

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“It basically boiled down to the legislature not wanting to undo what they had accomplished in their minds. I don’t know if it was out of embarrassment that we went too far, but there did not seem to be any desire to fix what we did.” - State Rep. Jeff Espich, on SB1

History finds Orr a strong governor

Like Eisenhower, retrospect redeems

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

A proper parallel to the administration of the late Gov. Robert D. Orr can be made with that of President Dwight David Eisenhower, even though their respective administrations came three decades apart. The more time history separates us from their eight years in office, the better Orr and Eisenhower look.

When the first histories of Orr and Eisenhower were written, both were somewhat eclipsed by either their predecessors and successors, or in Orr’s case, both. Both men were succeeded by young Democrats -- John F. Kennedy and Evan Bayh -- who offered a generational contrast. Orr and Eisenhower were viewed more as “old guard.” as they left office. Gov. Orr was an “often-underrated governor,” said Senate President Robert Garton, because he followed the popular Otis Bowen (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). “He was an extraordinary governor,” Garton offered.

We agree.

Think back to when Gov. Orr won election in 1980 and took office the following January. Northwest Indiana’s steel industry and the auto manufacturing sector were in deep atrophy. In places such as Elkhart, New Castle, Anderson and Kokomo, the harsh realities were oil embargoes created by OPEC and the Iranian hostage crisis. The economies of many of Indiana’s mid-sized cities were too reliant on one or two industries and the battle cry was for diversification.

Orr was elected riding the landslide of Ronald Reagan, though he would have won in his own right. Four years later, Orr defeated State Sen. Wayne Townsend by only 100,000 votes and that seemed to rob Orr of some of his political luster.

After the 1980 election, America and Indiana were almost in a depression and what President Carter had described as a “malaise.” It took nearly three years to shake off that feeling.

The 1982 elections found Republican leaders such as President Reagan trying to rally their base, urging them to “stay the course.” Orr found his political base eroding due to, in part, state revenue streams that had dwindled to the point that following the November elections he had to reveal a huge deficit and the need for a December special session that resulted in record tax increases. Opponents charged the

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CBS/NYT POLL HAS BUSH UP BY 3, BUT 54 PERCENT SEE WRONG DIRECTION: The New York Times/CBS News poll offered the latest evidence that the race for president was as tight as has long been predicted. Even after two weeks in which Bush has run televised advertisements promoting himself and attacking Kerry, the two men are effectively tied, with President Bush leading 46-43 percent. The candidacy of Ralph Nader looms as a potentially lethal threat to Democratic hopes of regaining the White House: With Nader in the race, Bush leads Kerry by 46 percent to 38 percent, with Nader drawing 7 percent of the votes. By a margin of greater than 30 points, more people said the policies of Bush's administration had reduced the number of jobs in the country rather than increased them. Those findings could prove particularly significant if the election is fought over economic issues in hard-hit states like Ohio. Perhaps most significant for Bush, the number of Americans who think the nation is heading in the wrong direction is now 54 percent, as high as it has been in his presidency.

LUGAR URGES NCLB FUNDING RESTORATION: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar is urging fellow congressional

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Orr with hiding the news until after the election.

"It was a bad situation," Orr aide John Hammond III told the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. "Our unemployment rate was extremely high -- 18 percent in many auto communities. Interest rates were going in the wrong direction. It was a tough time. He had to slog through it, and he did with great determination."

In 1984, Orr found himself under attack from the spirited Sen. Townsend, whose "Go get 'em Wayne" radio and TV ads were clever. What saved Orr and Reagan were the 1981 federal tax cuts that gave existing technologies (cell phones, fax machines, home computers) enough capital to bring them to market.

President Reagan's 1984 re-elect theme was "Morning in America." Gov. Orr presiding over what was decried as a "rust belt" state had a rougher go of it, but ultimately persevered.

