THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"Here's a quarter. Go call him. Tell him to come on down here, and he can look at any documents he wants to...." **- White House press secretary Mike McCurry as he flipped a coin to reporters asking why Rep. Dan Burton was accusing the administration of "stonewalling" n subpoenaed documents.**

Tentacles of scandal invading Indiana

Corruption could taint 1998 races on all levels

INDIANAPOLIS - A culture of scandal is enveloping the Indiana Statehouse, its tentacles reaching out for legislators, lobbyists, the Democratic Party, and state office holders. The shadows of scandal have the potential to drastically change the political landscape in the 1998 elections on the U.S. Senate, legislative and Statehouse races.

The indictment of former Republican Ways and Means Chairman Sam Turpin on bribery and campaign finance charges could be only the tip of the iceberg. Others include:

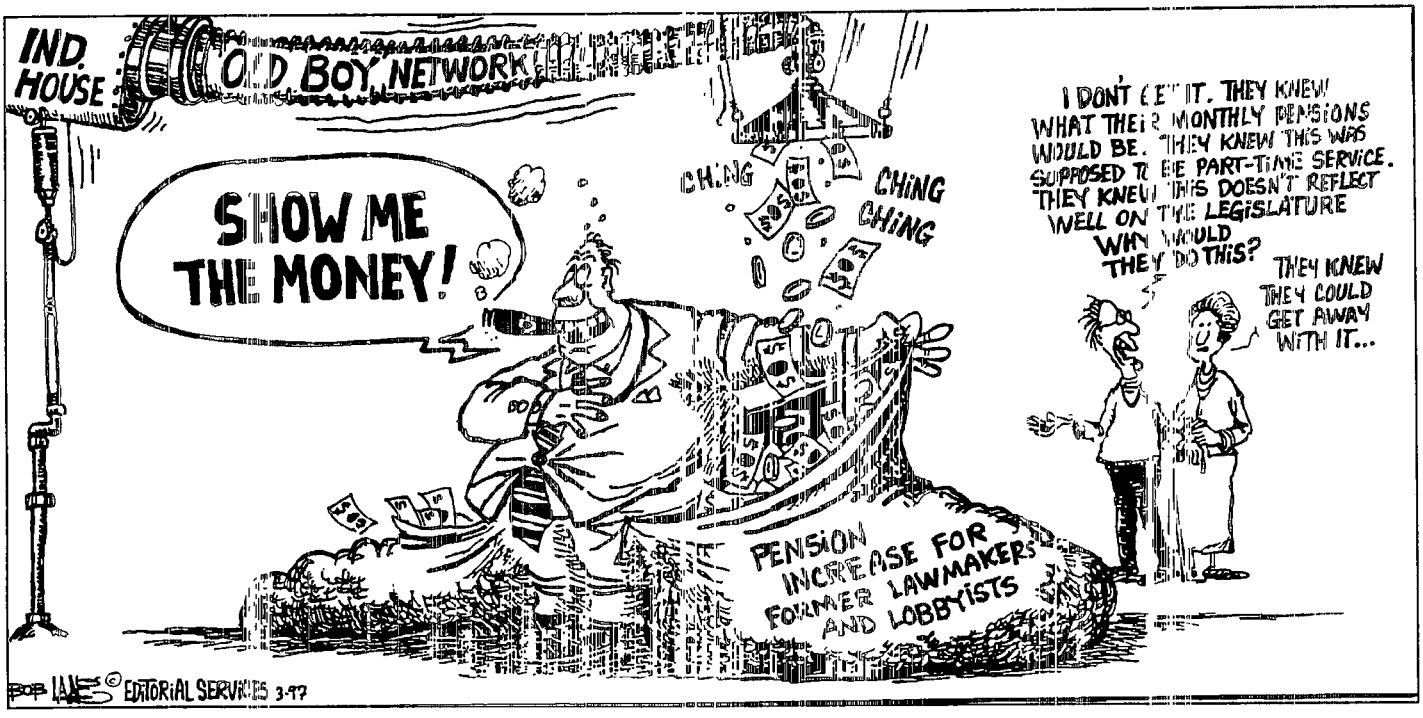
■ **The Indiana Toll Road scandal.** This has barely been on the radar screen with the Indianapolis-based media, but it could have a huge political impact if it snares former Indiana Democratic vice chair Sally Battin Kirkpatrick. Last week, Joseph F. Agostino was sentenced to four months in prison for offering a $4,000 bribe to a toll road manager. As the *South Bend Tribune* reported about the sentencing last week, "Agostino's indictment is part of an ongoing investigation of Toll Road activities that has been underway about 18 months. This focus of the probe appears to be fuel pricing, business contracts and possible political contributions by vendors."

