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THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'I refuse to call this a trial. It is more like an administrative hearing..."

- U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, one of the House managers in the Senate impeachment trial of President Clinton, on his frustrations with the Senate, to HPR's Mark Schoeff, Jr.

Impeach impact hard to gauge now

GOP has time to recover, but ...

By BRIAN A. HOWEY, in Indianapolis

The standard line in speeches I give when forecasting elections that are far, far away is that only a fool will say with any certainty how things will go.

That is ever so true when gazing off at the November 2000 elections in Indiana. The critical question in political circles today is: Will the impeachment trial of President Clinton have a resounding impact, or any at all, 21 months from now? This HPR issue might be a good one to store away as a benchmark look at what could occur.

There is no doubt that 1998 will go down as one of the most politically tumultuous years in history. As Charlie Cook of the *Cook Political Report* observed in December, "At one point this month America was bombing a foreign country, impeaching a president and watching a House speaker-designate resign, all in the same day."

And that came after a sitting House speaker was pushed out and the President's party won gains in mid-term elections for only the third time since 1822.

At this writing, Democrats are confident that President Clinton will not be convicted in his Senate trial. They talk of a "backlash" from voters in 2000.

Conversely, Republicans feel an array of conflicting emotions. Many believe the president is guilty as hell, but the more moderates really do wonder if the offenses rise to the level of impeachment. It would have been easier for them if something else Kenneth Starr had investigated - the travel office, billing records, FBI files, Whitewater - had stuck to the president, creating a pattern of reckless conduct. But many Republicans believe there will be ramifications concerning the rule of law that may not be comprehended for some time. And they really are fearful of a potential backlash in 2000.

One final backdrop to all of this is the notion of "scandal fatigue" that is settling in. Americans are truly sick of scandal. That's why U.S. Rep. Dan Burton probably has little to fear from Russ Baker's Salon expose. There isn't even a Democrat in the House willing to file a complaint against an adversary they all despise. Bill Clinton, too, will likely slip off the hook. Many feel he is damaged politically, but Clinton is a gifted politician and HPR wouldn't be surprised if a Social Security deal became the political and pub-

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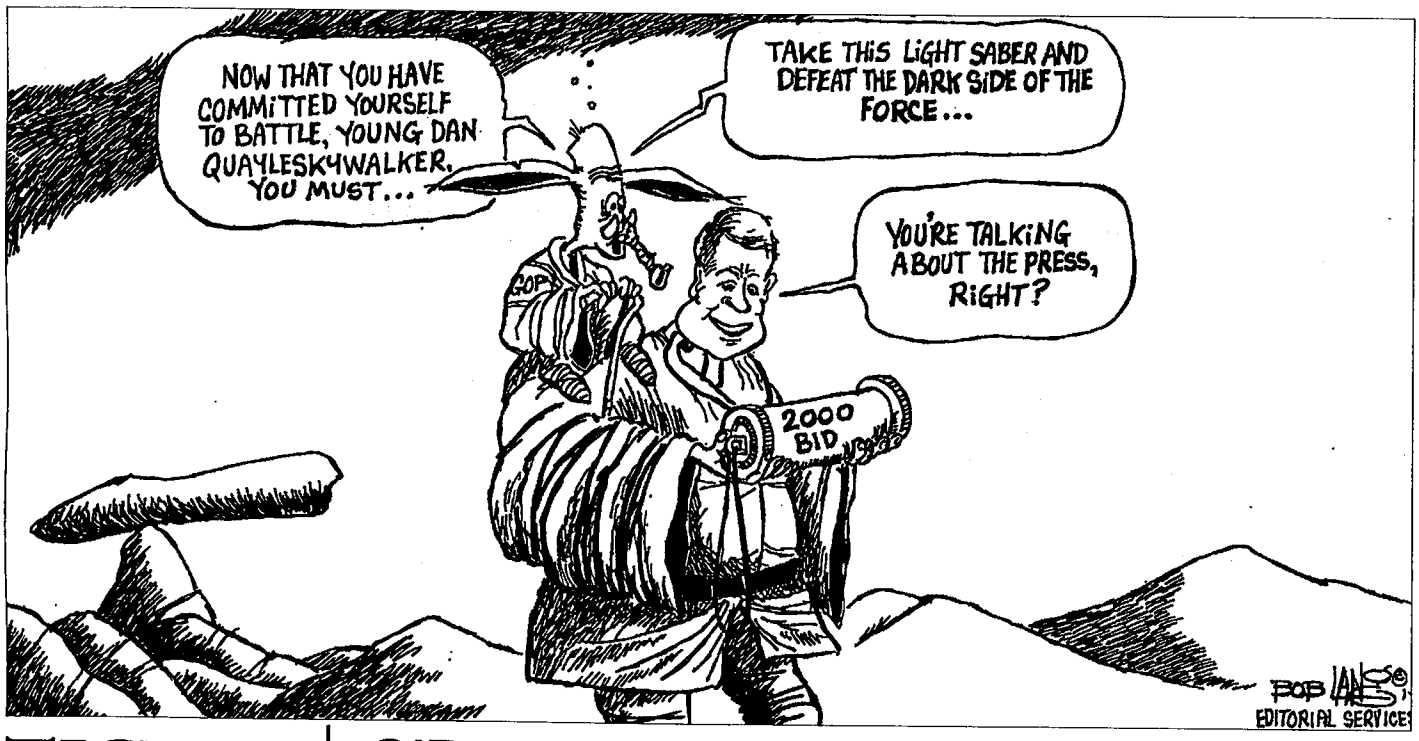

