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THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'She told me she was sorry and she was wrong. That's good enough for me..."

- Marion County Sheriff Jack Cottey, on Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy's stance against his gun auctions, to the Indianapolis Star/News

Lugar provides impeach censure

A vote Bayh will never forget

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

Even though the Senate blocked consideration of a censure motion after acquitting President Clinton on two articles of impeachment, Sen. Dick Lugar's stinging rebuke of the president is serving almost the same purpose.

Lugar excoriated Clinton in a statement last week outlining why he voted to convict and remove Clinton from office on the impeachment charges. "I believe the crimes committed here demonstrate that he is capable of lying routinely whenever it is convenient," Lugar wrote. "He is not trustworthy."

Last Friday, the Senate voted 55-45 against conviction on the perjury article and 50-50 on the obstruction charge in the case involving Clinton's affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. A two-thirds majority, or 67 votes, is required to convict the president. The impeachment process began with the Sept. 9 delivery of Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's referral to Congress. The saga had been ongoing since the Lewinsky matter became public in January 1998.

But the events of the last year have undermined Clinton's moral authority, Lugar said. "His leadership has diminished because most Americans have come to the cynical conclusion that they must read between the lines of his statements and try to catch a glimmer of truth amidst the spin."

Although Congress has now concluded its impeachment work, Lugar's words are ringing in the ears of people

Continued on page 2

INSIDE FEATURES

Bob Lang cartoon p. 2
Ticker Tape: Souder's opponent p. 2
Horse Race: Indy update p. 7
Columnists: Hannon, Cady, Reese p. 8

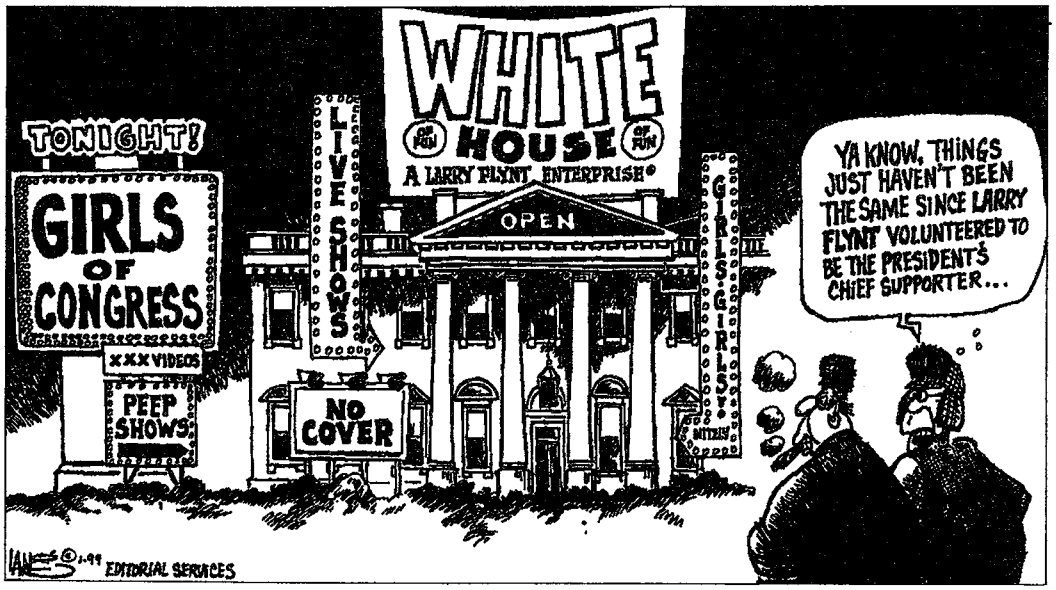
TICKER TAPE

A USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll reveals the Congressional generic question now favors Democrats over Republicans by a 51-42 percent lead. Shortly before the November 1998 elections, the same poll had the numbers at 50-42 percent in favor of the Democrats. "The bad news for the Republicans is that they have to play catchup," said Charles Bullock, a University of Georgia political scientist. "The good news is that they have 20 months to do it." Meanwhile a weekend Washington Post poll had Texas Gov. George W. Bush leading Vice President Al Gore by a 50-40 percent margin.

