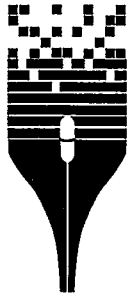
THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



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Blankenbaker ready to fight fire with fire

Looks to fend off Hofmeister, take it to Carson

HPR Forecast: The 10th CD race - both in the Republican primary and the fall's general election - is likely to get quite turbulent as the GOP put U.S. Rep. Julia Carson in its sights.

■■■

INDIANAPOLIS - To talk to Virginia Blankenbaker can be an illuminating experience. She is petite, friendly, and carries herself with an air of common sense and fairness.

And the 1996 nominee in the 10th CD finds herself on the edge of a cauldron. She is bracing for an advertising blitz from primary opponent Gary Hofmeister, who has a personal fortune and the consultancy of Ralph Reed. She fears Hofmeister will go negative and she says she is prepared to fight fire with fire, if need be.

There is the pledge - Ronald Reagan's 11th Commandment - that she asked Hofmeister and Marvin Scott to sign in the primary. Scott asked her to stop by his office to sign it, then stood her up.

Then last week, she came face to face with Reed at the Washington Township Lincoln Day Dinner. "I asked him if he believed in Ronald Reagan's 11th Commandment," Blankenbaker explained, "and he said, 'Absolutely.'"

Her own polls show her with a substantial 49-14-12 percent lead over Scott and Hofmeister in late February. If Hofmeister mounts a challenge with an April TV blitz and she survives, that sequence may pale in comparison to what a fall campaign against U.S. Rep. Julia Carson will bring.

Blankenbaker believes the AFL-CIO is pouring soft money into the Democratic Party that will be used against a 10th CD challenger. She acknowledges that the Term Limits special interest campaign may do the same for her.

And there are the issues - sticky issues - that can be used against Carson. Like the WTHR-TV story late last year that revealed

Continued on pages 2 & 3

"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

"I can assure all Republicans in Jerry's House District that you won't find a more capable and loyal member of the House Republican caucus..."

- Rep. J hn Keeler, in end rsing maverick Rep. Jerry Bales, in the Bloomington Herald-Times

INSIDE FEATURES

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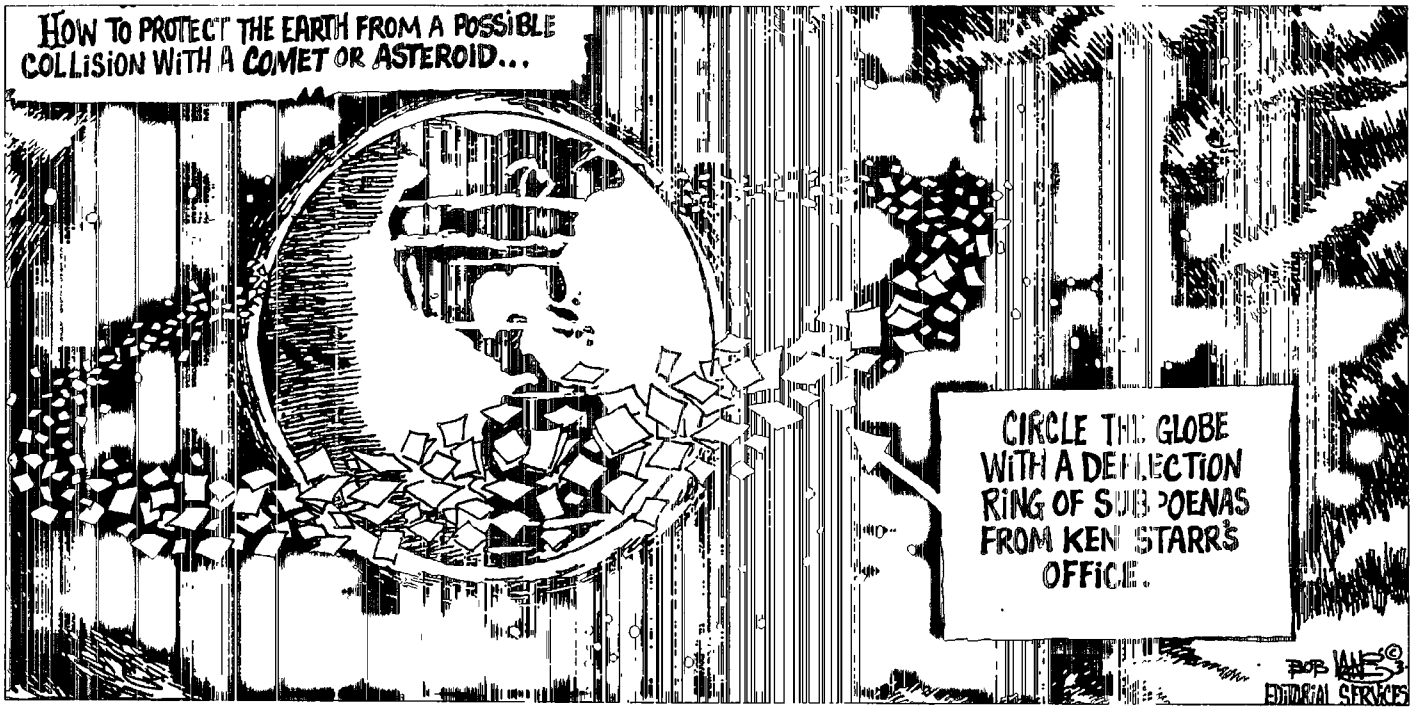
Bob Lang



