THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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O'Bannon's in for a real honeymoon

State of the State address a hit at Statehouse

INDIANAPOLIS - Yes, there was a prop.

That was a pressing question in the press corps prior to Gov. Frank O'Bannon's first speech: would there be a prop, always a favorite tactic of Gov. Evan Bayh and Presidents Bush and Reagan, who used guns, bags of crack cocaine and pictures of family and crime victims to get their policy points across.

O'Bannon used a book, but not just any book as he spoke to a statewide audience Tuesday night for the second time this month. Holding aloft a blue book, O'Bannon intoned, "This book contains the regulations the state imposes on every Indiana public school. It's a wonder students ever learn anything when regulations bog schools down in bureaucracy."

"For example," O'Bannon explained, "did you know that our state regulations require that a minimum of two percent of a school building be set aside for general storage - including 'shelving, racks, bins and other devices?' It's time to end this absurd micromanagement and focus on what really matters: improving student achievement."

In touting his 21st Century School Improvement Plan, O'Bannon said, "This new approach to state education will require that the Department of Education take on a new mission: rather than monitoring schools for regulatory compliance, it will mentor them to meet higher standards. I am looking forward to working with Superintendent Reed as we transform her department into a corps of master teachers committed to change, local decision-making and excellence."

With that, O'Bannon glanced upward to Supt. of Public Instruction Suellen Reed, seated in the balcony near former Govs. Robert Orr and Bayh. Reed, a Republican, nodded back in apparent approval.

O'Bannon is seeking to become Indiana's "Education

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"Frank O'Bannon is a fine man and he'll make a great governor...."

-State Rep. Dennis Kruse, R-Auburn, who heads up the conservative GOP wing in the House, after Gov. O'Bannon's state of the state address.

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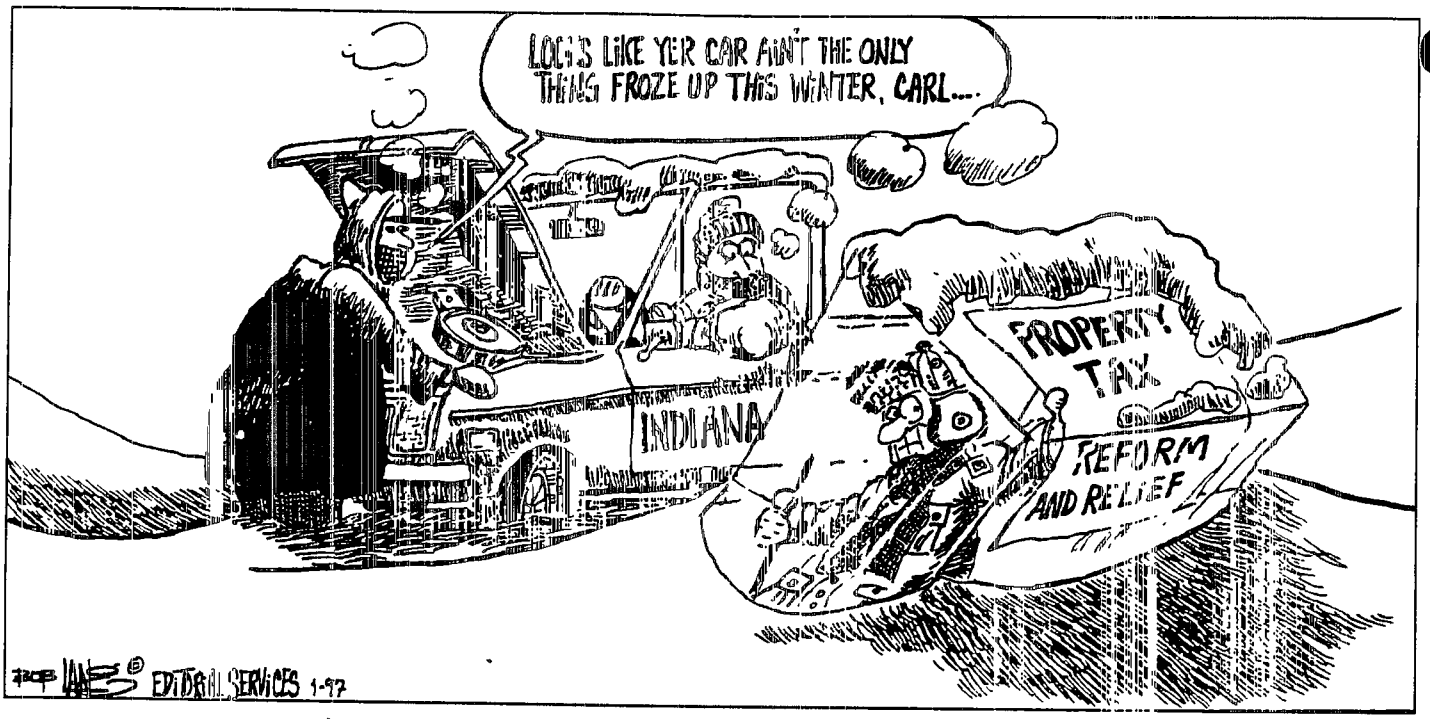

TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: Rex Early, who may have been the first vanquished gubernatorial primary candidate from the opposition party in Hoosier history to be publicly introduced to a joint session of the legislature by a Speaker of the House. This happened Tuesday night just prior to Gov. Frank O'Bannon's State of the State address. Even more shockingly funny was that Speaker Gregg almost forgot to introduce Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton. Of course, you've got to remember that this was a Southern Indiana thing. But what a gas!

■ ■ ■

Give Gov. Frank O'Bannon credit for one of his opening

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O'Bannon, from page 1

Governor" and he attempted to further that notion by asking legislators to "lift the burden of textbook rental costs off the shoulders of public school parents."

Reiterating a campaign theme, O'Bannon called for a plan to forgive college loans to high school students with a B average if they live and work in Indiana for five years after graduating from college.

On taxes, O'Bannon hit another campaign theme: restructuring Indiana's system of taxation. "In the next few weeks, I will appoint a Citizens Commission on Taxes. This group, including Hoosiers from all walks of life and corners of the state, will examine our entire tax structure, top to bottom. Everything is on the table, from our assessment system to eliminating whole categories of taxation.

"Overhauling our tax system cannot be done piecemeal in a politically charged atmosphere. We must have time to look at the issues - the many issues - together."

He added that Hoosier families needed "real tax relief - now." He spoke of another campaign theme, property tax relief via income tax credits for homeowners and renters, a welfare-to-work income tax credit for those making less than $10,000 annually, and a tighter clamp on property taxes.

O'Bannon urged more road construction, telling the legislature he intends to take $54 million in gasoline sales tax revenues and use them strictly for road construction, as opposed to putting it in the general fund. "I have long believed those funds should be seen as a user fee paid by motorists for road maintenance and improvement. It just makes good economic sense," the governor said.

O'Bannon also proposed a $25 court fee that will fund 500 new police officers over the next four years. "Robert Kennedy once said that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on. As governor, I will insist on more police throughout this state."

He called for more prison construction, saying the state needs 1,400 new beds now. "Once someone breaks the bonds that hold us together, he must pay for his act. A violation of anyone's personal security violates us all.

On campaign finance reform, O'Bannon urged action, saying, "The skyrocketing cost of political contests in Indiana is threatening our bond with the people and we must act to restore their confidence. Campaign finance reform must be enacted by this General Assembly."

The governor ended his 25-minute speech by urging volunteerism. "Judy and I, as well as Joe and Maggie Kernan, know community service is a way of life. My administration will lead by both example and by policy, encour-

Handicapping the GOP 1998 Senate derby

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: Mike McDaniel said it wasn't until he was a teenager that he learned that the word "Democrat" didn't have two really bad words preceeding it. My thoughts exactly as I stand here with the blacksmith pounding nails into my new shoes, which is only slightly more hellish than being locked up in a stall for several hours with a bunch of nags. Anyway, the Republican Senatorial derby is coming out of the first straightaway and heading into the first turn, so what better time than to handicap the steeds.