Rep. Mark Souder may draw a challenge in next year's primary from Allen County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Mike Loomis. In a recent article in the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, Loomis cited Souder's impeachment votes as the primary inspiration for his possible run. Souder voted against three articles of impeachment and in favor of the obstruction article. The House passed two articles against the president. One alleged that he committed perjury, the other alleged obstruction of justice in his effort to hide his affair with a former White House intern. Last week the Senate acquitted Clinton on both charges.

Continued on page 3

Bob Lang



Lugar, *from page 1*

who are trying to put the episode into perspective. In his Sunday *Washington Post* column, David Broder wrote,"In a statement explaining his votes to convict President Clinton on perjury and obstruction of justice, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, an influential Republican voice on foreign policy, raised the most important question left unanswered by the Senate's acquittal verdict: Is Clinton still trusted enough to lead?

"Lugar's words--and votes--carry special weight because there is no one on Capitol Hill with wider contacts in the international community and no one whose views sway more colleagues in both parties." Broder is the dean of political journalists.

In a Feb. 13 impeachment postmortem article, the *New York Times* noted that some Republicans who warned of possible continuing Clinton mendacity have been dismissed as raging partisans. But Lugar's remarks give people pause.

"[I]t is not as easy to discount the statement this week by Senator Richard Lugar, a level-headed Republican from Indiana," the *Times* wrote. The *Washington Post* cited the Lugar statement as being perhaps the most persuasive in favor of convicting the president.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott gave Lugar a chance to reiterate his argument by selecting him to make the Republican closing statement during the closed Senate trial deliberations. Lugar was paired off against Democratic Sen. Robert Byrd, who is widely acknowledged to be the leading expert on Senate rules and tradition. Although his floor statement was different from his public pronouncement, Lugar drove home the same themes.

Lugar's unusually caustic remarks didn't faze his new Hoosier colleague, Sen. Evan Bayh. "He delivered it well, and it was a heartfelt statement," said Bayh, who talked to Lugar after the senior senator made his closing argument.

Bayh 180 degrees away

Of course, Lugar's position differed from Bayh's by nearly 180 degrees. Bayh voted to acquit Clinton on both impeachment charges. "A host of honorable, thoughtful, wise people can disagree on this," Bayh said in an HPR interview.

Soon after Lugar's closing, Bayh

cast his impeachment votes, among the first of his Senate career. "I had a tremendous sense of the gravity of the event and the history of the situation. It's something I'll remember for the rest of my life," Bayh said.

He also wants the vote to be a turning point in modern politics. "I hope this will be a catharsis that will take away some of the venom and bitterness that has infected the blood stream of the body politic," said Bayh, one of six senators featured in a Washington Post series about impeachment. The paper followed Bayh throughout the impeachment trial.

He offered his own impeachment vote statement, complete with excerpts from the writings of the Founding Fathers as well as Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who presided over the impeachment trial.

"Clearly the president's behavior was wrong. Clearly it was immoral. Clearly his actions fall far below the conduct Americans should expect of their chief executive," Bayh wrote. "It is not enough that I question his morals, his character or his veracity. In the end, I am compelled to vote against conviction because the exacting standard for presidential removal has not been met, the heavy burden of proving any defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt has not been carried, and the national interest in maintaining the separation of powers, a stable presidency and the sanctity of elections require it."

Closing with soaring rhetoric for the historic occasion, Bayh wrote, "And I pray that one day soon the sons and daughters of Lincoln and the heirs of Jefferson and Jackson will sit again at the table of brotherhood, not to wage war upon each other, but to renew the struggle against the common enemies of man: ignorance, poverty and disease."

Buyer: Presidency undermined

As senators cast their votes on the articles of impeachment Friday afternoon, Rep. Steve Buyer said his stomach rolled. As it became clear that the Senate would not even muster a majority on either impeachment article, Buyer worried about the future of the presidency.