The seeds of success that his former aides sought to highlight Tuesday, when his funeral cortege left the Statehouse through the "finished" South entry included the RCA Dome and the Indiana Convention Center, and with the motorcade passing the Government Centers and the White River State Park.

"He would be the last to suggest that all these happened solely due to his effort," said Chief Justice Randall Shepard. "But for three decades he has been a force for rebuilding the center of Indiana such that we might say with Carl Sandburg, 'nothing like it ever was.'"

Orr's second term

It was Gov. Orr's second term that has prompted an Eisenhower-like historical resurgence. In Ike's case, the building of the interstate system, his identification of the military-industrial complex (which, by the way, is still with us), furthering President Truman's containment of the Soviet Union, and the fact that he *avoided* three wars (Suez, Hungary, Vietnam) has, in retrospect, placed the former general in

many historians' top 10 presidencies.

Gov. Orr's second term did the same for him. "Bob was a risk-taker," said former aide Kendall W. Cochran. "He was not afraid to raise taxes if it meant better education."

Following the release of a national report, "*America At Risk*," in 1986, Gov. Orr responded with the most far-reaching education reforms in Hoosier history. "Gov. Orr was a visionary for school reform when he implemented the A+ program in 1987," explained Supt. Suellen Reed. "Many of the components of A+ remain in effect and are contributing to higher student academic achievement."

Those included the increase of the school calendar from 175 to 180 instructional days, the creation of the Performance-Based Accreditation system for public schools, the ISTEP program and the proficiencies which today have become Indiana's academic standards.

The searing difference between what occurred in 1987 with A-Plus and today is that not only was there an activist governor in place who avoided the biggest political sin - not squandering political capital - but Orr had intellectual partners in the General Assembly like Stan Jones, Marilyn Schultz and Phil Warner who understood what was at stake and acted. It was more than today's turf protection, preserving of power and retribution.

Passed by emotional and narrow margins in the Indiana House in the spring of 1987, Orr raised taxes. Politically, it was probably the last opportunity for a governor to do so. In the 1988 presidential campaign, Vice President George H.W. Bush ushered in a new era ("Read my lips: No new taxes") which has echoed sharply from the lips and actions of every Hoosier governor since, and with vastly different results (i.e. the repeated defeat of full-day kindergarten).

Economist Morton Marcus observed, "I clearly recall how he stood before a 1987 audience at Arsenal Tech

High School in Indianapolis and admitted that he had not given sufficient attention to education in his prior years in office."

Chief Justice Shepard observed, "It certainly did represent a great leap forward, but it did something else. It made every governor's race since a debate about improving education." A debate with no money. During Tuesday's funeral, Cochran observed, "It was never about Bob Orr. It was about the guy he was talking to, or the state of Indiana, or about the mission. He may have been a politician by trade, but not by nature. Politics was a means to an end."

Economic Development

Marcus observed this past week that as lieutenant governor, Orr was the first Hoosier politician to fully grasp the coming globalization back in 1981. "In an unrehearsed presentation, the new lieutenant governor laid out the case for urgent attention to the economic development of Indiana," Morton wrote. "He discussed the changing international economic scene and the technological threats that could lead to the obsolescence of American industry. I was overwhelmed. Bob Orr's arguments were comprehensive and daring because, as a politician, he was willing to talk openly about state problems on which no one else was focused."

Said former aide Mark Lubbers, "We got such bad press because he wanted to solve problems. I used to get mad at him because he wouldn't avoid them. He was one of the most activist governors of the century."

Marcus continued, "Bob Orr wanted to see Indiana's businesses focused on exporting activities. He wanted us to take advantage of our superior technological skills and vast experience before the rest of the world eroded our lead. But, as lieutenant governor, Bob Orr never got the financial and political support he needed to do the job. Orr acceded to the political powers of his own party

who did not accept the need for Indiana to take strong, dramatic steps to advance the economy."

As we all know, the diagnosis Orr delivered almost 25 years ago and today's reality (i.e. Thomson eliminating 990 jobs) was uncanny and prophetic, particularly after Kernan announced record Hoosier exports last week.