TICKER TAPE

HPR Publisher Brian Howey has been named news editor of NUVO Newsweekly in Indianapolis. Howey will moderate a debate among the three Republican U.S. Senate candidates before the Indiana Christian Coalition at Calvary Tabernacle Church at 7 p.m. Monday, April 13. On Saturday, April 18, Howey will be the keynote luncheon speaker before the Indiana Democratic Editorial Association's spring meeting in Nashville. The luncheon is at noon at The Seasons Resort. Finally, on Election Night Howey will provide commentary for WIBC-AM in Indianapolis from 7 to 11 p.m.

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Blankenbaker, *from page 1*

the city had to tear down a dilapidated property Carson owned and that the congresswoman refused to fully reimburse the city.

"Her record is up for grabs," Blankenbaker explained. "She's extremely vulnerable on not paying for the demolition of her slum property in her own neighborhood. I couldn't have gotten away with that. She just thumbed her nose."

In the WTHR report, Carson told reporter Roger Harvey that she was "scheming to get a better deal" on the home demolition that cost the city more than $7,000 to raze. Carson ended up paying several thousand dollars less.

The day after the report aired, WTHR-TV tried to catch up with Carson at a Veterans Day ceremony in Indianapolis and was waved off by the congresswoman.

In 1996, GOP kingmaker Keith Bulen warned Blankenbaker not to criticize Carson personally, fearing that it would only serve to motivate Carson's die-hard core constituency. Blankenbaker's '96 campaign did try to take on Carson's record as Center Township trustee, but the message was complicated and Carson prevailed by a 90,869 to 69,248 margin.

The '96 campaign and the house demolition issue have sparked a debate by both Republicans and political observers who believe there is a double standard at play. African-American candidates, some believe, don't get the same kind of scrutiny as other candidates. Harvey's report on WTHR-TV represented the first time that Carson was placed under that kind of scrutiny.

This time, Blankenbaker is talking as if the Carson record is fair game - all of it. "Her health will be an issue," Blankenbaker insisted. "It's hard work in Congress; there are relationships to pursue. You have to be energized in the process."

Carson reported to Congress late in 1997 after heart surgery. Blankenbaker said that the impact of the congresswoman's health "will show, when the time comes."

Carson mum on Blankenbaker salvo

HPR contacted Carson's office twice Tuesday to give the congresswoman an opportunity to respond to Blankenbaker's attack. Neither call was returned.

RNCC will target Carson

The eventual Republican nominee in the

Continued on page 3

PLAY of the week

Peter Rusthoven, for being the first Republican Senate candidate to hit the airwaves. It's a radio ad campaign and reveals that even the most well-heeled candidate doesn't have enough money to run TV until later this month. But it's a start.