"The possibility that a future president may commit more egregious acts than perjury or obstruction of justice and then demand party loyalty to defend himself against impeachment is the precedent," said Buyer, who served as one of the 13House "managers" prosecuting Clinton in the Senate trial.

After leaving a press conference Friday with the other managers in the House Judiciary Committee hearing room, where the process began last fall, a disappointed Buyer struck a philosophical note.

"We had a duty to search for the truth," he said in an interview with HPR. "We laid out the facts and applied the law. We did our job."

As if on cue, a House staffer passing by in the crowded hall said, "You did a great job."

Souder: Proponents failed

That Greek chorus of support notwithstanding, the bottom line for the House managers is that they failed to achieve a majority vote in favor of either impeachment article. On perjury, 10 Republicans voted no. Five in the GOP defected on the obstruction of justice vote. "Even the most avid (impeachment) proponent would have to agree that the strategy didn't work," said Rep. Mark Souder. "Ultimately we have a president who is distrusted, and there he sits. But you can't just blame the Democrats."

Souder, who agonized over impeachment and ultimately voted in favor of the obstruction of justice article, said that the process was pushed through the House too quickly. "We were in such a cotton-pickin' rush to send this case over (to the Senate) that we didn't build a

TICKER TAPE

Souder's spokeswoman is underwhelmed by the Loomis approach. "Running on the issue of impeachment isn't a platform, it's a plank. And a short one at that," said Angela Flood. "There are bigger issues affecting people's lives." Souder defeated Loomis in the 1994 4th CD Republican primary.

Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel released this statement after the Senate impeachment vote: "I am very proud of the Republicans in the United States House of Representatives for impeaching the president. I am also proud of the Republican men and women in the Senate who voted to convict. I am especially proud of Sen. Dick Lugar, who, as always, brought great clarity and judgment to the deliberations when he said the President 'chose his own gratification above the security of his country and the success of his presidency.' It is no wonder that the Senate Majority Leader turned to Sen. Lugar to make the final summation for removal during deliberations. Senator Lugar's principled stance - along with every other Hoosier Republican in Congress - was in stark contrast with Sen. Bayh's vote today. After running as 'the conservative candidate' last year, as someone who

continued on page 4

TICKER TAPE

would complement Dick Lugar, he instead cast a vote based solely on his own future within the Clinton/Gore Democratic Party. It won't be the last time that happens."

Former Vice President Dan Quayle has resigned from the board of directors of Central Newspapers, the parent company of the Indianapolis Star/News.

Washington Post columnist Howard Kurtz discussed the "Have you ever been asked..." question that will face all 2000 presidential candidates. He recalled the Post's David Broder asking Quayle that extramarital affair question last March on NBC's Meet the Press. Quayle responded, "Are you going to ask that of every vice presidential candidate, every congressman, every senator? I just do not believe that that is an appropriate question that you ask a presidential candidate." Kurtz reported that after Quayle said that, the former vice president added, "The answer in my case is no."

Former Howard County Sheriff and 1994 Democratic 5th CD nominee J.D. Beatty died of a heart attack last week.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar launched his 2000 re-election campaign at the Hamilton County Lincoln

continued on page 5

from page 3

case," said Souder. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde set a self-imposed deadline to conclude the House impeachment process before the end of 1998.

If the House Judiciary Committee had devoted several months to conducting its own investigation, it could have brought more information into the public domain that would have demonstrated a pattern of obstruction of justice by the White House, Souder said.

Souder's decision to back the obstruction impeachment article was based in part on secret FBI documents that he reviewed in December. The documents contain unsubstantiated allegations about Clinton transgressions. One of the women cited in the documents, the so-called "Jane Doe number 5," was ready to come forward and tell her story to a national network recently, Souder said. But the network has spiked the story.

In order to remove the president from office, it is necessary to convince the public that he should be booted, Souder said. Persuading the electorate requires an overwhelming case. One could have been built by showing that the White House's alleged effort to obstruct the Paula Jones civil suit is similar to its attempts to cover up alleged campaign finance scandals.

