‘Heartbeat away’ gets new scrutiny
Friends say Kernan to revisit 2004

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

Gov. Bren Simon?
Gov. Paul Shoopman?

During the week when Hoosiers will bury their late governor, Frank O’Bannon, the questions above are not only fair, but appropriate. Since 1991, Govs. Mel Carnahan (Missouri, plane crash), Lawton Chiles (Florida, heart attack), Kirk Fordice (Mississippi, car accident), Paul Casey (Pennsylvania, illness), George Mickelson (South Dakota, plane crash), and Richard Snelling (Vermont, heart attack), have died in office.

Next week Gov. Joe Kernan, who friends say is likely to take one more hard look at the 2004 governor’s race, is expected to name a new lieutenant governor. Who he chooses will lend a clue as to how his deliberations will go.

The two names above could have been or will be the proverbial “heartbeat away” from the Indiana governorship. Simon was tabbed by Democratic gubernatorial candidate Joe Andrew in July. Shoopman, the CEO of Dura Builders, was under consideration by Republican candidate David McIntosh until he left the race on Sept. 4.

While Simon and Shoopman may not be unprecedented fresh business entrants into high stake state politics, they would have been for Indiana. Hoosiers have reached into the business class in modern times, but have mainly relied on the political class.

Gov. Roger D. Branigin ran as a Lafayette attorney unsuccessfully in 1956 before winning in 1964. Along the way, he developed the proper Democratic Party network to reach office. Ditto for Gov. Edgar D. Whitcomb, who devel-
10 DAYS THAT ROCKED INDIANA: For comprehensive coverage, analysis, commentary and photos of Gov. Frank O’Bannon’s death and Gov. Joe Kernan’s ascent to office, see “10 Days That Rocked Indiana” on the Indianapolis Eye website ... at www.indianapoliseye.com

DOWNES RESIGNS AS ADAMS HS PRINCIPAL: Changes in Indiana’s state government may have caused some personnel changes at a local high school. Adams High School has a new interim principal. Mary Downes has resigned (WNDU-TV). Downes is expected to be named Gov. Kernan’s chief of staff. As for Mary Downes, Dr. Joan Raymond said, “I have no comment in terms of her resignation, but I’m sure that that will be made public shortly.”

KERNAN FINDS SOLACE IN SOUTH BEND: The first thing Joe Kernan wanted to do when he returned home for the first time as governor was to get out on the St. Joseph River in his rowing shell (Tom Coyne, Associated Press). “My favorite place in the world is to be on the river,” Kernan said Wednesday. “For me it

Politics, not business

Kernan succinctly laid out his two most important criteria for lieutenant governor on Monday: “It has to be someone I can work with and who is capable of stepping into the governor's duties.”

The second of the two is critical for a successful administration. And a huge portion of that is a person’s ability to work with the Indiana General Assembly. Whitcomb lacked the legislative background and struggled in his governorship.

Bayh steadily built such relationships as a campaign manager and as a candidate for two offices. His governorships had their ups and downs, complicated by a 50/50 House and special budget sessions, though he was able to forge a record excise tax cut with Republicans and Democrats. Govs. Matt Welch (House and Senate), Doc Bowen (House Speaker), Robert Orr and Frank O’Bannon (both from the Senate) were all legislative creatures, though like Whitcomb, O’Bannon struggled with legislative relationships.

For Bren Simon, the ability to build legislative relationships is a germane question. Andrew has already stated that his LG will concentrate on economic development while gaveling open and shut the Senate, as well as breaking ties.

Right now, few in the legislature know much about her, let alone having developed any relationships. And Simon has yet to reveal her public policy stripes. For more than a month, HPR has sought an interview with Simon on the political boilerplate basic stances -- death penalty, abortion, home rule, euthanasia -- with no response. These are issues that established political figures have developed and can reel off pat answers.

Andrew’s confidence

Andrew’s response was this: “I’m more confident in her today than the day I picked her. I wanted someone who had business experience and who could relate
to people on a number of different levels. She was a widow, a single mom, she’s an entrepreneur. I’m more convinced she can do the job as I have defined it. She has leadership experience in running a business, non-for-profits and who has life experiences.

Saying, “There is no individual job preparing you for governor unless you are governor,” Andrew took the logic of lack of legislative experience a step further. “If that were the case, Evan Bayh and Joe Kernan wouldn’t be qualified,” he said, adding that there was “inherent sexism” in the question. “I believe Michael Browning or Jeff Smulyan would be good governors. They are men and no one would ask the same questions of men. They clearly have executive skills and judgment, experience and background.”