10th CD will get a boost from the National Republican Congressional Committee, the House GOP's campaign arm. "It is a targeted seat, and we think we have a genuine shot at it," said Mary Crawford, NRCC communications director. "That's a seat we think we can pick up because Julia Carson is out of sync with voters in that district. She's too far left."

The NRCC is zeroing in on Carson's vote against the bill that proponents say would reduce regulatory burdens on small business. The committee also released a statement recently that calls Carson more liberal than 77 percent of her House colleagues.

In early March, Rep. John Linder, NRCC chairman, challenged Carson to vote against President Clinton's budget, which the GOP said would break the balanced budget agreement.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee dismisses the efforts of its counterpart in the 10th CD. "The NRCC is prone to hyperbole," said Olivia Morgan, DCCC spokeswoman. "According to them, they're targeting every race. We welcome them to spend their money on someone with as strong a record as Julia Carson."

Blankenbaker believes Carson is also vulnerable on the Reduction of Paperwork Act, where the Indianapolis Democrat was the only member of the Indiana delegation to vote against it. The Republican believes Carson's vote was a vote against small business operators.

Add to the mix the swirling allegations of President Clinton's sex scandal, and it's easy to see Virginia Blankenbaker may have a turbulent six months ahead.

Clinton sex scandal comments

Blankenbaker agrees with Carson on one point - the public is tired of hearing about President Clinton's sex scandals. "But I do believe integrity counts," Blankenbaker said. "I do believe that political people need to be held to a higher standard and what I'm hearing is that integrity counts."

Is Blankenbaker discussing the sex scandals as she campaigns this spring around the 10th CD? "No," she said, "I talk about Medicare and Social Security."

Why not?

"It's being investigated," she said. "How do we know what's really going on? I worry about it damaging the presidency itself."

She adds, however, "I do think people are angry that a person in the highest office would take advantage of a kid."

Of Monica Lewinsky, Blankenbaker said, "She's not 'that woman.' She's a kid."

Once independent counsel Kenneth Starr releases a report, will Blankenbaker take a position?

"I would," she said.

Mark Schoeff Jr. from Washington contributed to this report

HPR Memo To... *Nancy Irsay*

Don't worry about getting the House Republican Caucus mad at you. They'll get over it. If you defeat Jerry Torr, they're going to want you to raise big bucks for them.

Brian A. Howey

TICKER TAPE

House Speaker Newt Gingrich continues his love/hate relationship with Hoosier Republicans when he addresses the State Republican dinner on April 29 in Indianapolis. Said Chairman Mike McDaniel, "We're thrilled to have Newt Gingrich as our guest for the spring dinner." Indiana Democrats responded in their weekly Newswire, "So are we, Mike, so are we. We can't wait."

Indiana Republicans have scheduled three public hearings that will help develop their 1998 state platform. The hearings will be from 4-7 p.m. April 2 at the Evansville Marriott; 4-7 p.m. April 8 at the REMC Building in Indianapolis; and 4-7 p.m. April 16 in the St. Joseph County GOP Headquarters in South Bend.

Vanderburgh County Councilman Phil Hoy is expected to switch from the Republican to the Democratic party. Hoy told the Evansville Courier that he approached Democratic leaders prior to running for county council. "The Democrats didn't want me... they made it clear I was too independent. When I was asked to run (by the Republicans) they said the party knows you're a Democrat."

The League of Conservation

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Primary Toss-Ups

1st - Lawson v. Katic

22nd - Ruppel v. Tiede, Haupert

39th - Irsay v. Torr

60th - Bales v. Ellington

General Toss-Ups

34th - Vanleer v. Adams

46th - Tincher v. Lohr

53rd - Cherry or Higgins v. Wolf

54th - Saunders v. Hamilton

56th - Bodiker v. Paust or Dickson

97th - Mahern v. Schultz

Open Seats

1st - Tabaczynski
9th - Alevizos
10th - Wilson
37th - Webber
49th - Warner
50th - Stephan
53rd - Gulling
73rd - Heeke

