

THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“They saw qualifications. They didn't see race....”

- Grant County Sheriff Oatess E. Archey, after becoming Indiana's first African-American sheriff, to the Marion Chronicle-Tribune

HPR's 50 Most Influential Pols

It's Our Hot Stove League List

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis
MARK SCHOEFF JR. in Washington

Who are the 50 most influential political figures in Indiana? In these pages today we present what is essentially a distillation of hundreds of names suggested by HPR readers and writers into those we believe have the greatest power, influence and impact here in the Hoosier state.

We expect this list to be controversial for who we name, where we name them, and those who are omitted. It is not a scientific compilation, although the number of suggestions we received for each individual helped in placement. For instance, only six legislators made our cut. That shows that out of 150 legislators, true power lies in the hands of only a few. There are no journalists or broadcasters. As one reader told us, “There aren't any Jep Cadous and Gordon Engleharts out there any more and the ones most conspicuous are beholden to conventional wisdom.”

It was both tough and interesting weighing influence from Indianapolis, Washington, and those who have clout in the cities, counties and the world of finance.

HPR will present this list each January. Our readers will be able to gauge who is hot, who's static, and who's falling. If nothing else, we know we've commenced a great debate - our version of the Hot Stove League. Don't hesitate to give us an earful.



1. U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar: His influence as a thoughtful conservative internationalist may be at its strongest point. The senior senator has had two opeds on foreign policy topics published in the Washington Post in the last month: U.S. policy toward Iraq and Kosovo. That's no mean feat and evidence of the weight that Washington gives to his views. His political strength in Indiana is formidable. Nothing should stop him from a fifth term.

2. Gov. Frank O'Bannon: His popularity virtually matches Lugar's and Bayh's as many observers believe he is well on his way to a second term. O'Bannon uses the bully pulpit as well as any modern governor. He faces a key legislative session that could make his reputation as an innovative leader or weaken his standing.

3. U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh: Many in his party claim to be New Democrats. Bayh will have a chance to prove him-

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The roster for the Indiana General Assembly was filled last Saturday with the election of Jonathon Weinzapfel to the vacant 76th House District seat formerly held by Larry Lutz, who was chosen to fill out the Senate term of the late Joseph O'Day. O'Day died on Nov. 27, setting off the chain of events. Weinzapfel, the 1996 unsuccessful 8th CD Democratic nominee, defeated Dennis Clark, 35-2 in the vote among precinct committeemen from Posey and Vanderburgh counties. Said Weinzapfel, "It's one thing to run a campaign for a year and a half and have an election, and another thing completely different to have - what, two days, three? - to get ready" (Rebecca Coudet,

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self one in the Senate. The telegenic former governor can raise a ton of money, has an outstanding political network, and has the ability to engage in serious policy discussions. He says one of his role models is Sen. Joseph Lieberman. If Bayh lives up to that standard, he may be headed for the White House.

4. State Sen. Larry Borst: He is the indispensable Republican in the legislature, where his whims reverberate through the state's tax structure and budget. When a deal on taxes or the budget comes down at the Statehouse, Borst is there and has been for decades.

5. Democratic Chairman Joe Andrew: His party has accomplished some of its greatest feats of the century under his rule. Andrew appears to be on a national trajectory.

6. Dan Quayle: Cokie Roberts and the Capitol Gang don't see the former vice president as a viable presidential candidate in 2000. But George Stephanopoulos and Mike McCurry are predicting he'll be the 2000 nominee. HPR believes he has a decent chance to do just that. He's included as a Hoosier because of his roots and his plans to declare candidacy in Huntington, Ind.

7. Mel & Herb Simon: Who fuels the Democratic successes with money? These mall mongers do.

8. Steve Hilbert: The Conseco titan and state's richest man funds Republicans, owns horse tracks, race cars, has theaters and fieldhouses named for him and his company. Indiana Pacers and Susan Bayh work out in his personal gym. 'Nuff said.

9. Speaker John Gregg: This jovial Democrat guards the gates in the House and is the governor's counterweight (no pun intended) to Borst. He has a bright future in statewide politics.

10. Marty Morris: Lugar's chief of staff is rarely quoted in the papers and never appears on television. You may not have heard much about him, but he keeps the buses and trains running on time in Lugardom, which is the state's top performing political machine (Lugar has better coattails than Bayh). That means Morris in charge of the strongest political network in Indiana. The state GOP is turning to him for behind-the-scenes leadership during this time of disquiet for the party.