Andrew used the potential of an execution as an example. In Simon, he said, there is the life experience of being a single mother. “She’s uniquely qualified to make that decision because of her life experiences,” he said. “I’ll put that experience up against anyone. Those are questions of judgment.”

Run it like a business

Columnist Morton Marcus has already taken on the 1990s GOP notion of “running government like a business.” In an August newspaper column, Marcus observed, “Mitch Daniels has fallen into the trap of declaring that the governor's role is similar to that of the chief executive officer of a company. No, Government is not a business. The constraints are different, the objectives are different, the instruments for action are different. No CEO has to contend with anything like a powerful, elected General Assembly.”

CEOs can fire or demote recalcitrant executives who, as former Lilly CEO Randall Tobias would say, won’t “move in the same direction.”

To the contrary, Gov. O’Bannon and his staff were fixated on not angering or alienating Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton.

Kernan’s choice

Next week, Gov. Kernan’s nominee for LG will be revealing. With former First Lady Judy O’Bannon signalling her intention of not seeking a role in the new administration, Kernan’s selection could indicate two future courses.

If Kernan chooses someone with deep legislative relationships who has already left the scene, it will indicate a 15-month plan of action that will signal his intention to retire from public life. Such a nominee list (and folks, this is pure speculation) might include former Sens. Robert Hellmann, Mike Gery, former Rep. Susan Crosby, Budget Director Marilyn Schultz, or Higher Education Commissioner Stan Jones.

While Kernan resisted questions as to whether he might reconsider running for governor, some close to the governor expect him and First Lady Maggie Kernan to at least revisit the question.

On Sept. 9, the day after Gov. O’Bannon fell ill, Kernan told the press that, “Nothing that has happened in the last 36 hours has changed my mind about the decision I announced in December.”

On Monday, Kernan acknowledged that he and the First Lady hadn’t had a chance to revisit their circumstances and when questioned again, said, “I’ve already answered that question” while evading the “36-hour” qualifier.

A choice of, say, State Sen. Connie Sipes, who is an elementary school principal from New Albany, Joe Andrew or Sen. Simpson (both would have to reassess if a sitting governor decided to run), or former Congresswoman Jill Long Thompson, would signal new intentions.

Allies of Gov. Kernan would be “surprised, but not shocked” if Kernan changed his mind about running. Part of that scenario is that with Gov. O’Bannon’s death, the political backdrop had changed.

JUDY O’BANNON DOESN’T ENVISION ROLE IN KERNAN ADMINISTRATION:
Former First Lady Judy O’Bannon’s public presence has never loomed larger as

continued on page 4
it has over the past week, but she feels duty-bound to step aside in the coming weeks to make room for the new administration (Ken Kusmer, Associated Press). Her late husband hand-picked Joe Kernan to be his running mate and, unforeseeably, his successor, but Mrs. O’Bannon does not intend to maintain any official capacity in the Kernan administration, her chief of staff, Jonathon Swain said Monday. "I don't think I would be speaking out of turn to say that she would discourage any discussion of her having some official role in state government," Swain said. "She feels Governor Kernan is a strong and capable leader, and this is his administration now."

ZOGBY SAYS BUSH IS IN TROUBLE: The Christian Science Monitor reported this morning on a recent Monitor breakfast with John Zogby, president and chief executive officer of Zogby International. Zogby said, "Right now, as things stand, [President Bush] is in the unenviable position of being at the whim of external forces that could be beyond his control." On whether the war in Iraq will permanently tarnish President Bush, Zogby said it is "way too early to say 'permanently tarnish' and way too early to say that it will be forgotten. Where we stand right now, the president is in

continued on page 5

$87 billion for Iraq has Members gulping

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON -- Before, during and after the war in Iraq, Republican Rep. Mike Pence (R-6th CD) was one of many staunch GOP allies of the Bush administration.

Now Pence is setting himself apart from most of his Capitol Hill colleagues by resisting the president's push for $87 billion to continue the effort in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As the administration prepares a budget request for financing military operations and rebuilding efforts in the two countries, Pence is questioning why the United States would have to foot so much of the bill. He wants to see a funding commitment from countries such as Britain and Australia, who fought along with the United States in Iraq, as well as others that backed the war, such as Japan.