TICKER TAPE

Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's comments at the National Press Club in Washington raised some eyebrows last week. Goldsmith was asked what he thought of Dan Quayle's fledgling presidential campaign. "There are a number of great Republican candidates, and I hope to be associated with somebody's campaign," Goldsmith responded. What surprised many was the lack of any rhetorical bouquets for Quayle, his wife's cousin, just a straightforward dodge. Part of Goldsmith's thinking on his future after 2000 is his perception that Texas Gov. George W. Bush will be the likely nominee. That is augmented by former Indiana GOP chairman Alan Hubbard's backing of

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O'Bannon had to twist Winston's arm

INDIANAPOLIS - In the end, Gov. Frank O'Bannon had to do a little arm-twisting. Perhaps it was more like some extended arm-twisting, over a period of a couple of days.

But when it all was said and done, the governor convinced Robin Winston to become the new Indiana Democratic chairman, replacing Joe Andrew, the new Democratic national chairman.

"Robin had no negatives," said one Democratic source close to the scene. "With everyone else there were concerns."

Winston appeared to be the immediate favorite to replace Andrew, but the modest party executive director initially said he wasn't interested and would be content running O'Bannon's 2000 re-election campaign. At that point, Lake County's Peter Manous, former Marion County Chair Kip Tew and former LaPorte County Chair Shaw Friedman emerged as contenders.

Manous was widely seen as the front-runner, but the civil war under way in the People's Republic of East Chicago between Mayor Robert Pastrick and Lake County Chair Stephen Stiglich doomed Manous' selection. Manous is allied with the Pastrick faction of the party, unnerving the Stiglich forces in what will become by the May primary a bitter donnybrook.

Meanwhile, O'Bannon heard from countless Democrats (as HPR had) from across the state that Winston was the right man for the job. Winston had dealt intimately with many county chairs. In fact, as part of Winston's retooling of the state party for O'Bannon's 1996 campaign, he had developed many indelible relationships.

Once O'Bannon came to a conclusion that Winston was the indispensible man, the sales task was on.

"It took a couple of days of Frank really talking," the source said. "Once Robin realized Frank wouldn't change his mind, he accepted."

Winston has some work to do in the wake of Andrew's departure. Party spokesman Thad Nation and fundraiser Brad Quisser will join Andrew in Washington. But no one at Democratic HQ seemed too worried. The feeling is there is a lot of young, hungry talent that will take up the slack.❖

Impact, *from page 1*

lic policy capstone of one of the most controversial presidencies.

Will Clinton's impeachment come back to haunt Indiana Republicans? It could, but Republicans still have a lot of time to move on, push a creative and progressive congressional agenda, reaching out to moderate Democrats like U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer. Republicans like to point out that Americans forgot all about President Bush's astounding successes in the 1991 Gulf War a mere 18 months later. Democrats will point out that Americans didn't forget the government shutdown in 1995 when they re-elected Clinton a year later.

HPR suspects that 2000 will be a "cleansing" election with Americans seeking out virtuous and wholesome candidates. Vice President Al Gore and Bill Bradley exude that feeling. So will Elizabeth Dole and Dan Quayle. Texas Gov. George Bush will probably get dinged up as he deals with his past and that will be perilous to the perceived GOP frontrunner.