■ ■ ■

■ **David McIntosh:** The front runner, if he gets in. Reasons are his dashing good looks, cool, effervescent wife, cutting edge conservatism and, ah, his ability to raise mega-tons of cash. All indications are that McIntosh is giving this race very strong consideration. Chief of staff Devin Anderson has been back in the state several times to keep his ear to the ground. How serious is McIntosh? So serious that discussions with party leaders even include talk about a potential 2000 gubernatorial run if he doesn't whupBayh. *Nomination odds: Even.*

■ **Sue Anne Gilroy:** She has opened up a campaign office in Indianapolis and a second will open in Fort Wayne soon. But her press release doesn't say what she's running for. All indications are a Senate bid looks virtually certain if McIntosh bugs out. Gilroy is a popular Republican who will be running for the first time without the Lugar Team umbrella that helped her carry almost a million votes in 1994. *Nomination odds: 2 to 1.*

■ **Paul Helmke:** We know Paul Helmke pretty darn good, and he's running. This guy is a walking-talking Hoosier political history whiz who points out that a mayor (Vance Hartke) defeated a sitting governor (Harold Handley) for the last open Senate seat in 1958. And, of course, it was another sitting mayor (Richard Lugar) who defeated Hartke in 1976. So the mayoral ghosts of Stephen Goldsmith circa. 1996 aren't keeping him up nights. Helmke doesn't have the statewide political base like Gilroy, nor does he have the cutting edge conservative credentials like McIntosh, but then again the Man From Muncie wouldn't have them either if he had been mayor of Fort Wayne for 10 years. *Nomination odds: 5 to 1.*

■ **Peter Rusthoven:** A Reaganite darkhorse with White House credentials and backing from the Rex Early wing of the GOP. A lot of bigwig Repubs are pushing Rusthoven to get in and he's ready to jump. He's virtually unknown, but that will change rapidly. *Nomination odds: 10 to 1.*

■ **Pat Kiely:** He's waiting to see what McIntosh does. If the Man From Muncie decides to preserve his lofty Newtoid status, Kiely will likely enter. *Nomination odds: 25 to 1.*

aging Hoosiers to put our values into action helping others."

Of volunteerism, O'Bannon added, "This wonderful Hoosier spirit is our most precious resource. As governor, I will do everything I can to spread it like wildfire."

His speech may have done just that. Nearly a thousand Hoosiers gathered at the Statehouse - in the House Chambers and before a big screen TV in the north atrium - to watch the speech. They formed a huge, winding line stretching from virtually the north doors into the governor's office midway through the south atrium to shake Frank and Judy O'Bannon's hands. Almost all of these citizens left on a cold, cold Hoosier night with the the optimism that seems to pervade all three branches of Indiana government and both political parties.

One of O'Bannon's last quotes - "Family. Faith. Community. Hard work. Opportunity coupled with responsibility. Public service as a public trust. Optimism that any obstacle can be overcome if we tackle it together. Let us never forget that our shared values - and our love of Indiana - unite us as Hoosiers."

TICKER TAPE

lines in the State of the State address. He spoke of LG Joe Kernan and said, "Some of you may know that Joe recently had hip replacement surgery and that new hip was made right here in Indiana. When it comes to job creation, Joe told me he not only talks the talk, he walks the walk."

A guaranteed "argument starter" in the U.S. House, according to Washington political analyst Charles E. Cook, is the 1984 Indiana 8th CD race between Democrat Frank McCloskey and Republican Rick McIntyre. As HPR has done in the past, Cook traces what he calls the "contact sport" aspects of ethical challenges in Congress that he says "have clearly gotten out of hand." Cook writes in Roll Call, "The current trend began in 1984, with the controversy over the seating of McCloskey in Indiana's 8th district after a very close campaign and hotly disputed election outcome. At the very least, Congressional Democrats were heavy-handed in the case, pushing McCloskey into the seat over vehement Republican objections. Even some Democrats involved in the case later privately conceded that McCloskey may not have been the actual winner. Even today, 12 years later, the incident is a guaranteed argument-starter."