Pence said he was disappointed that when President Bush outlined his $87 billion request in a Sept. 7 speech, he didn't have allies lined up for financial support.

"It seemed to me like a day late and a billion short," said Pence. "In a perfect world, the Secretary of State would have (already) met with coalition partners and secured a commitment. There are many wealthy nations who supported

our efforts to remove Saddam Hussein. I'm one of those saying I'd like the administration to do what it said it was going to do -- bring our coalition partners to the table."

Pence said that he anticipates he will attend a donors conference with Secretary of State Colin Powell next month in Madrid.

Pence did not say that he would oppose the Iraq funding, but he makes clear that he won't rubber-stamp it.

"We're going to have a thorough debate and discussion about this bill."

The $87 billion request includes $66 billion for military operations and $21 billion for rebuilding Iraq and Afghanistan. This amount comes on top of a $79 billion appropriation approved by Congress in the spring. The costs of the Iraq war will likely push the deficit for the next fiscal year above $500 billion. A Washington Post poll of 1,104 adults conducted from Sept. 10-13 showed that 61 percent opposed additional spending for the war and rebuilding Iraq.

In Muncie, Richmond and Anderson, Pence was hearing similar misgivings. "The people I represent are growing more concerned about the size of the deficit," said Pence. But he said he will resist any efforts to repeal any Bush tax
cuts to pay for rebuilding Iraq because the U.S. economy remains in the doldrums. “That's a hill I'm willing to die on,” he said. “Now that the president is polling like a mortal man, it's going to embolden people to take a run at his agenda.”

Pence Unlikely to Get Traction

Pence may be looking toward the future. “He's successfully positioning himself for a higher profile over time,” said an administration official. But for now, “he's not a senior enough figure to have a significant impact on any final outcome” of the Iraq appropriations bill.

A more typical stance is the one taken by Pence's fellow Hoosier GOP conservative, Rep. Mark Souder (3rd CD). “I wish (the appropriation) wasn't so big, but I plan to support it,” he said. “We have to suck it up and pass the bill. We as Republicans need to get behind the president and do what is right.”

Souder doubts that the United States will receive significant funding from its coalition partners. “It's like getting blood out of a turnip,” he said. “Even if they all (contributed), we'd be talking about 83 (billion) instead of 87 (billion). We still have the same basic problem.” He said most of the money is going to the U.S. military and U.S. firms involved in reconstruction.

Souder said it is better to fund rebuilding Iraq than to allow Iraqi political groups hostile to the United States to take over the country and begin building chemical and biological weapons, necessitating another U.S. invasion. “Which way saves more lives and is cheaper?” Souder asked.

Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh believes “there should be no skimping when it comes to supporting the war on terrorism and advancing the cause of freedom,” said spokesman Mark Kornblau. But Bayh does want to see an accounting of how the $87 billion will be spent. In a Senate banking subcommittee hearing on Tuesday, he advocated securitizing Iraqi oil revenue to pay for at least part of the reconstruction costs.

Republican Rep. Chris Chocola (R-2nd CD), who visited Iraq, said he will vote for the $87 billion budget request, calling it “an appropriate and far-sighted investment.” Succeeding in Iraq is tantamount to defeating the terrorism responsible for the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington. “This is the frontline in the war on terrorism. If (terrorists) are not in Iraq, they'll be someplace else. They'll be in New York, or Chicago or London,” he said. “Every member who's been (to Iraq) is going to be in support of (the appropriations bill) in a bipartisan way. We have no choice but to succeed and the ingredients of success are there.”

Fundamental Policy

But the definition of success hasn't been determined. Souder said he and his colleagues are growing increasingly concerned about the direction of U.S. policy toward Iraq. “There's an increasing restiveness that the American people don't understand what we're doing,” he said. “It's a combination of hostile media, Democratic politics and sometimes the ineffectiveness of the administration in communicating its message.”

Republican Sen. Richard Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will launch hearings next week designed to answer fundamental questions about U.S. plans for rebuilding Iraq: What will an Iraq 5-year plan look like? How can democratic institutions succeed in Iraq? And what should the U.S. role be in furthering those developments? Where does Iraq fit in the global war on terrorism?