However, if Republicans don't follow the plan that Speaker-Designate Robert Livingston was going to push - the progressive agenda - and they fall into a Gingrich-style funk with a "do nothing" Congress tag stapled to their foreheads, Democrats could be poised to retake the House with a significant majority. Should that happen, it would be extremely hard for Indiana Republicans to upset Gov. O'Bannon and retake the Indiana House.

Here is the earliest line on how impeachment could impact Indiana political figures:

Joe Andrew: He could be poised to restore national power to Democrats. He is aggressive, raises lots of money, has a penchant for nuts and bolts politicking while striking irresistible political themes. It will be fascinating to watch him attempt to translate his Indiana successes on a national scale.

U.S. Sen.Evan Bayh: Some of his Republican support will be irritated at his Hoosier values in Washington (siding with the President in the trial). But he won't have damaged his national standing with Democrats. Bayh may have run his last Indiana campaign, so he may never have to account for his first Senate votes, and that will come six years down the road anyway.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar: Even if the worst case scenario comes true for Republicans in 2000, Lugar should still be in great shape.

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder: He may have a primary opponent because conservatives were enraged by his votes on impeachment. But he won't lose. Souder is a consummate politician with a precinct-by-precinct handle on the 4th CD. Plus, history will probably judge him favorably.

U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer: He could be a lightning rod due to his role as a House manager. But he performed that role admirably in the minds of many legal scholars. He won re-election in 1998 with 64 percent against a credible opponent. Democrats might be tempted to go after him, but the 5th CD is an unwieldy beast that spans six media markets.

U.S. Rep. Ed Pease: He did nothing but distinguish himself during the Judiciary Committee hearings and should face little or no fallout in his safe 7th CD.

Dan Quayle: His background has been fully vetted. He is deemed squeaky clean, so he stands to play well in the "cleansing" format.

Gov. O'Bannon: A couple of decisive legislative victories with his own agenda and he'll be on a roll heading into 2000.

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh: Little of the impeachment will cling to him. Speaker Hastert will benefit him more than Livingston would have. And he's got a big, big decision to make next summer on whether he'll aim at O'Bannon.❖

TICKER TAPE

his old college buddy, rather than Quayle, for whom Hubbard served as director of his Council on Competitiveness. Hubbard was an ardent backer of Goldsmith throughout the 1996 gubernatorial campaign.

Goldsmith was also asked about his impressions on the Senate impeachment trial of President Clinton. Did Goldsmith have any advice for the Senate? "Wait. Don't sit down. This will be quick," he said. "My job is to pick up the trash. I stop there."

Six months after someone attempted to blow up the Tippecanoe County courthouse by ramming it with a truck loaded with a homemade bomb, the Lafayette Journal and Courier reports that "outrage about the attack ... hasn't eased much." The newspaper said Sheriff Dave Murtaugh "isn't saying whether they have any suspects."

State Sen. Becky Skillman told a Third House meeting in Bedford last Saturday that of the $2.7 billion surplus, the state has three options - save it, spend it or return it. "I suspect some of all three will happen" (Mike Lewis, Bloomington Herald-Times). Skillman and three other legislators - Reps. Brent Steele, Jerry Denbo and Peggy Welch, agreed

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there would be movement toward tax cuts. Denbo said he would be disappointed if there is not more momentum on property tax relief. "So far what we've seen proposed in the House isn't going far enough," the Democrat said.

How's Minnesota Gov. Jesse "The Body" Ventura - the biggest potential wild card in 2000 - doing thus far? His $1.1 billion sales tax rebate plan has drawn praise from both Republicans and Democrats, as well as most of his cabinet appointments.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar has introduced legislation that would help local and county jails establish substance abuse programs. "The time during which drug-using offenders are in custody presents a unique opportunity to fight druge use and crime through effective drug treatment and testing programs," Lugar said His legislation would establish a separate Jail-Based Substance Abuse Treatment Program that would authorize states to devote up to 10 percent of the funds to such treatment programs.