"You start to add these things together, then there's a pattern that's impeachable, rather than a single event," said Souder, who asserted that the campaign finance investigation has been stymied in part by the Justice Department's splitting it up into disparate elements. Atty. Gen. Janet Reno has ruled against an independent counsel investigation into allegations of illegal fundraising during the 1996 election by Vice President Gore and Harold Ickes, a former White House aide.

"The method of raising money by the White House in the 1996 election was beyond all bounds of legality," Lugar told reporters on Jan. 27. But don't look for Congress to gain any momentum on its campaign finance investigation after slogging through impeachment. The *Indianapolis Star* reported this week that Rep. Dan Burton has put his committee's campaign finance inquiry "on the back burner." In December, the Federal Election Commission took no action regarding alleged finance violations in both the Republican and Democratic 1996 presidential campaigns.

The issue is "more likely to come up in a debate that will occur on campaign finance reform, particularly given the FEC conclusions, which pulled the rug out from everybody in that realm," said Lugar.

Republican reconciliation

A campaign finance bill has been reintroduced in the House, but it is unlikely to be a central item on the congressional agenda. Formulating the list of priorities and framing the debate will be crucial for both parties.

Souder said the Republicans will promote education, Social Security, tax cuts and defense spending. How they advocate that litany will determine the health of the party.

"If our attitude is 'our way or the highway,' we reinforce the image that Republicans are dividing the country," said Souder. "We need to figure out how to bring the country together."

A key element in that reconciliation will be the new House leadership, members of the Indiana House delegation said. New House Speaker Dennis Hastert took over the reins during the tumultuous House impeachment vote, when Speaker designate Bob Livingston resigned over controversy about marital infidelity.

"I really like Denny Hastert personally and professionally," said Rep. Ed Pease, who found himself in the middle of the impeachment process as a member of the House Judiciary Commit-tee. "He's not going to be out front making speeches. He going to be the guy working to get things done and that's what we need. He's

absolutely trustworthy."

In the wake of impeachment, demonstrating that trait is fundamental for everyone on Capitol Hill. "Reestablishing trust is the most important thing that can happen if this Congress is going to be successful," said Pease.

Bayh believes the issue agenda should focus on saving Social Security, paying down the national debt and passing targeted tax cuts. "We could put ourselves on a course to having the lowest public debt since 1916," he said. "We need to seize this opportunity immediately."

Even though he gave Clinton a scorching tongue lashing, Lugar is ready to work with the president. "It's over in terms of impeachment," said spokesman Andy Fisher. "The president will still be the president. There will be a strong relationship on a number of issues."

Political fallout

Whether any issues can be addressed by the current Congress is an open debate. The political fallout of impeachment will help determine the answer.

It looks as if Souder will face a primary opponent. Allen County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Mike Loomis will challenge Souder, according to a recent report in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*. Loomis has criticized Souder for voting in favor of only one article of impeachment.

"I take every challenge seriously," Souder said. "I hope Mike Loomis won't run. What we need to figure out is how to keep Republicans in the majority, not cut each other up."

House races could get nasty, if Clinton makes a concerted effort to exact revenge on House mangers in 2000. A report last week in the *New York Times* said that Clinton is chomping at the bit to take back the House.

"He has always attacked someone else," Buyer said of Clinton. "He likes to play the victim."

Buyer isn't concerned about his own political future after attempting to drive Clinton out of office. "Hey, Bill Clinton coming to my district would solidify me for a long time," he said.

Ironically, the Democratic Party appears to have gained strength from the impeachment ordeal. "Democrats are really feeling good, as good as they've felt since right after Clinton's election in 1992," said Chris Sautter, a Democratic consultant in Washington who is working on mayoral races in Evansville and East Chicago.

An independent pollster, however, said that impeachment will be a wash in 2000. Currently, generic congressional reelection polls show Republicans garnering 40 percent and Democrats 39 percent, said John Zogby, president of Zogby International Inc.