1998 House Racing Form

Mannweiler, Keeler stumping for a couple of Jerrys

HORSE RACE

What would happen if Nancy Irsay and Jeff Ellington win their primary battles against a couple of Jerrys - Torr and Bales? House Minority Leader Paul Mannweiler might not be able to count on their votes for re-election as head of the caucus or as speaker of the House should someone like Rep. Jim Buck decide to follow up on Jeff Linder's summer insurrection of '97. Mannweiler is taking a roll of the dice in getting involved in primary battles that the caucus has historically eschewed. The fact that Mannweiler was in Bloomington stumping for Bales - the ultimate GOP maverick who hardly ever attends caucus meetings - was a strange twist to the primary season. The move incensed Monroe County Councilman Jeff Ellington, who has a very real shot at upsetting Bales, and has peeved Irsay, who would be a House caucus fund-raising dynamo with her party pavilion. The fact that Keeler, who is considered the GOP's top political strategist, has accompanied Mannweiler is interesting. Keeler told the *Bloomington Herald-Times*, "When there's what I would consider truly a caucus issue, Jerry is there."

The question is, who will be where in November 1998 and January 1999?

In our status report, **Toss-Up** means the race is within a statistical margin of error or we're on to something; **Leans** is just outside the margin of error and up to 9 percent; **Likely** is 10 to 15 points; and **Solid** means watch out for a landslide.

Congressional Primary Race

U.S. Senate: R Primary: Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, Peter Rusthoven, John Price. **D Primary:** Evan Bayh. **HPR General Forecast:** Toss-Up v. Bayh. **1992 Results:** Coats 1,267,972, Hogsett 900,148. **1998 Forecast:** As we told you last week, Rusthoven is the first Senate candidate to hit the airwaves. Two radio ads began running this week on Mike Pence and Rush Limbaugh radio shows. "People that tend to listen to Pence and Limbaugh are much more inclined to vote," said Rusthoven campaign manager Ken MacKenzie. "It's not a huge buy, but it's substantial." The first is an introductory ad where Rusthoven introduces himself to voters. The second is an ad by former Education Secretary William Bennett, who intones, "One of my best students was Peter Rusthoven, who later worked for President Reagan and is now your Republican candidate for U.S. senator." MacKenzie said the campaign will begin TV "in a week or two." Former Reagan speechwriter Peggy Noonan will appear for Rusthoven in Indianapolis on April 27. Helmke had Hammond Mayor Duane Dedelow speak on his behalf at the Lake County Lincoln Day dinner. Helmke has nine fund-raisers scheduled. He will be part of a welcoming committee for Gen. Colin Powell at IPFW next week. Helmke's campaign will announce the endorsement of Vanderburgh County GOP Chairman Jeff Hatfield later this week. Three debates are coming up: one before the Christian Coalition in Indianapolis on April 13, the *Indianapolis Star-News*/WTHR debate that will be televised from 8 to 9 p.m. on April 20, and before the Indianapolis Press Club on April 22. Evan Bayh will hand out awards to the Salvation Army in Indianapolis on April 1 and will speak on the importance of volunteering. **Primary Status:** Toss-Up

Indiana House Primary Races

House District 1: R Primary: Open. **D Primary:** Peter Katic, Linda Lawson. **Geography:** Hammond, East Chicago, northern Lake County. **HPR General Forecast:** Lawson. **1994 Results:** Tabaczynski (D) 6,644 (unopposed). **1996 Results:** Tabaczynski 11,860 (unopposed). **1998 Forecast:** This could very well become a grudge match between the Stiglich and Pastrick factions of the Lake

County Democratic organization. Chairman Stiglich is expected to back Lawson, the first female Hammond police officer and a school board member. Former Chairman and current People's Republic of East Chicago Mayor Bob Pastrick has aligned himself in the past with Katic. Since Katic left the legislature, according to the *Munster Times* he was a judge who dropped his pants in front of co-workers on Valentine's Day to reveal his red thong underwear. He lost a sexual harassment lawsuit, the *Times* reported. As a Lake County commissioner Katic crashed a county-owned car and reported it the following day and was never charged with leaving the scene, according to the *Times*. There is no clear-cut front-runner, but Stiglich has been flexing his organizational muscles and it's hard to believe he won't pull out all the stops for Lawson. But remember, this is Lake County.... **Primary Status:** Toss-Up.

