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..

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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

"There is one person who's clearly head and shoulders above everybody else (in terms of) working diligently to putting all the pieces together and that is Peter Rusthoven...."

- U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, to the Louisville Courier-Journal on Dec. 6

Jury still out on Burton committee

Analysts say hearings have changed him

By Mark Schoeff, Jr.
Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Analysts are giving U.S. Rep. Dan Burton credit for making some effort to keep a lid on the partisanship of his House Government Oversight Committee hearings that reached a crescendo last week with highly-charged appearances by Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI Director Louis Freeh.

But they say Burton's hearings have produced more heat than light thus far. News analysis appearing in the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* tended to portray Reno and Freeh as maintaining a united front against the efforts of Republicans on the Burton committee to widen the rift between them.

"Those of us waiting for one or the other shoe to drop on this feel that we're sitting through the same movie for the third or fourth time," said Stuart Rothenberg of the Rothenberg Political Report. "And we don't expect the plot to change."

Burton grabbed a tiger by the tail when he became chairman of a House committee investigating alleged campaign finance law violations by the White House.

So far, the tiger hasn't bitten Burton, nor has it taken a chunk out of the White House's hide. Unlike the Senate counterpart investigation, Burton can continue his committee's work well into the election year. He has a $3.8 million budget, with $7 million in reserve, according to published reports.

"If anything emerges from (the hearings), it will be by accident," said Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. "Have they pushed along the investigative process? There's not much evidence of that."

Although the Burton hearings have succeeded in putting the White House on the defensive and portraying the Clinton adminis -

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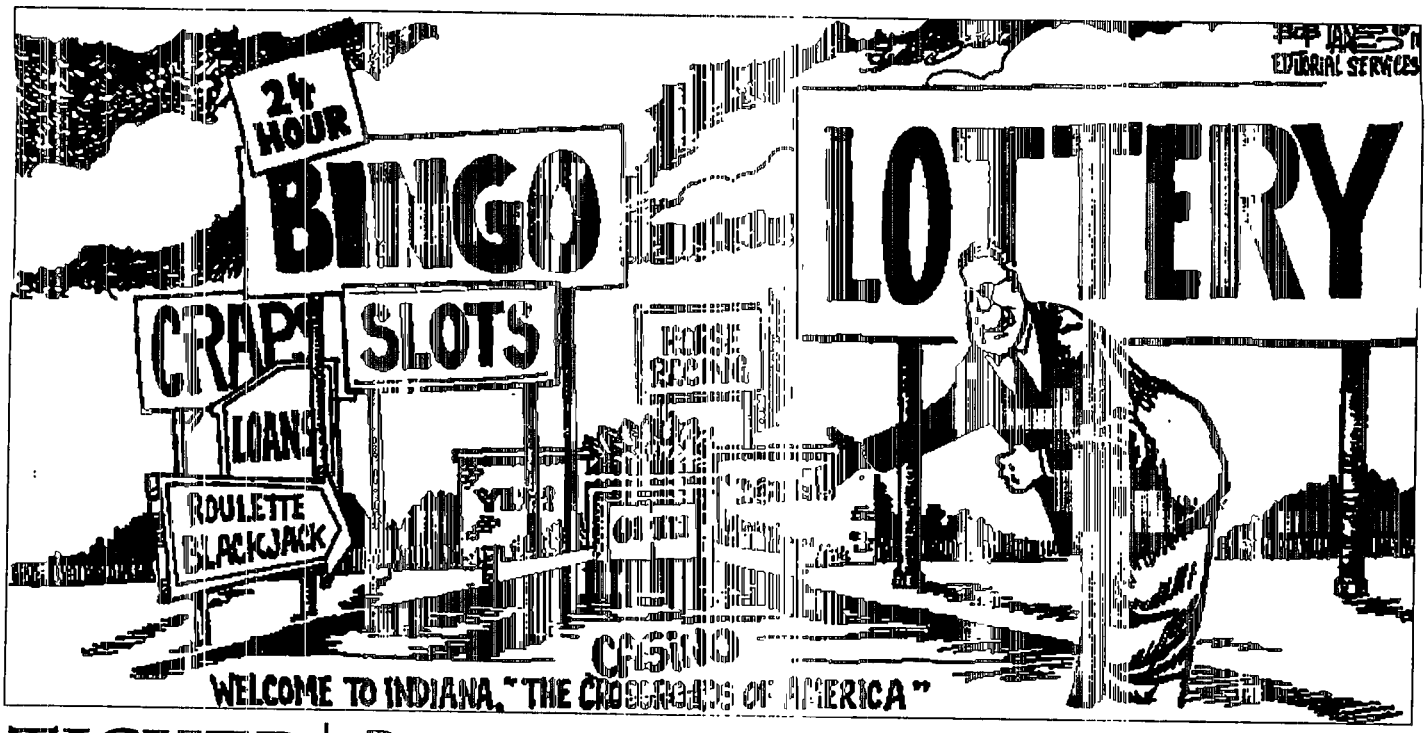
Bob Lang



