

# THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



The Howey Political Report is published 40 times a year by NewsLink, Inc. Founded in 1994, The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana. It neither endorses candidates nor advocates positions of public policy.

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Subscriptions: \$250 annually via fax or first class mail. Call subscription office at 317-253-0921.

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## “QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“The new energy in Southern Indiana also makes it a suitable option....”

- Treasurer Joyce Brinkman, in a letter to Lt. Gov.

Joe Kernan, suggesting Evansville or South Bend as a possible home for the Indianapolis Colts

## Dems may not fund Statehouse races

### 1998 campaign emphasis headed for the House?

BATESVILLE - Three years ago, they were the “Lugar Team” - the Republicans vying for the four Statehouse offices - secretary of state, auditor, treasurer and clerk of the courts - under a ticket headed by popular U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar.

Today, the Lugar team is a paradox for Republicans while the offices they hold - other than secretary of state - have taken on the trappings of irrelevancy for Democrats.

Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy is a prohibitive favorite to win re-election and is trying to poise herself to become the gubernatorial frontrunner in 2000. Beyond that probable rematch against Democrat Tim Jeffers, neither party may be inclined to lend the kind of support the Republicans and the Lugar machine did in 1994.

Democratic Political Director Robin Winston even went so far as to suggest to 9th CD Democrats gathered at John Hillenbrand’s Jawacdah Farms that instead of openly contesting races for auditor, treasurer and clerk of the courts, the party would be better off steering money into the 18 Indiana House seats *The Howey Political Report* identified earlier this month as the battleground to break the current 50/50 split.

**The reason is simple:** to protect Gov. Frank O’Bannon’s right flank so he can reap the benefits of an agenda that would propel his 2000 re-election bid.

For years these statehouse offices gave the dominant Republican Party slots to fill with female officeholders like Marge O’Laughlin and Ann DeVore, who were popular with the regulars. But in the past 10 or 12 years, the Statehouse officeholders have increasingly become embarrassing for their parties and their electoral contributions have become questionable.

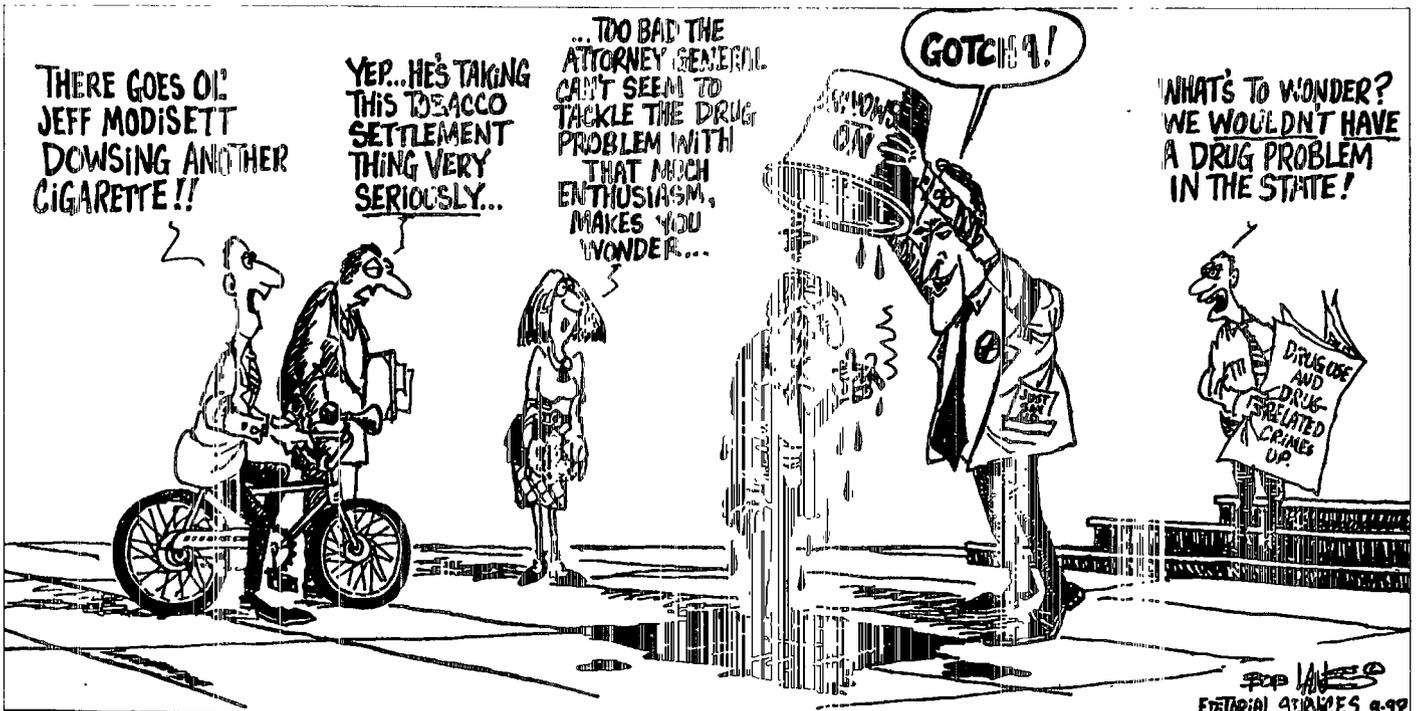
It all began in the late 1980s when Republican Supt. of Public