'Hello, this is Gov. Orr'

Gov. Orr was the first governor I covered as a political writer in Elkhart back in the mid-1980s. But it was in 2002 that I felt closest to him. Between January and June of that year, the phone would ring and the voice at the other end would announce, "This is Gov. Orr." This happened four or five times.

With Republican legislative leaders balking at tax restructuring and Gov. Frank O'Bannon insisting the legislature take the lead, Orr's message was always the same: Keep the heat on these guys. Give 'em hell. It was Gov. Orr who encouraged me to write columns such as "*Lead, follow or get out of the way.*"

Gov. Orr also encouraged me to explore the government restructuring issue that I've been pursuing in 2003 and 2004. As a senator, Orr sat on the 1970 Government Revision Commission.

Here was this towering Hoosier figure - a man who looked like a governor and acted like one - who did not hesitate to act on controversial measures he knew would create a progressive state in the face of adversity. He never lost that part of him. Gov. Orr did not commit the worst political sin by failing to use all the political capital available to him, even if it did occur in the final years of his administration.

Now, as with Eisenhower, history reawakens to take into full account a strong figure who just passed from our midst in our existing culture of timidity, fear, stubbornness and cowing by those who should know better. ❖

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leaders to restore funding to a program he believes is a key component of the sweeping No Child Left Behind education reform (Indianapolis Star). The \$253 million Comprehensive School Reform program has been cut from the 2005 federal budget and isn't among the 13 items for education spending proposed by President Bush. Lugar, Indiana's Republican senior senator, says that's a mistake, and he is taking on the leader of his own party to try to get the money back. "The consequences of the (federal education) act are massive. . . . People as a whole want accountability and no child left behind," Lugar said during a visit Wednesday to Douglass Middle School in Indianapolis.

PENCE WON'T BACK DEFENSE CUTS NOW: House Republicans have followed their Senate colleagues and decided against proposed cuts to President Bush's defense spending request as the House Budget Committee tries again today to move the 2005 Republican budget proposal forward (Washington Times). In the House, Rep. Mike Pence, Indiana Republican, said he could have supported a cut in defense spending "if it made it possible for us to achieve significant spend-

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ing restraint," but "it came down to the practical concern that the last time you should ever cut defense is when you have troops in harm's way."

ROVE OUTLINES CAMPAIGN STRATEGY; BUYER ASSISTS: White House political chief Karl Rove said Wednesday that President Bush had just begun to demonstrate the kind of targeted, multi-front campaign he plans against Democratic rival John Kerry (Associated Press). Addressing a small group of conservative activists, Rove assured them that Bush planned a nimble campaign able to counterpunch even before Kerry opens his mouth. The White House adviser pointed with pride to the Bush camp's response Tuesday, when it got word that Kerry planned a national security speech to veterans in West Virginia. Less than 24 hours after learning of the speech, the Bush campaign produced an ad criticizing Kerry for his Senate votes on military spending. It also dispatched volunteers to hand out pro-Bush material to West Virginians, and started radio ads in the state. U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer, R-Ind., a decorated Gulf War veteran and a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves, told reporters during a telephone conference that Kerry has denigrated the National Guard by criticizing

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2004 Racing Form

Trendline: Sources who have reviewed the Indiana Court of Appeals briefs on the 1997 marriage law would not be surprised if the court strikes it down. Not only would this development give House Minority Leader Brian Bosma the right to say "I told you so," there are distinct political implications should this happen before the May primary. One would be that it would motivate Eric Miller's Christian voters to get out to the polls in the gubernatorial race. Most observers put the expected level of Miller support in the 25-31 percent range, with the higher number reflecting John R. Price's 1998 U.S. Senate primary showing. But another impact could come in the 36th Senate District race between Sen. Larry Borst and Johnson County Council President Brent Waltz. The challenger is already seeking to lure the Christian right to support his candidacy based on Borst's 67 percent voting record against the right to life position. If the appellate court strikes down the marriage law, there would be even more motivation for this wing to turn out in an election expected to draw between 9,000 and 10,000 voters.