TICKER TAPE

PLAY OF THE WEEK: Guess what? On Dec. 19 the state budget agency is going to announce one huge surplus in the billions of dollars. It's going to be so big that Gov. O'Bannon has come off his no new tax cuts roost. "I think a tax cut is always a priority, if it's possible," O'Bannon told the South Bend Tribune.

■ ■ ■

Democrats are still pressing for an independent counsel to investigate U.S. Rep. Dan Burton's alleged "shakedown" of a Pakistani lobbyist. "It's totally inconsistent and hypocritical for Republicans to call for an independent counsel with the President and not

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Burton, *from page 1*

tration as stonewalling, they have failed to put a dent in President Clinton's favorability ratings, said CNN political analyst Bill Schneider.

The setting is a primary reason the hearings have failed to gain traction, said Schneider. "Burton has unavoidedly created the impression that the investigation is political in nature When voters perceive that it is a partisan witch hunt, they dismiss it. That's why the hearings haven't had a bigger impact."

Burton, however, made clear on CNN's *Evans & Novak* show over the weekend that he had achieved his goal in last week's proceedings. "We did get very clearly in the hearing the exact reasons why, in my view, Louis Freeh did take issue with the attorney general."

Freeh, under questioning by California Rep. Bob Barr, said there are two reasons to appoint an independent counsel: when there is specific information from a credible source that the president or vice president or another high official may have violated the law, or when the Justice Department may have a conflict of interest in investigating the matter. He indicated those were the reasons he cited in his memo to Reno.

"I think our hearing was a total success," said Burton spokesman John Williams. "We asked the question of what was in the memo. What did the FBI director tell the attorney general about the appointment of an independent counsel? And we had the question clearly answered in the exchange with Bob Barr."

The majority of the press corps left the hearings after Reno's testimony and missed the crucial Barr-Freeh exchange about the memo, forcing Williams to be proactive in pushing that portion of the days proceedings. The testimony was compelling enough to make a CNN reporter take notice. "Even CNN redid their story," Williams said.

One reason Washington has looked warily at the hearings is Burton's political baggage. He is widely regarded as a partisan firebrand who embraces unusual causes, such as the Vince Foster homicide theory.

George Stuteville, the Washington correspondent for the Indianapolis Star/News, observed that Burton has yet to blow his lid even when rhetoric from both parties has reached the boiling point. "If he's a partisan Republican, then there is an equal counterpart on the other side of the aisle in Henry Waxman and Tom Lantos, both of whom never resist a chance to throw a backhanded insult at Burton,"

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Coats, Rusthoven fly the friendly skies together; Clinton approval at 59 %

HORSE RACE

TRENDLINE: Funny - and a bit odd - that the notion of a Dan Coats endorsement of Peter Rusthoven in the Republican U.S. Senate race has yet to break in the Indianapolis market, unless you read HPR, which suggested the realities of that situation a month ago. Mary Dieter of the *Louisville Courier-Journal* got Coats to edge closer to the endorsement, saying, "There is one person who's clearly head and shoulders above everybody else (in terms of) working diligently to putting all the pieces together, and that is Peter Rusthoven. I'm impressed by his understanding of the issues, his ability to get around the state ... He's done everything anybody could ask of him. I haven't seen a lot of activity out of the other candidate." When HPR caught up with Coats at the Statehouse that same week, Coats volunteered this information: he spied Rusthoven on the same flight back from Washington and joined him for a long chat on the trip home. Said Rusthoven of the endorsement, "I didn't press it."

