

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Maybe they have a bigger wailing wall than anyone else...”

- State Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, on Hoosiers for Higher Education rallying for more funding, to the Indianapolis Star

A post-Roemer look at redistricting CDs

Burton fans flames of D-mischief

“Hey, I love you and your publication BUT, listen, when I read ALL that CRAP about where the Congressional districts are going and who will be where I JUST BUST a gut because really only one person knows and will have the final say...” - Indiana House Speaker John Gregg to HPR

“Dear Mr. Speaker...Thanks for loving me. I’d hate to bust your gut; that sounds real messy. You realize, of course, that we know any redistricting story at this stage is going to be quite speculative, but it’s a parlor game we can’t resist playing. Don’t hesitate to educate us...” - HPR Publisher Howey to Speaker Gregg

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Politically speaking, there are two Indianas running parallel to each other. Federally, the state has been trending Republican, with the Congressional delegation going from 8 to 4 Democratic in 1990 to the current 7 to 5 Republican, with the GOP’s only loss the Senate seat held by Evan Bayh.

Statewide and locally, the state is and has been trending Democratic for a good portion of the Bayh/O’Bannon era, with the party dominating the governor’s office and picking up most of the big city mayoralships, as well as the Indiana House. The GOP is dug in to the Indiana Senate and holds all of the down ballot Statehouse offices, with a 2002 secretary of state race poised to become a proxy battle.

While the Democrats will hold the trump cards in the 2001 redistricting because Gov. O’Bannon will designate the tie-breaker on any commission appointed to solve what will certainly end up in a dispute, the new reality is that the on-

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SEN. SKILLMAN DOUBTS TAX RESTRUCTURING WILL HAPPEN: State Sen. Becky Skillman has expressed doubts that removing welfare off local property taxes will fly. Gov. O'Bannon's proposal would give four or five counties significant property tax relief, but Skillman, R-Bedford, observed, they are heavily populated urban areas with extremely high welfare burdens, she said. "For 90 percent of my Senate district, it may be a 1 percent or 2 percent reduction - which likely you wouldn't realize any of it on your tax bill. It sounds like something and does nothing" (Mary G. Johnson, Bedford Times-Mail). She doubts any major tax relief will come out of the current session. "I supposed dramatic things could happen at the end of the legislative session, and I know there are underground talks of tax restructuring. While I am hopeful that might happen, every day that passes makes it more doubtful. My instincts tell me the General Assembly will take the Scarlett O'Hara approach - 'I can't worry about that today. I'll worry about that tomorrow' - meaning that until the next reassessment is conducted under the new rules, you don't know who will suffer the biggest blow."

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Redistrict, *from page 1*

going demographic shifts will favor Republicans in federal races in the coming decade.

Republicans will continue to migrate out of Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Chicago. While that will make Indianapolis a competitive two-party city for perhaps a generation, once Democratic areas such as the 1st and 9th CDs in The Region and Southeastern Indiana will trend Republican.

Republican National Committee sources tell HPR that Indiana is going to become a priority. One Hoosier Republican political operative laid out the demographic trending for the RNC in January. The operative noted, "I told them that after a very brief and crude run through of the numbers, I started to believe that Indiana very well could be at least 7-2 in favor of the GOP within the next election or two. At first they were skeptical, but after they began to crunch the numbers and draw the maps, they are becoming believers, too. The numbers are really hard for the Dems to map in order to have a Democrat seat in the north (Pete Visclosky in the 1st CD), central (Julia

Carson in the 10th) and the south (Baron Hill in the 9th) - let alone create another seat in the south (Speaker Gregg or whomever) and give Roemer a chance."

Roemer and the Democratic National Committee also had seen the handwriting on the wall. "Roemer's people and the DNC have tried to draw him a map and were never able to come up with anything that would even give them a generic Democratic base, without taking substantial amounts away from Visclosky or drawing a map that would have been challenged on compactness and other issues from trying to include Fort Wayne, or to drive south to Kokomo and then over to Marion etc. Even then, it would have been a reach to gain an advantage of a Democrat leaning generic vote even if you try to include St. Joseph, part of LaPorte, and then drive south to Kokomo or Marion. Or even efforts to get St. Joseph, part of LaPorte, parts of Elkhart, and then drive the district to parts of Allen County and Fort Wayne; it really becomes tough.