At Agostino's sentencing, U.S. District Judge Allen Sharp raised eyebrows when he said, "There may be a prosecutorial wish list here for a mini-Watergate. But with this case and this defendant, I've yet to be convinced there is a mini-Watergate" (Marti Goodlad Heline, *South Bend Tribune*). Sharp's comments brought this response from U.S. District Attorney Donald Schmid, who said, "It is difficult to understand why the judge made the comments in yesterday's hearings about the ongoing investigation that he did. He simply is not aware of the extent or any details of the investigation. The full scope of the federal investigation into (the Toll Road) was not revealed in Agostino's case and has not been publicly revealed."

continued on page 2

INSIDE FEATURES

■ **Play of the Week: Scott Newman** page 2
■ **Horse Race: One more Senate look** page 3
■ **Reaction and fallout to legislative impasse** pages 4-5
■ **Columnists: Kitchell, Howey, Lanosga,** page 6
■ **Perhaps We Wander: Scott King revisted** page 7



TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: Marion County Prosecutor Scott Newman, for indicting former State Rep. Sam Turpin, ACE exuctives James Wurster and Willis Conner, and Kenneth Cragen of the Indiana Motor Truck Association on bribery and illegal campaign finance charges. It ends months of speculation. But consider it the first shoe to drop. Keep an eye on the Indiana Toll Road scandal and former Democratic vice chair Sally Battin Kirkpatrick.

■ ■ ■

Former Gov. Evan Bayh told 4th CD Democrats in Fort Wayne last Friday that he hasn't made a decision about running for the U.S. Senate in 1998 (Richelle Thompson, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "My

Continued on page 3

Scandal, from page 1

That could be bad political news for former Gov. Evan Bayh's hopes to ascend to the U.S. Senate in 1998. While there are no allegations against Bayh, Kirkpatrick was his key fund-raiser until the investigation encompassed her in 1996. She quickly resigned. It conjures images of a 1950s highway scandal that permanently crippled then-Gov. George N. Craig, who ironically has a Toll Road fuel plaza named in his honor. An elevation in the Toll Road scandal could pose Bayh with his first ethical test.

■ **Auditor Morris Wooden.** The allegations of ethical lapses in Wooden's office are beginning to wear thin on a number of high-ranking Indiana Republicans who are hinting they wish the former Madison mayor would forego a second term. Wooden's chief of staff Robby Hensler is under an Indiana State Police investigation for allegations ranging from sexual harrassment to bookkeeping irregularities. Hensler faces a June 17 Indiana State Ethics Commission hearing. Wooden has also given numerous bonuses to employees, several under investigation at the time. On April 22, Wooden released a statement saying he would no longer give bonuses. Five days later, Wooden announced he has "appointed a legal counsel from his office to perform an immediate independent investigation concerning allegations against a member of his staff."

The auditor named Doris Anne Fechtman as his special counselor. In one of her first actions, Fechtman suggested that Hensler should be removed from his position and "be reassigned to other duties."

While Wooden himself is not under investigation, the numerous allegations on several different topics promise to be a political millstone, particularly with the extremely politically incorrect sexual harassment allegations. Indiana Democrats are already promising a female opponent if Wooden survives the ticket, which is increasingly improbable. Names like State Sen. Vi Simpson and 1994 state Senate candidate Jesica Webb have surfaced.

■ **The legislature.** That Prosecutor Scott Newman chose last Monday, as the legislature was winding down, to announce his political corruption charges against Turpin and three others may have been unintentional, but it underscores the utter impotence of the Indiana General Assembly to police itself or correct the laws that allow a culture of cronyism to persist. Turpin would have been censured by the House along with State Rep. Charlie Brown had he not resigned. The House Ethics Committee "action" appears to be a joke considering Newman's comments that a "key legislator had been bought."

Continued on page 8

Time to get the winter dung out of the stalls

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: HPR Publisher Brian Howey got to clean out real horse stalls near the old Fort Benjamin Harrison last weekend. With pitchfork in hand, the publisher sifted through the sawdust for the round, little horse droppings that he flung into a nearby wheelbarrow and it prompted him to pause, briefly ponder a new career trajectory (since relegated to the dust-bin of history) and figure that it's high time to do a little stall cleaning on Page 3.