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■ **Republican U.S. Senate:** By the time the next issue of HPR reaches you, the deadline for the 1997 year-end reports will have passed and the first key threshold will be crossed. Horse Race expects Peter Rusthoven to lead the GOP pack by a substantial margin. The momentum toward a possible Coats endorsement - to be followed by others from key Republicans - is an attempt to force Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke and John Price out of the race. As long as there is a primary battle, establishment Republicans insist, Rusthoven will not be able to raise the kind of money he would from PACs and the Fort Wayne area. While the pressure will be intense, neither Helmke nor Price are letting on that they will peacefully leave the race. The only thing that could force Helmke out is if his year-end report is so anemic - under, say, $75,000 - that he can't make an intellectual defense of his candidacy. The mayor is not stupid when it comes to politics. He can be very engaging and strategic when he postulates on the state of politics. Since Helmke does not have a statewide base of support and even his Northeastern Indiana backyard appears tepid, money will be absolutely crucial to winning the primary.

Price can be expected to stay in the race for good. He is relying on a Christian network of John Hostettler, Michael Bailey, David Lohr, Eric Miller and the Christian Coalition supporters and affiliates to fuel his campaign. Getting that base out is likely, but the key question is whether Price can appeal to the more moderate elements of the party and that will take money.

■ ■ ■

■ **2000 Presidential Campaigns:** a *Des Moines Register* poll in Iowa shows a tight race in the 2000 presidential campaigns. Texas Gov. George W. Bush leads the Republicans with 16 percent, followed by 15 percent for Lamar Alexander, 14 percent for Dan Quayle and Jack Kemp, 10 percent for Steve Forbes and 8 percent for U.S. Rep. John Kasich. On the Democratic side, Vice President Al Gore tops House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt 51 to 16 percent.

In New Hampshire, the *Boston Globe* reports that a scamble is already under way to woo supporters of commentator Pat Buchanan, who has signaled he won't run in 2000. Buchanan's pitchfork brigades are seen as the most committed voters in the state. The *Globe* said that Quayle and New Hampshire Sen. Robert Smith "would be the biggest beneficiaries."

ABC News' Cokie Roberts has annointed Bush as the "perfect" GOP nominee in 2000 "on paper." Roberts and her husband, Steve, wrote in their newspaper column that Forbes is "stiff," Quayle is "a joke," Alexander is "bland" and Kemp is on the "politically disabled list."

Meanwhile, an NBC/*Wall Street Journal* poll Dec. 4-8 shows President Clinton with a 59 percent approval rating.

TICKER TAPE

Dan Burton," said U.S. Rep. Barney Frank. "If Burton were at all intellectually consistent, he would be calling for an independent counsel in his own case."

Former State Rep. Rick McConnell died last weekend of cancer. He was stricken with the disease following his 1996 8th CD congressional bid.

Former LG candidate George Witwer is reviving the Opportunity Project of Indiana to raise money for Indiana House Republicans. "We are officially back in business," Witwer said. OPI contributed close to $70,000 to 19 House candidates in 1994 and 11 were elected. Witwer says he has already raised $100,000 this year and expects to raise $500,000 by the year 2000.

Reliable GOP sources in Marion County tell HPR that a deal has been struck that will have Sheriff Jack Cottey replace John Sweezy as party chairman after the 1998 elections. And people are beginning to act like it. A source tells HPR that at a recent county fundraiser in an airport hangar, tables were arranged in a circular fashion, with Cottey's in the middle. For much of the evening, a long line formed as attendees waited to chat with Cottey. "It was like they were waiting in line to kiss the

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Ronald Reagan's legacy pondered by D'Souza in a salvo of history

"Reagan predicted as early as 1981 in a speech to the University of Notre Dame that freedom and democracy would leave Soviet communism in the ash heap of history. At the time, the conservatives and the liberals, the hawks and the doves were in complete agreement about the permanence of Soviet communism...."

- Dinesh D'Souza

Indiana not only had key personnel ties to President Ronald Reagan - Keith Bullen and Mitch Daniels were top political aides - but it was was first on the Electoral College board for The Gipper in both 1980 and 1984.

Thus, Hudson Institute in Indianapolis seemed to be a fitting place for author Dinesh D'Souza and talk about his new book, *"Ronald Reagan: How an Ordinary Man Became an Extraordinary Leader."*

Author Tom Wolfe observes, "This marvelous book will drive the intellectual establishment - the conservtive cadre as well as the liberal legions - straight up the wall."

D'Souza was joined by Daniels, former Democratic Congressman Andrew Jacobs, PBS commentator Ken Bode, and Senate candidate Peter Rusthoven to discuss one of the first key milestones in historically assessing the Reagan presidency. Here are some observations from each of the speakers:

Dinesh D'Souza

"Ever since Reagan has left, there has been a systematic effort to blacken his legacy, identifying it as an era of greed. History will see Reagan as a great president. This book is a salvo in Reagan's historic reputation.