"All of the surrounding areas that are so strong GOP - let alone the compactness argument and then effects it would have on the Pence seat, which

would affect the Hill numbers.”

When Roemer decided not to seek re-election, both Republican and Democratic sources were telling HPR that this frees the map drawers to make even larger changes, and some mischief. Because of the Roemer bug out, in the end the districts will be substantially different because Democrats have less ground to protect.

From the Republican perspective, RNC analysts are looking at the potential Roemer fallout like this:

1. This allows Speaker Gregg much more freedom to try and draw himself a map; however, his problem continues to be the need to protect Hill. The Republican asks rhetorically, “Would Gregg run without it being a sure thing? I would doubt it.”

2. Will Jill Long resurface and try to persuade the D's to draw her a map into the old 3rd CD? The Republican observes, “It would still be a leaning Republican district.” Democratic sources are telling HPR that the 3rd and 4th CDs are likely to go through the blender, with 3rd CD Republican nominee Chris Chocola ending up in the new 4th CD.

3. They could still try to play games with U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. This is where State Rep. Eddie Mahern’s “mischief” scenario comes in. Buyer could possibly be faced with ending up in a district with either Visclosky or U.S. Rep. Dan Burton. HPR’s more fathomable mischief scenario would find Burton and Pence in the same district, giving the GOP a grand old dilemma: Sacrificing the rising star Pence (whom Democratic Chair Robin Winston has already designated as the most conspicuous threat to his party’s dominance) or preserving the old warhorse Burton, whose current activities on the Clinton/Rich pardon scandal are fanning the mischief flames.

4. The Republican operatives see U.S. Rep. Mark Souder with “less to worry about before,” but now his district comes more into play and perhaps Pence

as well. Why? “With fewer members to protect, the D's will have much more ground to play with and more scenarios to consider.” But the biggest problem the Dems will face is that the population centers are so far apart that they will have to plow through strong GOP areas to give them a chance if they try to create one or more districts.

Lou Jacobson, writing for *Congressional Daily*, observed, “Despite a long-running shift toward the GOP in Indiana's congressional delegation, political experts said the Democrats will make the most of their map-making powers this year.”

HPR and Ed Feigenbaum of *Indiana Legislative Insight* agree that U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns is almost certain to end up in the 8th CD.

As for Hill, Jacobson wrote, “Howey doubts there are contiguous areas that could net Hill significantly more Democratic votes, although Feigenbaum suggests some of the Cincinnati-area counties might be ceded to neighboring Republican Rep. Mike Pence.”

Residency?

If the Democrats do play out their mischief scenarios with, say, Kerns and Hostettler in the same district, as well as Burton and Pence, would that preclude Burton and Pence running in their old districts without moving? The law does not require a congressional candidate to live in the district where he/she runs.

The nomadic Ralph Spelbring of Elkhart can get away with it because nobody ever gives him a chance to win, but it's hard to say about a mainstreamer. If the Democratic mischief is too blatant, voters might be inclined to roll with a Pence or Burton running where they no longer live. In Kerns case, he would likely end up in a district where his only option would be to run against a fellow Republican.