“Lugar wrote those out on a legal pad himself and said this is what we need to ask in the hearings,” said spokesman Andy Fisher. “He's involved in the process of how you pass (the appropriations request) but then more importantly, the longer-term approach and policy.”

continued on page 6
2003 Racing Form

**Trendline:** The strength and direction of the national economy very likely will be the most important determinant of the 2004 election (Charlie Cook, National Journal). Historically, economic growth measured by real change in the gross domestic product, change in real disposable income and, to a lesser extent, unemployment and inflation; have been some of the best indicators of whether an incumbent president will be re-elected. Interestingly, history tells us it isn't so much the precise state of the economy on Election Day as the state of the economy roughly six months before the election that determines the winner. In their work, "Forecasting Elections," professors Michael Lewis-Beck of the University of Iowa and Tom Rice of the University of Vermont have found the highest correlations with election outcome are comparisons of unemployment figures from March of the election year to June of that year; inflation rates for June of the year before the election to June of the election year; change in real personal income from the second quarter of the year before the election to the second quarter of the year; and change in gross domestic product for those periods.

### 2003 Indiana Mayoral Races

**Anderson Mayoral:** Republican: Kevin Smith. Democrat: Robert W. Rock.

Independent: Linda Haynes. 1995 Results: Lawler (D) 9,411, Graham (R) 8,817. 1999 Results: Lawler (D) 8,395, Czarniecki (R) 7,002 Haynes (I) 1,950. 2003 Forecast: The union representing officers with the Anderson Police Department has endorsed Smith to be the next mayor of the city (Ken de la Bastide, Anderson Herald-Bulletin). Smith is a detective with APD. Rock said he was not surprised by the FOP endorsement of a fellow police officer. "I'm gratified," said Smith. "This shows that people are ready for a change. APD members know better than anyone the unfavorable political climate we live under. APD members want professional government. It's time for a change." The FOP took a bipartisan stance in endorsing candidates for the Anderson City Council, backing four Republicans and two Democrats. General Status: TOSSUP.

**Columbus Mayoral:** Republican: David Mann. Democrat: Mayor Fred Armstrong.

1999 Results: Armstrong (D) 6,278, Paris (R) 2,599. 2003 Outlook: Two debates have taken place in the past week. Last night, the two candidates sparred over recycling. "We have one of the best recycling centers in the country," Armstrong said, referring to a local drop-off site (Paul Minnis, Columbus Republic). But Mann said some people are unwilling to haul recyclables to the center because of inconvenience and because they do not want to dirty their cars. He said curbside pickup should be free, because the city's monetary loss would be made up easily with the space saved in the county landfill. Last week at Denney's, the two talked about efforts to attract high-paying jobs to Columbus were defended by one candidate and attacked by the other Saturday during the city's first mayoral debate (Minnis, Columbus Republic). Mayor Armstrong said the city is keeping an admittedly bad situation from getting worse. Mann said the city is headed down the wrong path and could do more to reverse the trend. "We’ve lost 48,000 manufacturing jobs since 1990," Mann said to members of Bartholomew County Landlord's Association, who sponsored the event. He said those jobs can be held or gained only by the city's willingness to work with companies and provide incentives. "We must create a business and job-retention task force - to keep track of the pulse - of area businesses," Mann said. But Armstrong said the city already meets often with companies and has established a committee that explores economic development plans. "We have the best programs in Indiana. It’s tough, but we're getting the job done." General Status: Leans Armstrong.

Jonathon Weinzapfel. 1995 Results: McDonald (D) 19,162, Frary (R) 9,565. 1999 Results: Lloyd (R) 15,980, Borries (D) 15,461. 2003 Forecast: Mayor Lloyd was pleased with his exposure on the Daily Show with John Stewart Wednesday on the Comedy Channel. Samantha Bee described Evansville as the “sewage on your lawn capital of America.” Lloyd clearly went along with the joke, at one point saying, “Attending the Cher concert was a more important duty than listening to the people.” Lloyd said in an e-mail this morning, “There is a segment about Evansville, Indiana, on the Daily Show with John Stewart on Comedy Central. I agreed to let the Daily Show come in and tape TV interviews after it was reported on the AP wires that I attended a Cher concert in Evansville instead of a City Council meeting to listen to neighbors complain about drainage problems from a heavy rain that caused combination sewers to back up into residents yards, streets and houses. I watched it, Correspondent Samantha Bee does a great job addressing both sides of this sticky (!) issue!” Weinzapfel called Tuesday for Mayor Lloyd to intervene at the Evansville Housing Authority (John Martin, Evansville Courier & Press). Weinzapfel said he had seen a “pattern of mismanagement” on the part of EHA Executive Director Paul Fletcher, and said Lloyd should demand Fletcher’s removal. In a written statement released late Tuesday afternoon, Lloyd said Weinzapfel’s request was premature. A member of the EHA Board accused Weinzapfel of “politicizing” the situation, and said Weinzapfel has a conflict of interest in the matter because his law firm represented an EHA subsidiary. Weinzapfel also denied he was playing politics. “I have simply asked the mayor to demonstrate leadership and fix the management problems at EHA,” he said. General Status: Leans Weinzapfel.