■ ■ ■

■ **1998 U.S. SENATE:** Just as Indianapolis sportscasters stood by their story that Larry Brown would leave the helm of the Indiana Pacers, Horse Race still believes that Peter Rusthoven will be the only Republican in the Senate race against Evan Bayh. Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy spent a recent weekend in Montgomery County hunting for morels, a sure sign that she was doing some deep pondering. Horse Race thinks that Gilroy will be a shoo-in for re-election as secretary of state. She will then have the pickings of three offices: mayor of Indianapolis if Stephen Goldsmith doesn't run for re-election in 1999, governor in 2000 or a future Senate bid (however, we expect Dick Lugar to seek a fifth term in 2000). We haven't heard from Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, and sources he's spoken with claim he's undaunted about being pushed from the '98 Senate race before he decides it. Our guess is that reality will set in when it comes time to raise money, just like it did for Bob Garton and his gubernatorial fantasy in 1996.

■ **2000 GOVERNOR:** U.S. Rep. David McIntosh has formed a state PAC. The stated reason is that he believes it is essential for Republicans to retake control of the Indiana House in 1998 and there were a number of competitive legislative races within the 2nd CD. But McIntosh is extremely concerned over the Indiana Republican Party's ideological drift and we expect him to play a more conspicuous role stateside in the coming months. The key question to consider when gauging Papa McIntosh's intentions go like this: How badly does he really want to be President of the United States of America? If the answer is "real bad," then the notion of him returning to his small state, running for governor, winning and serving two terms is probably a better path to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. than serving in the upper eschelon of Congress. McIntosh's stock is so high that should he head in that direction, he would be the immediate front-runner, which is something that the familiar cast (i.e. Helmke and Gilroy) might want to factor into their future plans. As for State Sen. Luke Kenley, our advice for 2000, particularly after the performance of Senate Republicans these past four months is, why waste your time?

■ **OTHER STUFF:** Hoosiers can probably kiss off the notion of the NCAA locating its headquarters in Indianapolis, thanks to the budget impasse. We keep hearing that Kansas City looks better and better to the ball bureaucrats. The future of the Indiana Pacers is hanging in the balance of the collective wisdom of the Indiana General Assembly. Don't be surprised if the Simons play their Nashville card sometime between now and June 2. Another troubling sports notion is the constant niggling and fighting between the late-Bob Irsay's widow and his son, Jim, the current owner of the Indianapolis Colts. Don't be surprised if they become the "Los Angeles Colts" within the next two years, particularly since they don't sell out games here and the Golden Staters will have millions to throw at an NFL franchise. Now, if that really happens, we won't volunteer to clean that big domed stall downtown.

TICKER TAPE

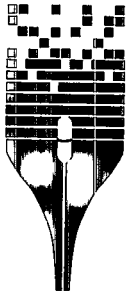
top priority is being a good father," said Bayh. "They're very young. They are at that precious age where who they are and what they are is being molded. I don't want to miss all that. Our kids are only going to grow up once, and I want to make sure I can be both a candidate for office and a good father before I make a decision." Bayh said a decision could be announced in June. He talked of his efforts at welfare reform. "We did it without creating orphanages for kids the way Newt Gingrich has suggested in Washington, D.C., or kicking people out on the streets who legitimately need a helping hand," Bayh told 350 Democrats. "We did it by creating opportunity for those who need it and personal responsibility for those who want that helping hand."

Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith has asked, and will likely receive, a tax increase from the City-County Council. The Goldsmith package would increase hotel-motel, auto rental and admissions taxes. The money would be used for a $40 million expansion of the Indiana Convention Center, as well as a remodeling of the RCA Dome that could keep the Colts in town. Goldsmith, who accused Gov. Frank O'Bannon of never meeting a tax he didn't hike in the 1996 campaign, told the Indianapolis

continued on page 5

Budget impasse has telltale signs for the 1998 and 2000 elections

" It is easy to see Republicans gearing up for 2000 by pointing to the 1997 budget and a sabotaged tax reform effort in 1999, paving the way for an ideologically pure candidate - lik McIntosh - to lead the GOP to their promised land...."



INDIANAPOLIS - As Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan crisscrossed Indiana expressing their "anger" over a ditched budget agreement and yet another special session, House Majority Leader Paul Mannweiler sat with colleagues in the Statehouse basement, getting grilled by the press.