Indiana 2004 Gubernatorial

Governor 2004: Republican: Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller. **Democrat:** Gov. Joe Kernan. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** Kernan's signing of SB1 could come back to haunt him because it could throw dozens of cities and towns into budget crisis that will prompt local officials to point the blame at the Statehouse. It is even more amazing considering that Kernan is a former mayor and controller, as is Lt. Gov. Davis. What were they thinking? Even though globalization had more to do with the loss of the final 990 Thomson jobs in Marion than anything Gov. Kernan could have done, it was still the kind of news that allowed Daniels to jump on the administration's job loss record. "This latest blow must only deepen our determination to end Indiana's decline and launch a new era of growth and hope in our state," Daniels said. Kernan responded by engaging an Indiana Department of Work Force Development rapid response team that will help with job matching, counseling, training, and unemployment benefits. But these are not the key words that Kernan can keep uttering without playing into Daniels' case that Indiana is in decline. My heart goes out to those affected by Thomson's announcement today. Kernan continued. "These displaced workers will get our full attention." The Muncie Star Press published a lengthy list of factory closings and job losses in Delaware, Henry, Randolph and Jay counties going back to 1995, which, again, is not welcome coverage for the Kernan-Davis ticket. Daniels is preparing to connect the corruption dot to Northwest Indiana next week. It came after the Times of Northwest Indiana reported on a number of convicted officeholders still draw PERF pensions. Another controversy swirling around the governor is legislation that would keep legislators' pension perks secret and whether he will sign the bill. Both fronts gave Daniels more offensive fodder. "Way too much about Indiana government is secret now," Daniels said. "The whole world of pensions is shrouded in secrecy. As part of a general housecleaning, we will be looking to raise Indiana's standards not only in ethics, but also of openness." While saying that, Daniels could be opening himself up to Democratic attempts to link him to the big IPALCO losses by that company's pensioners. On the Northwest Indiana corruption front, Daniels said, "I intend to be the strongest advocate Northwest Indiana has had. I'm telling people all over the state that Indiana can't succeed if the Northwest corner does not. The campaign against public corruption has got to be serious and sustained and visible" (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Democrats and unions tried to soften up Daniels over the steel tariffs issue, which could be critical for Kernan to try and stoke up the kind of pluralities he'll need out of Lake and Porter counties next November. The United Steelworkers began showing up at plant gates urging workers to vote against Daniels and vowed to shadow his every Lake County

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appearance. Steelworker pamphlets said, "Mitch Daniels is bad for your job, bad for steel and bad for Indiana." They believe he would support outsourcing local jobs to foreign countries and they despise his support of President Bush's decision to nix the tariffs on imported steel in December. "It's about partisan politics," Daniels said at Schererville (*Post-Tribune*). "They see their party's stranglehold on state government going away and they don't like it. They're an arm of the Democratic party and they're entitled to press their case. You know, I guess it would be preferable if the facts meant something to them." While the USWA traditionally supports Democratic candidates, this is the first time local union presidents say they've banded together to launch a vehement opposition to one candidate. Overnight ratings indicate that the "RV1" documentary on Daniels combined rating from the airings in the central Indiana market* pulled a 6 rating, with the final broadcast of the weekend pulling a 5 share.** (To put a 6 rating in some context, the last half hour of the Doral PGA golf tournament pulled a 4.6 rating; the last half hour of the NASCAR race pulled a 15.3, and *The Simpsons* in prime time on Sunday pulled a 6.3.)

Republican Primary Status: *Likely Daniels*; **General Status:** *Tossup*. ❖

Indiana 2004 Congressional

U.S. Senate: Republican: Marvin Scott. **Democrat:** U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh. **1992**

Results: Coats (R) 1,267,972, Hogsett (D) 900,148. **1998 Results:** Bayh (D) 1,012,244, Helmke (R) 552,732. **2004 Forecast:** U.S. Rep. Katherine Harris has postponed her April appearances on behalf of Scott. **Status:** *Safe Bayh*.

