THE HOWEY POLITICAL REPORT

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"QUOTE" OF THE WEEK

'It should be for all children..."

- Gov. Frank O'Bannon, responding to State Sen. Morris Mills' idea of allowing local school corporations decide whether they want full-day kindergarten, to the Bloomington Herald-Times

Steel puts Visclosky in national spotlight

Knitting for Northwest Indiana

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON - Rep. Pete Visclosky sticks to his knitting in northwest Indiana, concentrating on local issues and securing funding for local projects.

But sometimes when the low-key legislator does what he thinks is best for his district, the thread he is pursuing becomes part of a national tapestry. Visclosky is in such a situation this week. The House is poised to vote Wednesday on a Visclosky measure that would limit the amount of steel the United States imports from abroad. His district produces more steel than any state.

The bill has grown out of a firestorm of criticism over the amount of foreign steel entering the United States. Countries that have been hammered by the global economic turmoil have turned to exports to generate growth. One of the most popular export products for Japan and Brazil is steel, which many lawmakers say is being "dumped" on the U.S. at below-market prices.

Visclosky is confident the bill will pass the House. Its fate in the Senate is uncertain. President Clinton may veto the bill because he fears it will violate world trade rules and possibly foment a trade war. Steel unions and steel-state lawmakers have dismissed the administration's efforts so far to reduce foreign steel imports and boost the domestic industry.

Visclosky's legislation would limit steel imports to the average level between August 1994 and July 1997, when the worldwide economic crisis began. It also would establish a licensing procedure for steel imports and require that the

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TICKER TAPE

Gov. Frank O'Bannon made it very clear his full-day kindergarten initiative is still his top priority. O'Bannon told the Bloomington Herald-Times that he is not convinced that Indiana might save money by offering FDK only to schools with large at-risk children populations. "It should be for all children," O'Bannon said. State Sen. Morris Mills suggested a "cafeteria plan" last week that would let local school boards decide how to spend increased money. O'Bannon called the Mills block grant proposal "a step in the right direction." Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton called it "An interesting concept. It allows local school corporations to make those decisions."

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Visclosky, *from page 1*

Dept. of Commerce issue a weekly steel import report. It would allow 25 percent of steel used domestically to come from foreign countries. Currently, the figure is 35 percent.

Imports of Japanese steel have increased from 2.1 million to 5.7 million metric tons from 1997 to 1998, according to Census Bureau statistics. The Japanese government, however, said that January steel exports to the United States fell by 26 percent from the previous year. Census Bureau figures indicate that steel imports from Japan, Russia, and Brazil declined significantly between November and January.

The statistics that stir passions on Capitol Hill, however, involve employment. Union officials say that 10,000 steel workers have lost their jobs over the last two years. Three steel companies have been forced into bankruptcy. The difficulties stoke the misgivings many Americans seem to have about living in a global economy.

Visclosky's Bipartisan Effort

A bipartisan political effort, led by Visclosky, has coalesced around the steel issue. Being at the forefront of this issue has also put him in a national spotlight. Visclosky's bill has been the subject of at least a weekly story in the *Wall Street Journal* in recent weeks. He also has been frequently cited in the Washington Post. The volume of calls to his press office has spiked. They now include inquiries from foreign papers such as the Financial Times and from media in Europe and Japan.

The self-effacing Visclosky shrugs off the attention. "I'm out here for the people who are losing their jobs. That's all," he said after a large March 4 press conference conducted on the Capitol lawn in bitterly cold wind.

Visclosky's fervor in supporting steel workers emanates from his background. He grew up in Gary as the son of an iron worker. "What motivates him everyday is 'What can I do to improve people's lives in the first district," said Jeff O'Mara, a former Visclosky press secretary who now runs his own Washington public relations business.Other local issues that have surfed a national wave for Visclosky include his push to provide bullet-proof vests for police officers and his advocacy of a program to demolish crack

houses.

First elected in 1984, Visclosky stays in touch with his constituency. "Pete a lot of times will come to our local meetings and listen to people like me," said Jerome Davison, a steel worker from Burns Harbor who attended the March press conference on Capitol Hill. "He knows that the backbone of northwest Indiana is steel. And if that backbone gets rusty, northwest Indiana will be gone."

Visclosky's advocacy also has brought kudos from state political leadership."He's doing great. He's standing up for a lot of working people across Indiana. This is a tangible issue that affects people's lives," said Robin Winston, Indiana Democratic Party chairman. Visclosky's commitment to the cause is palpable. "You could see it in his eyes and hear it in the inflection of his voice."