"This is a David versus Goliath," Mannweiler complained. "I didn't have two airplanes to fly all over the state."

But the press corps was not about to be placated. Why, reporters wanted to know, did legislators have only 20 minutes to read the 194-page budget bill? And how could such a situation be avoided?

Could there be a rule change that would demand a 48-hour advance on future budget bills? "Possibly," Mannweiler answered.

State Rep. Jeff Espich had a better idea. "Elect a Republican majority."

When the Indianapolis TV stations signed off their late newscasts Tuesday night, all were reporting a budget deal was nearly sealed.

But House Republicans astounded most observers by deciding to take a stand against what they said was a half billion dollars of unnecessary spending. "If we're being charged with holding out for taxpayers, we're guilty as charged," Mannweiler said.

"None of this has to do with ego," added State Rep. Brian Bosma. "It has to deal with an 18 percent increase in state expenditures."

House Speaker John Gregg retorted on an interview with WIBC-AM Wednesday morning that Republicans weren't holding out for taxpayers, but "holding them up."

Meanwhile, Gov. O'Bannon was doing his best to express uncharacteristic anger. "I'm very disappointed and angry," he said in Evansville. "I think the House Republicans really owe the people of Indiana an apology" (Alan Julian, Evansville Courier).

Earlier, with East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick by his side at Gary, O'Bannon took note of the looming June 30 deadline for a budget to be produced. "My message to the leadership is let me know when you've worked something out," he said in Gary (Joe Carroll, *Munster Times*).

House Republicans unite

The most surprising aspect of the budget deadlock Tuesday night was that the Republican caucus held together its 50 members. Most had expected at least one of Reps. Dan Stephan, Vaneta Becker or Jerry Bales to bolt from the caucus and ensure passage of a $17.5 billion budget under the backdrop of a nearly $2 billion surplus.

Democrats might have gotten one Republican to peel off except for the convergence of two factors. The first was the lack of time legislators had to read the budget, which has been universally described as full of pork. Many feared that when the fine print was later revealed, a plethora of "the other white meat" would prove embarrassing.

Secondly, House Republicans were openly irritated by Senate Republicans, House Democrats and the governor. They felt left out of the deal. So while the soulless Senate GOP signed off on the budget deal, Mannweiler, Bosma and Espich rebelled against the Garton, Borst, Mills coterie and thumbed their noses at the process.

It was as if the House GOP suddenly remembered Republican Chairman Al Hubbard's stroll to the Senate in 1993, where he taught the upper chamber religion on no new taxes and lowered spending.

Thus, the political maneuver was manifest. It would be the House Republicans, who have the most on the line for the 1998 elections, who would honor the GOP ideology and hold the line on spending.

It did not go unnoticed.

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, who has been increasingly concerned about state Republicans' lack of ideological purity on taxes and spending, wrote Mannweiler a letter on April 30. "It doesn't take political courage to raise taxes or

advance gimmicky temporary tax relief. Political courage is earned by staring down the locomotive and simply saying, 'No,'" McIntosh wrote. "The courage of the caucus is inspiring to me and a reminder to Hoosiers throughout the state that the House Republican Caucus stands side-by-side with working families."

McIntosh's letter, in addition to his forming of the Freedom and Family Political Action Committee, is a clear signal that the Muncie Republican is giving serious thought to a challenge to Gov. O'Bannon in 2000.

That's in contrast to the stale Senate, where some Republican leaders had urged the only announced 2000 candidate, Sen. Luke Kenley, to stand up and voice his concerns about spending.

Kenley, however, was missing in action.

Editorials are scattershot

Meanwhile, there was the expected white- hot heat emanating from the press, with more to be expected this coming weekend. But the criticism was scattershot across the entire spectrum.

The liberal *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* editorialized, "Indiana House Democrats outfoxed themselves this week when they tried to pass a budget without securing support from any Republican House members. This is no endorsement of the GOP budget goals, but the Democrats should have brought the Republicans to the table before the very last minutes Tuesday night. It's bad enough that House Democrats and the Senate negotiators didn't agree on a budget until the final hours. It is sloppy lawmaking, but nothing new, to ask legislators to vote on a budget they haven't read."