Congressional District 9: Republican: Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep.

Baron Hill, Lendell Terry. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Forecast:** Rep. Hill, whose district Bush won with 56 percent, said: "I've endorsed [Kerry]. He's thoughtful and he's a war hero. I think that will help me in my district. They can't paint him as a New England liberal" (*The Hill*). **Status:** *Tossup*

Indiana 2004 Legislative

House District 33: Republican: Bill Davis. **Democrat:** State Rep. Ron Liggitt. **2002**

Results: Liggitt (D) 9,143, Thornburg (R) 6,895. **2004 Forecast:** Randolph County Assessor Noel Carpenter pulled out of the race Thursday, although his name will remain on the May 4 primary ballot (Rick Yencer, *Muncie Star Press*). "After talking party leaders in three counties, I decided it would be better to join forces," Carpenter said. Davis, owner and president Limestone Products, said jobs and the economy would be key to House races in 2004. While Jay County lost more than 1,300 jobs in the early 1980s, a strong economic development program that Davis was a part of managed to create 2,000 new jobs with the help of the Indiana Department of Commerce. Davis declined to talk about the recent dispute over the Randolph County EDIT tax that pitted Liggitt against Republican county officials. "I think the voters will decide," Liggitt said when asked about the impact of the EDIT dispute. **Primary Status:** *SAFE DAVIS*; **General Status:** *Leans Liggitt*.

Senate District 36: Republican: Sen. Larry Borst, Johnson County Council President

Brent Waltz. **Democrat:** Terry Rice. **2000 Primary Results:** Borst 7,513. **2000 General Results:** Borst (R) 24,621, Reno (D) 12,120, Williamson (L) 1,026. **2004 Forecast:** While Borst championed the passage of SB1 that caps local government spending, the first news stories began showing up in the press about the law's "unintended consequences." The *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* reported, "Communities around the state are starting to get a taste of how devastating recent changes by the General Assembly could be on their spending. As the state Department of Local Government Finance begins to certify 2004 tax levies for cities, towns and counties, some are finding those levies are bringing in less tax revenue than they anticipated for

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Bush's service.

KERNAN SIGNS CHILD PROTECTION BILL: Gov. Joe Kernan today signed 24 pieces of legislation, including one of the nation's strictest laws promoting child safety in motor vehicles, as well as one that strengthens the state's child protection efforts. With the governor's signature on HEA 1098, beginning July 1, 2005, children between 4 and 7 years of age are required to be in booster seats while riding in a car, and children under age 4 must be in a child safety seat. "This bill puts the safety of our children first," Kernan said. "In addition to requiring proper restraint, this bill, as it has moved through the legislative process, has raised the awareness of the extra steps all of us can take to protect our kids. That in itself is important and will save lives." Kernan also signed HEA 1194, which improves the state's child protection efforts. Among other things, it requires criminal history background checks on individuals before an emergency placement of a child is made.

GOVERNOR SIGNS GUN SHIELD BILL: Kernan also approved a controversial bill that would give firearms owners civil immunity in cases in which their gun was stolen and used in a

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crime (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). It stems from a 1997 Allen County shoot-out in which sheriff's officer Eryk Heck was killed. Heck's estate is suing the owners of the gun, Raymond and Patricia Stoffer. The estate is trying to prove the Stoffers were negligent in storing their firearm, which their adult, fugitive son, Timothy Stoffer, used to kill Heck and wound another officer. Timothy Stoffer also died. The Indiana Supreme Court weighed in on the issue last year, finding that gun owners have a responsibility to safeguard their firearms.