Legislative Dexterity

Passion doesn't always translate into skill in the often treacherous legislative arena. But Visclosky has received high marks for shepherding the quota bill to the House floor.

"Pete Visclosky is a hidden treasure for the Democrats in terms of being a legislator," said Bill Kleinfelter, legislative and political director for the United Steel Workers of America, a group that is advocating the quota bill. "He knows how to deal with people and he know how to count votes."

He also knows how to read the political landscape. "Name someone in recent history who has taken a controversial bill, a quota bill, and crafted legislation that will be voted on in the House," said Kleinfelter. "I can't remember the last quota bill the Congress has done. Pete keenly sensed that the attitude of this Congress is different from other Congresses."

Visclosky emphasizes the bipartisan team work required to get the bill this far. "I cannot tell you how many conversations I've had and other members have had where people have put aside their egos, have put aside their own self-interest, have put aside their own legislative proposals so that we could have one comprehensive approach to solve this problem," he said. The original Visclosky bill focused only on the import quotes and had 206 cosponsors. The new bill added the monitoring and reporting provisions.

The legislation did run into problems in the House Ways and Means Committee. The panel passed the bill on for full House action with a negative recommendation. Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert (R-ILL) did not want the bill to be forced out of committee and to the floor with a discharge petition, according to published reports. Republicans hold a 223-216 majority in the House.

CONGRESS WATCH

Steel Popular Cause in State

Visclosky has been joined by several Hoosier colleagues in advocating the cause of steel workers. Rep. Tim Roemer is a cosponsor of the quota bill. Sen. Evan Bayh (D), who has called for "fair trade where everyone plays by the rules," is a cosponsor of the Senate version of Visclosky's legislation. The first official act of Bayh's Senate career was to join the Congressional Steel Caucus. Gov. Frank O'Bannon also has been vocal in support of Visclosky's measure.

On the other side of the aisle, Rep. Mark Souder cosponsored Visclosky's bill. Rep. Steve Buyer said after the Senate impeachment trial ended that steel would be one of the first two issues he would address. Buyer served as a House prosecutor during the trial.

The wide interest in steel is the result of its diffuse moorings in Indiana. Of the 12 steel- producing facilities in the state, six are in northwest region, two are in southern Indiana, one is New Castle,

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TICKER TAPE

Gov. O'Bannon traveled to Elkhart, Lafayette, Logansport and Rome City on Tuesday to rally support for the full-day kindergarten. "You boys and girls have your whole lives ahead of you," O'Bannon said. "And I want to make sure that each of you - and your younger brothers and sisters - is as ready as possible to meet the challenges that are waiting for you when you leave school."

Bill Ruckleshaus, the 1968 Indiana Republican senatorial nominee, was identified by NBC News as a "marine specialist" and was quoted on new salmon fishing regulations, saying, "In the past we made salmon adapt to humans. Now it is time for humans to adapt to the salmon."

Several Indiana lawmakers are considering the return of campaign contributions from Lincoln National Corporations (Leslie Stedman, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Attorneys for LNC are trying to determine if the company is affected by a state law banning contributions from companies that own at least 1 percent interest in gambling-related companies licensed in Indiana. "This is a situation we were not aware of until Monday," said John Gerni, LNC's state lobbyist. "We're trying to get the facts first and

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TICKER TAPE

deal with the issue at hand and comply with state laws." The LNC came after a bill in the Indiana Senate would have increased the allowable ownership in gambling enterprises to 10 percent. LNC owns a 9 percent interest in Bicycle Holding Company. Bicycle owns United States Playing Card Co., which is licensed as a supplier to riverboat casinos. LNC has made contributions to State Sens. David Long and Potch Wheeler, State Reps. Win Moses, Jeff Espich, B. Patrick Bauer, Mike Ripley, Gloria Goeglein, State Treasurer Tim Berry and Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy.

U.S. Rep. David McIntosh is opposing the deployment of U.S. troops in Kosovo. "Clinton once again is confusing the Marine Corps with the Peace Corps," McIntosh said. "It's extremely dangerous for Clinton to put our troops in harm's way for a humanitarian mission where he has failed to achieve peace, articulate a clear national interest, and craft an exit strategy."