"Reagan was, from a conventional and classical point of view, a very unusual leader. His main profession was as an actor, a very odd preparation for public life. He was not a scholar or intellectual. Reagan did not put in a long day at the office. Robert McFarlane once told George Shultz, 'I don't understand Reagan. He knows so little and accomplishes so much.'

"How did this seemingly ordinary man achieve such extraordinary results? To me the most effective quality of leadership is vision - a moral imagination with the ability to envision the world differently than it is. This is a rare and unusual quality in a politician. The best example of Reagan's vision is his view of Soviet communism. Reagan predicted as early as 1981 in a speech to the University of Notre Dame that freedom and democracy would leave the Soviet Union on the ash heap of history. At the time, the conservatives and the liberals, the hawks and the doves were in complete agreement about the permanence of Soviet communism. The only debate was what to do about it. Reagan challenged those views and cooly announced that the wall was coming down. In retrospect, we have to ask, 'What did he know about Soviet communism that Alexandr Solzynetzen and all the pundits did not?

"Richard Nixon went to see Reagan in the mid-1980s and said, 'I tried to engage Reagan in a discussion of Soviet strategies. Reagan was not interested. He basically sat me down and told me jokes.' Nixon was appalled. But it retrospect we can see that Reagan's jokes were very insightful. Reagan's jokes were not about the Evil Empire or about how wicked communism is. They were about how idiotic it was to organize a large economy by command.

"Reagan had the courage of conviction to act decisively to realize his goals. Today we see politicians on both sides of the aisle (who) seem very captive to consultants, pollsters who say, 'Tell us what the American people think so we can choreograph our position.' Reagan's view was kind of an arrogant view. He felt he didn't have to consult the American people because he was the American people. He felt that with their confidence he could act. And then he would go on television and say, in effect, 'Here's what I did. Yesterday I bombed Libya and here's why I did it.' And he would ask people for their support. Reagan far from being subservient to polls, consulted what we may call his inner compass - far more concerned with right and wrong than with mere political calculations.

"Leaders are judged by how they act during very difficult times. In the '82 recession Reagan's slogan was 'Stay the Course.' I mention this because when Bush confronted a milder recession in 1991, Bush's strategy was to basically deny there was a recession. For people who were unemployed, they said that Bush was out of touch. Reagan by contrast acknowledged that

people were in trouble. Stay the course is an effort to bestow dignity to struggle. It is an appeal to patience and fortitude. He was telling people, 'We have a plan.'

"Reagan's most striking quality, particularly when you look at the landscape facing him when he came in, was his serene and almost mystifying optimism. He came into the White House when the country was in terrible shape. Reagan comes in and says if we can do a couple of things - cut taxes, heighten the military budget - we can turn the whole thing around. I contrast Reagan's optimism with the mood of pessimism we see from many Republicans and conservatives today. How do you govern society based on a fundamental uncertainty about the good sense of the people? Reagan's view was that the American people were basically decent.

"He invented the tradition of the hero in the balcony. It showed Reagan's true idea of who a hero really was. Reagan's hero was never about a guy who started out with nothing and became a millionaire. Reagan's heroes were always sacrificial - the guy who jumps into the icy river to save someone from a crash; someone who stormed the beaches at Normandy....

"Unlike many cultural conservatives, Reagan never criticized the vices of the American people. I have been unable to find a single speech where Reagan denounced illegitimacy. Reagan always emphasized the positive."

Ken Bode

"The problem is the central thesis to the book is there has been a systematic effort to blacken the legacy of Ronald Reagan. If it's happened, Dinesh, it's certainly been an underground effort as far as I can tell. As Ronald Reagan has left office ... there doesn't seem to be an effort to diminish his two terms. Those of us who covered Reagan came to appreciate along the way that Ronald Reagan did something very important. He closed the gap between the public and its leader. Many of us thought that after Jimmy Carter, the modern presidency was too much for one man. And here comes Ronald Reagan, who does it with one hand tied behind his back and takes a nap. Dinesh also says that in many ways, Ronald Reagan was out of the loop when important decisions were made. The Iran-Contra episode was transacted in the White House without Reagan's knowledge or his approval. Now that is a management style that is a little too loose. But it is also one I came to admire over time because of what he got done."