KITTLE ON THOMSON: "Sad news came today as Thomson Inc. announced the immediate closing of its Marion plant. Our hearts go out to the 990 Marion employees who have lost their jobs and now join the 177,000 other Hoosiers who have recently suffered the same hardship. "Last week, Gov. Joe Kernan visited Carmel to announce the creation of some new jobs over the course of the next five years. New jobs are always good news, and it was good to finally hear the governor break the silence on his record and express concern for the future jobs landscape in Indiana. "As Lt. Governor and Director of the Department of Commerce, Joe Kernan's number one responsibility

their 2004 budgets. This shortfall is causing budget crises." It was reported that the town of Huntingburg is going to have to cut its budget by 30 percent. "A lot of people don't even realize they have a problem yet," warned Bluffton Mayor Ted Ellis, whose own budget must be cut by an estimated \$69,000 - about 2 percent of the total budget. It will be interesting to see how Mayor Henderson in Greenwood reacts. While Borst was heralding the law, ranking Ways and Means Republican Jeff Espich told the *Journal Gazette*, "It basically boiled down to the legislature not wanting to undo what they had accomplished in their minds. I don't know if it was out of embarrassment that we went too far, but there did not seem to be any desire to fix what we did." Borst did one week of television centered on network affiliate 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts and then stopped. Both campaigns have billboards up. Borst's says "Experience you can trust." The Waltz billboards read, "Waltz for State Senate: For Tax Payers." This race has lured in legions of former state GOP chairman. Rex Early is backing Waltz (and we hear a Borst proponent was doused with a pitcher of tea at the Press Club for badgering Early) and Mike McDaniel is advising Borst. **Primary Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 31: Republican: Tim Harris. **Democrat:** Blackford County Commissioner Larry Hile. **2002 Results:** Rep. Dean Young 9,046, Raju (D) 3,909. **2004 Forecast:** The loss of the 990 Thomson jobs in Marion this week will obviously set the tone for this race. You can expect Harris to simultaneously articulate the same themes that Mitch Daniels will be through the course of this campaign. With Republican Wayne Seybold winning the mayor's office in Marion and the decline in Grant County's economy, this is looking to be a seat the Republicans can maintain unless Kernan-Davis can lure some new companies into the county. **General Status:** *LEANS HARRIS.*

House District 56: Republican: Richard Hamm, Brian Ingermann, Ed Yanos. **Democrat:** Rep. Phil Pflum, Eric Duncan. **2002 Results:** Pflum 6,511, Hamm (R) 6,096. **2004 Forecast:** The Indiana Chamber endorsed Ed Yanos today and will have staff working on the ground to help him win the Republican primary. **Primary Status:** *LIKELY YANOS;* **General Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 86: Republican: Andy Miller, Mort Large. **Democrat:** State Rep. David Orentlicher. **2002 Results:** Orentlicher 9,909, Atterholt (R) 9,872. **2004 Forecast:** House Minority Leader Brian Bosma and Rep. Bill Friend endorse Miller in a rare caucus entry into a primary. In a letter sent on Wednesday, Bosma and Friend write, "As the Vice President of Marketing for the 75-year old Indiana-based firm Weaver Popcorn and the founder of Nature's Entrée, Andy's business-trained eye will scour the budget for waste, work for regulatory relief and tax fairness, and devote himself to the challenge of bringing high-paid, high-tech and high-skilled jobs to Indiana. When you vote in the Republican Primary on May 4th, please remember what an extraordinary leader Andy Miller will be for the state we love." House Republicans and business leaders are backing Miller because of reports that Large owns a number of rental properties in which he improperly filed homestead credits. With the property tax issue so volatile in this district, House Republicans fear it would be enough to propel Orentlicher to re-election which could determine control of the House. Large has not responded to questions about the homestead credits. Large sent out a letter to supporters noting the endorsements of Gary Hofmeister, Councilors Jim Bradford and Scott Schneider and former councilor Sean Frick. **Primary Status:** *LEANS MILLER.* **General Status:** *Tossup*