Former U.S. Sen. Dan Coats and Rep. McIntosh have joined Dan Quayle's presidential campaign as co-chairs. Others on the committee including Doc Bowen, Peter Rusthoven, John Hiler, Marge O'Laughlin, George Witwer, Mark

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Post Impeachment Bipartisanship

Roemer education bill passes House, Senate overwhelmingly

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr. *in Washington*

Members of Congress are trying to practice bipartisanship and focusing in part on education reform to salve the wounds of impeachment.

One of the touchstones of that effort, a bill written by Rep. Tim Roemer that would provide flexibility for states and local school districts in using nearly $11 billion in federal funds, last week passed the House overwhelmingly.

"While the federal government should provide needed assistance, it should not act as a barrier to education reform," Roemer said in a statement after the House vote on March 11. "This bill encourages states to be innovative in return for better student performance. I also am encouraged by today's House vote, which shows that Congress can work together to reform public education.

The Ed-Flex bill would enable districts to coordinate federal and state programs. Schools are given waiver authority for federal programs designed to help disadvantaged students and to train teachers. In exchange, schools must accept increased accountability for results.

The rhetoric surrounding Ed-Flex, however, focused for the most part on bipartisanship. The idea of cooperation has been in vogue since political Washington returned to work after the President's Day recess in late February.

At that time, the nation's governors came to town for their annual winter meeting. In the wake of the Senate impeachment trial, more state chief executives attended the National Governors' Association confab than ever before. "It's very cordial, serious, and to the point," said Gov. Frank O'Bannon, who also serves as president of the Democratic Governors Association.

President Clinton, fresh off his impeachment acquittal, addressed the governors on a couple of occasions. O'Bannon said there were no awkward or embarrassing moments. "It's almost like business as usual," he said. "What you'll see is that the system worked."

The Ed-Flex bill complemented the atmosphere. At a press conference held in the midst of the governors' meetings in downtown Washington, Roemer stressed his bill's bipartisan pedigree. "I urge us in the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., to put this as one of our highest priorities. Let us use our common sense, establish common ground, and work in a bipartisan way to improve our educational system," Roemer said. O'Bannon appeared at the press conference to demonstrate his support for the flexibility concept.

Roemer believes the political parties can work together following the emotional and divisive impeachment process that has consumed the last six months. "I think there will be a burst of bipartisan activity," he said. "There is some impetus to move beyond the poisonous residue of impeachment. Of course, I'm an optimist, or I wouldn't be in this business."

Similar optimism comes from a congressional scholar. "The atmosphere in Washington is better than it has been in several years, in terms of both parties trying to define problems and find solutions," said James Thurber, director of the Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies at American University. Thurber, author of the recently published Rivals for Power: Congress and the President, cites three reasons for the relative comity in Congress: the election of a moderate coalition-builder, Rep. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), as Speaker of the House; temperate public statements by both parties concerning issues such as tax cuts, Social Security and Medicare; and the cohesiveness of pivotal committees, such as the Senate Budget Committee. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Larry Riley, *Muncie Star Press* - Worthless projects that bloat government budgets are pork barrel spending. To behave gluttonously is to go hog wild. Thespians who act excessively ham it up. Are we making pigs of ourselves? Most of our vocabulary relating to swine is unambiguously negative -- referring to selfishness, avarice and miserly acquisitivity. As form follows function, this orientation is not without justification. Pigs are filthy animals, live in mud wallows named sties, and smell to high heaven. Even if you're not a vegetarian, as am I, how could anyone ever watch sausage packed, or pig's ears dried, or hog guts eviscerated, and ever eat the stuff again. Most people, of course, don't see this; their hog meat comes from the supermarket butcher -- so the home of the most delicious tenderloin sandwich will probably make a terrific comeback on Kilgore Avenue. Still, I have to wonder where's a good old, Bible-thumping, scriptural literalist when we need one? Chapter 11 of Leviticus, quoting God directly, calls the beasts unclean and directs Moses and Aaron not to eat their flesh or even touch their carcasses, and I couldn't agree more. Instead, though, we're beset with a pork crisis because we're not eating enough of these fatty quadrupeds and producers are squealing like stuck, er, well, they're moaning about financial losses and how taxpayers must bail them out. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - So what's up with Indiana's Democrats? Part of the problem is the Lugar mythology: He's unbeatable, so why try? What names come to mind as even potential Lugar challengers? Darn few. Two of the four House members are newbies; another has pretty much indicated he'll serve in the House as long as Gary will continue to re-elect him; and Rep. Tim Roemer, though mentioned as a likely statewide candidate, apparently doesn't agree - yet. One hears Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan's and Attorney General Jeff Modisett's names in discussions - but only in passing. ❖

