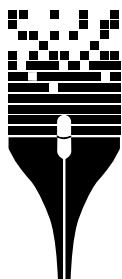


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“It does spend more than we’re taking in, but if I were writing the budget it would spend more than we’re taking in....” - Republican State Rep. Jeff Espich, on the biennial budget bill that roared out of Ways and Means by a 24-1 vote

Vanderburgh Demos face chair contest

Big implications for the Bloody 8th

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Indiana Democrats were going through their reorganization process this week - despite uncertainties about actual district lines - and steps were being taken to close a festering sore in crucial Southwestern Indiana.

Democratic sources tell HPR that Vanderburgh County Chair Jack Waltroupe Jr. will step aside and a battle this weekend will be waged between Evansville City Councilman Steve Melcher and Wayne Crowe, an African-American political activist involved in the recent Paul Perry and Rick Borries campaigns.

The Vanderburgh power alignment is critical in light of the extremely competitive nature of the 8th CD and its potential role as a tie-breaker in the 2002 fight for control of Congress, where the Republicans have a 220-211 majority (there are also two independents and two vacancies). The Vanderburgh Democratic organization has been akin to a dysfunctional, bipolar family having a midnight picnic in a Balkan minefield.

It reached a conspicuous crescendo in 1999 when then-Mayor Frank McDonald refused to endorse Evansville mayoral nominee Rick Borries, who went on to lose by a mere 519 votes to Republican Russell Lloyd Jr. Borries’ loss prevented Indiana Democrats from making a big city sweep, after the party won Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and South Bend. The Vanderburgh organization in 2000 did outperform its 1996 effort, but Hostettler survived anyway.

Local, state and national strategists were concerned about further rifts in the Evansville party. With a new 8th

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DLC COMING TO INDY: The Democratic Leadership Council will meet in Indianapolis July 15-17. The DLC, headed by Sen. Evan Bayh, chose Indianapolis not only due to the Bayh connection, but also because of recent Democratic successes. "Indiana is a great example of the new Democratic message getting through," said Al From, who is a South Bend native. The event will be co-chaired by LG Joe Kernan, Mayor Bart Peterson and Emmis CEO Jeff Smulyan.

WELFARE BILL PASSES: In a move that could save Lake County taxpayers millions of dollars, the Indiana House passed legislation Wednesday aimed at eliminating a major portion of welfare from local property tax rolls, a key element in Gov. Frank O'Bannon's year-old tax relief package (Terry Burns, Times of Northwest Indiana). However, unlike the governor's earlier proposal, the measure stops short of requiring the state to pay for the full costs of the Family and Children Fund, the most expensive category of welfare on most local property tax bills. Instead, House Bill 1003, crafted by Ways and Means Chairman B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, calls for the state to pick up half of the cost for the welfare initiative and requires the

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CD expected to be drawn to favor a Democratic candidate such as House Speaker John Gregg, having the Vanderburgh organization unified could go a long way toward retiring U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, who has eaked out four narrow (but growing) victories over Frank McCloskey, Jonathon Weinzapfel, Gail Riecken and Paul Perry. All but Perry had or have since demonstrated electability in key areas of the district. With the variety of electable talent failing, the search for blame naturally rests at the doorstep of the CD's largest bulwark organization.

Marion County resolution

A tempest that appears to have passed for the Democrats occurred in Marion County, where current chairman Steve Laudig stepped aside at the request of Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson. That's despite the Democrats carrying 433 precincts in 2000 (compared to 203 in 1994), 22 township board members elected (compared to 13 prior); and 14 city councilors (compared to 10 prior). Super lobbyist Ed Treacy inherits what could be

the state's emerging Democratic power center that could, in time, surpass Lake County as the cornerstone organization.

Laudig said that Peterson has asked him to do "long-range planning, data collection and analysis and web integration." Treacy vowed to HPR that Laudig would have "no seat" at his table and could not hide his contempt for his predecessor.

