Friday, Dec. 11, 1998 ■ Volume 5, Number 17

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink, Inc. Founded in 1994, The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana.

Brian A. Howey
editor and publisher

The Howey Political Report
PO Box 20877
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Office: 317-254-1533
Fax: 317-254-2405
bhowey@nuvo.net

brian.howey@gte.net

Washington office: 202-775-3242

Daytime number: 317-254-2400, Ext. 273

Pager: 317-320-2722

NewsLink Home Page: http://www.inoffice.com/hpr

Subscriptions: $250 annually via fax or first class mail. Call 317-254-1533.

© 1998, The Howey Political Report. All rights reserved. Photocopying, faxing or reproducing in any form, in whole or in part, is a violation of federal law and is ***strictly prohibited*** *without consent of the publisher.*

"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'For the people of Indiana there is not an immediate and compelling reason to change the leadership."

- U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, on whether he will challenge Gov. Frank O'Bannon in 2000

O'Bannon will need forceful leadership

Key legislators thumb tax overhaul

By BRIAN A. HOWEY *in Indianapolis*

It was an incredible juxtaposition. Within an hour of expert talk on the looming destruction of Northwest Indiana's steel and petroleum refining industries and very real potential that American United Life might flee.Indianapolis just like Lincoln National fled Fort Wayne - all due to rapidly changing global business and investment climates - the legislators took over.

One by one Senate Finance Chairman Lawrence Borst, House Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer, and ranking Ways and Means Rep. Jeff Espich shot down the notions of comprehensive tax restructuring in Indiana in 1999. And this in a year after an election, a biennial budget year, with more than a $2 billion surplus, a robust economy and virtually no unemployment.

For some of us attending *Indiana Legislative Insight/* Bingham Welsh & Summers pre-General Assembly conference, it was a stunning admission of gutless governance from the state's primary fiscal movers.

"I see no significant tax restructuring," Borst said. "The time to do it was two years ago in 1997 or two years ahead in 2001." He opened his remarks by saying, "The politics of taxation does drive policy."

Bauer went down a laundry list of special interests: $160 million for corrections, $185 million for higher ed, $50 million for CHIPS, $550 million for K-through-12, $151 million for Medicaid, $40 million for mental health and $32 million for public TV. "If you add all that up, we're in a hole even before we cut taxes."

Borst noted that Gov. Frank O'Bannon is advocating money for more cops, full-day kindergarten, early kindergarten and free textbooks. "Add all of it up and we've spent all the money."

Speaker John Gregg lamented, "No one wants to do a tax shift. We'll see changes, but not the major shifts everyone talked about." And Espich said in all candor, "I don't think anything much is going to happen." His reason, "There was no mandate on Nov. 3."

Senate Majority Leader Richard Young, reacting to the recent Supreme Court decision on property taxes, added, "I'm not sure it's going to be up to the legislature to make changes."

Continued on page 2

TICKER TAPE

Indiana Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew appears to be the frontrunner for the Democratic National Committee chair that was vacated last week. Multiple sources tell HPR that Andrew is the top pick for party General Chairman Roy Romer. Should that happen, we give current Indiana Democratic Executive Director Robin Winston the inside track to replace Andrew.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon reacted to the Indiana Supreme Court's decision on the state's property tax system by saying, "I think it says that the property tax statute that we have in place is constitutional but the assessment through our rules and regulations has to be

Continued on page 3

Taxes, *from page 1*

It took State Sen. Vi Simpson, the ranking Democrat on Senate Finance to show any courage. "It will be interesting to see what a little estrogen in the mix will do," she began, before saying, "While the legal pressure is off, I disagree with my colleagues. I don't think the political pressure is off. A lot of people made a lot of promises to the electorate. I don't see why this couldn't be the year for comprehensive tax reform.

"It is a legislator's job to put forward creativity. We don't have to wait for the governor."