The *Gary Post-Tribune* explained it this way on its Thursday editorial pages: "This special session could have been avoided. The General Assembly convened in January amid the backslapping and sweet talk in both chambers. Had that been sincere, the budget would have been wrapped up a long time ago. As it is, the budget is the only thing the legislature must accomplish and it failed. Blame for the impasse is easy to assess. House Republicans bear the most because of their 11th hour abstinence. But their Democratic colleagues must share some if they did not adequately involve the GOP in the budget process. O'Bannon, too, must share some, for he was touted as a conciliator among competing legislative forces."

And the *Marion Chronicle-Tribune* came out against the high spending. "The money should not be spent. The extra money does not belong to the governor or to the General Assembly. It belongs to us, the taxpayers. This is a windfall for the whole state and not for some legislators' pet projects or for special interests. The budget should be passed as it was originally formulated, and the extra money should be put in the state's Rainy Day Fund or used to pay off some of the state's debt to pension funds."

The political flotsam

The political fallout from this is hard to gauge. In the past 10 years, the mere fact that there have been four special sessions has not proven to be a campaign liability during the following election cycle. While this may come as news to many legislators, most Hoosiers don't pay much attention to what they do. They do tend to get irritated when they don't wind their business up.

The impasse does underscore some already established trends. The Senate GOP leadership is calcified, fossilized and maintains no ideology. But Borst, Mills and Garton are immune to the wrath of voters because of the districts they draw for themselves.

The House Republicans will get some high marks within GOP circles for sticking to the party dogma. But that could hurt in several competitive districts, particularly in the Terre Haute area.

It may be Gov. O'Bannon who comes out of the process with the most damage. He appeared too passive early on. When it became "his time" to work his conciliatory powers, it didn't work. The most searing image was that of an openly irritated Espich Wednesday afternoon. He is on the governor's Citizens Commission on Taxes, which will report its findings on the late, late date of December 1998. It is easy to see Republicans gearing up for 2000 by pointing to the 1997 budget and a sabotaged tax reform effort in 1999, paving the way for an ideologically pure candidate - like McIntosh - to lead the GOP to their promised land.

TICKER TAPE

Star/News, "I'm comfortable with it because it produces positive growth, new jobs, Downtown vitality without any tax increases on my residents."

American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole told an audience at the University of Notre Dame last weekend that "I don't plan to run for office" (Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune). Dole has been frequently mentioned as both a presidential and vice presidential potential candidate in 2000. Dole spent her 46-minute speech wading into the audience and striking themes she and husband, Bob, did in the 1996 campaign. "In seeking to make America better, we've neglected what made her good." She also took a shot at the National Education Association, saying it resisted change, in particular school choice.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan were the targets of barbs at the 48th annual South Bend Press Club Hoaxes. "One of Joe's jobs as lieutenant governor is head of agriculture in Indiana. We know that he would be good at this because Joe spreads a lot of fertilizer up here," said roastmaster Pat Catanzarite, adding that he and the governor "are so old he was a waiter

continued on page 6

TICKER TAPE

and I was a busboy at the Last Supper."

The Valparaiso City Council approved a resolution that sets community standards about obscene material. At a forum at Valparaiso University several days before the vote, Councilman Jon Costas said, "There still seems to be a lot of confusion about what the intention of this resolution is, as evidenced by some of the comments I've heard tonight." A second councilman, Jim Ellsworth, watched from the gallery to gauge community opinion and found the forum more emotional than academic. "I think what we need is more academic reason on this issue than gut reaction right now. Even though it's been explained, I don't know that everyone still knows exactly what this resolution is we're voting on Monday." (Philip Potempa, Munster Times)

U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer has filed his annual bill against funding for the U.S. space station. "It is bad science, bad fiscal policy," said Roemer. "If Congress decides to continue this folly, let us at least have accountability - and the only way to do that is to get the Russians out of the space station. The way let's at least do it here in America, where the jobs are."

continued on page 7

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Brian Howey, *HPR* - This is an open column addressed to several freshman legislators in the Indiana General Assembly. People like Democraic Reps. Dave Crooks, John Frenz, Tiny Adams and Bob Kuzman. And Republicans like Mike Ripley, Matt Whetstone and Jerry Torr. This was the elected Class of '96 - each individually talented and savvy in politics, business and life. They all appear to be bright centrists who have the ability to listen to ideas without preoccupation as to which side of the aisle it comes from. My advice to these young legislators is to look around you today at the corruption, sophomoric gimmicks, and utter incompetence perpetrated by your older peers - the current leaders of the Indiana General Assembly. Utterly missing is that one, articulate voice of logic and reason that in Congress and in some of the best parliamentary systems in the world would become known as the "conscience" of the body. The easy thing for you to do would be to blame it on the other party and slip into the same old rut that has claimed countless other young legislators who were sent to Indianapolis to do a good job, and then simply fell into the silly lockstep of their caucus. Perhaps one of you will develop a conscience that will cause your weaker colleagues to sit up and take notice over the banal and predictable rhetoric that guides the clueless.