- Brian A. Howey ❖

CLARIFICATION: In the March 11 edition of *The Howey Political Report*, David Goodrich of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership was quoted in the article "*Star's coverage of SD36: Connect the dots?*" His remarks were included in an e-mail he sent on March 5 to HPR. In the proper context, Goodrich's comments were general observations about the Indiana General Assembly and the recent session, and did not in any way refer to Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst or any other individual legislator, nor did they make any reference to the senator's bid for re-election. ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Morton Marcus, *Syndicated* - What I will remember best about Bob Orr was the time when he summoned me to the Governor's office in the mid-1980s. I walked in and found no aides in attendance. This was private. He did not invite me to be seated. Immediately he let loose with his anger about speeches I was making around the state. "Morton," he concluded, "you must be more practical, you must understand the limits of politics." "Governor," I said, "my job at the University is to preserve and give voice to the ideals of our society. If I became more practical, would you become more idealistic?" And Bob Orr smiled a smile that thousands knew and will never forget. It was the smile of a truly intelligent and very humble man who always tried his best to serve his state and nation. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - What this country really needs is more politicians. That is the flat-out statement by former U.S. Rep. Lee H. Hamilton, who represented Indiana's 9th District for 17 terms, 34 years, from 1965 to 1999. Laughable? Sure. Hamilton concedes in his new book on Congress that when he makes that statement in talking to various groups, he usually then has had to wait until "the snickers died down." But Hamilton isn't joking about this. He's serious. He's also correct. Too often, thanks in large measure to the news media, the word "politician" has taken on a negative meaning. Many folks would define a politician as a person who breaks promises, says anything to get elected, puts playing politics ahead of serving the people and sells out to lobbyists and special interests. And examples can be found of all that. That, however, defines a bad politician. What Hamilton is talking

about are "good politicians," the "people who know how to practice the art of politics" to bring diverse, competing interests together to find workable compromises and solutions in our democracy. When we find good politicians, we ought to be able to keep them for as long as they are willing and able to serve. We need them. Since "controversy and conflict in a large nation are unavoidable," Hamilton advises: "To avoid ripping apart at the seams, our country needs people who know how to accommodate different points of view and work for common solutions. That is what good politicians do: They make democratic government possible in a nation alive with competing factions. ❖

David Rutter, *Post-Tribune* - At first glance, Jim McShane is a policy wonk who runs an agency with the worst title in modern wonkdom: Lake County Integrated Services Delivery Board. McShane is smack in the middle of an economic recovery that we are told is sweeping the nation. Bunk, he says. From the seat he shares way up high with the catbird, McShane says Northwest Indiana is not recovering in any meaningful degree and the state of the local economy actually is far grimmer than we suspect. Like Dillinger, our condition is grave but stable. The official jobless number here is 5.9 percent, just above the national number but hokie-dokie enough that it doesn't give us unexplained nosebleeds. Fool's paradise, he says. The actual NWI number is closer to 15 percent, McShane says, and everyone in the job-counting business knows it. He was so distraught over how poorly we track the business of jobs, he wrote directly to the president. THE president. ❖

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was managing Indiana's job creation and retention efforts. Unfortunately for Hoosiers, during Gov. Kernan's tenure at the State House, the number of job loss announcements have exponentially outweighed the number of job creation announcements.

"Announcements like today's reinforces why our state needs new leadership. We need a governor who knows how to help businesses grow and prosper in Indiana—not a governor who sits idly by as more businesses close their doors and more Hoosiers lose their jobs."

FRANKLIN MAYOR GOING THROUGH CHEMO: With nine more radiation treatments remaining, Franklin Mayor Norman Blankenship soon will begin chemotherapy to treat his brain tumor. Blankenship is back working part-time after undergoing brain surgery Feb. 23 to remove part of the tumor on the upper left side of his brain (*Johnson County Daily Journal*). Not until the chemotherapy through St. Francis Hospital Indianapolis is completed will Blankenship have a clear picture of his long-term prognosis. In his office in Franklin City Hall, the mayor was philosophical about his life-threatening illness, not resorting to an ounce of self-pity. "I guess it's just my

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nature," he said. "It can be considered very bad news, or it can be considered marginal news at the end of the cycle. I guess I'm not disposed to sit and totally worry about the outcome of this. ... You just have to keep moving on."