As for Speaker Gregg ... well, at this point, he ain't talkin'. ❖

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LUGAR SEEKS TAX RELIEF: Sen. Richard Lugar wants agricultural tax relief included in this year's tax bill. On Wednesday, Lugar reintroduced the Rural America Prosperity Act, which calls for eliminating the estate tax over 10 years, cutting capital gains taxes for farmers and allowing 100 percent deductibility for health costs for the self-insured. The legislation, first introduced last year, also includes trade, regulatory, and risk-management provisions. “We have outlined what we believe is the unfinished business” of the farm bill, said Lugar. The last farm bill, which Lugar wrote in 1996, put U.S. agriculture on a path toward eliminating subsidies and enabling farmers to plant crops to meet market demand. Other than the estate tax proposal, none of the tax aspects of Lugar's bill are included in President George W. Bush's \$1.6 trillion, 10-year tax reduction package. Bush has said that Congress must not exceed the total cost of his plan by adding extra tax reductions. But Lugar is not looking to break the bank. “We respect the president's view about the \$1.6 trillion” limit, Lugar said. Agricultural tax cuts “will have to fit within that prescription. We're not proposing something outside that runs counter”

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to Bush's proposal. The Bush budget parameters might also limit the size of supplement spending that can be devoted to farmers this year. "The amount of discretionary income may be in reduction," said Lugar.

BAYH SEEKS TRIGGER: On another tax cut front, Sen. Evan Bayh earlier this week elicited backing from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan for his tax-cut trigger mechanism, which would link tax cuts to debt-reduction targets. In response to a Bayh question at a Tuesday Senate Banking Committee hearing, Greenspan said of a trigger, "I think it ensures that we achieve what I think should be the first priority, mainly to eliminate the debt. What (a trigger) tends to do is to reduce the uncertainty that is attendant upon making a decision irrevocably for an extended period of time." Bayh also received praise for the plan from political reporter David Broder, who focused on it in a column Wednesday.

QUAYLE ARIZONA GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDACY FLOATED: There is talk among some Arizona Republicans and speculation in some newspapers that former Vice President Dan Quayle may run for governor in 2002, the thought being that his conservative ideology might be a good fit with Arizona vot-

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Burton vs. Clinton: One more time

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**
and **MARK SCHOEFF Jr.**

The Howey Political Report

When President Clinton left office on Jan. 20, it seemed that scandal investigations would wane, sending Rep. Dan Burton to the sidelines. But the 11th-hour pardon the former chief executive gave to fugitive financier Marc Rich, whose ex-wife made substantial contributions to the Democratic Party and the Clinton library, has given Burton new life in the national limelight.

The Rich pardon scandal has the explosive combination of power, influence, money, seductive songstress women, and wealthy oil barons in Swiss exile, all rising up to a potential testimonial appearance by Bill Clinton before his hated congressional nemesis, Dan Burton. Some, such as U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, have even suggested an impeachment redux.

Rich, who has been living in Switzerland since 1983, was indicted on dozens of counts, including tax evasion and racketeering.

His Jan. 20 pardon went from raising eyebrows as George W. Bush was raising his hand in an oath, to true bipartisan outrage, to suggestions that it was nothing less than influence peddling, with Alabama Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions noting that it could set the former president up for criminal prosecution.

Last week, the House Government Reform Committee, which Burton chairs, conducted a hearing that focused on whether Rich's lawyers went directly to the White House and bypassed the Justice Department in pleading for the Rich pardon. This week, Burton and fellow committee Republicans are seeking to grant immunity to Denise Rich, a move that was put on the back burner on Wednesday when the U.S. attorney in New York began a criminal investigation.

Burton reacted to the U.S. attor-

ney's action, saying Wednesday, "It will take at least one week for the Justice Department to arrive at a final conclusion on this matter. Therefore, the committee does not anticipate taking any actions with respect to Mrs. Rich for at least one week."

The committee also has indicated it will subpoena the Clinton library foundation in its effort to investigate alleged links between Denise Rich donations and the Clinton pardon of her husband.

Good cop/bad cop

In short, Burton's committee is going to continue its dogged pursuit of Clinton, despite a statement by President George W. Bush on Tuesday that the

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country should "move on" and put Clinton investigations to rest. Bush is now the yin to Burton's yang. "It's a marvelously balanced good cop/bad cop dynamic," said Norman Ornstein, a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

But this time, it's not just Burton tilting at Clinton. The former president is being criticized by fellow Democrats for his actions as he left the White House. "Bill Clinton has managed a feat that many of us thought was impossible - uniting the Republicans and Democrats on the Government Reform Committee," said Ornstein.