What Treacy brings to the table is expertise at building warchests - critical to Peterson, who can expect a stiff challenge in 2003, and U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, whose new district will likely contain further Republican township areas making her district more competitive. Last week-end, the *Indianapolis Star* had Treacy accusing Laudig of stealing office furniture out of party headquarters. If that kind of sniping and devisiveness continues, the Democrats risk a power loss because on the other side the contrast is the GOP uniting behind John Keeler, with Monty Combs refusing to wage a repeat challenge in the name of harmony.

Passing the calumet

Another Democratic quicksand site is Lake County, where a year ago people

were predicting the demise of Chairman Stephen Stiglitz. He had just lost an East Chicago mayoral primary to Bob Pastrick, a race many across the many Lake County factions had urged him not to make. Late last year, Sheriff John Buncich began sending signals that he would take on the staggered Stig. But February 2001 finds Stiglitz ready to coast to re-election, with the party's fratricidal tendencies moving from the smoke-filled rooms to the various City Halls, where north county mayors such as Pastrick and Gary's Scott King are duking it out with Crown Point's James Metros and State Rep. Chet Dobis over property and income taxes. Said one influential Democrat, "Apparently there is peace in the valley, and I'm saying that with a bit of disbelief."

On the district level, due to a rotating agreement, Lake County's Jim Fife steps aside and Porter County Chair Leon West takes over as 1st CD chair.

7th CD turnover

Another indicator that HPR's redistricting analysis is on target is the 7th CD, one that we've speculated has the greatest potential for being eliminated. Five Democratic county chairs and the district chair - former Lafayette Mayor Jim Riehle - are retiring. Joining Riehle in retirement are Chet Vice of Montgomery County, Claudia Williams in Putnam, David Scott in Parke, Sheriff Harley Melton in Owen, and Raymond Snider in Clay.

Elsewhere, Democrats...

There are a couple more influential retirements. Allan Rachles is stepping down as 6th CD chair, with a successor to be determined. Robert Peterson is retiring as Fulton County chair and it is unknown if he will stay on as 5th CD chair. In the 4th CD, Tom Smith has retired and was replaced by Dennis Tropp, a LaGrange County florist who lives in Kendallville.

As for contests, long-time Clark County chairman Bill Stewart is being

challenged by Pepper Cooper. In nearby Floyd County, Warren Nash, who fended off a recall last year, is apparently unopposed.

County chairs retiring include Eddie Pittman in Frank O'Bannon's home county of Harrison; Jackie Stutz in Dearborn; Bud McCall in Henry; Steve Rance in Cass; and Bill Walker in Pike. John Bonecutter has already replaced Margaret Alexander in Clinton County.

Republicans postpone

On Wednesday, Indiana Republicans voted unanimously to postpone reorganization until after the legislature solves reapportionment. Two district chairs - Roy Rogers in the 3rd and Shirley Baker in the 7th - have indicated they are stepping down.

Republican Chair Mike McDaniel said he will convene reorganization within 30 days after Gov. O'Bannon signs the redistricting bill. When will that be? McDaniel said that the latest census numbers are expected on April 1 and it will take the party caucuses about 10 days to load all the data into the computers and pump out proposed maps.

McDaniel said that by judging the overwhelming Ways and Means Committee support of the proposed budget on Tuesday, the redistricting may not be attached to the budget. "There's a chance we could have the new Congressional maps by the end of the session, unless they're so outrageous that there's a lawsuit," McDaniel said, estimating the GOP reorganization between mid-May and June 30. "That is the best case scenario. If it gets attached to the budget and it spills into the summer, who knows, it would be mid-summer. I don't think they'll want to go past the fiscal year."

Both McDaniel and Democrat Robin Winston will return to office. Winston still has not decided who his vice chair will be. ❖

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counties to foot the rest of the bill. The bill now heads to the Republican-led Senate, which defeated a similar effort last year because leaders considered it a Lake County bailout that benefited only a handful of counties with soaring welfare costs.

