of attitude. If they make that decision, it's going to be forward. But the sense I get is they are touching base with a lot of people who are going to make a difference. I would still say all of us would hope to come to some kind of aggreement and in the end, we'll put the support behind one candidate.

HPR: What impact would the gender factor have in a race you would wage against Evan Bayh?

Gilroy: Gender is certainly important, but I should not think the most important. We heard this last election about the soccer moms. If you had to describe a soccer mom, she was a woman who wasn't real sure what the issues were because she was so stressed out and busy running car pools, but she was pretty convinced what was decided wouldn't help her. I don't know about a soccer mom because I'm a hockey mom. A hockey mom knows exactly what's going on. Granted we're running as many car pools. But I think most women, even though we have great responsibilities, we know what the issues are and we're very worried about what our future is for our children. The Republican message of family values and compassion and

one that frees the family to face the economic, social and spiritual problems of our children.

HPR: Where do you stand on the abortion issue? There is a perception in some Republican circles who think you're pro-choice.

Gilroy: The secretary of state deals with a lot of economic issues. Interestingly enough one of the first questions (in 1994) was what was my stand on abortion. I said then I am against abortion. Anybody who knows me knows the value I place on life. We spent most of our adult life, Dick and I, saving our daughter's life. And you don't go through a situation like that without being one who supports life at every single chance. I am against abortion. I am against partial birth abortions. I am for additional restrictions. In my opinion, one life lost is one life too many, and that begins from Day One.

HPR: Would you go as far as advocating the repeal of Roe v. Wade?

Gilroy: Roe v. Wade became the law about the time I became of age. So a lot of my thinking is colored by coming of age at that point in history. I have been involved in local, federal and now state government. What I have learned is where I can be most effective spending time where some progress can be made. In my adult lifetime, there has been no agreement on that issue. That has been an issue I have stayed away from because there is no indication whatsoever that that law could be turned over, or couldn't be turned over.

HPR: One of your other options is to run for Secretary of State in 1998 and, perhaps, governor in 2000. How do you size that up?

Gilroy: When I ran the first time, I won 89 of the 92 counties and in some of those counties, because of that win for the first time in 30 some years, the Republican party gained top billing on the voting machines. Politically, there is some significance to that. Now you add the party who wins this race has the ability to select the next speaker of the House (in case of a tie). There is some responsibility to the party that we run our strongest candidate. I led the ticket in '94.

HPR: Has Mike McDaniel or anyone else suggested you stick with secretary of state?

Gilroy: Every single option has been suggested. I would assure anyone that if I were to run for the Senate that we would have an equally strong candidate for secretary of state.

HPR: This office has been a modern incubator of political ambition with Evan Bayh and Joe Hogsett...

Gilroy: And Larry Conrad.

HPR: Of course, Larry Conrad. What kind of a springboard is this for you?

Gilroy: It is the third highest office in Indiana. It gives you some responsibility to be the messenger. These past two years, I spent time electing governor and state legislators. Just now I think people are seeing what I can do; to carry the message, tackle the tough issues such as crime, education, property tax reform. So I think during these next two years there is a great opportunity to consider heightened opportunities to serve.

Gilroy: What about the governor's race in 2000?

HPR: As you look at the options of running for re-election as secretary of state, or the Senate, and you run a confident, positive, clearly stated case made that serves well myself and the party, obviously I would be better prepared to provide the role of loyal opposition and, perhaps, candiate for governor in 2000. One of the roles of secretary of state is to be a watchdog, to provide alternative thoughts. That is one role I will play and should play.

HPR: You sent a letter to Gov. O'Bannon suggesting nominees for the Indiana Board of Education. Did that have a political purpose?

Gilroy: I met with Gov.-Elect O'Bannon a week before he was inaugurated and told him I would be on a consistent basis suggesting to him positive ideas.

HPR: You got caught up in some pretty wild currents in the lieutenant governor's race in 1996...

Gilroy: That was the draft that turned into a breeze.

HPR: What was the fallout from that?

Gilroy: As I think back, the choice there was to respond to a number of outlying county chairmen ... who said we want to win the governor's race. We want someone who brings a profile that is electable and winnable. Those were the strengths I brought. It did alert the party to the fact that I was willing to serve when called. But it was just very late in the game.

TICKER TAPE

Speaker is required to pay for an unintentional infraction."