Getting some respect

Unlike his previous investigations, Burton is getting some respect in this latest iteration. "He's doing much better," said Ornstein. "He's being plenty tough,

but he's showing a level of restraint he didn't show previously."

Some respect, but only some.

A *Washington Post* editorial on Monday could hardly deal with a credible Burton while lambasting Clinton:

"Mr. Clinton could solve the problem by being forthcoming - providing an explanation of the questionable pardons and a full list of the contributors to his foundation. But he won't, or hasn't so far. His lawyer says that a possible congressional subpoena of the foundation records would be a violation of the First Amendment. But if the public will understand as readily as he suggests, why doesn't Mr. Clinton volunteer the list? It would be demeaning - if not any longer to Mr. Clinton then to the office he held and in a way to Congress, too - were he to be summoned to testify on the issuance of these pardons: the lobbying that surrounded them, the blandishments to which he possibly succumbed. Nor should committees of Congress be able at will to subpoena and publicize the contributor lists of private organizations -- and the principal House committee of inquiry is led by a chairman, Rep. Dan Burton, who inspires no confidence. But a presidential foundation, and gifts or pledges made before a president leaves office, are different from the ordinary. The issue is whether the public trust was violated. Enough valid questions have been raised about some of these pardons to warrant a full accounting. Mr. Clinton should volunteer it, and not force the country to extract it from him."

Scant praise

Then there was a *New York Times* editorial on Sunday:

"We sense a national need to come to grips with the wreckage, both civic and legal, left by former President Clinton. It may not be enough simply to observe that the pardon of Marc Rich is an act so baffling that virtually no responsible member of Mr. Clinton's own party will defend it. As Republican Rep. Dan

Burton, a man for whom this page has had scant praise, said in Thursday's pardon hearings, 'We think the American people would like to know how it happened.'

One of the e-mails disclosed by the House committee suggested that Mr. Clinton discussed the pardon with one of the main fund-raisers for the Democratic Party. Using its investigative powers, Congress can find out if the e-mail account is accurate. The nation is weary of investigations. The new president needs and is entitled to have the stage to himself. But Congress cannot ignore this intersection of money, influence and constitutional abuse."

It wasn't all that different with the *New York Times*. Columnist Maureen Dowd was still referring to Burton as a "nutbag" in her column last Sunday.

Star rising?

That's not to say, however, that Burton's star is necessarily rising. It's just that his foil continues to fumble. "It's not so much a change in stature, but he's enjoying a large measure of vindication," said Marshall Wittmann, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute. "The moment is rich in irony. Clinton overreach has led to the *New York Times* praising Burton. It is the ultimate in Clinton overreach."

How long Burton can continue his investigation depends in part on the endgame, which is unclear because pardoning criminals is a clearly defined presidential power. "Ultimately (the investigation) won't have legs because the question is, what is the resolution?" said Wittmann. "The hearings are a final sequel in a long-running series."

Said Ornstein, "In the near-term, he's in pretty good shape. In the short-run, we're finding far more questions raised about what Clinton did and why he did it."

The Burton investigation can continue "up to a point" without generating backlash. But, like former President Clinton, Burton knows how to overreach and, so often in his career, has. ❖

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ers. "It's definitely something that's active and alive out there," said Nathan Sproul, the executive director of the Arizona Republican Party (*New York Times*). Mr. Quayle insists he has no plans to run. But the talk continues that he may soon resurface on the nation's political radar, if not as a candidate for governor then perhaps as an ambassador. Last week, a Bush administration aide told *The Wall Street Journal* that Mr. Quayle wanted to be ambassador to NATO. Other Washington whispers have him serving as ambassador to China or Japan.

QUAYLE BUST CARVER DIES: The death of legendary stone carver Vincent Palumbo has delayed the carving of a bust of Dan Quayle that will eventually join the busts of the 43 other vice presidents that line several rooms and halls of the Capitol (*Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). The \$20,000 marble bust was expected to be completed this spring. But Palumbo took ill and died in December before he could begin work. The architect of the Capitol is considering other carvers; the bust is expected to be finished in the fall.