11. U.S. Rep. David McIntosh: As leader of the Conservative Action Team, he is becoming one of the most influential

members of the right in Washington. The media savvy congressman knows how to get himself into the national papers and on the networks. He can make a compelling case for tax cuts and conservative social policy, covering both of those important Republican bases. The drawback is that he can sometimes be cast as a firebrand, marginalizing himself. McIntosh would be the strongest gubernatorial challenger to O'Bannon in 2000 if he decides to leave Washington.

12. U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer: His leadership of the New Democrat coalition could give him enormous influence on the U.S. House agenda. With only a five-seat gap between the parties, it's people in the middle such as Roemer who will make the difference. This articulate Notre Dame PhD exudes confidence. He consistently wins his conservative-leaning district, foiling Republicans by embracing conservative issues such as the balanced budget and tax reduction.

13. U.S. Rep. Eq Pease: He quietly put together a terrific freshman term. He proved himself as skilled at landing high-way money as his renowned predecessor, John Myers. During the impeachment proceedings in the House, Pease distinguished himself with his thoughtful statements and careful articulation of principle. When he spoke, the national media, such as *The New York Times* and NBC, listened. He could develop into the House version of Lugar.

14. State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer: Top budget Democrat in the legislature who sometimes veers from Gov. O'Bannon's agenda. Always a key player, like him or not.

15. Mitch Daniels: His long-time organizational and Reagan ties make him a huge influence in the Indiana Republican Party. Daniels would make a great senator someday if he wanted it.

16. Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel: Popular with the party faithful, he'd rank higher by the natural order of his position, but McDaniel really, really

needs a big statewide victory. It's a testament to his strength that he has survived despite problems not of his own making.

17. Pat Kiely: The former Ways and Means Committee chairman is now the top guy at the Indiana Manufacturers Association and is extremely influential in the Statehouse.

18. Judy O'Bannon: The tireless first lady is a huge reason the governor enjoys the popularity he has. She may well end up as the state's most beloved first lady. Judy O'Bannon appears in almost more front page articles across the state pushing Main Street and millennium projects than the governor does - and it's always good news. She speaks intelligently on any given topic. Her front porch TV ad in the 1996 campaign was crucial in Frank's upset of Stephen Goldsmith. And she has something no one else has - the governor's ear almost every night.

19. Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan: He is emerging as a true force in commerce and agriculture, preparing to accept the mantle of the state party in a post-O'Bannon era. He's an excellent speaker with a quick wit, is a war hero and has a bright future.

20. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder: He is as conservative as McIntosh but also an iconoclast. You never know what Souder may be thinking, or what he may say. But it usually is thought-provoking, evidenced in his agonizing over his impeachment vote, and makes him a favorite barometer for the national media. He far exceeds any of his delegation in media accessibility, which makes him one of the highest-profile members of the House. Because he promised to serve no more than six terms in Congress, we see Souder as a potential statewide force should he decide to stay in politics after life on Capitol Hill.

21. Robin Winston: If Joe Andrew moves on, Winston as executive director of the state Democratic Party could take the chair if he wanted it. But he seems to be more comfortable working behind the scenes instead of setting up the chicken dinner circuit. He has been instrumental in

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Evansville Courier & Press).

Gov. Frank O'Bannon and State Sen. Larry Borst appear to be disagreeing on whether there will be a special session this year. Borst is predicting business won't get done on time and told the Associated Press that he wasn't making vacation plans until July. Gov. O'Bannon said, "I think it is less likely this year, mainly because we're doing all positive things. We're not in a time when we would even look at raising taxes. It's time to grin about it and say there are some positive things we can do about the state."

O'Bannon's tax plan that would put welfare costs in the state budget "would be a good deal for Monroe County, but taxpayers in other area counties, where welfare tax rates are low, would get less of a break," reported Steve Hinnefield in the *Bloomington Herald-Times*. Even so the plan appears to be getting good marks from legislators in low welfare counties. "It would play real well," said State Rep. Brent Steele of Bedford, who represents Lawrence County. "In the overall scheme of things, it would lower property taxes some but not a lot."

Senate President Pro Tem Robert Garton seems to have partially endorsed

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Gov. O'Bannon's \$1.6 billion tax cut plan, reported Susan Dillman in the South Bend Tribune. "We may want to go a little broader and deeper with some reductions than he's proposing, particularly in the area of property tax reductions. We can't be critical, because the concepts (are ones) we've been promoting for the last 10 years."