House District 39: **R Primary:** Rep. Jerry Torr, Nancy Irsay. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Lebanon, Zionsville, Carmel, Boone and Hamilton counties. **HPR General Forecast:** Toss-up. **1994 Results:** Willing (R) 15,974, unopposed. **1996 Results:** Torr 21,451, unopposed. **1998 Forecast:** Torr press conference inplies that Irsay is not qualified to run for the legislature. PBS's *Indiana Week in Review* crew criticizes the remark. "That's the dumbest argument I've ever heard," said Ann DeLaney. Added Rex Early, "Certainly Nancy Irsay is qualified. For crying out loud I got elected to the legislature." Added Jon Schwantes on the name ID front for Irsay, "She has it." Torr mitigated that blunder by having Carmel Clerk-Treasurer Diana Cordray endorse him, along with Carmel Councilmembers Luci Snyder and Kevin Kirby, as well as former State Rep. John Donaldson, former Boone County Commissioner Bob Guernsey, and former Hamilton County Commissioner Bill Karnes. The incumbent is also getting help from Speaker Paul Mannweiler and the GOP caucus. Torr defended himself on the issue of no tax cuts, saying, "I and my fellow House Republicans have been calling for permanent and meaningful property tax reductions since the beginning of the 1997 session. We didn't allow the Democrats to blow the current excess balance on a one-time $100 rebate, a political gimmick." Watch for Irsay to come at Torr as part of a do-nothing legislature. She will also likely say Torr is a legislator who has had very little impact and who represents one of the fastest growing counties in the state that will need future clout. "Jerry Torr is a follower, not a leader," Irsay is saying. Her campaign literature reads: "A strong voice for all of us." She is emphasizing her successful small business and her charity work which gives her an ability for "strong, active leadership." **Primary Status:** Toss-Up.

House District 60: **R Primary:** Rep. Jerry Bales v. Jeff Ellington. **D Primary:** Open. **Geography:** Bloomington, Monroe County. **HPR General Forecast:** Bales. **1994 results:** Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Forecast:** Reps. Paul Mannweiler and John Keeler give this race a bizarre twist (see *Quote of the Week*, page 1). Any legislative observer will tell you that Bales is hardly a "loyal" member of the Republican caucus. The Mannweiler and Keeler endorsement galled Ellington. He accused Bales' acceptance of party help "a deathbed conversion" and the "ultimate hypocrisy." Said Ellington, "By accepting these endorsements he once refused, he is throwing his own principles out the window in an attempt to get Republican votes he once took for granted" (Steve Hinnefield, *Herald-Times*). "If Bill Clinton were in the caucus, they would have to endorse him." Ellington produced clips in 1988 when Bales resigned from the House GOP caucus during the first 50/50 House split. In 1995, Bales called on House GOP leadership to resign. And this past session, when Bales voted for the Democratic tax cut plan, he was booed on the House floor by Republican members. On other issues, Bales questioned Ellington's party credentials, saying he voted in Bloomington Democratic primaries in 1987 and 1991. Bales is also expected to press Ellington on not registering his tree maintenance business and not filing a report with fire officials on hazardous materials. Ellington, a firefighter, says he contracts out any part of his business that deals with hazardous materials. As you can see, this race is going to get bizarre and nasty and could have long-term repercussions. **Primary Status:** Toss-Up.

✍ *Brian A. Howey*

TICKER TAPE

Voters has given U.S. Rep. David McIntosh a 19 percent rating on his votes on their issues. Said New Castle Mayor Sherman Boles, "I believe that protecting the water that we drink and the air that we breathe are essential to our future. I don't think Congressman McIntosh considers our environment when he votes in Washington." Boles also accused McIntosh of "sending out very deceptive fund-raising letters to his supporters." Boles noted McIntosh's "urgent" letter seeking money when he reported $576,000 raised in December 1997. Boles said he has committed to a $400,000 spending limit.