BAYH DOMAINE NAME TAKEN: Scott Loughrey, a Baltimore-based computer programmer who runs a

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business called Domain for Sale, purchased a slew of domain names last year targeting everyone from Sen. Bill Roth (R-Del.), who lost his re-election battle, to then-Rep. Bob Wise (D-W.Va.), whose gubernatorial campaign succeeded (Roll Call). In addition to owning a number of sites containing the names of Senators up for election in 2002, Loughrey has also registered domain names Bayh2004.org, Edwards2004.org, and Biden2004.org, apparently hoping to capitalize on potential presidential bids by Sens. Evan Bayh (D-Ind.), John Edwards (D-N.C.) and Joseph Biden (D-Del.).

HOSTETTLER MONEY LAGS: At least 10 Members who are widely viewed as top redistricting targets began the 2002 cycle with less than \$50,000 in the bank following costly re-election bids or relatively slow 2000 fundraising efforts (Roll Call). They include U.S. John Hostettler (R-Ind.).

WELFARE BILL RESURRECTED IN WAYS AND MEANS: The Democratic-led House Ways and Means Committee took the first step Monday in trying to resurrect a key element of Gov. Frank O'Bannon's failed tax relief plan -- eliminating the most costly portion of welfare from local

A 'can of whup' for Lake County voters

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Earth to the Region! Earth to the Region! Are you reading me?

Let me explain something critically important to you:

THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL THE REPUBLICAN INDIANA SENATE IS GOING TO SAVE YOUR SORRY BUTTS.

Pardon the language, but it's the truth. And State Rep. Chet Dobis knows it. That's why Dobis became the messenger of doom, igniting a political firestorm in Lake County earlier this month that was reported by the *Times of Northwest Indiana* like this: "It was Dobis who, in the words of one county councilman, 'opened up a can of whup-ass' on county government at last week's meeting of county officials and state legislators in Merrillville, berating them for outrageous spending."

Since the Dobis revelation, the Lake County political establishment convened last Saturday in an extraordinary marathon session. At the hearing, a parade of big city mayors brought about testimonials in denial.

Gary Mayor Scott King said, "There is the assumption that the cities in the north are profligate spenders. We've already begun the process of cutting our spending. I don't have a problem with pledging to reducing our spending. We've done it."

Hammond Mayor Duane Dedelow Jr. said, "Hammond is in favor of an independent reassessment. My community is severely underassessed, but I am concerned about when it will be done, and how. People have been allowed to pay little or nothing and frankly they've gotten used to it. If we try to correct the tax shift that is going to occur all at once, it is going to cause tremendous hurt in human measures."

And East Chicago Finance

Director George Weems, said (presumably with a straight face), "Mayor Pastrick is committed to improving the efficiency of government in East Chicago. But we can't just throw people out in the street. We have to begin the process of attrition and increase efficiency."

And the resulting epiphany?

The *Times of Northwest Indiana* reported it like this: "A six-hour civic marathon in Merrillville Saturday that was scheduled to come to terms with long-standing economic issues in Lake County resulted in a series of tentative agreements and nebulous notions that may evolve into a legislative package over the next 10 days. About all the nearly 200 government, civic, labor and business leaders could solidly agree to was that the state -- and not the county's property owners -- should bear the annual \$70 million cost of welfare"

In addition to a state bail-out that included a House Ways and Means Committee proposal on Monday to remove welfare from local property taxes (thus saving Lake County property owners as much as \$70 million in taxes annually), the big city mayors were calling for county option income tax.

The *Times* editorialized, "The bad news is that so many left the meeting with a sense that a select few were trying to ram through support for a county income tax. In the end, there just might be enough evidence to justify a local income tax, but until all the numbers are crunched and published and studied, and until those outside, independent eyes carefully examine the way things are done in Lake County, there is no way there should be such a rush to judgment on this one emotional point."