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Bob Lang



# TICKER T A P E

**PLAY OF THE WEEK:** What if somebody threw a legis ative session and nobody came? That's a question State Rep. Jerry Bales raises about the upcoming 30-day short session. "Remember back when we went to the voters and said we need to meet in a long session and a short session?" Bales asked. "A short session was sold on the idea that it would be strictly to take care of emergencies and budget matters. I'm not sure there is any emergency this year, and I've been told we won't look at any budget matters." House Speaker John Gregg responded, "As we are getting closer, there is a lot in me that thinks

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## Statehouse races, from page 1

Instruction Harold Negley resigned and then was indicted for ghost employment. Then came Democratic Clerk of Courts Dwayne Brown, a promising Ivy League-educated African-American who was the first to win a statewide office. Brown self-destructed politically when he collided with Gov. Evan Bayh on a maverick run for attorney general. The hot glance Bayh shot at Brown during his 1992 convention acceptance speech while the clerk paraded on the floor in a futile demonstration of support is legendary. Brown went down in flames during a foot fetish sex scandal, strippers employed in his office, indictments and convictions in 1993.

The real skein of political bad luck seemed to commence for Republicans when Ann DeVore forgot to file her 2nd CD congressional candidacy in 1994 - even though then-Democratic Chairman Ann DeLaney had called to ask if she had remembered.

Later that year, Morris Wooden was elected auditor and Joyce Brinkman treasurer as part of the "Lugar Team." Both have become an embarrassment for the party. Wooden's tenure as auditor has been so nicked by questionable ethics that he mercifully decided not to seek re-

election.

Brinkman, on the other hand, continued an extraordinary year of political blunders that would make Trudy Elherton blush by writing a letter to Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan suggesting he try to relocate the NFL's Indianapolis Colts to either South Bend or Evansville. "Your own South Bend for instance has a great football tradition and is well situated to draw visitors from Illinois, Ohio and Michigan," Brinkman wrote with oddball candor.

Indiana University urban policy analyst Mark Rosentraub told the Associated Press that Brinkman's suggestion was laughable. "It cannot be done. End of conversation," he said.

The story got conspicuous coverage in both the *South Bend Tribune* and *Evansville Courier* where Brinkman was ridiculed, and a thumbs down for the *Indianapolis Star's* "Behind Closed Doors" column.

The *Tribune* quoted Kernan as saying of South Bend, "Even though it is the third largest media market in Indiana, it is the 85th largest media market in the nation. Unless future NFL expansion would result in 85 teams, the market just isn't big enough."