"I don't think many people were focused on (impeachment)," Zogby said. He cited a cultural shift in America. "There is a growing disconnect between things Washington and things in the rest of the country."

Still, the scars of the second impeachment trial in history will not quickly heal for Clinton. "The president as a human being clearly has diminished himself," said Bayh. "There's been a tremendous loss of respect."

Buyer is ready to move on. "I'm anxious to get home and see my family," he said. "I've got a lot of business to take care of back in Indiana. Hogs and steel are the two pressing issues I'll be taking up." The reaction seemed mixed in his hometown of Monticello. The Lafayette Journal and Courier checked out Twin Lakes AmVets Post 91 where Jim Lucy said of Buyer, "I think he's making a fool of himself. I voted for him, but I never will again." Added David Goffe, "I think it's gonna come back and haunt him."

But at a nearby shop, Jeannetta Davis observed, "When I send someone to an elected office, I think they should do what's right. I think (Buyer) is doing what

continued page 6

TICKER TAPE

Day dinner at the Irsay Party Pavilion in Carmel Tuesday night. Lugar hopes to become the first five-term senator in Indiana history.

Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy announced that campaign finance reports that were filed at the end of January are now available on the Internet. The reports can be accessed at: www.state.in.us/sos. Gilroy said, "With all of the discussion about campaign finance reform, our office decided to take a concrete step in the right direction by providing the public with contribution and expense reports for state political action committees and candidates via the Internet," Gilroy said. She said new reports will be posted at the site after each of this year's filing deadlines.

U.S. Rep. Dan Burton launched what he described as a "House attack" on waste and fraud in U.S. agencies. Burton's House Committee on Government Reform was aiming at Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and the Department of Agriculture. Burton cited General Accounting Office reports of waste and fraud in those agencies. "These reports document systematic waste, fraud and mismanagement that plague programs across the federal govern-

continued on page 6

TICKER TAPE

ment. We cannot let these programs drag on. They cry out for oversight attention and action, and that's just what they're going to get."

U.S. Rep. Ed Pease has announced his support for the elimination of the marriage tax penalty.

Democratic Indianapolis mayoral candidate Bart Peterson called for a bipartisan effort to ensure the most thorough census possible in 2000. "The Census Bureau estimates that natinally, 3 percent of the population is missed by census counters," Peterson said. "In 1990, the Census Bureau estimated that for every person missed, it cost localities $11,000 over a 10-year period. In Indianapolis, that would equal $27.5 million a year, or over $275 million over 10 years." Peterson said that because the next mayor will be in office only three months when the 2000 census begins, "we cannot afford to miss a step on this issue." He proposed that he and Republican Sue Anne Gilroy appoint four people to serve on a bipartisan panel to serve on the panel.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon spent Monday in Fort Wayne, South Bend and Merrillville pushing his drive to get all third graders to read at their grade level. O'Bannon was also pushing a state anti-teenage smoking campaign,

from page 5

should be done." Added Dianne Braaksma, "It bothers me that everbody thinks it's OK to lie. It's gotta stop somewhere."

Back home, in Indiana

At noon Friday, as the vote was going down in the Senate, Loughmiller's Pub across the street from the Indiana Statehouse was sedate. A few years before, the Statehouse crowd had gathered buoyantly at a similar hour to watch the O.J. Simpson verdict. But on this day, no one was pumped. Associated Press photographer Charlie Robinson observed, "The TV set isn't even on."

In the Hoosier heartland, no one seemed to give a damn.

That didn't prevent newspapers from editorializing. The *Gary Post-Tribune* observed in the aftermath, "Survival. The nation didn't crumble. There wasn't a coup d'etat. And the sanctity of the Constitution is intact. Throughout his presidency, Clinton and his advisers have been concerned about his legacy. They should quit worrying. Clinton will be remembered as a man with a vision, but someone who threw it away by putting personal desires ahead of his country. Instead of progress, his legacy is disgust and disgrace."

The *Lafayette Journal and Courier* asked, "Where does this leave us? Right back where we started, with a bitter, GOP-dominated House pitted against a president with a Silly Putty version of the truth. Before it ends, the man with the elastic brand of truth should be punished."