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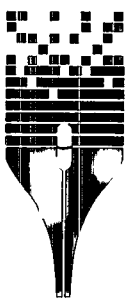
Helmke a likely Senate candidate, talks of Fort Wayne success story

HPR INTERVIEW

"I questi n why we've taken so much m ney from the taxpayers and not giving them something back in return. We're sitting here with a huge surplus and some think it's a great thing, but to me it means it's come out of my pocket. It's just sitting in a bank account in Indianapolis just to make somebody lo k good ...."

- Paul Helmke



INDIANAPOLIS - Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke is a history buff who likes to point out that a former mayor, Vance Hartke, defeated a sitting governor, Harold Handley, the last time there was an open U.S. Senate seat.

Now, Helmke is leaning toward seeking a 1998 Republican nomination to run against former Gov. Evan Bayh.

We sat down with Helmke at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis to size up his prospects.

HPR: Will you run for the Senate?

Helmke: I'm very fascinated by the possibility of running for the Senate. It's the first time there's been an open seat in 40 years. It's something I'm going to look at very carefully. It falls during the right time in election cycles for me. I'll be in my third year of my third term. I know it will be an uphill battle against Evan Bayh, but there's a lot that can happen between now and then. I think I've done a good job as mayor of Fort Wayne. At this stage I'm leaning pretty strongly toward a run.

HPR: What are your thoughts on Republicans coalescing around one candidate?

Helmke: I'm going to make my decision on my own. It sounds great in theory to say, "Let's coalesce around one candidate" and maybe that can happen. Certainly before I make my decision I'll be talking with party leaders as well as the other folks who are looking at it. If I think I've got a good shot at winning the primary and a decent shot at winning in November, just because other candidates are going to put their foot in the race doesn't mean I'm going to back down.

HPR: You have been a lightning rod for criticism in the Republican Party due to your support for the Clinton stimulus and crime bills. Why did you make those decisions back in 1993-94 and will they hurt you in the future?

Helmke: First of all, I consider myself a very strong Republican, coming from a strong Republican family. My grandfather was Allen County chairman and was a candidate for governor at the Republican convention in 1948. My father was a Republican officeholder for 12 years and a candidate for Congress in 1974. I went to the 1964 convention carrying "Fort Wayne for Barry" signs. That's my background. I believe in the Republican philosophy: government has a role to play, but you're skeptical. It doesn't have all the answers and it can't solve everything. After college, I came back and worked on my father's campaign in '74, Dan Quayle's campaign in '76. He offered me the job Dan Coats eventually took. I've been a precinct committeeman for a number of years and still am. When I ran for mayor of Fort Wayne in 1987, I was running against a two-term incumbent (Win Moses) who had last been re-elected with 74 percent of the vote. The first poll in that race, I was behind 2-to-1. Folks didn't think a Republican could win. The reason I won is because I had to reach out. You had to have independents, you had to appeal to minority voters. I did that when I ran and my administration since that time has kept those lines of communications open. That made some Republicans suspicious. "Why didn't you fire all the Democrats?" Well, because that's not good government. I realized I had to work with all parties. I had to do what was best for the city. When President Clinton introduced his first budget package, there were a lot of things that scared me. The one part of the package that might have helped was the stimulus package which I saw as a return to the old Nixon-Ford approach of dealing with cities - the revenue sharing. I strongly supported that and it was defeated. But that's where I believe government works best - returning it to the local level and the stimulus package was part of it.

HPR: Did Rex Early's last letter as state chairman criticizing you for that hurt you?

Helmke: Our state chairman at the time, right after he resigned his chairmanship and was running for governor called me on it. I don't mind criticism. It bothered me that he sent his criticism to all of the media before he sent it to me. It's something I took a hit there and it's something that hurt me with the party since.

HPR: And the crime bill?

Helmke: I thought it was important to the city of Fort Wayne. We were having a serious crime problem. Crack cocaine had entered our community. We hadn't done any drug raids in our community the year before I came into office. I'd taken aggressive steps and that was costing us a lot of money. I felt the federal government could play an appropriate role. Drugs aren't grown in Fort Wayne. Gangs are organized on a national basis and I felt it needed a national response. My stand on the crime bill helped us get $2 million back and hire 30 officers. That's helped us with crime, which has been declining since 1991.

HPR: What are your successes in Fort Wayne?