Kernan went so far as to tell Brinkman, "Finally, I am convinced that any further public

Media panel warns that  
Leising is no primary shoo-in;  
Riecken announces in 8th CD

## HORSE R A C E

**TRENDLINE:** Americans are streaming away from their TV sets and are plugging into the Internet. Because the Internet is not mass media, but is literally divided up into a zillion points of interest, we are witnessing the potential for a further disengagement of the masses from politics, leaving the fate of the nation in the hands of the party activists and zealots. That's why the Clinton scandals simply aren't playing. Nobody cares. Watch the 1998 campaign to see if anyone in Indiana can use the Internet to connect with the masses. *LD*



■ **9TH CD:** On a media panel before district Democrats in Batesville, the near consensus among *HPR's* Brian Howey, Mary Beth Schneider of the *Indianapolis Star*, Mary Dieter of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* and Curt Kovener of the *Crothersville Times* was that former State Sen. Jean Leising isn't a shoo-in for the GOP nomination. Republican pro-life activist Michael Bailey released 150,000 copies of a 16-page newspaper outlining his strategy and positions. He takes clear aim at Leising's vote for riverboat casinos, a vote not likely to play well with the religious right that Bailey will be able to motivate in a sparsely attended Republican primary. Leising can win the primary, but it is going to be tough, considering that Bailey defeated the party-endorsed candidate - Charlie Loos - back in 1992. Bailey is a marketer by trade and he is already showing that he has the ability to sing to his choir and get the message out early. All of this has to be crimping Leising's early fundraising efforts. Meanwhile, Democrat Baron Hill told Democrats that he has raised \$200,000. But, Hill warned, "My main concern is people saying this is a done deal. Well, it's not. This is still in the danger zone." *LD*

■ **8TH CD:** Evansville City Councilwoman Gail Riecken toured the district officially announcing her candidacy against U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Alan Julian of the *Evansville Courier* wrote it up this way: "The election is still more than a year away, but Democrats officially launched their bid to recapture the 8th District - an effort they admit will be both costly and difficult." Said Hostettler aide Curt Smith, "I think it will be a good year for incumbents." *LD*

discussion, other than that which supports the Indianapolis Colts, could be counterproductive to Mayor Goldsmith's efforts in the important negotiations that are ongoing."

The latest Brinkman pronouncement followed a feud last summer with Gov. O'Bannon and Attorney General Jeff Modisett over state pensions - they said she over-stepped her authority - and a lawsuit against the Indianapolis stadium deals because the bills were bundled. That litigation openly peeved Mayor Goldsmith and Gov. O'Bannon.

All have left senior GOP party officials chagrined and anxious about Brinkman.

A significant moment occurred after Winston spoke during a media seminar at Jawacdah Farms when the *Indianapolis Star's* Mary Beth Schneider suggested the clerk of the

courts office was politically irrelevant. Seated in the back of the room was top Democratic contender Doug Leatherbury.

Even if the Democrats steer their money into the Battle for the House, Republicans might not be inclined to follow.

"It's a matter of trying very hard to keep what you have," said Indiana GOP Chairman Mike McDaniel. "If we can keep those and win back the House, we're ahead of the game. It's good for us psychologically."

As for Brinkman and football, McDaniel found himself having to defend her on the PBS television show "Indiana Week in Review."

Said McDaniel, "That was a tough one."

There could be more thought to Jeffers' 1994 campaign suggestion - abolish the office he was running for. *LD*

## TICKER T A P E

that's a legitimate question." But Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton said the legislature needs to review proposals from interim study committees and dozens of statutory committees.



St. Joseph County Prosecutor Mike Barnes is warning residents that there will be more violence like the recent week that saw four homicides in South Bend. "There are circumstances that combine to give us these kinds of activities," said Barnes. "Unfortunately, the result is often deadly" (Bruce Von Deylen, South Bend Tribune).