About 250 people watched Oatess E. Archey take the oath of office as sheriff of Grant County. Archey, 61, a former FBI agent, becomes the first African-American sheriff in Indiana history. Archey defeated Republican Mike Back by 592 votes on Nov. 3. "They saw qualifications. They didn't see race," Archey said. He was born in 1937, seven years after the Grant County sheriff allowed hooded Ku Klux Klansmen to pull two black teenagers out of his jail and hang them outside the courthouse. A third teen - 16-year-old James Cameron - survived the lynching and drove from Milwaukee to attend Archey's swearing in. Archey was a star athlete at Marlon HS, tried to hire on as a teacher there, but due to segregation had to settle for a school janitor position. Archey later joined the FBI and held top posts in Washington and Los Angeles, assisting with security at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

resurrecting the Democratic ground war.

22. Prosecutor Scott Newman: The Marion County prosecutor is the chief law enforcer over the state's biggest county and state government. His '98 re-election win - without going negative in the face of a stiff assault - was impressive.

23. Ken Zeller: Now head of the state AFL-CIO, Zeller stands at the helm of an invigorated organized labor movement that helped the Democrats retake the Indiana House. He controls the spending of hundreds of thousands of dollars that spill into Democratic campaigns.

24. U.S. Rep. Julia Carson: Seen as an eccentric on Capitol Hill, Carson presides over a potent Indianapolis political organization that could turn the old Indiana Republican machine on its ear in the '99 mayoral race. Her convincing victories over Ann DeLaney, Virginia Blankenbaker and Gary Hofmeister have made HPR a believer. She's 22-0.

25. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer: The Persian Gulf War veteran has carved a niche for himself in military affairs. His stature increased during the House impeachment proceedings and could be further enhanced in the Senate trial, in which he will be a manager. He wrote an 80-page brief advocating impeachment that he circulated to colleagues. If Clinton goes down, Buyer will be recognized as a key figure.

26. State Sen. Bob Garton: As president pro tem in the upper Cave of Winds, Garton has a seat at the table on any important legislation. His grip on power in the face of restless middle-aged Republicans is relentless and impressive.

27. Tom New: He's the governor's chief of staff.

28. State Rep. Paul Mannweiler: The top dog among Republicans in the House, he's been able to hold together an unweildy tribe for a long time.

29. Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy: She is in a fight for her political life as she attempts to breathe new life into a moribund Marion County political

organization. If she defeats Democrat Bart Peterson, her stock will skyrocket. If she fails, she's toast.

30. Tom Sugar: If you want the attention of rising star Sen. Evan Bayh, Sugar is the man you'll have to see first. He's a younger Marty Morris.

31. U.S. Rep. Dan Burton: He's still in control of the campaign finance investigation. Anything can happen, which makes him a player, but when we look at Burton, we look at what might have been and shake our heads. His is a case of lost momentum. Can the House, and America, stomach more scandal investigations after the Lewinsky trial ends in the Senate? How can Burton keep campaign finance interesting and relevant? It's a tall order for someone as undisciplined as he.

32. David Gogol: The former Lugar legislative director is the head of Sagamore Associates, a Washington lobbying firm. His gold-plated client list includes the city of Indianapolis, Purdue and Indiana universities, and many Hoosier companies. He is the face of Indianapolis in Washington. If the city receives an appropriation for an infrastructure project, you can be sure Gogol had something to do with it.

33. Bernie Toon: The former Roemer chief of staff is the Democratic complement to Gogol at Sagamore. His ties to the national Democratic party are strong. Retired Sen. Bill Bradley stays in contact with Toon, his former chief of staff. Toon may be a player in Bradley's presidential campaign.

34. Stephen Stiglich: The Lake County Democratic chairman wrested that potent organization away from East Chicago Mayor Bob Pastrick and is now king of The Region.

35. Steve Shine: The Allen County Republican chairman is the prototype for the modern GOP chief. He upset the Old Guard to win the chair in 1993 and has used his position to adroitly rack up big victories at the city and county level and

place three of his constituents on the statewide GOP ticket .

36. Butch Morgan: The St. Joseph County Democratic and 3rd CD chair is a seasoned political operative who rules much like the legendary Casey Pajkowski did for years up in South Bend.