Helmke: I'm not sure the state realizes the Fort Wayne success story. The latest unemployment figures are 2.8 percent. Downtown renewal is coming along great. Private sector is putting investments in. We've taken one of our own headaches - flooding - and we've put in a downtown park to absorb some of the water. We took a police department that had 300 officers when I started and it's up to 390 officers. At a time when Indianapolis is setting records for homicides, we're cutting our homicides in half the last two years in a row. We implemented an income tax and I've taken some heat for that, but we did it so we could lower property taxes before it became popular with other politicians. When we implemented the income tax, we increased the homestead exemption by 8 percent. There's a lot of good things going on.

HPR: I literally watched Win Moses read the Horse Race a few weeks ago and he nearly swallowed his tongue on your claims to being a low tax mayor. He brought up COIT, CEDIT and the garbage user fees. Is that fair criticism?

Helmke: In 1987 we didn't have an income tax. I thought it was important to diversify our tax base so we could reduce property taxes. Win Moses didn't think we should have an income tax at all. When he was mayor, the property taxes went up significantly. I felt an income tax was more fair. If you lose your job or live on a fixed income, you're not paying. We did put in some user fees. The garbage fee is a user fee. Yes, we've raised revenue, but if you want something, you have to pay for it and you let folks know how you're going to do it. One of the things I did was more of a pay-as-you-go. What we did in the past was backending them into bonds and deferring payment. Voters have returned me to office with higher percentage each time because of that.

HPR: How will you contrast yourself with Evan Bayh?

Helmke: First of all, we have to deal with this issue that taxes haven't gone up. One of the things that people forget is that an income tax automatically takes more from our paycheck each year because our paychecks generally have a cost of living increase. If my entire revenue base in Fort Wayne was the income tax, I wouldn't have had to raise taxes, either. The other thing is with the state budget, I question why we've taken so much money from the taxpayers and not given them something back in return. We're sitting here with a huge surplus and some think that's a great thing, but to me it means it's come out of my pocket and I can't use it for discretionary spending. It's just sitting in a bank account in Indianapolis just to make somebody look good. We don't collect taxes to make nice political ads, we collect taxes to return something to the people. If we've got unfunded pensions, deteroriating streets and roads, if our infrastructure is crumbling, if our education is in bad shape, I wonder if our money has been used wisely.

HPR: Can you beat Bayh?

Helmke: I think he can be beaten. Obviously he's been a successful candidate, he has a high approval rating, has a good family name. Obviously, any Republican who runs against him is going to be an underdog. But a lot can change in a year and a half. Evan Bayh's father looked good at this stage prior to the 1980 Senate race with Dan Quayle.

HPR: Mayors tend to be magnets for political controversy, like your annexation and police force problems. Would you run and stay mayor of Fort Wayne?

Helmke: Mayors have a full time job and we're always dealing with controversies. I really see annexation tying into this so-called devolution revolution Republicans are pushing for. Our police controversies are serious ones dealing with harrassment issues. I'm waiting to see if the police command can turn things around.

TICKER TAPE

Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke met with 1,000 residents at a local church last Saturday to address allegations of racism within the city's police department. Most of those gathered called for the removal of Police Chief Neal Moore. But Helmke told the crowd that while he is not ready to replace Moore, "I've been disappointed in police command for allowing this to happen. We're not going to tolerate our officers stepping byond the law. We're not going to tolerate our officers violating the Constitution. We're not going to tolerate racism" (Richelle Thompson, Journal Gazette).

The Wall Street Journal reports that the 2000 Republican presidential race is already underway with Steve Forbes making dozens of speeches. It notes that former Vice President Dan Quayle is working on his "intellectually lightweight" image by teaching a business course at Arizona's Thunderbird Graduate Business School on public policy and American competitiveness. It quotes Quayle aide Scott Reed as saying, "The goal is to get in the national news every three weeks doing something thoughtful." And who are the GOP hopefuls positioning themselves? Lamar Alexander is working at a local Salvation

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TICKER TAPE

Army center "earning a living in the real world." Jack Kemp plans to raise money for GOP congressional candidates. And Pat Buchanan is writing a book on the history of U.S. trade policy.