Mike Smith, *Associated Press* - Welcome to the Indiana House of Representatives. Hold onto your hat and watch your backside. This is more than a great institution of wisdom that begins each day with a preacher praying for the souls of these 100 legislators, that they make sound decisions and good law. It's paper airplanes' red glare, rubber bands soaring in air, and all through the night, the wise cracks are there. This is the people's house, and a substitute teacher's worst nightmare. Take the other day, when Rep. Charlie Brown tried to take matters into his own hands. He asked the speaker for a "point of personal privilege," when lawmakers take the podium and just speak their mind on any issue--taxes, education, crime. Clothes pins. Brown, a Democrat from Gary, gets furious at House tomfoolery. There he was, holding up a clothes pin, threatening anyone who might dare clip a message such as "kick me" on his blazer tails. "This is very foolish, very childish," he said, waving the clothes pin around. "I want you to hear this from my mouth. I will get physical with you if I find you doing this to me." He was dead serious, but nobody can make the Indiana House behave like the Senate, where manners are observed. It was Brown himself who, a few years back, helped kill a bill to regulate hypnotists by strolling up the House aisle like a sleepwalking zombie, arms extended. ❖

TICKER TAPE

Souder, Ed Pease, Dan Burton, Sue Anne Gilroy, John Hostettler, Paul Helmke, Jean Ann Harcourt, Bob Hiler, Gary Hofmeister, Jean Leising, John Price, Steve Shine, Dane Miller, Dick Freeland, Dan Evans, Tom Kelley, Bill Neale, Van Smith, Randall Tobias, Joe Morrow, Marvin Richardson, Mike Smith, Bill Quayle, Michael Quayle, Marj Hiner, Steve Chancellor, Dave Griffiths, and Larry Kennedy.

Quayle appeared in Fort Wayne, Indianapolis and Evansville declaring that he was going to win the 2000 presidential nomination. "We have to win early," Quayle said of Iowa and New Hampshire (Herb Marynell, Evansville Courier & Press). "I guarantee you we will be exceedingly competitive in those states. You can put that in the bank. We've come behind before, and we'll come from behind again. I rather like this underdog position." In Fort Wayne, Quayle said that Texas Gov. George W. Bush "is not going to be the front-runner after the caucuses in Iowa." Quayle held other fund-raising events in Hammond, South Bend, LaPorte and Sellersburg. Quayle told the Indianapolis Star/News that he expects to raise 15 to 20 percent of his campaign funds from Indiana. Quayle plans to formally announce in

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TICKER TAPE

Huntington on April 14. WISH-TV asked Dan and Marilyn Quayle what they thought of Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's decision to back Bush. Dan Quayle expressed disappointment, saying he had supported Goldsmith in previous elections. Marilyn Quayle called it "blind ambition." Goldsmith's wife, Margaret, is Dan Quayle's cousin.

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler went to Moscow as part of an American delegation to brief Russian legislators on U.S. plans for a national missile defense system. Former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld led the delegation. A resolution on the defense system is co-sponsored by Hostettler, and Reps. Steve Buyer and Baron Hill.

U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar said that before the federal crop insurance program can be fixed Congress will have to make a case that the program is a good deal for both farmers and American taxpayers. Lugar said he's "asked all the time" why the federal government spends $1.5 billion to subsidize insurance for farmers, but not retailers, manufacturers and others who face business risks.

U.S. Rep. Baron Hill has invited USDA officials to meet with Indiana hog farmers on March 29 in

Indiana Racing Form

INDIANA GOVERNORS RACE 2000

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke, George Witwer, John Price. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **1996 results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** Price announces candidacy and vows to stay in the race no matter what McIntosh does. Larry McIntyre column in Wednesday's *Indianapolis Star* centers on Witwer's perserverence, his boyhood friendship with McIntosh in Kendallville that extended through college and now politics. He notes that Witwer stunned the political establishment in 1996 when he defeated Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy on the convention floor. The key message: Don't under estimate George. O'Bannon works the state on behalf of full-day kindergarten, visiting five cities. There is little doubt that FDK is going to be the big test on O'Bannon's leadership, and the stare-down with Senate Republicans is just beginning. It will be fascinating to see who blinks. Chances of special legislative session increasing. **Status:** *Leans Democratic.*