Waiting for the Governor

In reality, such legislative meanderings pose the greatest test for Frank O'Bannon. While *Indianapolis Star* columnist Larry McIntyre and others have O'Bannon already re-elected, the truth is that much of his viability for a second term hinges on what kind of leadership he shows in the '99 legislative session as well as who he faces.

O'Bannon ran in 1996 advocating a restructuring of the tax system. The historical context of this was always placed next to Otis Bowen's landslide election in 1972 followed by his sweeping tax reforms in '73. While O'Bannon's opponent, Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, had a complete plan and legislation stuffed into briefcases and ready to go, the Democrat emerged from his upset victory comparatively exhausted. The 1997 legislative session would have been the perfect time for O'Bannon to move, but the Democrats used almost every man hour getting him elected and had no one working on making tax restructuring a reality in '97. Instead, O'Bannon pushed through $500 million in temporary tax cuts and created his Blue Ribbon Commission.

The risk HPR thought he took in 1997 was that he would lose his election thrust that could have pushed through a program during a brief honeymoon; his tax commission would not be able to compile a single, bipartisan plan he could push; and that time would run out for such a plan in '99 to make an impression on voters by the 2000 election.

There is no doubt that O'Bannon is wildly popular statewide - running in the 80th percentile in some areas. But that is a personal popularity developed on the goodwill of himself and First Lady Judy

O'Bannon, and by the excellent economy that could become beyond his control within two years, particularly in Northwest Indiana. On the public policy front, O'Bannon's record to date could be characterized as "caretaker." His greatest legislative feat - workers compensation reform - would not have happened if House Republicans hadn't blundered and sent the '97 session into overtime. Last year there was no leadership at all on any fronts, with Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton finally observing, "We came, we met, we went home."

On Christmas week, O'Bannon will announce his tax plan. Phil Bremen, O'Bannon's press aide, cautioned there there is a "difference" between tax cuts, tax reform and tax restructuring. That announcement and his execution of it in the '99 legislature - where expectations will be high - will have a huge impact on O'Bannon's prospects in 2000.

Northwest Indiana

What made the legislative financiers appear callous, cavalier and impervious to the real world was analysis heard minutes before they took the stage. Mark Cahoon, director of taxation at the Indiana Manufacturer's Association talked of the international purchase of Inland Steel (which is 50 percent of East Chicago's tax base) and Amoco (70 percent of Whiting's tax base). "What's going to happen is that East Chicago will be competing with Trinidad for investment dollars," Cahoon said of Inland. "Decisions are going to be made in London" for both Inland and Amoco, and not in Northwest Indiana. "It's going to be tough for British Petroleum to invest in Whiting, Indiana."

Cahoon said that the dumping of foreign steel into the US will doom the American steel industry unless President Clinton steps in, as well as thousands of jobs in Northwest Indiana, which is one of Gov. O'Bannon's most important political bases.

Indianapolis and Fort Wayne

Rep. Paul Mannweiler was the one who first mentioned AUL potentially fleeing Indianapolis, just as Lincoln National is leaving Fort Wayne for Philadelphia. Mannweiler noted that Michigan, Illinois and Kentucky have developed business climates that are now seen as better than Indiana's. The weight of the workforce has shifted by 20 percent from the production sector to service.

When Indiana failed to change its banking laws in the early 1980s, the state's banking system was swallowed up by titans in Detroit, Cleveland, Minneapolis and Chicago. "If you do not change; if you do not improve, you get left behind in the backwaters."

Added the Indiana Chamber's Kevin Brinegar, "Capital investment is very mobile. It will gravitate to lower taxing states. It will pick up and move."

The contrast to all of this is what O'Bannon will do. State Budget Director Peggy Boehm characterized the governor as "very pleased with the report of the commission." Boehm said, "I can assure you Frank O'Bannon is serious about reducing property taxes. It sounds like we had support from all four caucuses. I would expect the governor's plan to help both homeowners and those who don't own property." Then Boehm cautioned: "There just isn't that much money. There are huge number of demands, a huge number of construction in double digit amounts and the resources are limited.