LAWMAKERS 'EUPHORIC' OVER STATE BUDGET; PASSES WAYS & MEANS: Lawmakers were so pleased with a revised version of the state's proposed budget Tuesday that the House Ways and Means Committee passed the document with bipartisan support for the first time since the 1980s (Nikki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "I just would like to say I'm in a state of euphoria," said Rep. Ben GiaQuinta, D-Fort Wayne. Many legislators were fearful that a tight budget would spell doom for state programs. The amended two-year, \$21 billion spending plan called for modest increases for education and other programs, while also borrowing liberally from gambling revenue and other contingency funds. "This is a prudent budget for the times," said Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend - who is chairman of the budget-writing committee. "It does spend more money. Why? Because we have needs and obligations. We use about

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half the gaming (money) the governor wanted to use (for education)," Bauer said (Martin DeAgostino, South Bend Tribune). "We don't use it for education, but we use it in other places." Dan Clark, of the Indiana State Teachers Association, said, "We're cognizant of the state's difficult fiscal situation. We believe this budget will avoid layoffs and other cutbacks" (Journal Gazette). Some Republicans were concerned about using Rainy Day money, including Rep. P. Eric Turner, R-Marion, who cast the only vote against the bill in the 24-1 tally. "I think its purpose is for a rainy day, and we're not quite there," Turner said. "I think we're in a drizzle." Rep. Jeff Espich, R-Uniondale, offered his caucus' support of the bill, something he said hasn't happened in a decade. "It does spend more than we're taking in, but if I were writing the budget it would spend more than we're taking in," Espich said. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Larry Borst, who has been highly critical of the House budget in past years, said he could find little fault with Bauer's decisions. "This is a good place to start," he said. "It does spend a little more money than I had planned to. But there's not a whole lot of fluff in it" (Leslie Stedman, Louisville Courier-Journal).

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Redistricting cloud for Pence, Kerns

By MARK SCHOEFF Jr.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - The first 100 days for a new congressman typically involve establishing constituent services, making friends with your new colleagues, and formulating a policy agenda. U.S. Reps. Mike Pence (R-2nd CD) and Brian Kerns (R-7th CD) are pursuing all three of those priorities as they settle into their congressional seats.

Unlike other recent Hoosier freshmen, however, Pence and Kerns face the possibility that their districts could be redrawn - or eliminated - in 2002. The state legislature will narrow Indiana's 10 congressional seats to nine to conform to the state's declining population.

On the outside, the two rookies are taking the situation in stride - to the point of being deterministic. "We're going to try to build a record we're proud of and serve our constituents," said Pence.

Kerns also will concentrate on the basics. "My approach is pretty simple," he said. "I'm going to work hard and do my job. If I were not meant to be here, I wouldn't be. I think God wanted me to be here."

But Pence and Kerns are both seasoned politicians who know that the legislature will have the final word on their futures. Kerns addressed the state House on Wednesday and will speak before the state Senate on Thursday. Pence has already met with state legislators.

"We've made an effort in the proper way to interact with the leaders of the legislature and the delegation from the congressional district," said Pence, 41, a former radio talk show host who replaced former U.S. Rep. David McIntosh.

Redistricting is a subject that Kerns can't avoid. Many political observers, including HPR, are speculating that the 7th CD is likely to be carved up. "The topic of redistricting comes up quite often wherever I go," said Kerns, 43, a former

Capitol Hill aide and son-in-law of former Rep. John Myers. "If you were to ask me today, I would say that I intend to run for Congress (in 2002), I just don't know where."

Kerns' mentor has substantial experience on the other side of the redistricting question. Former Rep. Ed Pease (R-7th CD) served as a state senator in 1981 and 1991, the last two times the legislature redrew the congressional map. "I really think that's a matter for the state legislature," he said. "It's not productive for members of Congress to try to influence it."

In fact, the best approach for Pence and Kerns may be not to worry about redistricting. "The less you sweat it, the cooler you are to keep it," said former

CONGRESS WATCH

Rep. Andy Jacobs (D-10th CD), whose district was remodeled twice. In

1972, he lost to Republican Bill Hudnut after the district became more Republican. He won the seat back in 1974. In 1982, he beat fellow Democrat David Evans after the 10th CD boundaries were changed again.