HORSE RACE

INDIANA MAYORAL RACES 1999

Evansville Mayoral: Republican: County Commissioner Russell Lloyd Jr., David Woll. **Democrat:** Rick Borries, City Councilwoman Gail Riecken, County Councilman Phil Hoy, Lawrence Hall. **1995 Results:** McDonald 19,162, Frary 9,565. **1999 Forecast:** Mayor Frank McDonald seeks a State Board of Accounts audit after former Vanderburgh County Sheriff and Evansville Police Chief Ray Hamner was indicted for allegedly stealing $60,000 from his office prior to leaving last January. Indiana State Police say Hamner gave back $63,000 in missing drug buy money after the investigation began. Councilman Russell Lloyd was stunned. "It's a shocking revelation," Lloyd told the *Courier & Press*. "I hope for Ray Hamner's sake he's found innocent. I've known him to be a straight up and down sort of guy." Woll goes on the attack, blasting Lloyd for poor planning on funding operational costs of the county's new convention center. Woll campaign manager Todd Mosby says Lloyd "did not have the vision to think ahead" and plan for operational costs for The Centre. Lloyd responds that he wasn't appointed to the County Council until Jan. 1, 1997 - after the council had approved a construction bond and lease (*Courier & Press*). Lloyd said if he had been on the council, "I wouldn't have spent that much money." **Status:** *Toss Up.*

Indianapolis Mayoral: Republican: Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy, Robert Parker. **Democrat:** Bart Peterson. **Our Party:** Rev. John Gibson. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1995 Results:** Goldsmith (R) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. **1999 Forecast:** Growing question for the Gilroy camp is if and when the Republican will debate. Parker claims Gilroy has backed out of a debate at Butler University scheduled for next week. Other news organizations are saying that it is difficult to pin Gilroy down on future debates. Peterson is seeking 18 dates but has received no commitment. It is renewing speculation in media circles as to why the campaign is keeping Gilroy under wraps. But Gilroy campaign announces the candidate will address the Indianapolis Jaycees on April 14. State Board of Accounts audit of the Goldsmith administration begins. **Status:** *Toss-Up.*

New Albany Mayoral: Republican: City Clerk Regina Overton. **Democrat:** Mayor Doug England. **1995 Results:** England 6,845, Real (R) 5,886. **1999 Forecast:** England is seeking his third term and may be in for a real race as a number of ethics issues have been raised, prompting Floyd County Republican Chairman Jason Beal to seek an Indiana State Police investigation. Democrats Roger Hefler and Yvonne Kersey told the *New Albany Tribune* that they back an ISP investigation. *Louisville Courier-Journal* expose reports that John Mattingly lob-

bied the sewer board on behalf of England to award a $388,000 no bid contract. MacKenzie then makes $1,000 campaign contributions to England, but tells the *Courier-Journal* he thought he was donating to England's controversial Mayor's Club, a PAC England established. It's too early to tell if England is in any real danger. Floyd County is a Democratic stronghold. **Status:** LEANS D.

INDIANA CONGRESSIONAL RACES 2000

Congressional District 4: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, Mike Loomis. **De mocrat:** Open. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Huntington, NE Indiana. **1994 results:** Souder 83,466, Long 65,956. **1996 Results:** Souder 118,344, Houseman (D) 76,152, Bisson (L) 4,743. **1998 Results:** Souder 93,671, Wehrle 54,286. **2000 Forecast:** Deputy Allen County Prosecutor Mike Loomis announces he will challenge Souder. It will be a rematch of the 1994 primary, a race Loomis entered as a presumed favorite and was out-worked and finessed by Souder. "I want this job very badly," Loomis tells the *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel*. Loomis is making the challenge in reaction to Souder's votes on President Clinton's impeachment and his vote against the transportation bill last year. On impeachment, Loomis said, "I can accept a vote on moral conscience. He was running for political cover." On transportation issues, Loomis charged: "Our current representative has confused principle with ideology," Loomis said. There is no doubt Souder has taken heat from Republicans over his impeachment votes. But at this point it's hard to see anyone defeating Souder, a gifted political strategist, in a GOP primary. There's a good chance the impeachment stigma will fade by May 2000. Why would Loomis take on Souder now? He's hoping the stars will align and people won't forget about impeachment. Souder will be a self-term limited congressman, so a credible Loomis campaign in 2000 could position him for a future open seat. **Status:** *LIKELY SOUDER.*

BRIAN A. HOWEY ❖

HPR announces new website, affiliations

The Howey Political Report is announcing its enhanced presence on the worldwide web. The newsletter's new website is: www.howeypolitics.com.