U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton, who voted for the Ethics Committee action, commented, "I have deep concerns about re-electing someone Speaker of the House who has serious ethical clouds hanging over him. I also believe the vote for Speaker was prematureand unfortunate." Hamilton said that "even if the Speaker survives all of this, his influence will likely be diminished" and concluded, "All in all, this entire issue of the Speaker's fitness to serve is a depressing way to begin the 105th Congress."

U.S. Sen. Dan Coats has been appointed to the Senate Intelligence Committee. "Sen. Coats' tenure on the Armed Services Committee will serve him well as he undertakes this new assignment," said U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, who chairs the committee.

Coats offered up a bill to ban partial birth abortions on the 24th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision. Coats said, "It is hard to understand how a president of the United States could support and defend the horror of partial birth abortion. It sometimes seems that our nation is moving, as Pope John Paul II has said, toward a culture of

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death."

Allen County Democratic Chairman Brian Stier is trumpeting his party's new and permanent headquarters as evidence that the long moribund party centered in Fort Wayne is on the rebound. "Our new headquarters are one more example of the revitalization of the Allen County Democratic Party," Stier said. "From 900 square feet to 3,000 square feet, Democrats are on the move." The party had been without a permanent headquarters for more than a decade.

House Republicans unveiled a proposal this afternoon that, they said, would mean a 71 percent property tax reduction for the average property owner. The Republican plan calls the property tax reduction "the cornerstone of our agenda" and would create a special 1 percent county option income tax. Voters would decide whether to adopt that option income tax and the state would provide the rest of the cost for schools, said House Majority Leader Paul Mannweiler, R-Indianapolis. For districts that do not pass the option income tax, those property owners would not see property tax relief. "This is a radical restructuring of the property tax program,"

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - When Indiana congressmen go to Washington, they have to wonder if they will become the state's next William Henry Harrison, Dan Quayle, Birch Bayh, Wendell Wilkie or Charlie Halleck. But most of them probably don't wonder if they will be the next Earl Landgrebe or David Dennis. Who are they? Those were two Indiana congressmen who were among the staunchest defenders of Richard Nixon before he resigned in 1974. After Aug. 9, 1974, all that changed. Landgrebe was bounced from Congress by angry voters who rarely ever chose Democrats in his district. Dennis was trounced in his bid for re-election. Landgrebe and Dennis may not be well remembered, but their defense of Nixon provides a current day lesson for Indiana Democrats and Republicans who face similar ethics problems with their leaders this year. On the surface, Republicans and Democrats will defend their leaders tactfully. Behind the scenes, they have to be saying, "Is this guy going to take me down with him?" and "How did these guys ever get this far by doing things this dumb?" Such is the case with one Newton Gingrich and one William Clinton. Party faithful have pledged their support for their respective leaders, but how deep is the faith of the faithful? Without voting for a single bill or making a single speech, members of Indiana's congressional delegation may be putting their careers on the line in 1997, even though they are not up for election. Sometimes the difference between the road to Washington and becoming political road kill is simply the perception of whether or not you believe that government leaders are traveling on the high road. Just ask David Dennis or Earl Landgrebe.

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - Where has all the hoopla gone? It's certainly not in Washington. Despite the trumpets and tulle gowns, a certain franticness is missing. Compared to Clinton's first inaugural in 1993, this year's celebration is a tad flat. The inauguration of a president who is beginning a second term has a large element of Been There, Done That. The Indiana Society of Washington, which sponsors an unofficial inaugural ball for Hoosiers, expects a smaller crowd than the 1,300 who bought tickets four years ago. On the other hand, said one of the organization's officers, Cathy Noe, the downturn is typical for a second-term inauguration. The society's 1985 ball - for Ronald Reagan's second inaugural - drew fewer party-goers than the 1981 gala.

Mike Leonard, *Bloomington Herald-Times* - One of the more interesting sidelights to Monday's presidential inaugural was the apparently warm and conciliatory luncheon remarks made by Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich to President Bill Clinton. "While we may disagree about some things, here you are among friends," Gingrich said. Friends? How sweet. It reminds one of the president's recent largesse in awarding the Presidential Medal of Honor to Bob Dole, a man who for the last year or more has been deriding Clinton as an immoral, unpatriotic, scum-sucking, big-government, steal-your-wealth toad. Yet the president had only kind words for Dole, a man he reportedly described on a previous occasion as "an evil, evil man." How generous. Probably, all of these guys are lying.