Peter Rusthoven

"I don't know of a president in my lifetime or maybe even history who had as firm a grasp on the Founders, and their philosophy on what this government is supposed to be about.

"Reagan was the only guy who I wrote speeches for that I could hear him talk in my head, and the ideas were his."

Andrew Jacobs

"I agree that President Reagan was pretty much above the fray. I was very much enamored with President Reagan.

"I think that President Reagan did what he did about the air traffic controllers strike, he touched the hearts of everybody in America, with the possible exception of the guys on strike. It was an outrage."

Mitch Daniels

"Why did some people who agree with Reagan ideologically not come to his defense? Reagan really did not need them. Did not need us. Some of my colleagues who went out and wrote these books or occasionally made off-the-record comments were working out their internal frustrations. The guy knew exactly where he was headed. Didn't need them to tell him. Didn't need their memos and policy documents.

"Reagan was a person of some distance. He did not make personal friends. He did not have confidants. So people lusted after this kind of relationship. This came from him making 10 movies a year. Think about it. The cast is formed, the director and producer and supporting cast works like crazy for a period of time, and then they disperse. And a month later it's a new group. He was quite accustomed to using people - not really planning to get emotionally close to them.

"A lot of politicians navigate by radar, they send out the pulse, they listen and they change course. There are a few that operate on their own gyroscope. This is Reagan at the essence." ✍

TICKER TAPE

ring," the source said.

The City of South Bend is going to have to ante up $350,000 in 1998 to help keep the College Football Hall of Fame afloat (Terrance Bland, South Bend Tribune). The break-even point would be project attendance of 80,000 people annually. But Hall critic Jim Cierzniak questioned the projections, noting attendance has fallen from 84,000 in 1996 to 64,000 in 1997.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon has scheduled his second State of the State address for 7 p.m. Jan. 13. The Indiana General Assembly convenes on Jan. 6.

Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson joined Supt. Suellen Reed and House Majority Leader Paul Mannweiler at a press conference where they called for $1,000 tax cut per child for families earning less than $35,000 a year.

What is the state of high school basketball in this, the first year of class competition? The Muncie Star Press reports that 30 years ago there were 3,000 adult season ticket holders for Muncie Central HS basketball. This year, the number has declined to 745.

The FBI and Anderson Police found themselves in a stand-

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TICKER TAPE

off last week in what officials are terming "an unfortunate incident." FBI agents were in Anderson as part of an investigation into missing absentee ballots at the Madison County courthouse. Anderson police received a call from a woman who questioned the authenticity of two FBI agents. Following a brief verbal exchange, one officer and one agent drew firearms. It ended when another Anderson PD officer arrived on the scene and recognized one of the agents. On Dec. 4, the agents were walking door-to-door in Anderson's Ward 2, Precinct 9 asking residents why they opted to vote absentee.

U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer is giving Congress a B+ grade this year (Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune). Roemer cited the budget agreement that will result in a balanced budget, IRS reform and a charter school act as reasons for giving Congress a high grade.

A national search is continuing for a man who escaped from the Porter County jail on Nov. 7 after being arrested for theft while he impersonated U.S. Rep. Jim McDermott of Washington state. Police were searching for a Jason McDermott and nearly arrested another man of the same name in Valparaiso.

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Al Hamnik, *Munster Times* - Racial harmony in this country is as close to happening as a World Series title for the Cubs. Just when you think we've made progress in smashing race barriers, a guy like Art Tellem opens his mouth and we take another step back. Tellem is the sports agent representing Golden State guard Latrell Sprewell, the NBA's designated Thug Of The Month. Sprewell had the final three years of his four-year, $32 million contract terminated last week after twice attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo at practice. Tellem blames race, which makes as much sense as blaming "El Nino." He says Carlesimo has a history of being confrontational toward players, particularly black players. He blames race for Sprewell's flareup and says Carlesimo never gave Sprewell respect. It's hard to respect someone whose hands are clasped firmly around your throat.