As for the Senate GOP coming to the rescue, Rep. Dobis is right. There's no way it's going to happen for a county that Dick Lugar can't even carry. ❖

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

The post-BillHillary emergence of Bayh

U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton persistently claims she will not run for president in 2004 (*and I believe her*).

At least part of me believes her. There are several denials of any interest in running for the presidency by Sen. Clinton. But then there was a denial in which she said she was intent on serving out her entire *four-year term*. And she did place first on Gallup's Most Admired Woman in the World poll.

A potential Clinton presidentress has so stroked up the Hillary Haters that some of them were already launching a state-by-state Electoral College-based analysis on how she could not possibly do better than Al Gore in 2000.

All of such activity may be moot.

Since Jan. 20, the Clintons, in all their Gatsby aura, have self-destructed in a way not seen by an ex-president(ress) since Warren G. Harding (who was dead when his scandals began emerging).

The Rich pardon scandal and the \$800,000-a-year Carnegie Hall office have embroiled former President Bill Clinton, who was poised to become the titular head of the Democratic Party and a probable kingmaker. Sen. Clinton's implication in the First Couple carting off National Parks Service goods from the White House seems as tawdry as a Dick Morris sex scandal. By the beginning of this week, Morris and Sen. Clinton were verbally sparring over the former's hot column charging that the ex-First Lady never declared her gifts.

The new Clintonian-Gatsby self-destruction is perverse good news for U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, the new chair of the Democratic Leadership Council, who just can't get up the gumption to declare at least a passing interest in the White

House (*he wants it; he wants it baaaaad*).

The Clintonian self-immolations come in tandem with more and more blame being placed at the feet of Al Gore, the other potential heavyweight in the '04 presidential field. David Broder of the *Washington Post* likens it to a "trashing" of a former standard bearer, not seen since the Mondale/Dukakis era.

With Hillary and Al on the ropes, Evan Bayh and Joe Lieberman could find themselves somewhere in the neighborhood of being dubbed the "front runner."

A sure sign of this is Bayh's new status as a target of the snooty *American Spectator*. "The Ashcroft vote still rangles," opined the *Spectator*, unable to move on to much better things such as the XFL. "An anonymous tip urges us to take a look at Indiana's junior senator, Evan Bayh. Just three years ago he campaigned on such themes as 'Hoosier values' and a 'conservative, bipartisan approach to government.' Now he's the sort of gone-native Washingtonian who informs the local *Post*, not the *Indianapolis Star*, that he would oppose Ashcroft. Or in the words of our informant: 'It seems the hard-left masters of the Democratic Party whistled and the newest mongrel in the Kennedy pack to come bounding through the pet door into the Senate chamber was the tail-wagging Evan Bayh.'

The *Spectator* observed further, "Even better, It took him two years to start voting like his father - that would be Birch Bayh, for those of you too young to remember, and who alas wasn't named after any former member of the John Birch Society."

So far, Hoosier newspapers have been reluctant to editorialize on Bayh's new career coordinates like the *Spectator*. But it's clear he's moving on a different trajectory. ❖

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property tax rolls (Terry Burns, Times of Northwest Indiana). Under House Bill 1003, the state would start paying the tab for the Family and Children's Fund -- estimated at more than \$221 million a year -- starting in 2003. Lake County would benefit substantially under the legislation. Its child welfare levies are estimated to be around \$62 million in calendar year 2004 alone. Edward Charbonneau, manager of governmental affairs for U.S. Steel, said the company pays \$70 million a year in property taxes in Lake County. About \$7 million goes toward welfare. He cited high property taxes paid by the steel industry in Lake County as one reason the companies are struggling to stay alive. "We are dying a slow, painful death," he said (Mike Smith, Associated Press).

Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson said Marion County had to raise property taxes to make up a \$12 million gap in county welfare costs last year, and another shortfall is expected this year. There are no signs that O'Bannon's proposal would fare any better among Senate Republicans this session than it did last year (Associated Press).