Vanderburgh County Commissioner Richard Mourdock says it is time Indiana cities and counties assume authority to limit how much money can be spent on local campaigns (Alan Julian, Evansville Courier). Mourdock noted that Democrats Pat Tuley and former commissioner Rick Borries spent more than $125,000 on their 1996 campaigns. Borries lost to Republican Bettye Lou Jerrel, who spent more than $50,000. "Having just gone through one of those elections and having to try and raise that kind of money, I think it is worthwhile," Tuley said of spending limits. The Evansville City Council passed an ordinance in 1987 limiting spending in mayoral races to $100,000, but it was ruled unconstitutional by the Indiana Attorney General's office because state law supercedes local ordinances.

Meanwhile at the northern tip of the state, South Bend Tribune political writer Jack Colwell wrote that two St. Joseph County Republicans

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Morton Kondracke, *Roll Call* - Using unofficial election results, Mark Gersh, chief election analyst for the liberal National Committee for an Effective Congress, calculates that if only 11,889 voters had cast their ballots for Democrats instead of Republicans in 11 House districts, Democrats now would control the House by one seat. In those districts, Rep. Jon Fox (Pa.) won by just 87 votes; Rep. Linda Smith (Wash.), 887; Rep. John Shimkus (Ill.) 1,238; Rep. Anne Northup (Ky.) 1,299; Rep. Nancy Johnson (Conn.) 1,587; Rep. Jack Metcalf (Wash.) 1,927; Rep. J.D. Hayworth (Ariz.) 2,474; Rep. Phil English (Pa.) 2,871; Rep. Robert Aderhold (Ala.) 3,491; Rep. John Hostettler (Ind.) 3,659; and Rep. Mark Neumann (Wis.) 4,260. That adds up to a total margin of 23,777. Those incumbents, of course, top the Democrats' target list for 1998.

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - L'Affaire Gingrich has caused, understandably, a major outbreak of bruised feelings within the GOP. Some Republicans are angry with their passionate leader for skating so close to the edge of the law that whether his toe crossed the line is barely relevant. Others are disgusted that Mr.- Congress - Must - Abide - By - A - Higher - Standard - Than -The Democrats - Adhered - To - When - They - Were - In - Power pretty much invalidated any Republican claim to moral superiority and, therefore, weakens the GOP's case against President Clinton in moral and legal issues. Some are just plain mad that the Democrats - the party of a president they see as corrupt and far more scandal-plagued than Newt Gingrich - were able to successfully accuse the speaker of breaking House rules.

Georgie Anne Geyer, *Universal Press Syndicate* - When Indiana Sen. Richard Lugar looks at America's diplomatic position around the world these days, he sees dishevelment everywhere. "I was in Russia this fall, on a day that illustrated almost the casualness with which we approach foreign policy," he told me, sitting comfortably in his handsome, ultramodern senatorial office in the Hart building here. China? "Our embassy in Beijing has terrible maintenance problems," he said. "The embassy is old and needs work. There are problems with the phone system. We're fraying at the edges. The Chinese are taking note: they're even pointing these things out to us." Ah, but surely America's position in Japan, the country it literally remade over in our image after World War II, is better? Guess again. "Our last ambassador, Walter Mondale, has been back in Minnesota for some time," said Lugar. "We have no idea who is going to be nominated as the next ambassador, or when." The charming Indiana senator - who is rapidly becoming the sane and sophisticated foreign policy voice in Congress, a kind of friendly Henry Kissinger - has long been politely critical of the Clinton foreign policy as "minimalist." But in this second term he sees an America that is letting its strategic blessings in the world slip out of its careless hands.

Gerald Shields, *Evansville Courier* - For years, Christian-based social services agencies, such as the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities in Evansville, have learned to stretch limited dollars to help the poor. That talent now makes them attractive to Republican congressmen trying to mend the social and political fallout of welfare reform. Sen. Dan Coats joined 11 other Republican colleagues to call for widespread legislation that would allow such agencies to receive federal money. Currently, religious-based service providers are boxed out of federal dollars because of the U.S. Constitution's call for a separation of church and state. But Coats and other mostly Midwestern legislators who call themselves the Renewal Alliance say government should eliminate bureaucracy and improve efficiency by contracting with church groups already meeting the needs of the poor. "We want to promote non-governmental solutions to human problems," Coats said.