It's part of a series of changes are taking place with Indiana's premiere political newsletter.

The website will feature Brian A. Howey's weekly political column that now runs in 24 Indiana newspapers. It includes information on how to contact Howey for speaking opportunities, subscription information, biographies on Howey, Washington correspondent Mark Schoeff, Jr., pollster Jeff Lewis and cartoonist Bob Lang.

www.howeypolitics.com

Joining The Howey Political Report as marketing agent will be Rick Wilkerson of Wilkerson Strategic Marketing, an Indianapolis-based marketing and advertising firm. Wilkerson has been active in Indiana political media buying. Wilkerson and Peg Tomey of Chicago designed the new HPR website. Wilkerson can be contacted by calling 317-466-0493 or wt@wtadv.com.

Jack E. Howey, copy editor for HPR, is now treasurer of NewsLink, Inc., the corporate publishing platform for HPR. He will handle billing and finances. Jack Howey is a nationally recognized journalist who was inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame at DePauw University in 1998.

TeleResearch Corp., will become HPR's official pollster, conducting several field surveys annually for the report.

Finally, Lang has renewed his affiliation with CNN and will be a featured cartoonist on CNN's website. ❖

TICKER TAPE

Scottsburg.

The Lafayette Journal and Courier reported that Indiana's budget surplus is projected to grow to $2.7 billion to $2.9 billion by mid-2001. "That means the state treasury is pulling in almost $1 million more than is being spent each day," the newspaper reported. The net result is that the Build Indiana Fund is projected to grow to $400 million by mid-2000. That prompted State Sen. Alan Paul, D-Richmond, to observe, "The Build Indiana Fund is the real last stronghold that the ordinary citizen has in the General Assembly. No special interest groups, no highly paid lobbyists, nobody roaming the halls. This is local communities, local people, applying for funds."

White teenagers in Goshen are responding to the distribution of Ku Klux Klan fliers in their city by joining the NAACP (South Bend Tribune). "It's important for us to let the Klan know that not only do we not want to be a part of your organization, in response we're joining the NAACP," said Tim Nafziger, an 18-year-old senior at Bethany Christian HS. More than 20 while students have joined the NAACP. Said Ron Davis, president of the Elkhart County chapter of the NAACP, "We were just floored. These are actually

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TICKER TAPE

the first white kids in our youth group."

HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey will be on an Indiana Political Science Association panel at Ball State University on March 19. "Gearing Up for 2000: Political Issues Facing Indiana" will feature Howey, John Cranor of Ball State, David Hadley of Wabash College, William Blomquist of IUPUI, and Jim McDowell of Indiana State University. Cornell University Prof. Ted Lowi will be the keynote speaker.

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Visclosky, *from page 1*

one is in Mishawaka, and two are in the Fort Wayne area. Indiana makes 23 percent of the raw steel produced in the United States. The industry employees nearly 30,000 statewide.

One Hoosier legislator, however, is voicing a negative reaction to steel quotas, citing another Hoosier constituency that may suffer collateral damage if a trade war breaks out. "It seems to me that those of us in favor of trade--and all of us in agriculture are--have to understand that our prosperity lies in increasing markets,"

Sen. Dick Lugar said in the March 10 *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* (Sylvia Smith). "If we go into egregious violations (of international trade treaties) we are likely to face retaliation, and the first place it usually hits is agriculture. It is the simplest place to hit us."

Steel quota proponents don't believe the bill violates World Trade Organization rules. Under a provision of world trade laws, import restrictions can be justified on the basis of national security. Because steel is used to make submarines, planes, tanks and other military equipment, the United States cannot risk having its market dominated by foreign steel. Restricting foreign imports will not draw a sanction from the WTO, say quota bill backers.

CONGRESS WATCH

Visclosky also disagrees with the argument that his bill will ignite a trade war. "What we are simply saying is that we want to squeeze out of the system the steel the administration has already acknowledged is illegally traded," he said.

Steel unions are miffed that the Clinton administration is threatening a trade war over bananas while threatening to veto the steel quota bill. "If you're going to fight a war, fight a war that benefits people here," said Kleinfelter. ❖

Schoeff is HPR's Washington correspondent.

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