On its front page, the Lafayette *Journal and Courier* appeared to have a decent grip on the mood of Hoosiers. "The conclusion of President Clinton's impeachment trial Friday had some Tippecanoe County residents joining many others nationwide in a long, hard sigh."

The *Indianapolis Star* editorialized, "The president has been found not guilty, but he is far from innocent."

The *Star* continued, "So Bill Clinton has again avoided the consequences of his actions. He has promised not to gloat, for which we can all be thankful. But it's unclear that he understands, or even cares about, what he has done to the presidency and to the nation."

And there were a plethora of mixed signals and unanswered questions. In a two-page special section in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, the headlines blared forth the earliest installments of Clinton's post-impeachment legacy. "Historians give dubious nod to Comeback Kid"; "Meaning muddied: Many find little lasting significance"; and "'Have you ever...' may become standard question asked of candidates."

So little emotion

Throughout the 13 months of the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, Hoosiers - with the exception of Buyer and Pease - seemed detached. There were no demonstrations of support. The only fits of public expression came after Clinton bombed Iraq on the evening of the House impeachment vote, but they were hardly sustained. In Pittsboro, Ind., the marquee signs above insurance agencies and convenience stores lauded local NASCAR hero Jeff Gordon.

Hoosiers seemed more interested in the federal government's showdown with Microsoft than it did with the Clinton impeachment.

In the end, Lugar and Bayh perfectly embodied the state. Both were quiet during the proceedings and didn't seek out the TV cameras and talking head shows. When it came down to the final hour, it was Lugar who finally emerged to eloquently express the outrage so many Hoosiers felt in their hearts but were too busy with day-to-day lives to express beyond their own dinner tables. Bayh was a Democrat embarrassed and disgusted with his own president, but ultimately didn't want to upset the applecart.

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy, Robert L. Parker. **Democrat:** Bart Peterson. **Our Party:** Rev. John Gibson. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Forecast:** *NUVO*/TeleResearch Poll (Feb. 13-14, 324 respondents, +/-5) has Gilroy leading Peterson 41-19 percent. Gilroy has a favorable rating of 55 percent, compared to 35 percent for Peterson, but the undecided in that category was a high 37 percent. The Peterson camp notes that Gilroy is coming off a $1 million campaign three months ago, while Peterson "has never spent a penny." Top issues include 37 percent who say it's the homicide rate, 22 percent neighborhood investment, 20 percent education leadership in IPS, 15 percent property tax relief, and 6 percent consolidating police departments. That was the good news for Gilroy. The bad news was that businessman Robert L. Parker has entered the Republican primary and vows to fund his own campaign. Chief concerns for the Gilroy camp is that Parker will do what Steve Forbes did to Bob Dole in 1996 and attack her and thus bloody her up and waste resources going into the general election. Parker tells WMYS that he and Gilroy "don't have the same philosophy." Parker said he was told by Marion County Republican Chairman John Sweezy that the nominee would have to spend between $6 million and $12 million. And the Marion County convention along with the remarks Sheriff Jack Cottey made added a bizarre twist to Gilroy's week. A day after ABC's *20/20* broadcast an expose of Cottey's gun sales, Gilroy told WIBC the sales should end and she would seek legislation banning them. Cottey was a no-show at the county convention designed to enthusiastically launch Gilroy's campaign and he told the *Indianapolis Star/News*, "She told me she was sorry and she was wrong. That's good enough for me." But Gilroy campaign manager Mark Massa said that Gilroy has not changed her stance on either the gun auctions or the legislation. Massa diplomatically said, "We're not unhappy with the sheriff nor is he with us." Gilroy's campaign also issued a statement on a potential State Board of Accounts audit of the City of Indianapolis, saying, "Mrs. Gilroy believes you can never do worse by knowing more. She's always stood on the side of openness and accessibility. As mayor, she won't do anything to impede or discouarge an audit by the State Board of Accounts." The NUVO/TeleResearch Poll revealed that a 41-30 margin favored an audit, including 35 percent of Republicans and 51 percent of Democrats and independents. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