Republicans respond to O'Bannon with praise and talk of cooperation

INDIANAPOLIS - "Frank O'Bannon is a fine man and he'll make a great governor," said State Rep. Dennis Kruse, the Auburn Republican who leads the most conservative wing of the party in the legislature.

Rep. Mike Ripley, the freshman Republican from Decatur, added that the only thing that took him "aback" was O'Bannon's reference in his first State of the State address to modifying prevailing wage.

In all, it seemed like a love fest between the new Democratic governor and legislative Republicans. For legislators like Kruse, they were almost giddy at the education initiatives such as charter schools, more local control and accountability.

"It shows he is a product of the legislature," said an almost ecstatic Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton, R-Columbus, of O'Bannon's speech. "The communication and cooperation is as good as I've seen in at the start of a two-year session."

Garton's pleasure was in sharp contrast with his rocky - if not frigid - relationship with Gov. Evan Bayh that took six years before it thawed.

Garton noted on the charter school proposal, "The governor will probably get more support in the House from Republicans than Democrats."

The only issue Garton seemed to veer off the O'Bannon game plan was the governor's reference to modifying the controversial prevailing wage reforms of 1995. "That's the only place the governor contradicted himself. He said he wanted more flexibility, but then he wants to take that away."

Even House Minority Leader Paul Mannweiler appeared to have signed on to the Good Ship Consensus. "He did a nice job delineating the issues," said the Indianapolis Republican, noting that the caucus will likely find common ground on education, welfare reform and crime.

Mannweiler drew the line when it came to property taxes, highway funding and prevailing wage modification. "On property taxes, he nipped around the edges," Mannweiler said. "We hope we end up with a 71 percent cut rather than the governor's 4 percent."

In announcing the GOP's 71 percent property tax cut last week, Mannweiler and the Republicans took a few verbal swipes at the Bayh-O'Bannon record.

It was pointed out to Mannweiler that O'Bannon wanted a Citizens Commission to study the entire Indiana tax structure and that the new governor saw anything less than that as a piecemeal approach. Mannweiler held up a stack of books and said, "These tax studies have already been completed. We think the time to act is now."

Mannweiler said House Republicans will do battle with O'Bannon over roads. "We want new roads," he said. "We want money for maintenance."

UNDER THE DOME

As for prevailing wage, Mannweiler added, "We support taxpayer input and open meetings. We should let that work."

■ **Legislative Notes:** State Rep. Thomas Kromkowski has put his foot down on the "Rex Early Bill" offered by State Reps. Mike Young and Craig Fry to select gubernatorial nominees at convention as opposed to the primaries. Kromkowski told reporters that he didn't expect to "hear" about the bill again this session.

■ O'Bannon's Campaign Finance Reform bill - HB 1844 - places $5,000 caps on PAC and $1,000 individual contributions. It would establish reporting deadlines of July 1, Sept. 1, 14 days prior to the election and 28 days after. The bill, sponsored by Kromkowski, would also require contributors to report whether they do significant business with the government office a candidate is running for and would require all counties to keep campaign finance records on computer.

TICKER TAPE

didn't raise or spend a cent in their 1996 races for treasurer and coroner. Michael T. McClelland was one and he received 45.5 percent of the vote against Democrat Thomas Zakrzewski. Dr. David Bechtold, who moved from the county, lost his race without any expenses but still got 42.8 percent in the coronor's race. The top spender was Democratic Commissioner Beverly Crone, who spent $53,442 and defeated Republican Jackie Walorski by just 599 votes.

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh is warning the White House that subpoenas may be issued if a computerized database isn't released to the subcommittee McIntosh heads (Michael Posner, Reuter). McIntosh wants the database as he is investigating Democratic fundraising connected with President Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign. Said White House deputy press secretary Barry Toiv, "We are continuing to work with Congressman McIntosh's document request. We've already provided him with over 27,000 pages of documents and he already has a copy of the database."