Brian Howey, *HPR* - Here's a scenario Gov. Frank O'Bannon ought to consider: appoint the bipartisan commission administratively, and quickly; give the commission a mandate to come up with a recommendation by Sept. 15. Senior officials inside the O'Bannon administration indicate that it would take no more than a month to design a new tax package after using late spring and the early part of the summer to gather feedback from tax experts and citizens; call a special one-week session of the Indiana General Assembly sometime in mid-October to mid-November. Keep the focus of this special session only on the Indiana tax system; pass the tax overhaul then. In 1997.

Early testifies for conventions; senators offer caps, campaign fund

INDIANAPOLIS - The Republicans, said Rex Early, "were goofy" for spending almost $10 million during the 1996 gubernatorial primary.

And he warned members of the House Elections and Apportionment Committee that if changes aren't made, "We'll have a Pat Rooney from both sides and all I have to say is rut-row."

When the laughter subsided from Early's "Scooby-Doo" cartoon imitation, the committee heard an earnest debate over the merits of HB 1164, which would return the nominating process for governor to the convention system.

Since 1972, governors have been nominated during primaries, but proponents of the bill say that has taken the necessity of political parties away.

"It's important to look at how we elect a governor," said State Rep. Craig Fry, D-Mishawaka, who is sponsoring the bill with Rep. Mike Young, R-Indianapolis and campaign manager for Early's unsuccessful gubernatorial bid in 1996.

"Parties have denigrated to the point where they no longer matter," Fry said.

"How do we get people involved?" asked Young. "Give them some sort of duty. It gives them a say so."

Early said that grassroots political activism has been " replaced by money and it has no philosophy other than what's good for the donor."

Early noted that not one of the 150 Indiana legislators could hope to raise the kind of money to run for governor.

Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel testified for the bill. "It will revitalize and strengthen the two-party structure," he said. "It will relieve pressure on fund-raising" because candidates won't have to spend millions to win primary elections.

Julia Vaughn, policy director for Indiana Common Cause, opposed the bill. "We do agree political parties have their problems," she said. "But we don't agree it's because they don't choose a governor. We cannot support anything billed as campaign finance reform that takes the right of the people to make their choice at the ballot box."

Committee Chairman Thomas Kromkowski, D-South Bend, refused to let the committee vote on the measure, saying he wanted to discuss it with constituents in his home district.

Other campaign finance reform bills introduced include:

■ **SB 380** - Permits candidates for state and legislative office to pledge to voluntarily limit expenditures, and receive public financing. The bill would repeal the gross retail tax exemption on the sale of newspapers and provides for those funds to finance campaigns. It was introduced by Sen. Harold "Potch" Wheeler.

UNDER THE DOME

■ **SB 1** - This would prohibit a member of the Indiana General Assembly from soliciting, accepting or conducting fundraising during legislative sessions. It would also prohibit the use of campaign funds to pay civil penalities. It was introduced by Sen. Becky Skillman.

■ **SB 406** - This would limit Indiana Senate campaign expenditures to $72,000 for the year, beginning in 1998, and $36,000 for Indiana House candidates. It would require the Indiana Election Commission to adjust the limits for inflation. Candidates who agree to the limits could then draw matching funds from a taxpayer funded account It would provide for an election fund where Indiana taxpayers could check off $1 or $5 contributions. It was introduced by Sen. Earlene Rogers.

■ **SB 384** - This would prohibit legislators from soliciting or accepting campaign contributions during a session. It would put a 25 percent cap on campaign donations from outside the district. Sen. Luke Kenley sponsors.

TICKER TAPE

said Rep. Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis. "We don't need any commission on select issues," Mannweiler said, taking a jab at Gov. Frank O'Bannon's call for a bipartisan commission to review the state's entire tax structure. "We feel we need property tax reform now."

Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, said the House Republican proposal ignores some of the pension relief and inheritance tax reduction pushed by the Senate. "I don't think they're communicating with their Republican colleagues in the Senate," Bauer said. He also pointed out that businesses pay 60 percent of property taxes, so shifting the property taxes to local option income taxes could be seen as "part of the corporate welfare state." Bauer said the biggest problem was the plan spends too much money and doesn't adequately replace the lost revenue. "I think this plan is unworkable. It costs too much," he said.