37. Mayor Stephen Goldsmith: His star is waning, rapidly. The lame duck Indianapolis mayor once seemed on the verge of incredible state power and a quick move to the national stage. His defeat in 1996 was one of the most astounding in Hoosier history, thanks to a mixture of arrogance and miscalculation. If city finances turn out to be in a mess and the Democrats take over City Hall in '99, Goldsmith could go down in history as a catastrophic individual in the once proud Indiana GOP.

38. Mayor Paul Helmke: The placement of the Fort Wayne mayor and Goldsmith reflects the loss of clout among the state's mayors at this juncture. It is possible that four of the top five Indiana cities will have new mayors by year's end. Both have been innovative mayors, but they didn't translate successes in their cities to a statewide level. Helmke won't run for re-election, another reason for his lower rating. He ponders a run for governor in 2000. In order for people to take him seriously, he's going to have to demonstrate that he can raise money, put together a good statewide strategy, and execute it - none of which happened in 1998.

39. Michael K. Phillips: The former House speaker turned lobbyist exercises big clout and represents top clients at the Statehouse.

40. Gordon Durnil: He was one of the architects of the legendary GOP Machine. He is now a party elder statesman, author, and environmentalist. He still plays a major role in party events.

41. Mayor John Fernandez: We've talked about the waning influence of Goldsmith and Helmke. The Blooming-

ton mayor represents a rising class of young mayors. This Democrat could easily make the jump to federal or state politics if he wanted to.

42. Attorney General Jeff Modisett: He has been an activist AG, playing a major role in the war against Big Tobacco, as well as conspicuous roles against fraud, substance abuse and drunken driving. It will be interesting to see him grapple with LG Kernan and Gregg in the post-O'Bannon era.

43. Lee Hamilton: When the chips were down for Baron Hill, Hamilton stepped in at the 11th hour and helped him win the 9th CD. He's the new elder statesman for the Democrats, working for Indiana University and a D.C. think tank. He could be a future cabinet member. He will have considerable clout for years to come.

44. Bart Peterson: All Democratic eyes will be on the former chief of staff to Gov. Bayh as he tries to become the first of his party to be elected mayor of Indianapolis since 1963. And he has a real shot at doing it. If he does, he will move to the top 10 of future lists.

45. Supt. of Public Instruction Suellen Reed: Education is at the top of everyone's agenda at the Statehouse, and she's head of that department. Her input and working relationship with Gov. O'Bannon makes her a player.

46. Nancy Pappas: The top ISTA lobbyist is a significant player on the Statehouse lobbying front, working an area everyone says is important. She is still emerging from Bob Margraf's legendary shadow and will likely rise on future HPR lists.

47. Dick Freeland: If you're a Republican running for office, you have to make a call on the Fort Wayne Pizza Hut magnate to be well funded.

48. State Sen. Teresa & Mark Lubbers: Here's the top GOP power couple. She is a Senate rising star. He is a go-to operative whose opinion carries big weight.

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Deputy Marion County Prosecutor Mark Massa will manage Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy's Indianapolis mayoral campaign.

Democratic Indianapolis mayoral candidate Bart Peterson has joined city-county council Democrats in endorsing hiring 200 new police officers. "Other cities are winning the war against crack cocaine and violent crime and we are losing it," said Peterson. "Indianapolis is a city in crisis and it's time we started acting like a city in crisis. We must add 200 more police officers and we must stop indulging in the fantasy that our violent crime problems are simply going to go away on their own."

The Indiana State Board of Accounts has received two taxpayer petitions to audit the City of Indianapolis. One petition seeks an audit of a \$530 million contract to the consulting firm of Oscar Robertson/Smoot that was instrumental in Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's privatization agenda. The other would look into Indy Parks. The SBA hasn't comprehensively audited Indianapolis for 15 years, although it does every other city over 5,000 population every year.

Delaware County Democratic Chairman Phil Nichols has resigned, ending a stormy nine year reign that

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resulted in deep divisions within the party. Calls for Nichols' resignation intensified after Republicans swept most county offices in what has long been a Democratic bastion. "We've been in this long-drawn-out fight within the party organization. By me resigning, at least it's going to create an opportunity for people who are tired of the infighting to end that," said Nichols (Douglas Walker, Muncie Star Press). His successor will be chosen on Jan. 9. Leading contenders include Ron Murphy, president of UAW Local 499, and Muncie firefighter Dennis Tyler. Democratic Prosecutor Richard Reed, who had campaigned on an anti-Nichols agenda in the past, said he hoped "someone from labor" would emerge as chairman. "We need to get labor more enthusiastic about the party," Reed said. Another party critic of Nichols, Judge Steve Caldemeyer, added a new chairman "needs to be somebody who stays out of primaries."