Sen. Lugar has also called on President Clinton to lift the food embargo to Iran. "The market for U.S. agricultural exports to Iran is significant," Lugar said, adding that, "with rare exceptions, I do not believe

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Impeachment trial turns partisan

Lugar, Bayh split on dismissal, witnesses; Buyer boils

"Come now and let us reason together. [T]hough your sins be scarlet, they shall be white as snow." - Ecclesiastes (1:17-18)

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Former President Lyndon Johnson, who once served as Senate majority leader, often urged political friends and foes to "reason together." But the partisanship demonstrated in last week's Senate votes to continue the impeachment trial and approve witnesses focused on divergent interpretations of "reasonableness."

Indiana Sen. Dick Lugar justified his vote not to dismiss by saying that the House prosecutors had presented a strong case. "With the record as it stands, it would be very difficult, it seems to me, for a reasonable person on the specific counts of obstruction of justice and perjury to find that the president was not guilty," he said on Jan. 27 after the Senate voted by identical 56-44 margins not to dismiss the trial and to allow three witnesses - Monica Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan and Sidney Blumenthal - to be deposed.

The proceeding must continue, Lugar argued. "We have taken an oath to find justice. Precedents are being set daily in this trial."

Newly minted Sen. Evan Bayh had a sharply different take on the matter. He said "reasonable doubt exists," which is enough to end the trial and keep Clinton in office. "The House managers have said 'that reasonable people can differ' about the conviction and removal of the President under these facts," Bayh said in a statement on Jan. 27. "By their own admission, they have not carried the burden that applies in this case."

The votes on dismissal and witnesses may be a harbinger for Clinton's eventual acquittal on impeachment articles that allege he committed perjury and obstruction of justice in an attempt to cover up his affair with Lewinsky.

Lewinsky and the others were to be deposed this week, with the trial scheduled to resume Thursday. At that time, the Senate will decide whether to allow the depositions into evidence and whether to show videotapes of the questioning. Jordan is a close friend of Clinton's and a capital power broker who House prosecutors say helped Lewinsky try to find a job to ensure her silence over the affair. Blumenthal is a White House communications aide.

CONGRESS WATCH

Bayh cited a statement made by one of the 13 House trial "managers," or prosecutors, as shaping his decision to vote to dismiss. Rep. Lindsay Graham, in a Jan. 23 statement on the Senate floor, said, "[W]hen you take the good of this nation, the upside and downside, reasonable people can disagree on what we should do" to punish the president.

Bayh reasoning miffs Buyer

Graham's fellow manager, Rep. Steve Buyer immediately followed the South Carolina congressman to the Senate floor podium to make a strong statement in favor of conviction, saying that the impeachment process was meant to "cleanse the executive or judicial office when it is plagued with such a cancer as perjury or obstruction of justice."

Buyer scoffed at Bayh's using Graham's words to buttress his vote. Graham's argument is "influential only if you are seeking political cover from having to make a tough decision," Buyer said in an interview with HPR.

Democratic senators near Buyer reacted to Graham. "They smiled," Buyer said. "One of them behind me said, 'That's right.'"

A political scientist following the impeachment proceedings, however, praised Graham's remarks. "Certainly Democrats have seized upon it," said Roger Davidson, professor of political science at the University of Maryland. "Although he's deeply conservative and deeply opposed to the president, he's had some refreshing views. It was a moment of honesty."

But moments in which Democrats and Republicans agree during the impeachment proceedings are becoming rare. Only one Democrat joined the 55 Senate Republicans in voting to continue the case. "They defined themselves as partisans, and many of them were unwilling to listen to evidence in the case," Buyer said.

But for Bayh, the evidence laid out before last week's dismissal vote didn't prove that Clinton's behavior presented "a clear and imminent threat to our nation's liberty." That doesn't mean he gives the president a pass for his dalliances. "He cannot escape history and will be treated harshly by it. But we must apply a mortal, Constitutional standard here," he said in his statement.

Bayh and Lugar also differed starkly on the need to call witnesses. "A human voice, a human presence, body language makes the difference," Lugar said.

Bayh doubted that calling witnesses would add anything new to the 60,000 pages of evidence compiled by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr. "It is highly, highly unlikely that there will be any kind of 'bombshell' to come out of this," Bayh said in an interview with HPR.

If the vote to dismiss foreshadows a vote next week to acquit the president, Democrats "are going to have to do a lot of explaining," said Lugar. He wrote in his 1988 book, *Letters to the Next President,* that the first rule for presidents to follow is never to lie.

"The White House has been fairly successful in covering up malefactions by the president or his aides for some time by intimidating witnesses or whoever happened to be in the way," he said.