Fort Wayne Mayoral: Republican: Former 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:** *Journal Gazette* does a page 1 profile on Richard, noting that he hasn't been on the ballot for 19 years and that he lost four out of five bids for public office between 1970 and 1980. "Graham's challenge is to sort of reintroduce himself to the public," said Mayor Paul Helmke. Richard maintains he has the leadership to become the first Democrat to be Fort Wayne mayor since 1988. "To me a leader has to be a combination of someone who can do some coaching, a person that reaches out to others and gets them involved, an individual who has a clear cut sense of what's right and what's wrong," Richard said. Richard's business partner, Joe Ruffalo says Richard is the type of person who can get people who aren't talking to each other into a room and find solutions. "First of all, he listens. Second, he accumulates what he's heard. Third, he's able to put it into a plan of action. It's a tremendous quality for him." **Status:** *Leans Squadrito.*

BRIAN A. HOWEY ❖

HORSE RACE

TICKER TAPE

announcing a series of 30-second TV and radio commercials designed to combat teen smoking.

The Indianapolis Star reported that Hoosiers have been very generous in donations to the American Red Cross in the wake of a series of natural disasters in the Caribbean basin. It reported that Indianapolis Motor Speedway President Tony George and his mother, Mari Hulman George, were donating $1.1 million to the local and American Red Cross. Bill Theobald's lead stated, "For a state and community often chided for being provincial, Hoosiers have surprised local Red Cross officials with their recent donations."

Dan Foley, a former press aide to former Indiana Attorney General Linley Pearson, was indicted on child pornography charges in Florida. The Associated Press reported that Foley was caught in an Internet sting operation out of Des Moines, Iowa, when they set up a message board offering "incest tapes."

Democratic attempts to bump up worker's compensation packages are finding a tough go in this year's legislature. "This time backers seem to lack the kind of leverage the Pacers arena afforded them in 1997,"

continued on page 8

TICKER TAPE

reported Doug Sword in the Indianapolis Star/News. Democrats are seeking a 29 percent increase in weekly benefits by increasing premiums for businesses by an estimated 5.4 percent.

HPR Publisher Brian Howey's weekly newspaper column will begin appearing in the Hartford City News-Times and the Winchester News-Gazette this week. That puts Howey's column in 24 newspapers statewide. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Pat Bankston, *Munster Times* - The trial is over, the debate has just begun. How will history view Bill Clinton? From our point of view, Clinton is the ultimate political charlatan - a master of mendacity, full of fake but charming sincerity, masking a huge ego that tells him he can lie and the people are so stupid that they will believe it. He may be the best we've ever seen at saying one thing while actually saying another. ❖

Kyle Hannon, *Elkhart Truth* - An interesting twist will come when my kids ask me what I think of (Sen. Evan) Bayh. By then he might be our president if he is not still our senator. At this point I don't know what I will tell them. I can't yet say I have voted for him, but I might in the future. I will have to reveal that Clinton and Bayh appeared to be on very friendly terms before the impeachment mess. And I will definitely reveal that in all the time Bayh was governor, I heard many criticisms about his governing but never heard a nasty rumor about his private life. Of course, by the time my kids are old enough to vote they won't much care what I have to say anyway. ❖

Charlie Reese, *King Features* - The press, most of whom are a whole lot dumber than Dan Quayle, will nevertheless ridicule him to pieces, and I'm not sure there is a defense against that in a nation of couch potatoes and parrot heads. What I plan to do is pray every day that we do not get the kind of leader we deserve - again. ❖

Dick Cady, *Indianapolis Star* - Dear Fellow Hoosiers: The U.S. Senate's failure to convict Bill Clinton was another example of Clinton's ruthless ability to quash the TRUTH! We will probably discover later that the senators who supported Clinton were afraid they would be MURDERED if they voted against him! It makes you wonder how many communist agents were handing out CASH before the vote, doesn't it? ❖

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