Fort Wayne Mayor: Republican: Linda Buskirk. Democrat: Mayor Graham Richard. 1995 Results: Helmke 21,909, Essex (D) 11,033, Kempf (L) 1,029. 1999 Results: Richard (D) 21,607, Buskirk (R) 21,531. 2003 Forecast: Richard will have a major fundraiser in Indianapolis next Monday that will be hosted by Richard Waterfield, Scott Jones and Christopher LaMothe. “We think this is a pretty significant endorsement,” said campaign manager Angela Boerger. “These hosts have given a lot of money to prominent Republicans.” Buskirk will fire Police Chief Rusty York and scrap the Fort Wayne Police Department’s quadrant system if she is elected, the Republican mayoral candidate said Monday (Dan Stockman, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Richard said York has done all the things Buskirk claims she wants in the department: More accountability, more neighborhood partnerships and more community-oriented policing. “Chief York has done an outstanding job,” Richard said. “I’m very pleased with the leadership of Chief York. I would be very disappointed to see Chief York fired simply because he was an appointee of this administration.” Richard said he was also disappointed Buskirk broke an agreement not to campaign until after the funeral for Gov. Frank O’Bannon. (Stockman, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). “I thought we were going into a period of remorse and remembering,” Richard said. “I was under the impression we were going to suspend traditional campaigning.” Both campaigns agreed Saturday to suspend TV advertising, though it took until Monday to get the ads off the air. Buskirk campaign manager Jim Banks said the agreement related only to ads. “We never agreed to stop our campaign,” Banks said. The Allen County Right to Life Political Action Committee and Indiana Right to Life Political Action Committee both endorsed Buskirk. General Status: Leans Buskirk.

Indianapolis Mayor: Republican: Treasurer Greg Jordan. Democrat: Mayor Bart Peterson. 1995 Results: Goldsmith (D) 64,209, Jimison (D) 39,539, Dillon (L) 7,175. 1999 Results: Peterson (D) 102,870, Gilroy (R) 83,044, Horning (L) 7,772, Gibson (OP) 7,175. 2003 Forecast: A new poll for the Indianapolis Star and WTHR (Channel 13) shows Peterson ahead 58-26 percent. As for who they blame for the property tax crisis, the poll showed that 31 percent blamed the General Assembly, 29 percent don’t know, 15 percent blamed Gov. Frank O’Bannon, 13 percent the City-County Council, no one 9 percent, and Mayor Peterson 4 percent. General Status: Likely Peterson.

Muncie Mayor: Republican: Mayor Dan Canan. Democrat: Dennis Tyler. 1995 Results: Canan (R) 9,718, Carey (D) 6,521. 1999 Results: Canan (R) 7,973, Smith (D) 5,611. 2003 Forecast: Canan and Tyler will debate at 7 p.m. Sept. 25 at Muncie City Hall. General status: Likely Canan. ❖
**COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA**

**Mike McDaniel, Indianapolis Eye**

He was one of the most successful politicians in the history of Indiana. In 34 years, he never lost an election for the Indiana Senate, for lieutenant governor or for governor. All Hoosier politicians should reflect upon and learn from the successful political career of Gov. Frank O'Bannon. Why was Gov. O'Bannon undefeated in every election? The answer is one word. He was likable, period, end of report. In my 30 years in Indiana politics, I never met a Republican or a Democrat who didn’t like Frank O’Bannon. Think about that for a second. During the last 34 years, politics in Indiana has evolved into a full contact sport. Politics is truly a rough and tumble life today. A lot of good people stay away from politics and public service because it has become so mean-spirited. Yet throughout this evolution, Frank O’Bannon kept his civility. People liked Gov. O’Bannon because they sensed that he genuinely liked and cared about them. He always had a friendly smile, a firm handshake and a pat on the back for everybody he met – and Bob Dole come to mind. Actually, now that I think about it, I have been inclined to like Joe Kernan ever since he was hired to be the commencement speaker at the University of Notre Dame a few years back, and members of the senior class protested that he wasn’t important enough for them. It was a slap in the face. Here was a man, a Notre Dame graduate, who had been a POW in Vietnam, for God’s sake, and had come home to a successful career in public service, with a reputation for intelligence, decency and good humor. So how did Kernan react to this insult? With decency, intelligence and good humor.

**Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune**

Gov. Frank O’Bannon, losing popularity for reasons beyond his control, now wins justified praise, even from those critics who pestered him with the accusing question: “Where did the surplus go?” Actually, the critics, with few exceptions, never attacked the governor personally. In disagreement with some of his policies, they agreed that Frank was a good man. Indeed he was.

**Mary Beth Schneider, Indianapolis Star**

With O’Bannon’s passing, though, the political attacks that would have been certain are now likely to end. “It makes it hard for there to be criticism,” said State Sen. Luke Kenley. Instead of attacking the O’Bannon administration’s record, candidates will likely lay out more of a positive vision of their own agenda. Instead of talking only about problems, they’ll have to talk about solutions.
The Facilitator Governor

By far, the most intriguing interview I conducted with Gov. Frank O’Bannon occurred in late June 2002 after the historic tax restructuring was passed.

It had been a maddening journey, from Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan’s unveiling of the initial plan the previous October, to the gradual acknowledgement by Sens. Larry Borst (in February) and Bob Garton (in June) that it even needed to happen.

O’Bannon’s vanquished 1996 opponent, Stephen Goldsmith, would have been an activist governor. The plans for the state would have come down from on high. O’Bannon approached tax restructuring not so much as an advocate, but as a facilitator and, ultimately, an arbitrator from his constitutionally weak station.

“I’d say that’s a good observation,” O’Bannon told HPR. “We got split houses here, one Democrat, one Republican.” Govs. Bowen and Orr had GOP legislatures, and yet barely got their historic initiatives passed. “It’s a tremendous difference,” O’Bannon said. True.

HPR observed in June 2002: An activist governor would present great initiatives, twist elbows and detour the asphalt trucks away from recalcitrant legislator’s districts to get things done. O’Bannon is not prone to issuing threats, or slapping backs. “People kept saying he was missing in action,” Mary Dieter said. “That’s just not true. It’s not his way. He’s a facilitator who works quietly.”

O’Bannon always looked for consensus. In a sense, he governed the way Gov. Roger Branigin did back in the 1960s. A reporter once asked Branigin about his policies. “Son, I don’t do policies, I do personalities,” Branigin responded.

O’Bannon promised tax restructuring during the 1996 campaign, but instead of a plan, he called together a “Blue Ribbon Commission” made up of every special interest group in the state. In his most productive legislative session - 1997 -- what had been a teetering disaster was transformed with a simple deal he mapped out on the back of an envelop one Sunday afternoon in the midst of a special session. Working in tandem with Mayor Goldsmith, the Indianapolis Republicans would get their stadiums, and he dramatically reformed workers comp, much to the chagrin of Sen. Joe Harrison.

Instead of coming up with a new restructuring plan in June 2002, which press aide Dieter feared would become a “lightening rod,” he felt it was in the “legislators’ domain” to forge the plan. When it did finally conclude, Pat Kiely of the Indiana Manufacturer’s Association grudgingly acknowledged, “The governor made some right decisions in the last few days. Bauer pretty much put his plan together in isolation of the governor’s office. The governor was helpful in the end, the lieutenant governor was more helpful to get more Democrats to pass the thing.”

It was fitful governance, much to the consternation of the Borsts, Greggs, Bauers, Kielys, Brinegars and, we suspect, Joe Kernans, of the world. When it concluded, Indiana was one of the only states to accomplish significant restructuring during this recession and jobless recovery.

Some, including me, blamed O’Bannon for not acting much earlier. But economic gurus such as David Goodrich see the erosion of manufacturing jobs with the momentum of a drain unplugged. They’re not going to come back, perhaps beyond the control of any governor.

What’s to be determined is whether the dynamic of Hoosier governance will change. With the passing of Gov. O’Bannon this past week, it seems as if an era may have passed, too.