"It will be difficult for the governor to make recommendations; hard for the governor to keep everyone happy."

Of course, the person who has to be the most happy is Sen. Borst. With the Tom Alevizos, Dan Stephans and Jerry Bales gone from the House, it is easier to see the caucuses marching lock step on the budget. Borst will be the indispensible man in the legislature. It will be utterly crucial for O'Bannon's leadership to overcome his obstinance.❖

TICKER TAPE

changed. And I think when we do that to meet the court requirements, we'll see if there's any shift on property taxes from business over to homeowners. And if there is, we have a chance for the legislature and the governor to address that. And the court has given us that chance, so I think it's good from that standpoint." As for 1999, O'Bannon said, "I think with the surplus we have, we can still do tax cuts. It might limit exactly how we do it. But we will have a proposal to cut property taxes here in this General Assembly."

Gov. O'Bannon was asked if the Supreme Court ruling would be "the 800-gorilla" facing the 1999 legislature. He replied, "No, it'll just be another 800-pound gorilla."

The Associated Press reported that U.S. Rep. David McIntosh is saying that Gov. Frank O'Bannon would have to "stumble" in 1999 before he would consider opposing him in 2000. McIntosh said he hadn't considered running for governor until Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith announced he would not see re-election. "The Republicans want to capture the office, but I will probably take a wait-and-see attitude and see what happens in the legislature,: McIntosh said. He added, "There is something excit-

continued on page 4

TICKER TAPE

ing about being involved in state government. There are issues that relate directly to the state. Indiana has the potential to show how a pragmatic conservative government could work." McIntosh added that he would honor his 1994 commitment to serve no more than six terms or 12 years in the U.S. House.

Former Vice President Dan Quayle said McIntosh should "wait and look at all options" next year. "There are a lot of opportunities," Quayle said. "He needs to consider what is in the best interest of his career."

Fort Wayne wants to add two more City Council seats in the 2001 redistricting (David De Camp, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). The resolution supports having eight district seats and maintaining three at-large positions. State law currently requires the City Council have six district seats and three at-large members. However, state Rep. Win Moses Jr., D-Fort Wayne, proposed this fall introducing legislation in next year's General Assembly to allow the city to add positions on the council. Moses contends the growth of the city through annexation to 202,900 people has resulted too high a ratio of residents to district council members. The 2nd District has about 46,000 people, while the

continued on page 5

Lugar off and running for 2000 re-elect

Senior senator raises $185,000 in his largest fundraiser ever

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8, 1998--There's no need to speculate about Sen. Dick Lugar's political future. He's running again for his Senate seat in 2000. Hard.

Even before the dust settles from the 1998 election, the four-term Hoosier senator hauled in $185,450 from political action committees at a Washington event on Dec. 3. It was the largest PAC fundraiser ever for Lugar and the fourth-largest fundraiser in the senator's political career.

He is augmenting his PAC take with a direct-mail piece to his core supporters. The Lugar campaign estimates that the mailing, sent out in late November, will bring in between $110,000 and $130,000. Money from the two efforts may not register on the Federal Election Commission report due Dec. 31 but will show up on reports later in 1999. Early in the year, Lugar is planning several fundraising events in Indiana.

Lugar had $762,966 in cash on hand before Dec. 3, according to the most recent FEC reports. The vast majority of his contributions came from individual Hoosiers.

Lugar's Washington events last week consisted of an approximately 150-person reception at the Willard-Intercontinental Hotel and a dinner for 58 at The Red Sage, two popular downtown hangouts of the capital politerati.