RANDOLPH LAMENTS MARION'S STRUGGLES: Zach Randolph may be a millionaire now, but the Marion native remembers the grind of scrambling for every dollar (Marion Chronicle Tribune). While the Portland Trail Blazers' forward may have been a nice diversion for the hundreds of area fans who made the trip Wednesday to Consecro Fieldhouse, the object of their affection expressed concern about the 990 Thomson employees who were laid off Tuesday. His uncle, Sam, worked at the plant, and his stepfather was employed there at one time. Randolph himself was raised in humble roots, and the plant closing clearly hit home for him. "It was real disappointing," Randolph said of the announcement. "My uncle worked there, and I had a lot of family members that worked there. People are going through hard times right now, and I don't know what's going on. A lot of people are probably going to end up moving away."



PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

Taking History to the Grave

As I watched the cortege of Gov. Robert Orr leave the Indiana Statehouse around noon Tuesday, I was moved by what I saw and what I never would.

As the military escort strained to move the heavy casket down the south entry, the scene was magnificent for a state funeral. A snowstorm had left a stunning white veneer on every twig, branch, limb and blade of brown grass. The sky was duly overcast for this somber moment. There was the appropriate gathering of former and sitting governors, senators, ambassadors, and the cadre of former aides who have moved into the dens and alcoves of power and influence outside the veil of government.

Though the crowds weren't nearly as big as those six months earlier when Hoosiers said goodbye to Gov. Frank O'Bannon Abject sadness was the compelling emotion when Gov. O'Bannon headed south for the last time. On March 16, 2004, it was a different kind of sadness for an old man who lived a stunningly vivid life and and finally passed.

But the sadness I felt was what Gov. Orr took with him to Crown Hill Cemetery.

He took history with him a history that will not be shared with the coming generations of Hoosiers to follow in his big footsteps.

Over the past several years, I tried to interest a number of Indiana political operatives and universities with what I called the "Oral Histories Project."

The idea was to perform academic caliber research, line up broadcast quality production crews, and schedule a series of lengthy interviews with some of the compelling public figures who carved and crafted the policies that so impact our

lives. The interviews could then be digitally archived and be there for scholars, authors and the just plain curious.

People such as Gov. Orr, or U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh, and Speaker Kermit Burrous have not published memoirs.

In in every case where an approach was made -- with IUPUI, Ball State, DePauw -- there was no interest.

In the last year or so, we've witnessed the passing of Orr, O'Bannon, and former Sen. Vance Hartke without that critical exit interview ... a historical debriefing.

Some, such as Gov. Otis Bowen (*Doc: Memories from a Life in Public Service*), Vice President Dan Quayle (*Standing Firm*), Speaker J. Roberts Dailey (*Mr. Speaker*), and Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst (*Gentlemen, It's Been My Pleasure*) have written memoirs.

Other public officials such as U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar (*Letters to the Next President*), Gov. Edgar Whitcomb (*Escape from Corregidor*) and State Sen. Allen Paul (*Vietnam Letters*) have captured a part of their lives. And in other cases, such as Ray Scheele's *Larry Conrad of Indiana*, there are vivid accounts of remarkable careers. These books give us a feel of the history that passed through their lives.

But we're losing our history when we miss the chance to sit a Bob Orr down for three or four hours over the course of a week or two and pick his brain and preserve memories for the future.

What will John Brademas, Birch Bayh, Edgar Whitcomb, Paul Helmke or Dan Coats take with them to their graves if no one even tries?

Gov. Orr's former aides did a remarkable job highlighting the history of their boss.

They have more work to do.