Larry Shores, *Muncie Star Press* - As a Muncie politician, John V. Hampton was as unconventional as they come. Maybe that was why he had little overall success at the polls, despite being both likeable and effective while he was mayor. City elections have a certain predictability. They are usually won by people who make the accepted political moves and shun the impulse to be, well, unconventional. In a way, John Hampton died in a most conventional way. He became suddenly and seriously ill while at church on Sunday. A strong Catholic, he would have approved of that kind of exit. During his four years as mayor, he was similarly unconventional, launching one new project after another. The guy was busy, busy, busy. Yet the voters threw him out after one term, preferring Paul J. Cooley, who went on to serve 8 years as mayor. Hampton never again connected with the voters, losing several later races. He was clearly an enigma, this John Hampton. Smart, streetwise, good sense of humor. Yet elected only once, and that a bit of a fluke. His legacy as mayor? Work your hardest and hope people will notice. They often do - but not always.

Douglas Kmiec, *Chicago Tribune* - A Republican political consultant disclosed last week that Steve Forbes, who largely self-financed his 1996 presidential campaign, is prepared to spend $37 million more of his inherited personal wealth in 2000 to pursue the presidency. Forbes also plans on raising a matching amount from his well heeled friends. Thus, any potential competitors now faced with overcoming the advantages of a $74 million political war chest. Wealth should not govern American politics and as long as it does, the American people will be saddled with a burdensome and unjustifiably complicated tax system that - no surprise - favors the rich. Don't misunderstand, there is nothing wrong with the free market. There, money is distributed as unequally as talent. However, money was not intended as the currency of democracy - voting was.

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - Could a Logansport native have been Deep Throat, or was he just deeply respected by the 37th president of the United States? We may never know the intriguing answer, but it is part of the intriguing aura of Watergate. This part of the Watergate legacy involves Tom Charles Huston, a Logansport High School graduate who became a lawyer and eventually a White House aide. His departure before the June 17, 1972, break-in, which had to have been planned well in advance, suggests that at the least, he may have seen the handwriting of potential criminal conduct on the White House wall. Until Deep Throat dies, we will probably never know his identity. And as for Huston, Nixon was probably right about his steadfast silence about his days at the White House. Unlike many others who profited from book deals and interviews, 25 years later, he's still not talking. Huston's epitaph may be that he could have been the most infamous burglar in history, but maybe it should be that he stood up against an administration that lost its ethical and legal senses. Unless he tells us, we may never know.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

HPR assesses the Bulls and Bears of 1997

SHIRKIEVILLE - Since this is the last issue of 1997 - the first year in HPR's first one thousand days without an election - it's time to assess the Bulls and the Bears of Indiana politics.

First, the Bulls:

1.) Gov. Frank O'Bannon: One great month made for a great year. The rookie guv was handed the worker's comp issue on a silver platter by House Republicans and took it right to the 60th percentile in approval ratings. He even had his '96 opponent, Stephen Goldsmith, working the halls for him. And next week, O'Bannon gets a big ol' present in the form of a growing budget surplus, which, as Bill Styring would say, "Cadillacs for Christmas ... for everybody."

2.) Evan Bayh: Got to play with the twins, make lots of money.

3.) Peter Rusthoven: Emerging as the '98 challenger to Bayh. Now all he needs is Dan Coats' endorsement and a miracle next fall.

4.) Sue Anne Gilroy: Has effectively positioned herself as the GOP gubernatorial frontrunner. Earned heaps of free press with her secretary of state announcement.

5.) John Keeler: He wasn't there after his House caucus turned down the budget, opening the door for O'Bannon's honeymoon resurrection. Keeler comes off as the indispensible man when it comes to GOP strategy.

6.) Joe Andrew: Chairman, author, attorney, has power wife, family man. He's got so much on the ball he can turn down Vice President Al Gore when the Buddhists couldn't.

7.) Mike McDaniel: Threw the biggest Republican wing-ding ever. Now even the nationals are talking about Indy for a convention in 2000 or 2004.

8.) Baron Hill: A congressman in waiting.

9.) Stephen Goldsmith: Just about finished with a traipse through a public policy minefield. He started the year down. Now he's a kinder, gentler, affable Goldsmith, who has saved the Pacers and Colts.

10.) David McIntosh: He plays a significant role in the Newtonian Revolt, yet still has a seat at The Table with national exposure.

11.) Jeff Modisett: Gets national exposure over tobacco deal; endures smoked-filled room.

12.) Howey Political Report: The Energizer Bunny of Indiana politics.

Now, the Bears:

1.) Paul Mannweiler: Single-handedly aided and abetted the O'Bannon ressurrection.

2.) Sam Turpin: Indicted.

3.) Rolland Webber: Indicted.

4.) Morris Wooden: First of two training wheels to come off the '94 Lugar Team Machine.