Former President George Bush said in Indianapolis on Tuesday of a potential Dan Quayle presidential candidacy, "If he decides to run, he will be a very serious candidate." The former president, First Lady Barbara Bush and Gen. Colin Powell were in Indianapolis as part of a motivational speaking seminar that drew 18,000 people to Market Square Arena.

Allen County Treasurer Tim Berry is said to be considering a run for state treasurer, the office now held by Joyce Brinkman (Mike Dooley, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). Berry had been considering a run for

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# President Clinton's line-item veto use angers state congressional delegation

By Mark Schoeff Jr.  
Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - The Indiana congressional delegation has served as a touchstone for the reality of the line-item veto, a new presidential tool designed to help the nation's chief executive slash federal spending.

Over the last two weeks, President Clinton has put pen to paper on three appropriations bills, slicing dozens of federal projects and drawing political blood in Indiana, which is home to the champion of the line-item veto, Sen. Dan Coats.

Clinton drew the wrath of Rep. John Hostettler by killing a \$4.1 million chemical and biological warfare detection facility at the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center. He also infuriated Rep. Steve Buyer by putting the kibosh on an \$8.9 million civil engineer complex at Grissom Air Reserve Base. Both congressman have signed onto a House bill that would restore funds cut in the military construction appropriations bill. They also are set to press Defense officials on the cuts at an Oct. 22 hearing of the House National Security Committee, on which both serve.

Late last week, Clinton crossed out a \$3.5 million project to finish dredging Lake George in Northwest Indiana, igniting a strong protest from a fellow Democrat, Rep. Pete Visclosky. The spending was part of the energy and water appropriations bill.

The line-item veto allows the president to cut federal spending projects individually without vetoing the entire legislation in which they're contained. Opponents of the line-item veto contend that it allows the president to usurp Congress' spending prerogative. Advocates say it helps stop wasteful federal spending.

The backlash to the president's recent vetoes from Indiana registered nationally. The New York Times quoted Hostettler decrying the president's decision to eliminate funding for

Crane. He said Clinton had put politics above health and safety concerns.

Hostettler questioned the criteria the president used to make his decision. Buyer said that the president vetoed the Grissom spending even though Secretary of Defense William Cohen had agreed, in talks with Buyer, that the project was necessary. A spokesman for Visclosky said that the president's veto of the Lake George project was retribution for Visclosky's fervent opposition to a bill that would strengthen the president's authority to negotiate trade agreements.

"It doesn't make sense," said Dwayne Lawler, Visclosky's spokesman. "It's like training for a race, getting to the starting line and having the race called off." The Lake George project had been authorized and funded since 1990.

"It's not surprising that the use of the line-item veto is more politically painful in reality than in theory," said Pete Sepp, of the National Taxpayers' Union, an advocacy group that favors the line-item veto. "It is never easy to cut federal spending, otherwise we would have balanced the budget 35 years ago."

Those who voted in favor of granting the president line-item veto authority don't have Buyer's remorse. "I still think in the hands of a person of integrity, this would be a good process. So hopefully someday we'll have someone like that," Hostettler told the Times.

"It will be a learning process, and the military construction bill will be the first test," said Michael Jahr, Hostettler's spokesman.

Mike Copher, Buyer's spokesman, maintained that the congressman hasn't wavered in his support for the line-item veto. "He still thinks it's the best to do the president has to cut unneeded spending."