One additional step beyond acquittal, censure, didn't get the senior senator's endorsement. "In the event a censure motion comes forward, it would come from Democrats seeking cover," Lugar said.

Buyer also dismisses the notion of censure. In an 80-page brief that he circulated before December's House impeachment vote, he argued that censure is unconstitutional and may violate the bills of attainder, which prohibit Congress from passing laws against an individual. Buyer said Democrats are promoting censure to "score political points. They get an 'A' for political science and an 'F' for Constitutional law."

Lugar, Bayh bridge chasm

Will the rancor fostered by the impeachment process impact other congressional business? Bayh doesn't think so.

"I'm still hopeful that we can retain bipartisanship on this and other issues," Bayh said in an interview. He pointed out that just before the Jan. 27 Senate vote, he offered to co-sign a letter Lugar had drafted with Democratic Sen. Joseph Lieberman urging Clinton to authorize the use of force against the government of Yugoslavia to quell the ethnic bloodshed in Kosovo. Bayh became one of seven senators to initially sign the missive.

"I'm confident that you will see Dick Lugar and me working together on a whole host of issues," said Bayh.

In the midst of the impeachment trial last week, Lugar brought together two Democratic and one Republican senators to meet with Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Wesley Clark to discuss options in Kosovo.

"Lugar has pointed out that we have to work around the corrosive mis trust that has come about because of

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the food and medicine should be used as a tool of foreign policy."

Tippecanoe County Commissioners have reinstated the public comment section of their meetings after deleting it from their agenda a few weeks ago (Lafayette Journal and Courier). "You can't silence the public," said Commissioner Kathleen Hudson.

The name "Talarico" has long been associated with Democratic politics in Fort Wayne. But when Sam Talarico Jr. declared his candidacy for the City Council - as a Republican - it raised eyebrows in the Summit City. "I've never voted in the Republican primary before," said the elder Talarico, who served in the Council for several terms before retiring in 1995. "This will be my first time" (Fort Wayne News-Sentinel).

St. Joseph County Sheriff Rick Seniff has abandoned plans to keep $30,000 in extra fees for himself (Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune). The fees came from delinquent state tax collections. Seniff agreed to turn the money over to the county general fund, but got the county commissioners to agree to make a like amount available to improve police radio communications. Earlier in the week, Seniff had rushed back to

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South Bend for a news conference in which he was "defiant" on the fee dispute and lashed out at the commissioners. "I'll admit it could have been handled better on my part," Seniff said. "Let's go forward. The whole situation has not benefitted anyone. We all look like a bunch of chumps."

State Rep. Eric Turner has introduced a bill that would outlaw riverboat casinos by July 1, 2002. "Casinos influence the whole state because we know that gambling money is not new money, it is the same dollars that people would use elsewhere in the state," Turner said. Under a Gary Post-Tribune headline, "Bill would pull plug on casino gambling," the paper quoted State Rep. Vernon Smith as saying, "It would have a devastating effect. That money has made a difference for us in Gary by letting us do something with infrastructure." Added State Rep. Earl Harris of East Chicago, "There may be some downsides to casinos, but you have to look at the big picture. Now if Rep. Turner has a solution on where we get the money to put in our redevelopment pot, then I'd be all for it." In 1998, the five Northwest Indiana casinos pumped $42 million into city and county coffers.

One of Evan Bayh's first non-impeachment legisla-

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy. **Democrat:** Bart Peterson. **Our Party:** Rev. John Gibson. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Forecast:** Close to 700 people showed up at the Madame Walker Theater for a noon Peterson announcement rally that featured Gov. O'Bannon, LG Joe Kernan, Rep. Carson and AG Modisett. Peterson's speech was impressive and drew the biggest cheers when he said he wouldn't be seeking any other office. While Gilroy's campaign doesn't think snow removal will be a big issue, Kernan began the ceremonies by holding up a toy. "Anyone know what this is?" Kernan asked. With no takers, he said, "People in Indianapolis wouldn't know what it is. It's a snow plow."