Supporters included a diverse range of corporations and interest groups. Among those attending: Conagra, Central Soya, Chase Manhattan, AT&T, Association for Manufacturing Technology, American School Food Service, Boeing, Chrysler, Cinergy, Citigroup, Dayton Hudson, Federal Express, Futures Industry Association, First Boston/Credit Suisse, General Motors, Goldman Sachs, Independent Bankers, Kraft, Lincoln National, Lilly, Managed Funds Association, Monsanto, Merrill Lynch, Nabisco, Texaco and UPS.

Lugar chose a difficult time to begin his quest for 2000-cycle cash. Washington is still recovering from last month's election and is becoming fixated on the impending impeachment vote. Many PACs are exhausted and tapped out.

CONGRESS WATCH

"It's absolutely impossible to raise money in December," said Bill Lane, governmental affairs director in the Washington office of Caterpillar Inc.

Lane, who attended the Lugar reception and dinner, cited ?political fatigue' as the reason why the December after an election is usually a quiet time for PACs. Lugar "is an exception to the rule," he said. "We're all proud to be associated with the senator."

Lugar, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, made it clear that he will defend his seat in 2000. "On occasion you're asked to come to events where people are seeking office," he told those gathered at the Willard. "This is one of those times."

He went on to outline the issue agenda he'll be pursuing over the next two years. It includes addressing the global economic crisis, working to halt proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and trying to achieve energy independence for the United States.

LUGAR'S OPPONENT? Good question. It's unlikely AG Jeff Modisett try to knock off Lugar. He can't afford another statewide defeat. One Democrat said, "Doug Leatherbury is available." And how about this intriguing name almost 100 percent certain: Bob Kern.❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Indiana loses DC tenure, but it may not matter much

INDIANAPOLIS - Think about the draw down on the years of service from the Indiana Congressional delegation. Between 1994 and 1996, Hoosiers in the U.S. House of Representatives lost Democrats Phil Sharp (20 years), Frank McClosky (12 years), and Andy Jacobs (30 years) to retirement and defeat, and Republican John Myers (30 years). That's a combined 92 years of service. It becomes 103 if you throw in defeated Democrats Jim Jontz and Jill Long since 1992.

This month, Sen. Dan Coats leaves after 18 years in the House and Senate, and Rep. Lee Hamilton exits with 34 - another 52 years. To sum it up, Indiana has lost 155 years of Congressional service in the last six years.

So, we should be hurting, right? Not so fast.

While there has been a bleeding on the Democratic side, which lost power in the House in 1994, Hoosier influence on the majority Republican side has dramatically increased, as evidenced by Reps. Steve Buyer and Ed Pease conspicuously displayed to the world this week from their perches on the House Judiciary Committee. U.S. Rep. David McIntosh leads the Conservative Action Team and was a player under Speaker Gingrich. As head of CAT, McIntosh will still wield considerable influence even though he initially opposed Speaker Robert Livingston.

Pease is only in his second term, but in addition to his role on Judiciary, he also sits on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committees and was instrumental is shifting hundreds of millions of dollars in highway money to the state last year. Pease was widely praised for his role in that, including Gov. Frank O'Bannon. When the last session of Congress ended, it was Pease who gaveled the session sine die from the Speaker's chair. After being robbed recently in Arlington, Va., Pease found himself featured in Jay Leno's monologue on NBC's *Tonight Show.*

Then there is U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, who, while discrediting himself in his probe of Clinton/Gore finances, will have considerable clout over the 2000 U.S. Census as chairman of the House Government Oversight and Reform Committee.

On the Senate side, Lugar's 21 years gives the state a leading and powerful voice in agriculture and foreign policy. While Lugar is clearly running for re-election and will be a heavy favorite to win a fifth term, he will almost certainly be touted as a potential Secretary of State nominee should a Republican win the White House in 2000.

Sen.-Elect Evan Bayh is expected to have an early national profile as the Democratic establishment believes he represents the party's future in a post Clinton/Gore era. How fast his rise to national power is will be determined on how Vice President Al Gore fares in 2000. If Gore loses the general election, Bayh's name will immediately gravitate toward the top of a short list for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination, or at least as a vice presidential nominee.