LEGISLATORS MAY BE GUNNING FOR IHSA: After days of sticking to its guns over disqualifying a high school diver for wearing a

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hair band on her wrist, the Indiana High School Athletic Association gave in. It acknowledged public anger over the ruling impacted its decision to give Franklin High School diver Anesa Beard a second chance. Chances are, it also heard the rumblings of the General Assembly rolling out its big guns, weapons that could wipe out the IHSAA, despite its storied history and private status as the sanctioning body of high school sports in Indiana (Mike Smith, Associated Press). Talk about the IHSAA in the Indiana Legislature in recent years has been tough. It no longer can be considered cheap. "I'm all for the death sentence of this organization," said Rep. Craig Fry, D-Mishawaka. Rep. Woody Burton, whose district includes Franklin High School, said he's all for rules. But he called the Beard decision a show of arrogant power that defied common sense. "I think these people have a problem. It's almost as if they're trying to stimulate the legislature to go after them," said Burton, R-Greenwood. Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton said, "I hope the rumblings evolve into a thunderstorm, because the IHSAA needs to be brought into the era of accountability. The decision was absurd. It exercised poor judgment." ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

David Broder, *Washington Post* - The trashing of Gore by his old allies in the DLC is unseemly -- an echo of the disdain former friends showed Fritz Mondale and Michael Dukakis when they had the bad grace to lose in 1984 and 1988. But the DLC, which gained intellectual ascendancy in the Democratic Party in the past decade and also scored notable political victories with the nominations of Clinton, Gore and Lieberman, is desperate not to have its influence over party policy reversed by Gore's defeat. While the DLC has been winning adherents in the salons of Washington and among Democratic elected officials, the rising grassroots Democratic power centers belong to what Teixeira calls the "1930s and 1960s coalitions" -- organized labor, minorities, teachers, environmentalists, women's groups and abortion-rights and gay-rights advocates. Since the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, all of them have become more adept at turning out the vote, and together they tug the party to the left. Bayh told me he thinks the schisms can be bridged, "because everyone realizes we have to maximize the turnout of our base and, at the same time, attract more independent, suburban voters." ❖

Maureen Dowd, *New York Times* - Bob Dole once asked where the outrage was. It finally materialized in, of all places, Dan Burton's hearing room as Denise Rich sent a letter taking the Fifth. At the hearing, Democrats who had decried the virtulent partisanship and wacko behavior of Dan Burton ... were echoing the complaints of Mr. Burton and fellow nutbag and Clinton hater Bob Barr. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - Republicans liked it - and then some. A number of them took to the microphones to call for even more than the \$1.6 trillion reduction Bush wants.

Among them was freshman Hoosier Rep. Mike Pence. Democrats generally panned it, arguing that it's lopsided. Rich people will benefit to the tune of a Lexus; the tax break for poorer people will be enough to buy a muffler. A handful in each party, among them Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh, said they could go for Bush's package as long as there was a stop button that would be activated automatically if the projected federal budget surplus doesn't materialize in the later years of the 10-year package. ❖

Mike Dooley, *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel* - In his farewell speech as chairman of the Democrat National Committee, (Joe) Andrew took some customary jabs at Republicans, including one that compared the new occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. to another native Hoosier who also rose to the pinnacles of power. George W. Bush, Andrew predicted, "will be the President Quayle we never had." ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* -
Q. OK, will the mandatory daylight saving time bill pass? **A.** It is backed by big money, powerful lobbyists, a lot of clout and the governor. So it certainly has a chance, even if it's not that popular with legislators from much of the state. Right now, however, it's stuck in the House Public Policy Committee, where Rep. Robert Kuzman, D-Crown Point, the chairman, doesn't plan a hearing and hopes that it never sees the light of day.
Q. With all that clout behind the bill, isn't Kuzman under pressure to hold a hearing? **A.** Sure. The *Indianapolis Star* printed an editorial saying Kuzman is blocking a "vote for the Hoosier economy." The Gannett newspaper wants to be on New York time year-around, on the same time as Gannett headquarters out east, and thus help the tooth fairy to spur the Indiana economy. ❖