HORSE RACE

Peterson promises plans to "take guns out of the hands of drug dealers and violent criminals." He declares a "zero tolerance" for crack dealers and says, "I will not wait" for the crack crisis to run out. Peterson campaign manager Mike O'Conner says the candidate will begin "aggressively" talking issues. His counterpart on Gilroy's campaign, Mark Massa, was noncommittal on when Gilroy would be issuing positions. Horse Race gets the distinct impression that Gilroy is spending much time building a nuts and bolts campaign foundation that should be the function of the Marion County GOP. While there are calls for John Sweezy's head, it's probably too late for a change to help Gilroy much. That contrasts with the Democratic State Committee's co-opting the county organization, which means Peterson will probably have the early advantage. While Gilroy has close to a $300,000 money advantage over Peterson, about $460,000 of that came from Mayor Goldsmith. That gives the Peterson campaign a clear link to tag Gilroy with Goldsmith. The upshot of all this is that Peterson will be off to a much better start than Gilroy. The wide perception is that Peterson can win this race. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Allen County Sheriff Joe Squadrito, Linda Buskirk. **Democrat:** Graham Richard. **1995 Results:** Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. **1999 Forecast:** Squadrito announces an economic development plan, which will help broaden the perception that he is more than just a law and order man. **Status:** *Leans Squadrito.*

INDIANA GOVERNOR 2000

Governor: Republican: George Witwer. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,107,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** George Witwer forms an exploratory committee and announces he has raised about $190,000. He is also on tap for about 15 Lincoln Day dinners this year, with perhaps 30 before the chicken dinner season ends. Witwer campaign sources indicate that mutual friends from the Quayle/Coats/McIntosh wing of the party have been supportive, although noncommittal in case McIntosh decides to run. Witwer's people are telling fellow Republicans that a run at O'Bannon really is a two-year process and those who haven't ponied up will be at a distinct disadvantage. The money Witwer has now is critical after his '96 campaign was always strapped for cash. If McIntosh doesn't get in this summer, does Witwer become the '00 nominee and, in some folks minds, a sacrificial lamb? Still a possibility would be a CEO type, like former Lilly chief Randall Tobias. But, as Witwer's people are saying, once an executive gets out of his sphere of 150 people or so, they realize what a daunting task it is to put a campaign together and begin garnering name ID. On the O'Bannon front, his community college system proposal for Vincennes University and Ivy Tech is the kind of bold stroke that could solidify the perception that he'll be unbeatable in 2000. Another dramatic move was his testimony before a legislative committee on full-day kindergarten. So far there haven't been any curve balls thrown his way. So far, so good. **Status:** *LIKELY O'BANNON.*

BRIAN A. HOWEY ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Mike Dooley, *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* - Conventional wisdom says there are two things a Hoosier politician should never do: be responsible for raising beer prices or have a hand in closing auto license branches. Apparently, no one knows that better than Gov. Frank O'Bannon. Back in 1989, when he was lieutenant governor, O'Bannon found himself in the middle of controversy when he broke a tie by voting to support "beer baron" legislation. The proposal would have permitted beer distributors to have exclusive territories in which to sell their foamy goods, and opponents said it would certainly lead to higher prices for consumers. Then-Gov. Bayh vetoed the legislation, but not before O'Bannon took a keg of criticism for his vote. So earlier this month, when the state's Bureau of Motor Vehicles announced financial problems might force it to close a number of branches, guess who jumped into the fray? None other than O'Bannon. Who this time, in keeping with the advice offered by that conventional wisdom, suggested officials might find a way to get the BMV over its financial hump without shutting any branches in the process. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - What is with these Republicans? No, not the self-destructive ones in Congress. I'm perplexed by the tone-deaf gang that's gone ballistic over - if you can believe this - compassion. As in "compassionate conservative." A passel of Republican presidential contenders is actually spending time campaigning against "compassionate conservatism." Lamar Alexander called them "weasel words." Malcolm "Steve" Forbes derided the concept as "the siren song of these mushy moderates." Gary Bauer bemoaned "compassionate conservative" as redundant. Dan Quayle bragged in a solicitation letter to would-be donors that he'd ordered his aides to "never EVER utter the words `compassionate conservative.' " Better undo your collar buttons guys, and get a little oxygen to your brain. If you're against compassion, what are you for? Brutality, maybe. Or hostility. How about greed, cynicism and selfishness? Meanness. Barbarism. Hatred.❖

Larry Shores, *Muncie Star Press* - State legislators call it a "Christmas tree bill." The idea, often used in amending a controversial measure, is to hang from it a few unrelated "baubles" to make it more enticing and less likely to be defeated. That's sort of what Sen. Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, has done with his speed/road rage/pickup trucks bill. Its all-purpose flavor is either going to satisfy a multitude of appetites, or be found totally undigestible. The measure would do three separate things: raise the speed limit on rural interstates from 65 mph to 70 mph, allow police to ticket motorists who drive too slowly in the left lane, and make it illegal for anyone under age 18 to be transported in the open bed of a pickup truck. A number of legislators favor some or all of those approaches, but will they vote for all three at once? Left-lane legislation passed the Senate last year, and now it's back in the combined form. The most popular of the three ideas might be raising the speed limit. ❖

TICKER TAPE

tive initiatives has been to join what he calls a "bipartisan effort to protect state tobacco settlements." Bayh joined Sens. Bob Graham of Florida and Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas in the effort.