Outgoing Carroll County Sheriff Lee Hoard has filed as a Republican to run for mayor of Delphi. Republican Mayor Sam Deiwert said he will make a decision on running for re-election this month (Lafayette Journal & Courier).

Elkhart County's homicide rate more than tripled in

Bayh begins in impeachment crucible

Junior senator becomes a juror in his second day in office

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Evan Bayh didn't have to wait as long to make history in his Senate career as he did to have his clothes and furniture delivered from Indiana.

Just two days after arriving on Capitol Hill, the Hoosier Democrat took an oath as a juror in the impeachment trial of President Clinton. Bayh and his Senate colleagues are only the second such jury ever to be convened. In the meantime, Bayh moved into his Spartan temporary office in the basement of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, while still waiting on his wife, children and possessions to make their way through the aftermath of the Indiana snowstorms to the capital.

Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist opened the trial Thursday by swearing in the senators. Then the House trial management team, which includes Rep. Steve Buyer, presented the two articles of impeachment passed by the House.

One of them alleges that Clinton perjured himself before a federal grand jury. The other alleges that he obstructed justice in order to conceal his affair with former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky.

What happens now is anyone's guess. Like every other senator, Bayh and Indiana Republican Sen. Dick Lugar have refrained from stating conclusions about the case, citing their responsibility to serve as impartial jurors.

But fissures between the parties are starting to appear. As of Wednesday night, the trial procedure hadn't been determined. Debate over calling witnesses is beginning to break down along party lines.

Bayh questioned the need to bring Lewinsky or any other impeachment principals into the Senate for testimony.

Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr provided reams of information to Congress in his investigation report.

"I want to hear why 60,000 pages of evidence is not sufficient," Bayh said. Before acquiescing to witnesses, Bayh said he would have to be convinced that they would present "something new. Absent that, it would degenerate into something that won't reflect well on the Senate."

Bayh's stance on witnesses puts **CONGRESS WATCH** him at odds with Indiana's senior senator. "Both sides should have

complete freedom to call witnesses and to cross-examine witnesses," Lugar said in a statement released Wednesday.

A full trial is needed, Lugar said. "I believe that before I vote on the question of removing a president from office, I should hear all of the evidence that led the House of Representatives to vote articles of impeachment and as complete a defense as President Clinton and his attorneys wish to make in response."

With his statement, Lugar seemed to indicate his opposition to a bipartisan proposal floated earlier this week to end the trial in a matter of days. Sens. Joseph Lieberman (D-Ct.) and Slade Gorton (R-Wa.) offered a plan that would have the House managers present their case in one day and the White House defense present its case within one day.

Then the Senate would vote on whether to proceed to a full-scale trial on each impeachment article. A two-thirds majority would be required to start the trial; the same number needed to convict the president.

If the super majority threshold isn't reached, the Senate would vote on whether to dismiss the case. That motion

could pass on a simple majority. Under any procedure, a simple majority vote can stop the trial.

Many conservative senators believe that truncating the trial would allow the Senate to shirk its constitutional duty. But a leading political scientist said that a long trial could politically damage Republicans if the public reacts negatively.

"They can get away with (a trial) if it's less than a month," said Larry Sabato, professor of political science at the University of Virginia. "If it goes into the second month, good luck to them."

On the other hand, many observers thought that the Gulf War vote in 1991 would have repercussions in the 1992 election. It didn't. "Nobody has a crystal ball," Sabato said.

Most agree that the crystal ball shows a bright political future for Bayh. That future may be affected by his vote on whether to convict or acquit Clinton. If he votes to convict, Bayh might anger the Democratic party and hurt his chances to run for president.

The junior senator dismissed speculation about his vote being influenced by political considerations. "That will have absolutely nothing to do with it," he said firmly without altering his disciplined bonhomie. "I will take an oath as a juror. I intend to be true to that oath and put politics aside."

In fact, the entire Senate should put politics aside, Bayh said. "I hope very strongly that we can avoid the partisanship and rancor that has too often characterized this proceeding."

But partisanship may be inevitable. One area where it could flare up involves the use of additional secret evidence alleging misconduct by Clinton. Buyer has said the evidence is part of the impeachment record even though it's not public. Buyer encouraged Rep. Mark Souder to review the secret evidence before reaching a conclusion about

impeachment. Souder did and eventually decided to vote in favor of one impeachment article.