Gov. Frank O'Bannon has made three more appointments to his administration: David J. Allen as special counselor to the governor; Anne E. Becker, reap-

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TICKER TAPE

pointed as Indiana's Utility Consumer Counselor; and Sandra D. Leek, reappointed as executive director of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission.

Gov. O'Bannon traveled with Supt. Suellen Reed to Indianapolis Public School 46 so they could see first hand how one of his proposals - expanded decision-making at the local and district level - is already working. O'Bannon noted that the school is in such an economically distressed area that every student qualifies for free breakfasts and lunches. But, he said, School 46 has developed corporate partnerships and mentoring to the point that a new swimming pool is under construction and its 98 percent attendance rating is the best in IPS.

U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton had this observation about President Clinton's second inaugural address: "I wonder whether the President is overly optimistic in believing that his first term largely settled the debate over the role of government. My sense is that this is the central issue of American politics and it is not going to go away."

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Hoosier congressmen playing key roles in Capitol Hill caucuses

WASHINGTON - Back in the good ol' days, it used to be the "Ev & Charlie Show." That was in the 1950s when Sen. Everett Dirksen of Illinois was Senate Minority Leader and Indiana's Charlie Halleck was House Minority Leader.

And those two gentlemen could put on quite a show as the key members of the loyal opposition in the days Speaker Sam Rayburn and Sen. Lyndon Johnson ran the Congress. Ev and Charlie would conduct their weekly meetings with the press complete with anguished English, a Hoosier drawl and Lincolnesque wisdom, be it from Peoria or Renssalaer.

Things are vastly different today, of course. While there are no Hoosier Members of Congress who have reached the leadership stature of Dirksen and Halleck, a number of Indiana congressmen are playing influential roles in the various factions of a polarized Congress.

Here is a sampling:

■ **The Conservative Action Team or CATs**: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton is the guiding light of this group that, as *Roll Call* notes, "has seen a surge in its ranks and clout as it starts the 105th Congress." It is a successor to the Republican Study Group and it probably insured Burton's ascension as chairman of the House Government Oversight Committee. The word was that Speaker Gingrich viewed Burton as a potential loose cannon, particularly on a committee that would be key in investigating a slew of White House scandals and ethic lapses. But the CATs would have been screeching and clawing had Gingrich snubbed Burton. It numbers 70 members, up from 50 last year. As Roll Call notes, the CATs "bemoaned" the fact that they had no representation at Gingrich's weekly leadership sessions. "But in this Congress, the group not only has a seat at that table, it will also send an emissary to meetings of the moderate Tuesday Lunch Bunch." Adding to its Hoosier flavor is U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, who will act as the CATs liaison to the historic sophomore class. The CATs motto is "Right Equals Might."

■ **Renewal Alliance**: Sen. Dan Coats and Rep. David McIntosh are key members of this bicameral group that seeks to add a "compassionate" face to conservative Republicanism. Other key members include Sen. Spence Abraham of Michigan and Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma. Its motto is "Culture Can Cure" and its focus is to study the ills of society. Another member, Sen. John Ashcroft, sums up the mission by saying, "It's not enough for the Republican Party to say the government should stop doing what it does poorly. It's got to find ways to let culture do what it does well." The legislative cornerstone for this newest Capitol Hill coalition is Coats' Project for American Renewal.

■ **New Democrat Coalition:** U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer is taking House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt's mantra to heart: "We're all new Democrats now." Roemer and other moderate Democrats hope to pick up where former Rep. David McCurdy's Mainstream Forum - an offshoot of the Democratic Leadership Council - left off. It is also a counterweight to the Blue Dog Democrats, conservatives from mostly Southern districts that tend to vote Republican. Roemer told Roll Call, "We're not here to try and condemn or compete with the Blue Dogs." It will have about 25 to 35 members and could possibly position itself as what *Roll Call* describes as a "powerful voice for compromise." The group will meet at the White House in February to determine a modus operandi. U.S. Rep. Calvin Dooley said the group will be a "strong advocate" of policies President Clinton espoused on the 1996 campaign trail. It will advocate issues such as a balanced budget, welfare reform and education.