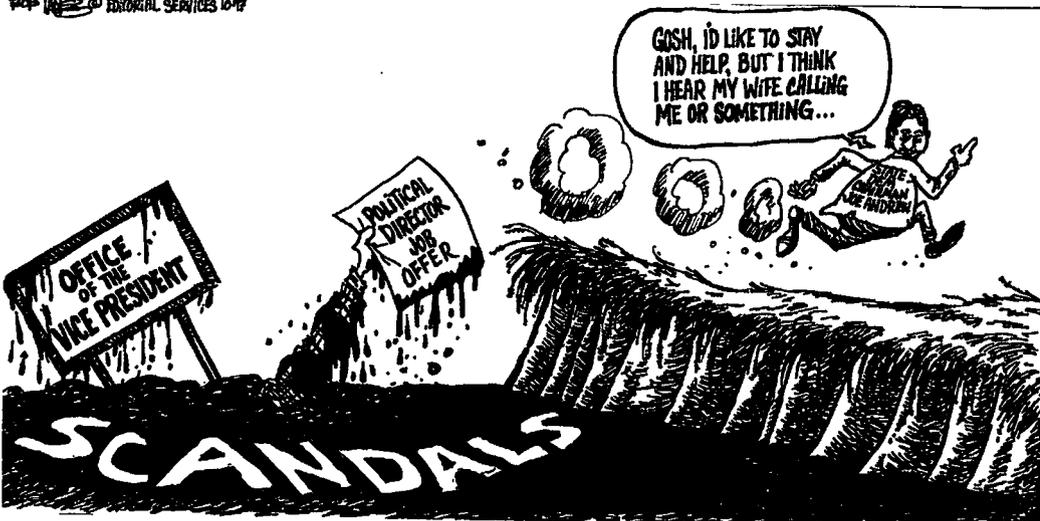
The Hoosier House members haven't turned their anger on Coats, who wrote the line-item veto legislation that Congress passed last fall. Coats spokesman Tim Goeglein said Hostettler and Buyer have engaged in "very cor-

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## CONGRESS WATCH

**"It doesn't make sense. It's like training for a race, getting to the starting line and having the race called off..."**

- Dwayne Lawler, office of Rep. Visclosky



## Possible Mrvan-Dempsey rematch will highlight 1998 Senate races

HAMMOND - Job security in the Indiana Senate is on par with the old Soviet politburo. Virtually no one gets unseated by the voters because of the way districts are drawn.

With Republicans holding a 31-19 advantage, there isn't much doubt being placed by either party on who will control the upper chamber following the 1998 elections.

Still, there will be five contested Senate races worth watching.

Here is HPR's early view on potentially hot Senate races:

**1ST DISTRICT** - This will be a fun race to watch because of the 1994 circumstances. Republican Sandy Dempsey narrowly upset Democratic Sen. Frank Mrvan. Republican Senate leadership pushed the door to let Dempsey in, ironically trading a pro-life vote for a pro-choice voter. And Dempsey proved to be embarrassing during her first year in office, flip-flopping on votes, speaking one way and voting the other. Another Democrat, teachers' union official Vicky Candelaria, is also expected to seek this seat, which could make for an interesting primary. Should Mrvan win the primary, if there ever was a grudge match in legislative politics, this race is it. Expect Democrats to flex their Lake County muscle on this one regardless of who wins the primary. *Status: Leans D.*

**15TH DISTRICT** - Democrats are always going to contest Republican State Sen. Tom Wyss. Problem is, they don't have an opponent

lined up yet. Even if they do, it's hard to see Allen County Republicans letting this one slip away. *Status: Likely R.*

**19TH DISTRICT** - In one of the few swing districts, Republican Sen. David Ford will go up against a political legacy. Mark Townsend, the son of former senator and 1984 gubernatorial candidate Wayne Townsend, will attempt to win back his father's old seat. *Status: Leans R.*

**26TH DISTRICT** - Republicans are targeting Democratic Sen. Allie Craycraft in the Muncie area with former Rep. Fred Wenger. The Republican already has a reputation as a giant killer, winning a House seat against Democratic Billy Linville earlier this decade. But Craycraft is pretty popular. If a GOP tidal wave emerges, Wenger could get swept in. *Status: Leans D.*

**39TH DISTRICT** - The former Sullivan County sheriff, State Sen. John Waterman, has had a controversial tenure in the Senate after he upset Democrat Morrie Doll in 1994. Waterman angered Republican leadership by splitting with the caucus on issues like prevailing wage and insurance reform. The Democrats have an extremely credible candidate in Rod Hasler, cousin of Rep. Brian Hasler. Also considering is Sullivan County Commissioner Eldon Dunford. The district is more conservative in the '90s with the addition of townships from Greene, Owen and Monroe counties. Waterman, the first GOP sheriff in 50 years, is a proven vote-getter and will be tough to unseat. *Status: Leans R.*