Indiana isn't the only state which has bled in seniority. Lee Hamilton noted this week that there has been a 62 percent turnover in the U.S. House since 1990.

Speaking at the *Indiana Legislative Insight* conference this week, Hamilton also spoke well of Congress. "I have more confidence in the Congress than you do; more than my constituents do."

He added, "I am not cynical, pessimistic, angry or frustrated. I'm not leaving because I'm mad at anybody. I'm leaving because 34 years is enough." ❖

TICKER TAPE

other five have around 30,000.

State Sen. Luke Kenley has introduced a bill that would require body-piercing shops to meet state health standards and make it a class A misdemeanor to pierce a minor without a parent or guardian providing written consent (Lafayette Journal and Courier). The responsible adult also would have to be present during the procedure. Senate Bill 38 would exempt ear piercing, which is commonplace, and acupuncture performed by licensed professionals. Kenley admitted the bill is out of character for him. Known for his disdain of government meddling in private affairs, he nonetheless believes minors are being placed at risk. "I think the justification is, when it comes to the activities of minors we do feel some sense of responsibility to those people who are making decisions that could permanently affect them," he said.

Gov. O'Bannon was present along with Dr. Soichiro Toyoda, chairman of Toyota Motor Corp., to watch the first Toyota pickup truck roll off the assembly line in Princeton. "We're delighted that so many Hoosiers are on the job here, producing a quality product and earning a living wage," O'Bannon said.

continued on page 6

TICKER TAPE

O'Bannon is proposing legislation to fund the 500 new police officers the state has put on the streets as well as form a new $2.5 million "strike force" fund to combat "extraordinary crime problems." O'Bannon cited the serial killings in Vermillion County and the recent methamphetamine outbreak in Montgomery County as examples where the strike force could be applied. "When a tornado or flood or other natural disaster strikes, we don't think twice before offering help," the governor said. "Sometimes crime fighting requires a helping hand from the state, too."

Indiana University History Prof. Emeritus George Juergens has signed his name to a petition opposing the impeachment of President Clinton. "I think this process has been fueled by partisan fervor. Impeachment is a solemn enough occasion. It's not something to be done for narrow partisan gain or for frivolous reasons" (Jessica Wehrman, Evansville Courier). The petition read, in part, "We deplore the present drive to impeach the President. We believe that this drive, if successful, will have the most serious implications for our constitutional order."

Bob Hidalgo Kern, the 1996 6th CD Democratic nominee, is now working at a

Indiana Racing Form '99

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Allen County Sheriff Joe Squadrito, Linda Buskirk, Councilwoman Rebecca Ravine, Councilman Don Schmidt, Councilman John Crawford. **Democrat:** Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Forecast:** Councilors Ravine, Schmidt and Crawford consider entering the fray. Schmidt is the dean of the city council with close business ties. Dr. Crawford could easily fund his own campaign. Ravine is in her second term. Squadrito and Buskirk will formally announce next week. Allen County GOP Chairman Steve Shine is hosting a peace powwow next week to lay out ground rules. Another name floating around is former Police Chief Neil Moore, who is now teaching at IPFW, but no one seems to know what party he is considering. **Status:** *Leans Squadrito.*

HORSE RACE

Gary Mayoral: Republican: None. **Democrat:** Mayor Scott King, State Rep. Vernon Smith, Calumet Township Assessor Booker Blumenberg, Jr. **1995 Results:** King (D) 23,588, Williams (I) 5,482, Boswell (R) 1,108, McCraney (I) 96. **1999 Forecast:** First term Mayor Scott King is seen as vulnerable in what has to be one of the most difficult political jobs in the state. He has spent the last three years trying to turn Gary's tarnished image around with limited success while enduring a wild relationship with the City Council. A recent crack district sting involving state and federal officials didn't bring a single arrest, embarrassing the administration. He is also being hounded by various neighborhood groups who believe he has neglected their needs. Two Democratic primary threats - Rep. Smith and Assessor Blumenberg - are very real. Blumenberg, 53, is a Gary cop who has already declared just after winning a third term. His announcement included a very aggressive verbal attack on King. Rep. Smith says he will decide by Christmas. Too early to tell how this one might turn out until we know the Democratic primary field. **Status:** *Leans King.*