It is a serious question on the future direction of Hoosier campaigns. As was the discourse between proponents of the measure and legislators at the hearing. At one point - just moments after Early's Scooby Doo quip - Democratic State Rep. Rolland Webber of Anderson asked, "Can you

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answer a question seriously?" Early responded, "I've made an awful lot of money not to be serious. Have you run for governor?" Said Webber: "No, and you shouldn't either."

The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette editorialized: "Let's hope the Icicle Inauguration will be remembered as Frank O'Bannon's worst idea. Fourth-graders shivering on the west lawn of the capitol were not the best advertisement for the new governor's devotion to the well-being of children."

Elkhart Mayor James Perron has initiated an ordinance that would require City Council members who offer a dissenting vote to explain their rationale (South Bend Tribune). Perron, a Democrat, charged that Republican Councilmen Tim Neese and Bob Lindahl often dissent on votes without giving reasons. Neese responded by saying, "I think the mayor should go into a field that requires a sociological background." Lindahl reacted to Perron's letter by saying, "It's incredible." Perron explained his request for the ordinance by saying, "When a no vote is in the minority, I guess I'm just curious why." Republicans control the council by a 5-4 vote.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Shine points out 'FOEs'; Owen seeks $100 cap in campaign financing

EVANSVILLE - Two county chairmen - one Democrat, one Republican; one fading away, the other ready for another term - talked about campaigns and money last week.

Both Vanderburgh County Democratic Chairman Mark Owen and Allen County Republican Chairman Steven Shine think one thing: the current system stinks.

Owen will not seek re-election after six years at the helm. In an interview with the *Evansville Courier's* Alan Julian, the Democrat bitterly expressed concern for where the system is headed. "I think everybody is getting sick of the nasty commercials," Owen said. "How can our children be taught to respect their government leaders when all they hear about them is bad things?

"It's also made it very difficult to recruit good candidates," Owen said.

He likened modern candidates to "independent contractors" as opposed to the citizen candidate when he first got involved in the '60s who saw party organizations and grassroot organizing as what Julian calls "the most important ingredients for winning local elections."

"Regular donors would rather give money directly to the candidates," Owen said. "They want the candidate to know where the money came from so that, at some point in the future, they have access."

Negative ads will continue until the public demands a change. "There's nothing worse than to turn on your TV and see an ad that's bad and it's about you," Owen told the *Courier*.

His solution? "This whole system has to change," Owen said. "The best thing you could do is put $100 restrictions on all donations, period. That's it."

Shine may have blasted the opening salvo in the 1998 Senate race, castigating former Gov. Evan Bayh for eschewing campaign finance reform for his own advantage.

"You've probably heard the term 'FOB' - standing for a 'Friend Of Bill,'" Shine said in his Fort Wayne *Journal Gazette* op-ed piece. "But you might not have heard of this one: 'FOE' which will stand for 'Friend Of Evan.'

"Who might these FOEs be?" Shine rhetorically asked. "Why, they are friends of the governor who have made millions off of riverboat casinos. Or those involved in the potentially illegal dealings involving campaign contributing vendors and the Indiana Toll Road. And count in John Huang, the mysterious Democratic fundraiser now tied to the latest scandal in the Clinton administration.

"All of these FOEs have something in common," Shine wrote. "They have been involved in Evan Bayh's campaign financing. One of Evan Bayh's legacies after eight years of power will likely be campaign finance reform. And this comes in spite of him, more than any willingness on his part to fix the most conspicuous, odious part of democracy here in Indiana."

If that is just the opening round aimed at Bayh in the 1998 Senate race, then Owen has much to fear about the negative tenor that nationally-watched campaign will have.

Shine parts with Owen on solutions. He favors "more timely disclosure" of campaign contributions, noting that the last campaign finance reporting period comes several weeks before election day, allowing "questionable" donations to pour into some campaigns.

Shine advocates "stiffer penalties" for campaigns who file reports late, inaccurately or in an incomplete state.

The Allen County chairman also wants campaign finance reports to document "any contributor or vendor who does business with state government. This will allow voters to see more vividly (the) connections between those who do business with the state and those who try to influence the system by making campaign donations."

That's the word from the party chairmen. The ball is now in the legislature.