Thursday, Oct. 23, 1997

## TICKER T A P E

state auditor until Brinkman began self-destructing politically. The treasurer's job, Berry said, "is very consistent with my background, my skills." Dooley noted that by running for treasurer instead of auditor, Berry could avoid a convention showdown with former Huntingburg mayor Connie Nass and take on Brinkman, who many observers believe is now extremely vulnerable.

Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith told WTHR-TV following the winless Colts 9-6 loss to Buffalo that the dismal season could weaken the franchise's negotiating position with the city. "As the team loses, it makes it more problematic for the city to work to keep the team," Goldsmith said. Several weeks ago, numerous sources were telling HPR that a deal was imminent.

Landgrebe Motor Transport, once owned by the late Congressman Earl Landgrebe, is teetering on the financial brink. The Munster Times reported that the Valparaiso trucking firm's paychecks have been bouncing.

Gary Mayor Scott King has a new challenge facing him in trying to turn the perception of his embattled city around.

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# TICKER T A P E

The owner of a downtown clothing shop is accusing dozens of Gary Police Department officers of looting his burning store of dozens of leather coats (Daniel Yovich, *Munster Times*). Said King, "My information is that an off-duty police officer who works as the store's security guard asked for help in saving some of the merchandise from the store. I cannot believe that this man would intentionally take anything."

GOP political director John Willey has left the Indiana Republican State Committee to head up Anthem's political action committee. "It's a great opportunity for him," said State Chairman Mike McDaniel.

David Hamilton of the Environmental Quality Service Council told legislators that IDEM and local officials had spent the past two or three years negotiating with the facility to clean up the Fort Wayne site. But the facility burned over the Labor Day weekend, sending smoke from 500,000 tires coating downtown buildings. It will likely become an issue Republicans use in the 1998 U.S. Senate race against former Gov. Evan Bayh, who oversaw IDEM for the previous eight years.

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# COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

**Brian Howey, HPR** - The resignation of Indianapolis Public School Superintendent Esperanza Zendejas is nothing less than a tragedy of epic proportions and a symptom that something is terribly wrong. Mayor Stephen Goldsmith calls the resignation and the state of this city's school system nothing less than a "catastrophe." It comes in Indiana's state capital, a city that prides itself on being "major league" and "world class." In some aspects it is, or was, with the 1987 Pan Am Games and its glistening new or under-construction stadiums. But Indianapolis in some ways is a Third World city, particularly when it comes to education. IPS in the course of a generation has gone from being one of the better school districts in the state to one of the worst. In the past decade its enrollment has dropped from more than 100,000 students to about 45,000 today. Superintendent Zendejas, whose tenure will be a mere three years, predicted recently that it would probably drop to 33,000 in the next decade. When she resigned, she said that IPS would need "a miracle." The blame for this smear on the Hoosier psyche must go to many places - racists, the judiciary, teachers and administrators, Indianapolis voters, and the Indiana General Assembly. ☞

**Dave Kitchell, Logansport Pharos-Tribune** - Imagine an Avon lady coming to your home and selling you some hand lotion, after shave, and your electricity. That's right, electricity. Sound far fetched? Not at all, according to State Sen. Tom Weatherwax. In fact, that is one of the ideas that he's already hearing about that would allow deregulated electric service to be sold directly to consumers. Weatherwax, vice chairman of the Indiana Senate Commerce Committee that would consider any deregulation bills, says deregulation of the electric industry in the state is ahead of other efforts to deregulate the gas and telephone industries. But when deregulation does occur, it will revolutionize the way consumers purchase power, he says. ☞