Marion County Democratic Prosecutor candidate Joe Champion accused Prosecutor Scott Newman of having a low prosecution rate on homicides. "Scott Newman is better at bringing charges than at making them stick," said Champion. He cited an Indianapolis Star/News story that said only 49 of 101 homicide cases handled in 1997 ended in conviction."

Hoosier Members of Congress are bringing home the bacon - both Republicans and Democrats. U.S. Rep. Ed Pease announced $3.3 billion in highway funding for Indiana

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TICKER TAPE

highways. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson announced committee approval for a $10 million appropriation to replace public buses in Indianapolis. U.S. Rep. John Hostettler was lauding $30 million for the I-69 extension. And McIntosh noted a $13.9 million Transportation Committee approval for road projects in Muncie.

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder was named by Speaker Newt Gingrich to serve on the Speaker's Task Force for a Drug-Free America. "We're in the middle of a crisis," Souder said. "The Speaker's Task Force will be an important factor in refocusing national attention on drug abuse and developing a plan to tackle the problem." Said Gingrich, "I am confident that the wisdom and experience of these appointees will be vital to this task force and will ensure that the drug problem is eradicated."

Gail Riecken, the Democrat challenging Hostettler in the 8th CD, accused him of trying to abolish a federal agency that could help Bloomington recover from the closing of the Thomson TV plant this week. Said Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez, "What we need in Washington is a partner. We don't expect the federal government to solve our problems, but we do look for them

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Quayle beginning to roll

Former veep is Clinton's fiercest critic and it plays well to GOP

INDIANAPOLIS - Dan Quayle was visiting a charter school in Wisconsin when the teacher - one of the best in the school - introduced him as Bill Clinton's vice president.

That little exchange last week made news. WRTV-Channel 6 went with the story, but in more of a "man bites dog" sense. Remember "potatoe?" the anchor announced. Well, there was a snafu on a Quayle visit to the school, but guess what? It wasn't his fault.

Quayle doesn't mind taking a poke at himself. He appeared at a roast in Nashua, N.H., last week and asked the audience, "Why would I move from Indianapolis to Arizona? It's easier to spell."

Rep. Charlie Bass then got up and asked Quayle to spell the name of Manchester Mayor Raymond Wieczorek. "I got that one," Quayle responded. "I know him well. W-I-Z."

New Hampshire Gov. Jeanne Shaheen couldn't resist the fun. She unveiled "Dan Quayle menus" in which virtually every word was misspelled.

Dan Quayle is emerging as one of three top tier Republican candidates for president in 2000, joining Texas Gov. George Bush and mega-millionaire Steve Forbes as the men to beat when the presidential parade starts in 1999

"He is traveling 70 percent of the time" said Craig Whitney, who is directing Quayle's PAC, Campaign America, out of Phoenix "We do fund-raisers for state and county parties. We're doing legislative races. In Iowa, we just gained control of the Senate in 1996 and he's helping to make sure we keep a majority in the Senate."

And there is the press.

Quayle is one of several Hoosier politicians - Frank O'Bannon, Stephen Goldsmith and George Witwer among the others - with ties to publishing power centers and fortunes. And Quayle has been a ferocious critic of the press, if only because in 1988 the press tried to devour him just after he received the vice presidential nomination. Dan and Marilyn Quayle shrewdly pursued the vice presidential nomination and got it, much to the chagrin of a national press that never took him seriously. And they still don't.

Even Quayle allies will tell you that 1988 was a disaster. But what about 1992? That was the year of "potatoe" but also when he took on the Hollywood establishment's Murphy Brown and created "family values" which has become an enduring political mantra with not only Republicans but Bill Clinton himself.

The '92 Quayle was a campaigning credit to the ticket that was headed by a meandering President Bush, even though he was relegated to secondary media markets.