Hammond Mayoral: Republican: Mayor Duane Dedelow. **Democrat:** Lake County Commissioner Francis DuPey. **1995 Results:** Dedelow (R) 11,099, Philpot (D) 10,578. **1999 Forecast:** DuPey has the potential to give the two-term Dedelow a real run for his money. His 1995 victory was a squeaker, and the talk since has been the probability of DuPey's candidacy. The city Democratic organization - which DuPey chairs - is in better shape, as evidenced by State Sen. Frank Mrvan's recent reclamation of the 1st Senate District. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

South Bend Mayoral: Republican: Steve Bradley. **Democrat:** Mayor Steve Leucke. **1995 Results:** Kernan (D) 14,309, Waite (R) 3,106. **1999 Forecast:** The fact that St. Joseph County Republicans had a banner year in 1998 makes this worth keeping an eye on. Leucke was chosen by Democratic precinct officials to finish out Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan's term. His stewardship over the past year has been steady, with virtually no mistakes and no abnormal accumulation of enemies. But Leucke is keeping his eyes over his shoulders at Portage Township Assessor John Vorde, son of a mayor, who is said to be pondering a primary challenge. Vorde was approached by South Bend Republicans about running against Leucke, promising $80,000 in support. He said no. A primary challenge to Leucke would be interesting, but an uphill battle particularly when you consider how Kernan would likely be available on his behalf to twist errant elbows and tweak heads. On the Republican side, Bradley has emerged as the man to watch. He lost in a 1998 challenge to St. Joseph County Assessor David Weselowsky, getting 45 percent. Some Republicans wonder why he didn't do better in a year when they had huge upsets in sheriff and prosecutor races. With or without Bradley and Vorde, the Republicans will have an extremely tough time capturing this traditionally Democratic City Hall. **Status:** *Safe Leucke.*

BRIAN A. HOWEY ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

David Broder, *Washington Post* - It could have been a lugubrious occasion - a symposium on a feeble institution, the two-party system, honoring a political leader with an incurable illness. Instead, the first annual Bulen Symposium was as bracing as my end-of-the day visit with L. Keith Bulen, the storied GOP power broker to who this day was dedicated. Most of the out-of-state scholars, operatives and political journalists who came ... cited evidence of ever-weaker parties at the national level and in their states. But Indiana is an exception - and perhaps, because of the Bulen legacy, harbinger of better days ahead of both parties. Wabash College political scientist David J. Hadley, said Indiana elections are notable for "pitting two well-organized competitive parties against each other." (Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Joe) Andrew told me, "There's a direct line from what Keith Bulen did in his time to what I'm trying to do now. We're just doing the old-fashioned things with new tools." Bulen was too weakened by cancer to attend the symposium, but when I drove out to his house, I found him as engaged in the politics of the day as ever. As his life comes to an end, he knows that his legacy remains in the strong parties of his home state - an example to the nation. ❖