**David Haase, Indianapolis Star/News** - The Internet is growing up. I know that because I see the non-nerds, the technologically challenged political types who could not work an electric typewriter, starting to pay serious attention to it. Some are even using it. I offer as evidence the office of Congressman David McIntosh of Indiana. He is a comer. A techno-geek, he's not. Last month, McIntosh got a burr in his bonnet about the so-called marriage penalty in the tax code. He teamed up with another young Republican and introduced HR 2456. His staff churned out press releases and wrote op-eds for local newspapers. Then McIntosh jacked up the pressure a few notches and got himself invited on to the conservative talk radio circuit. Here's where it gets interesting. At every stop, during every interview, he directed folks who wanted to know more about the marriage tax to his World Wide Web site at <http://www.house.gov/mcintosh/>. The marriage tax page has produced more than 2,000 hits for McIntosh in the last few weeks. "That, for us, is a phenomenal amount," said Chris Jones, architect of the Web strategy. ☞

**Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette** - Before the latest Grissom pork got the ax, (U.S. Rep. Steve) Buyer described the line item veto as a way to "bring some much needed fiscal discipline to the Congress." But after Buyer was on the receiving end of the discipline, the line-item veto didn't seem like such a good idea. Killing the Grissom money was "insulting to the process," he proclaimed. The president's use of the prerogative - which, remember, Buyer said would help discipline the undisciplined, free-spending Congress - was done "without consulting the Pentagon or Congress," he complained. Using the line-item veto to remove money for Grissom, Buyer continued, "demonstrates poor leadership and management by the commander-in-chief." Besides, Buyer griped, the bill that included the Grissom moolah "had overwhelming support in the House and Senate." ☞

# PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

## The times are a-changing in Rising Sun and yonder

RISING SUN - Bob Dylan sang to Pope John Paul II in Rome last month the old song, "The Times They Are A-Changin'."

Indeed. My most fascinating perspective of this came from the middle of the Ohio River on the Grand Victoria Casino last Saturday night. I lost \$20 on the \$10-a-game blackjack table in about 10 minutes and called it quits, preferring to watch an orange, lop-sided moon rise over the hills yonder in Kentucky while barges steamed by. Through a window I could watch the action inside where hordes of Hoosiers, Buckeyes, Kentuckians and Volunteers were throwing around hundred dollar bills like October leaves in my front yard. The place was packed. The newer boat - the largest in the world - about a dozen miles upstream in Lawrenceburg was sold out for all its Saturday night trips. A million dollars had to be flowing through both ships as I watched.

In 1988, before Hoosiers repealed the constitutional ban on gambling, Rising Sun was a sleepy little river town in the most sparsely populated county with two sheriff deputies and no stoplights. Now its corn-fed, wholesome daughters are strutting around in skimpy Vegas-style barmaid costumes. Whereas gambling nine years ago meant a Thursday night poker game with the boys, a pool on the Indy 500 or the one-class high school basketball tournament, today it is a steady string of traffic on highways 50 and 56 and hollow-eyed Hoosiers lining up at the ATM on board the Vicky.

Two recent columns and dozens of stories on the Crash of '87 also tell us something about the times we live in as the Dow flirts with the 8,000 mark, onward, perhaps, to 12,000. Columnist John Leo notes the "great American yawn" over the Clintonian scandals against the huge public appetite for news of the death of Princess Diana and the lurid sex life of Marv Albert, who he identified as a "third-tier celebrity."

Leo calls it the "softening of hard news." Only 31 news stories were followed by more than half of the Americans since 1986, according to Pew Research. The three networks ran 868 show-biz stories between 1993 and 1996, a little less than the 1,025 on education and the environment.

We have watched the *Indianapolis Star* investigate and report on the influx of special interest money flooding the Indiana General Assembly. Yet the statewide public hearings on campaign finance reform were attended only by the special interests.

The man on the street doesn't give a Hoosier hoot. Voter participation in Indiana is on a steady decline.

*Chicago Tribune* columnist Bob Greene detects a "shift in the public's attitude toward advertising." It was, he observed, "once seen as an unapologetic attempt by companies to get their products noticed." Now, "people appear to feel elevated by being willing bearers of someone else's advertising message."