The most radio active vote facing legislators could be on the proposed ban for gay adoptions. Steve Hinnefield of the Bloomington Herald-Times reports that many legislators just wish the bill, sponsored by State Rep. Woody Burton, would just go away. But Eric Miller, who heads Advance America, explained, "There's not a whole lot of people in any part of the state who would vote against this bill." Added State Rep. Mark Kruzan, a Bloomington Democrat, "There are a lot of people who would prefer not to vote on the bill because they don't feel it's good public policy but, politically, they feel they would have to vote for it." State Rep. Michael Dvorak, who chairs the House Committee on Courts and Criminal Code, said he is inclined to ignore the bill. But State Sen. Richard Bray told the Senate sponsor, Sen. John Waterman, that he will attempt to have a hearing. Bray has questions about the bill. He said it doesn't specify who's a homosexual and who isn't. "And until you figure that out out, you can't write a bill that

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could be enforced."

Freshman State Rep. Ron Herrell favors a bill that would limit a city's ability to annex adjacent land. But that is putting him at odds with DaimlerChrysler, which has just built a new plant in Kokomo. The city wants to annex the property in, which would bring around $700,000 into city coffers. Kokomo Mayor Jim Trobaugh is worried. "Do we want more taxes coming into the city, so that we can give our police, fire and city workers raises? So that we can hire more of them?" Trobaugh asked (Kokomo Tribune). "If we can't annex, we're not going to be able to do that, unless we just tax the people of Kokomo to death." ❖

Clinton's problems over the last year,"

Impeach, *from page 5*

said Lugar spokesman Andy Fisher.

For now, issues like Kosovo are handled in the morning. The impeachment trial convenes in the afternoon. But within the next two weeks, the endgame should be apparent.

One element of the denouement may be a vote on "findings of fact." Buyer suggested on Jan. 23 that the Senate vote on findings of fact would indicate that Clinton lied before the grand jury and that he obstructed justice. Buyer came up with the idea after Sen. Tom Harkin objected to senators being referred to as jurors. He insisted that they be called "triers of fact." At that point, Buyer said he believed the trial was more like a civil procedure than a criminal case. Findings would "lay out the basis in fact and that sets the foundation for a vote on the articles of impeachment," Buyer said.

He said that opponents of the findings measure are distorting its purpose and suggested that it would be used in a lieu of a conviction. "It appears that they are trying to spin the findings of fact into findings of guilt," Buyer said. But he asserted that findings of fact "is constitutional."

Senate tries Buyer's patience

After more than two weeks of the trial, Buyer is growing weary with the proceeding rules mandated by the Senate. "I refuse to call this a trial. This is more like an administrative hearing," he said.

The Senate limited the number of witnesses the House managers could depose and has limited the scope of the case. "There's a lot of evidence the American people will not see because (the Senate) forced us to argue only from the public evidence." He said that more evidence of alleged misconduct by Clinton is being kept out of the public domain. That material, however, was reviewed by several wavering House members, including Rep. Mark Souder, before they cast votes in favor or impeachment.

Buyer said the Senate trial will conclude swiftly, possibly before Feb. 12. Indicating that the economy is helping to buoy Clinton, an end to the trial may be divined from the Dow. "When's the stock market going to hit 10,000?" he asked. ❖

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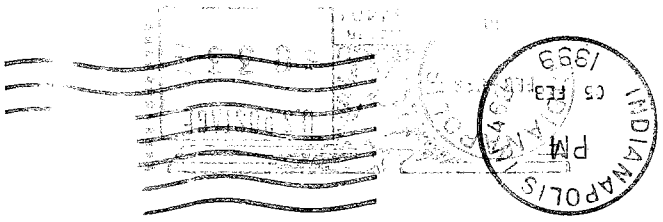
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