Elias Wolfberg, *Gary Post-Tribune* - (Evan) Bayh seemed to segue into Washington seamlessly last week as he prepared to begin his career as U.S. Senator. He dined with senators at the Supreme Court and attended a senators' orientation. While Bayh rubbed shoulders with top Democrats - only fueling speculation of higher ambition - he was treated like any incoming freshman senator. He picked up what are considered standard committee assignments, winning places on the Energy and Banking committees and an appointment to the Special Committee on Aging. Still, the smoothness with which Bayh took everything in only fueled talk about his future. Analyst Norm Ornstein of the American Enterprise Institute, said Bayh's future will be determined by his own political dexterity. "It's not so significant what committees he was appointed to because an Evan Bayh will make something out of whatever he gets," Ornstein said. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - House Republicans are squirming, trying to wriggle out of the impeachment inferno, but Sen. Richard Lugar seems ready to put on a fire-proof suit and plunge right in. "I read the polls," he said. "And the exit polls indicated 2-1 people want it done. Sort of toast. Over. But that really cannot in a rule of law situation be the governing factor." When Lugar is probed about impeachment, it's clear he has reached some conclusions. It's impossible to get him to say whether he thinks Clinton should be impeached, but Lugar is only a hair shy of asserting that perjury is an impeachable offense. Even though Lugar and (U.S. Rep. Mark) Souder represent two sharply contrasting lines of thinking, the wellspring of their logic is the Constitution. To Lugar, perjury is perjury is perjury, and perjury is a blow at the foundation of our system of jurisprudence. An offense that traumatic is, indeed, what the Constitution means by "high crimes and misdemeanors." To Souder, overturning an election is an action that is also traumatic to the country; the offense that warrants crossing that line should be more threatening to American society than sexual deceit.. ❖

TICKER TAPE

nut kiosk at an Indianapolis mall. During his campaign, Kern had previously worked a counter job at Hardee's.

The Lafayette Journal and Courier reported that the new instant background check system or gun purchases have hinder sales at gun and knife shows. Gun dealers report that while the state computer check system usually works within minutes, the federal system can take more than a day.

Indianapolis City-County Councilman Ron Franklin was sentenced to 180 days probation on a weapons charge. The Republican councilor had been arrested for having a handgun with an expired permit and possession of marijuana. He was acquitted on the marijuana charge. Franklin faces additional charges of cocaine possession and public intoxication stemming from a second incident this fall. Franklin has refused to resign his council seat despite calls from community groups for him to do so.

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton released this statement on US Attorney General Janet Reno's refusal to appoint a independent counsel to investigate Clinton/Gore 1996 campaign finance allegations. "For over two years everyone across the political spectrum, including FBI

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

Director Louis Freeh and Chief Prosecutor Charles La Bella, have told the Attorney General that an independent counsel is mandated by law in this case. It is sad that we have an Attorney General who refuses to follow the law. More importantly, I find it deplorable that she seems to have placed the President above the law."

The next edition of The Howey Political Report will appear following votes on impeachment by the House Judiciary Committee and the full U.S. House, which is expected to take place late next week. HPR's Brian Howey and Mark Schoeff Jr. in Washington will have full coverage from Capitol Hill and throughout Indiana. ❖

Who are the 50 most influential political figures in Indiana?

Lugar, Bayh, O'Bannon?

Then Who?
Andrew, McIntosh, Gregg or Borst?
Mannweiler, Vargus, McDaniel and DeLaney?
Daniels, Freeland, Colwell or Shine?

Contemplate your list. They could be officeholders, party officials, financiers, journalists and broadcasters. Give us a sentence or a paragraph as to why you would rate an individual and where.

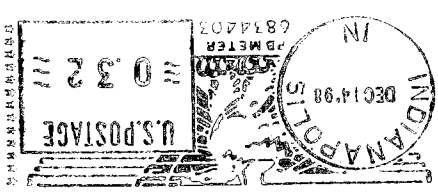
Send it to HPR by Dec. 23:

Fax: 317-254-1533, with attention to Brian Howey

E-mail: bhowey@nuvo.net or brian.howey@gte.net

Then read the January 7, 1999 edition of HPR for the list of the

50 Most Influential Political Hoosiers

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

JACK E. HOWEY 38
NEWSLINK, INC.
2314 CALAVERAS WAY
INDIANAPOLIS IN 46240-4714