I remember sitting in the *Elkhart Truth* newsroom one day 10 years ago and getting a phone call from an incredulous reader: "There is going to be Coca-Cola clothes!" he blurted. Sure enough, AP had just broken the story about a new line of clothes by the pop makers.

Greene notes that some state fairs stamp the logo of corporate sponsors onto the hands of incoming patrons, calling it "the ultimate dream of an advertiser - to have the corporate message imprinted on a potential customer's flesh."

Senate candidate John Price has his Internet address displayed on his bumper sticker. Perhaps we are not too far away from conventioners revealing Evan Bayh or Peter Rusthoven tatoos on their biceps or ... wherever. Or how about this: Damon Bailey for governor?

Public interest in politics is waning, the support it does have is audacious and sensational, but only skin deep albeit never a dollar short. ☞

## TICKER T A P E

Republican Doug Hess explained last week why he is challenging freshman U.S. Rep. Ed Pease in the 7th CD Republican primary: "I was shocked and appalled to find out that he spent \$600,000 and over 85 percent of his contributions came from individuals and single-issue PACs from outside the 7th District. I asked myself who does this man represent in Washington? Certainly not the citizens of west central Indiana."

A South Bend attorney predicted in 1992 that John Piraccini would become known as "King John of the Toll Road" for the rules he planned to impose on tow trucks and wrecker services (Marti Goodlad Heline, *South Bend Tribune*). Piraccini faces a 25-count indictment by a federal grand jury. Court documents did not name the attorney who came up with the "King John" quote. Piraccini is accused of using the Toll Road Employee Benefit Fund, which sought contributions from vendors, for his personal expenses.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon has ordered an investigation into the Indiana Department of Health for possibly covering up violations at Indiana correctional facilities.

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer told the St. Joseph County Republican

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# TICKER T A P E

**Breakfast Club that President Clinton has the "kind of commitment of a kamikaze pilot on his 37th mission" (Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune). Buyer also said the news media is so biased against Republicans it "is not even debated any more." He added that in his own experience with the news media, "They are most accurate whenever I say something stupid."**

**The Evansville Courier reports that a study shows that the city has the third highest divorce rate in the United States.**

## Veto, from page 4

dial" conversations with Coats in which they exchanged information with the senator.

The current uproar notwithstanding, Coats doesn't think he has created a monster. "When Sen. Coats drafted the legislation, he believed so deeply in line-item fiscal responsibility that he's willing to give it to this president," Goeglein said. "It would be hypocritical for Sen. Coats to say he's in favor of the legislation for every state but his own. That's not in the spirit of the legislation."

Goeglein said the veto of the Crane funding was "bad policy on the face of it" and that Coats believed the Grissom project would stand on its own merits. The Lake George dredging is "not something (Coats) has focused on" in the course of his committee work, but is aware that it is "important to the people in Northwest Indiana," Goeglein said. Coats serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

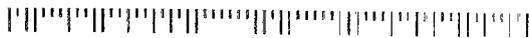
The hue and cry from Congress apparently caused Clinton to ease up on his use of the veto. Clinton cut 38 projects totaling \$287 mil-

lion from the \$9.2 billion military construction bill. He then cut 13 programs totaling \$144 million from a \$248 billion defense spending bill. He booted only eight projects totaling \$19.3 million from the \$21 billion energy and water development legislation.

Sepp said the president should be more forceful, not more timid with the veto pen. "A great deal of these problems could be prevented if the item veto were applied more broadly," he said. By killing many projects at once, "it would look like they ended up on the list because of their appearance instead of political considerations."

Political pork-barrel spending is endemic on Capitol Hill, making the line-item veto an indispensable tool, Goeglein said. "The principle is fiscal irresponsibility. Congressmen and senators load spending bills like a Christmas tree, and at some point the tree falls over."

*Schoeff is HPR's Washington correspondent.*



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