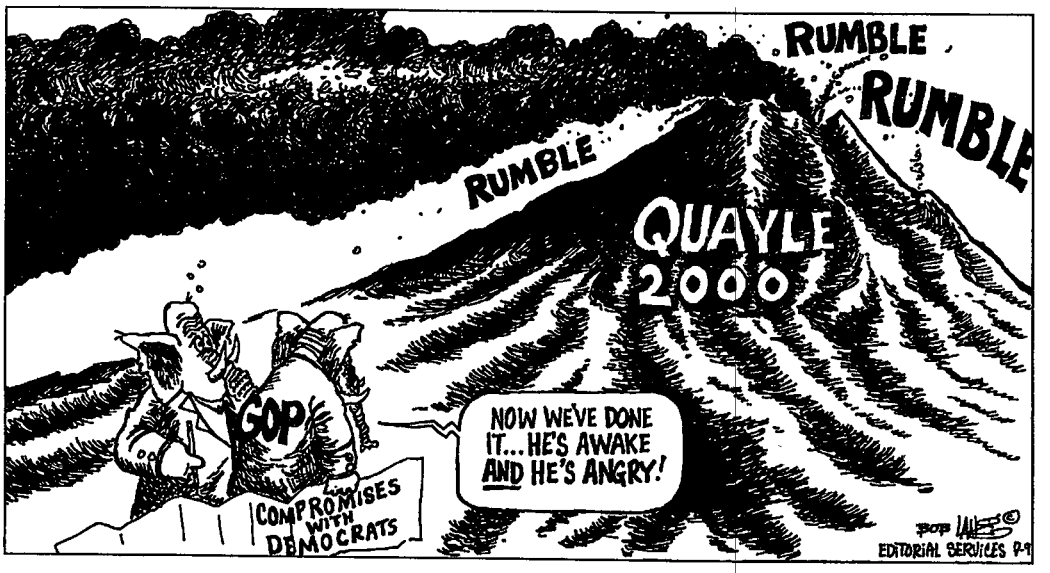
Even today vestiges of the old Eastern Liberal Establishment cannot fathom even the foggiest notion of a "President Quayle." ABC's Cokie Roberts, for instance, dismisses Quayle as a joke.

Yet, Whitney observes, "We are getting good media and we're very happy about it. One highlight in the last three weeks was his appearance on NBC's *Meet the Press*. He was very good, calm, in command, relaxed, strong. We're getting a great deal of positive comments and letters about that."

Not that the news is all good. A straw poll at the Washington Township Republican Club's Lincoln Day dinner in Indianapolis had Gov. Bush defeating Quayle by a 70-59 margin. It prompted club president Jim Atterholt to observe, "I was surprised. I really like Dan Quayle, but this says something."

Yet Quayle ended up in Harris County, Texas, and Gov. Bush was a no-show. Quayle rallied the crowd and stole the show. On the Clinton sex scandals, Quayle has been one of the most outspoken Republicans nationally. "This administration has been not only corrupt, but arrogant," Quayle said in Madison, Wis., last Thursday (*St. Paul Pioneer Press*).

"I am more determined than ever that the American people hear my agenda," Quayle said.



Last Wednesday, Quayle journied to Iowa where he endorsed Jim Ross Lightfoot for governor. The reason for endorsing Lightfoot, Quayle said in Sioux City, was that Lightfoot "tells the truth" (KTIV-TV4) That set him up to take on President Clinton.

"He's not invoking executive privilege to protect the American people, he's invoking it to protect himself," Quayle said. "Why? Because he has something to hide. Why doesn't he level with the American people? Because he doesn't want to tell the truth."

In Texas, the Associated Press reported that Quayle "fired up the smaller-than-expected crowd" at the Harris (Tex.) Republican Forum by accusing the president of "outrageous behavior" which he said was "sad and dangerous."

The *Houston Chronicle* reported that Quayle told the crowd, "Bill Clinton doesn't belong in Africa apologizing for America. Bill Clinton belongs in Washington apologizing for his outrageous conduct"

What is at play is a Quayle who is strategically preparing for 2000. He has become President Clinton's fiercest critic while shrewdly maneuvering himself into the power structure of key 2000 primary states like New Hampshire (where he was squired around last week by former Gov. John Sununu), Iowa (where he endorsed what could be the next governor), South Carolina and his current home state of Arizona.

"We feel good about what we've got going in Iowa and New Hampshire," said Whitney, who helped bring Gary Geipel onto the Campaign America PAC from Hudson Institute to organize Iowa. "Geipel is working very hard to put an organization in place. There will be a steering committee."