5.) Joyce Brinkman: Second of two training wheels to come off the '94 Lugar Team Machine.

6.) Jeff Linder: Tried to pull off a palace coup against Mannweiler and either couldn't count votes or has a face that people like to lie to.

7.) Bob Garton: Ever hear the term "Jakarta," senator? You've got an insurrection simmering just below the surface. Enjoy your last session at the helm.

8.) Joe Harrison: The senator from Northport was left a blubbering heap over the worker's compensation fiasco.

9.) Paul Helmke: The Fort Wayne mayor found out Coats wasn't running a year ago, yet didn't announce and begin raising money until July. That will likely be a cataclysmic political mistake that will shadow him well beyond 1998.

10.) Bob Pastrick: The East Chicago mayor gives up the helm of the Lake County Democratic Party and then his sidekicks can't find the financial records for the new regime. Wonder what they'll find when he leaves City Hall? ✍

TICKER TAPE

Indiana AG Jeff Modisett was in Washington on Dec. 8 trying to block the federal government from taking a majority share of the $368 billion settlement between tobacco companies and 40 states.

State Sen. Beverly Gard has filed legislation aimed at allowing local communities to regulate the sale of tobacco. "It is clearly in the best interests of tobacco companies to fight controls of tobacco sales and promotions at the state level rather than in numerous cities and towns across the state," Gard said.

Ken Zeller has replaced Indiana AFL-CIO President Chuck Deppert. The shift against Deppert began when the United Auto Workers became affiliated with the AFL-CIO. "They picked up 50,000 votes, is what it amounts to," said Deppert, who defeated Steelworkers challenger Ken Massengill by 28,000 votes.

Indiana's Hispanic population is "snowballing," say local leaders in Central Indiana. Joe Cerda, president of El Centrol Hispano, characterizes the growth in Indianapolis as "stunning." Northern Indiana communities such as Elkhart and Ligonier are also seeing increases in their Hispanic populations. At

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TICKER TAPE

Wishard Hospital, Aida McCammon of the Hispanic Health Project explained, "I'm always asking people, 'Why did you come here?' The answer has been always the same: There are jobs available."

Mother Jones includes four Hoosiers on its MoJo 400 campaign contribution list: Herbert and Diane Meyer Simon at $352,500 (9th on the list); Stephen Hilbert $138,000 at 150th; and Pat Rooney at $91,750, 354th on the list.

Burton, *from page 1*

Stuteville said. "Their implication is that, 'You're an oaf, Dan Burton.' He's admirably resisted the urge to respond."

The *Washington Post*, in a Sunday editorial, took exception to an "assault" on a GOP witness by Lantos. It described the House committee hearings as an "openly partisan snake pit."

Although his background has made Burton "vulnerable to being characterized as extreme, he's handled himself pretty well so far. Generally, he's managed to keep his cool," said Thomas Mann, director of governmental studies at the Brookings Institute. "To the extent that any order and propriety could be maintained in this highly partisan atmosphere, he's managed to achieve it."

Burton himself demonstrated equanimity on *Evans & Novak* when given the chance to score political points with verbal barrages. He denied that he is being motivated by political considerations. "My purpose as chairman of the committee is to try to get the truth. If the result is a benefit for my party, that's fine with me."

But what the future holds for the investigation into campaign finance violations won't be determined by the Burton committee, said Mann. The decision not to appoint an independent counsel means the Justice Department investigation will move forward without the delays associated with getting a counsel up and running. "What matters now is the substantive investigation ... and the spring debate on campaign finance reform."

Burton can build momentum for his investigation if he turns his attention to questions surrounding illegal foreign campaign contributions, mostly from Asia, influencing the 1996 elections, said a couple of Washington analysts. The influence of foreign money has been asserted, but never proven, said Schneider. "Burton says he can prove it, and if he can, it would be substantial."

That's precisely the direction the committee is going, said Williams. Burton's next hearing will take place on Jan. 19, focusing on allegations that campaign contributions from a Wisconsin Indian tribe caused Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to put the kibosh on a rival tribe's attempt to build a gambling casino. After that, from February to mid-summer, the committee will zero in on campaign contributions from Asian sources to both the Democrats and Republicans.

No matter what direction the hearings take next year, the process has changed the congressman, according to Stuteville. "There's been a significant change in his outlook and sophistication on political questions," Stuteville said.

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT
The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics
PO Box 20877
Indianapolis, IN
46220