Gerry Lanosga, *Indianapolis News* - So much lunacy, so little time. My favorite moment in last week's proceedings was when an 11th-hour snag threatened to substantially weaken the proposal known as Emily's bill. Prompted by an accident at Old Indiana Family Fun-Water Park that left 4-year-old Emily Hunt paralyzed last year, the bill would require amusement parks to carry increased insurance policies. A House and Senate conference committee had tentatively agreed on a version that calls for $1 million worth of insurance per accident. But late Thursday, the Senate backed out after members meeting in caucuses decided $500,000 was enough. Why the change, when most amusement parks apparently already carry million dollar policies? Well, as Noblesville Republican Luke Kenley put it, "The feeling was that it's easier to go up later than come down." Forceful reasoning like that, friends, must be why the Senate is known as the upper house.

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - It has been 15 years since an Indiana state lawmaker has faced the kind of scrutiny and charges that former House Ways and Means Chairman Sam Turpin now finds himself confronted with - bribery, perjury and filing a fraudulent campaign report. To bankers and economists, the money supply means one thing. To politicians, it can unfortunately mean another. In this case, it appears it may have. If the Turpin case has done anything, it has reinforced the notion that the theme for government in 1997 is "Show me the money."

Tim Goeglein, *Wall Street Journal* - Christian Churches have just marked the end of Lent, a season of penitence but also of renewal and reawakening. Likewise, it seems to be the Lenten season of American culture. While no one has to look very hard to see the darkness, there also exist beacons that, in T.S. Eliot's words, are working to "redeem the time." One example can be found in Fort Wayne, Ind., a city of 175,000. It still is a happy town, by and large, but some of its older neighborhoods have experienced problems of all urban centers. Drugs, gangs and sporadic shootings have come to a once-quiet neighborhood, Weisser Park, on the city's south side. Everything seems to have changed about Weisser Park, except for a 113-year-old church school that has managed to stand as a sentinel against the prevailing cultural forces. Zion Lutheran Academy, a school serving students kindergarten through eighth grade without a penny of government money, is an island of calm. It's a far cry from the litany of failure so common in inner-city public schools. But it's precisely the school's religious basis that is the source of its strength.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Mayor King working to get Gary 'out of the darkness'

GARY - While all eyes seem centered on the three-ring circus we call the Indiana General Assembly, perhaps the gutsiest and most important battle being waged by an Indiana politician is taking place in Gary, the Steel City, or, as Mayor Scott King loathes, "Murder Capital USA."

King has been conducting a vigorous campaign to turn the fortunes of Gary around, both inside his city and in neighboring communities. Part of it was in response to an eruption of gang warfare in the city's west side Brunswick section.

As King related to an audience in nearby Portage, "On the Wednesday before Easter, the two gangs in those areas really erupted. The next morning I was speaking at Ivanhoe Elementary. The experience of sitting there with 35 10- and 11-year-old children asking me what I can do to stop the shooting at night, well, it got me" (Sally Vornhagen, *Portage Times*).

King responded by leading a tour through the area with his city department heads, including Police Chief John Roby and U.S. Attorney Jon DeGuilio. When the group found a huge pile of garbage overflowing, King turned to General Services Director Steve McMath and ordered him to get a crew out immediately to clean the mess up. "You guys have got to take care of areas like this," King told McMath (Lori Caldwell, *Gary Post-Tribune*).

King asked the police what they needed. "They said, 'We need lights replaced that have been shot out. I turned to the head of the street department and said, 'Replace them today.' Then the police said, 'We need those woods chopped down.' Again, I said to do it. I don't care if the environmentalists get upset or if some blue butterfly lives there. Take 'em down.'"

King added, "The gangs were so infuriated that they decided to shoot some rounds at us. But they don't know me. That just made me get things done quicker. And it was exciting to see what it did to the neighbors. The neighbors, the homeowners, coming out of their homes, cleaning up their yards. Banding together. Coming out of the darkness."