In answering a question about whether senators should review the secret evidence before casting their votes, Bayh was skeptically Socratic: "Why didn't they make it public?" But then he quickly added, "I would have to know what it is. I don't have an opinion on it. I've got an open mind." ❖

■ ■ ■ Sen. Bayh to focus on Social Security, Economy

Occasionally over his first two days, Bayh was able to talk about issues other than impeachment. A newly appointed member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, Bayh said that Social Security reform would be one of his top priorities. He also listed education, health care, and the economy.

He wants to focus on "issues that relate to the quality of (people's) daily lives and increasing the opportunities they have."

Although he served as governor, Bayh begins his Senate life as a blank slate. He has a chance to draw any number of designs on his political canvass. He cited two current senators as being among his role models.

"I have a lot of respect for Joe Lieberman," he said. "He's a man of conscience, a moral individual and works in a bipartisan way. I also have a lot of respect for Dick Lugar. We're going to be a strong team on both sides of the aisle."

Lugar agreed, telling WTHR-TV that Indiana will be "well served" by both he and Evan Bayh. ❖

Schoeff is HPR's Washington correspondent.

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1998, shooting up to 13 from four in 1997 and six in 1996.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar has endorsed recent steps taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to shore up pork prices. "Unprofitable hog prices are having a severe impact in Indiana and other states," Lugar said. "We must continue to assist the hard-pressed domestic pork industry." In December, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman told state Farm Bureau leaders that the USDA is actively formulating a plan to shore up the industry. That resulted in the USDA announcing additional purchases of pork for food banks, school meals, the Department of Defense, the Veteran's Administration and the Russian food aid package. Lugar has urged the incorporation of female hogs in a humanitarian assistance program for Caribbean countries devastated by hurricanes and working with the Canadian government to decrease the number of hogs exported for slaughter.

State Rep. Bill Friend has called for an investigation of food retailer's wide profits in the wake of the catastrophic fall in hog prices (Kokomo Tribune). The newspaper reported that Farm Bureau President Harry Pearson is also questioning retail margins of profit. "Someone's making the money and we

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just don't know who it is," said Friend.

Clinton County Auditor Gina L. Sheets has declared her candidacy for mayor of Frankfort as a Republican. Current Mayor Harold Woodruff has decided not to seek a third term.

Fort Wayne Councilman John Crawford has been elected president of the council. He was nominated by outgoing president Rebecca Ravine. Both councilors and another Republican, Don Schmidt, are still contemplating runs for mayor in the wake of Paul Helmke's decision not to seek a third term. ❖

Influential, from page 5

49. Ed and Ann DeLaney: The Democratic counterpart power couple who are influential in the state, the nation and internationally.

50. Jeff Smulyan: The king of Emmis Broadcasting is a key Democratic fund-raiser and an influential player in the Circle City.



Here are some players who didn't quite make our cut ... this year:

State Sen. Vi Simpson: HPR loved it when she said the legislative powers-that-be need a little estrogen in the mix. They do! They do! Go for it, Vi!

Sheriff Jack Cottey: Marion County's top law enforcer is a looming statewide power who has all the trappings of a political kingmaker.

Rex Early: There's a wing of the Republican Party named after him. HPR wishes Rex would reactivate himself. So, Rex, just show this to Mrs. Early.

Feter Rusthoven: If Dan Burton gets in trouble on a ghost employment probe, Rusthoven may be a key player to take up the 6th CD GOP mantle.

John Hammond: The former chief of staff to Gov. Bob Orr is another influential lobbyist in the halls of the Statehouse.

State Rep. Jeff Espich: He'd be much higher on the list if the Republicans controlled the House. He's their top budget guy with a penchant for detail and a cutting wit.

Eric Miller: The social conservatives seem splintered and Miller's clout may have fallen with Goldsmith's. We'll reassess him after the '99 legislative session and the execution of the GOP's "cultural war."

Karl Berron: The top guy for the Realtors is a class act on the Statehouse lobbying front.

Mike Smith: The Associated Press's top guy is read by more people than anyone else. The lack of journalists on the list shows how newspapers coverage of the Statehouse has waned.

Jim Purucker: Another top lobbyist who's good at dodging bullets.

Burr Step. Peggy Welch: She won the upset of '98 and has a bright, bright future either at the state or federal level. ❖



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The Weekly Briefing On Indiana Politics