Quayle has spent eight days in Iowa since Jan. 20, according to the *Des Moines Register*, compared to 18 days for Lamar Alexander, 8 days for Steve Forbes, 6 days for Jack Kemp and 2 days for Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Ditto for New Hampshire, where the campaign will have full-time staff working within the next several weeks. "In New Hampshire we've had excellent trips there and there is a lot of interest," Whitney said.

Des Moines Register reporter David Yepsen reported that Iowa has been "inundated by presidential campaigning" which he says has "started earlier, and with more intensity, than ever before."

The risk, Yepsen said, is that so much activity will be another reason for voter turnoff.

For Quayle, that may be a different equation. He has maintained his celebrity shelf life six years after leaving office - something no one would have predicted back in 1992. Only a fool would dismiss his candidacy.

TICKER TAPE

to join with us in solving these problems." Riecken said she would advocate "economic development" to bring back jobs to Southwestern Indiana. Hostettler spokesman Michael Jahr explained "John Hostettler believes that communities should not have to play the Washington money game where a community sends its tax money to the federal government and then begs for a fraction of it back" (Steve Hinnefield, Herald-Times). Riecken responded, "We need to keep that program but we need to make it work."

There appears to be a split in the Indiana factions of the Ku Klux Klan. The American Knights faction of the KKK will rally in Elkhart on April 11. Another faction, the National Knights, claims the AKs are coming to Elkhart to recruit members. Ray Larsen of South Bend who heads the NKs told the South Bend Tribune, "We don't have to recruit. This phone rings constantly. We're just tired of whites not getting treated like blacks. The ones they get we wouldn't even want." The Elkhart NAACP is planning to stage a peace rally two miles away in an attempt to divert some attention from the KKK.

So much for Doc Bowen's commercial appeal. Bowen has

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TICKER TAPE

done TV ads for Procter and Gamble's Olean fat-free chips. But the South Bend Tribune reports that sales are mediocre of Olestra products such as Pringles, Doritos and Ruffles.

The Penn-Harris-Madison School Corp. in Osceola has voted down year-round schools (South Bend Tribune). It isn't that the board doesn't like year-round schools, it just doesn't want to implement the concept next fall. "I want to hear more," said board member Bob Proudfit. "But I'm not ready to say let's go in the fall."

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Brian Howey, *HPR* - "To a large degree, the change to the tournament simply reflects changes that had already taken place in Indiana's schools and communities. The rise of the suburbs, and the decreasing numbers of people who live out their lives in one place, large or small, had eroded the deep connections that once existed between residents and their local high school teams," wrote Kirk Johnson of the *New York Times* of Indiana basketball. Sure enough, the last Peru Tiger game I've seen came about 10 years ago, before venerable Tig-Arena was sold to the Miami Indian tribe. Will class basketball survive this weekend and next? That's when the boys crown four champions, and then brace to see what a 4A Pike team might do to 1A Lafayette Central Catholic. Will the RCA dome look empty when the final two teams stand tall? Keep in mind that this year's tournament is a mirror of our Hoosier society today. When this [illegible] need to take [illegible] ..In the meantime, hail to the champions!

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - They burned out calculator batteries by the barrelful last week figuring out who to spread around $9.3 billion in highway money. You may think the way that's done is to list all the possible projects in descending order of importance and then pay for as many as the $9.3 billion will cover. But you'd be wrong. Rep. Ed Pease's district got $40 million - 19.5 percent of the entire pot assigned to Indiana. He's just a freshman and hasn't had time to build up any clout. So how'd he make out so sweetly? He's a member of the Transportation Committee. Rep. Dan Burton got $30 million because he's the big kahuna Republican in the Indiana House delegation. Rep. John Hostettler also got $30 million. He's not a member of the Transportation Committee, he doesn't have much seniority, he doesn't have any weight to throw around. His claim? He faces a rough election in November, and it makes sense that the GOP is eager to take care of him. Julia Carson got zip from the highway list, but she did get $10 million for new city buses out of a different pot, so she's happy.

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