Shortly after King became the first white mayor of Gary since 1967, the Democrat told HPR that one of his key missions is to get his own population to believe in themselves, get city services restored, and change the Steel City's embattled image. He worked diligently on all three fronts last week.

He told a Portage Chamber of Commerce luncheon crowd of 100 people that "Gary is the city that defines the region" - that Gary and the Lake and Porter county areas are inextricably tied together and have an opportunity "to succeed wonderfully or fail miserably ... together."

"Gary remains the economic engine for this part of the state," King continued. "It's time for us to sit down and examine what we have in common, not what our differences are. This is a wonderful city that wants to work with the Portages, the Valparaisos, the Crown Points." King asked his neighbors not to "tar the 120,000 people because of the actions of 200 idiots. It is the 200 people causing havoc for the vast majority ot good and decent people. Don't allow a handful of sociopaths to define the people of the city of Gary."

Prior to King's neighborhood action walk and his pleas for respect in Portage, the mayor spent time straightening out what he calls the "horrendous mess of financial records." He is steering casino revenue into infrastructure. He has identified a downtown city block on Broadway that can be reconstructed to begin a revitalization there. When *Munster Times* columnist Phil Wieland made fun of Gary restaurants, King took him on a tour of the city's best eateries.

King is getting brash and blunt. "Gary is making a comeback," he said.

TICKER TAPE

Republican U.S. Senate candidate Peter Rusthoven was traveling to the Marshall County Lincoln Day dinner near Plymouth when the car he was driving was rear-ended at the U.S. 31 and S.R. 18 intersection. Rusthoven's driver looked into his rear view mirror and saw that the other vehicle wasn't going to stop, so he began moving, and thus avoided what could have been a severe accident.

Speaking at the Porter County Lincoln Day dinner, Rusthoven gave what the Munster Times called a "spirited speech" in which he called for the elimination of the estate tax, returning more power to the states from the federal government, and balancing the budget.

First Lady Hillary Clinton spoke at the University of Louisville last week and declared the United States isn't ready for a female president. She said American women and minorities face burdens not found in Great Britain or Israel, where parliamentary elections elevated female heads of state. "Here in the United States, everybody starts from scratch every presidential election," Mrs. Clinton said. "Women who run for office really have to work hard to overcome certain presumptions about them, and they have to answer lots of questions about

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

their clothes and their hair." She added, "I see it as an evolving process. I think it's likely to happen sometime in the next 20 years."

Senate Republican Majority Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi voted to fight for $903 million needed to extend I-69 from Indianapolis to Evansville and on to Laredo, Tex. Lott noted that President Clinton did not include I-69 money in his budget. "That's unacceptable," Lott said. "I will do what I can to obtain funding in the 105th Congress" (Gerard Shields, Evansville Courier).

Scandal, from page 2

Turpin's legal problems will give ample fodder to legislative challengers seeking office in 1998. While that might not change the dynamic too drastically considering what we know now, there is significant speculation that Turpin may not be the only legislator to face indictment. There are also a few other big name lobbyists who are under investigation. Significant widening of the probe and indictments - particularly if they settle on the Republican Party - could drastically alter the balance of political advantage.

The President and First Lady. There is brooding speculation that a determination will soon be made on legal actions against the Clintons by Whitewater Special Counsel Kenneth Starr. In addition, Senate and House committees, including one headed by U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, will begin grabbing headlines in the next several months. Burton himself is under a Washington grand jury investigation and there has been a weekly parade of stories suggesting ethical lapses by him.

The significance of potential Clintonian scandals is that it could set the "national dynamic" in 1998 that would tend to favor Republicans. Multiple legislative indictments and Wooden's unwillingness to leave the ticket could mitigate the Grand Old Party's presumed advantage in that scenario.

The cross-smearing of both parties nationally has the potential of creating an unintended national anti-incumbency backlash by a cynical voting public.

What could be facing Hoosier voters in 1998 is an almost unprecedented myriad of corruption allegations ranging from the White House to the Statehouse. How Indiana voters would react to such widespread failure of what has been called "the smell test" is anyone's guess.

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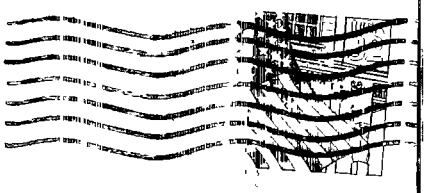

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