"Don't clutch it," said Jacobs. "That's not good statecraft and that's not good politics. People can sense it." Political history is filled with figures who spent time in the private sector before returning triumphantly to politics. "Until the coroner shows up, you're never dead in this business."

With a potentially topsy-turvy political landscape, congressmen may find themselves paying closer attention to contiguous neighbors to figure out how to compete in a potential primary. But Pease said this wouldn't be the case for Pence and Kerns.

"They're going to do what they

think is best for their districts and for Indiana," said Pease. "I don't think you're going to see them distracted into those kind of machinations."

Pence Sets Economic Priorities

In his first 100 days, Pence has made clear that he believes tax cuts are what are best for his district. But he is not necessarily an ally of President Bush in this political battle. Pence is advocating a bigger tax cut than Bush's proposed \$1.6 trillion, 10-year reduction, even though Bush has admonished Congress not to go beyond the limits he has set.

Pence is a sponsor of the Economic Recovery and Growth Act of 2001. The legislation contains \$2.2 trillion in tax cuts, which Pence argues will foster economic growth.

"I've had some cordial but direct conversations with officials from the White House," said Pence, who is an assistant majority whip and chairman of the House Small Business subcommittee on regulatory reform and oversight. "I was elected to serve the people of my district. They want tax relief and they want it now."

Pence said that momentum for his bill is building. "We'll put it in the hopper with more than 50 cosponsors, which will send a strong signal to the (House) leadership and the White House" he said. "My goal out here is to get this (Republican) conference serious about economic recovery. I believe we may already be in a recession. If you want to get the economy moving again, you have to cut taxes on marginal rates and on savings and investment." Pence cites layoffs at Cummins Engine in Columbus and Daimler Chrysler in New Castle as evidence of a slowdown.

Pence also opposes mandatory testing for grades 3 through 8 that is part of Bush's education proposal. "This town would like to run our schools. I'm talking about a whole lot of Republicans and most Democrats," Pence said.

Kerns Joins Transportation

Some members try to avoid one of Kerns' committees - International Relations. But Kerns embraces the panel. "We have a lot of opportunity there to expand markets for agriculture and businesses in Indiana." In addition, Kerns has been named freshman class liaison to the freshman Democrats and was appointed to the Republican Policy Committee.

Kerns is picking up where Pease left off on the House Transportation Committee. He said he would work with Gov. Frank O'Bannon and the Indiana congressional delegation to establish transportation priorities. The I-69 extension, high-speed rail, and a north-south corridor in Hendricks County are likely to be on the agenda.

But as a freshman, Kerns will face a challenge in moving his projects through the committee. That's where the personal touch can be valuable. "One of the first things you do is try to get to know your colleagues and their staffs," he said. "A lot of it is relationship-building initially."

Keep Home Fires Burning

An important relationship that could be strained for a new congressman is the one he has with his family, which must endure the time demands placed on members. Pence and Kerns are taking different approaches to this aspect of life in Congress. Pence's wife and three children have moved to the Washington area. Kerns' wife and three children at home live on the family farm south of Terre Haute.

"My kids need to see their dad and I need to see them," said Pence. But there are political risks connected to moving to the capital. Rep. Tim Roemer (D-3rd CD) survived a close election last year in which his opponent attacked him for not living in the district. Pence said he has asked himself whether he would be willing to lose an election because he brought his family to Washington. "The answer to that is an emphatic 'yes'." ❖

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AS PREDICTED: Michael Mazerov, a Washington, D.C., tax and finance expert, warned two years ago that the state's \$2 billion surplus would disappear by 2003 if the General Assembly went ahead with plans to cut taxes and increase spending (Steve Hinnefeld, Bloomington Herald-Times). The state went ahead with big spending increases for schools, roads and social services and cut taxes almost \$900 million over two years. Now Mazerov is saying, "I think the state has really worked itself into a box." He said Indiana's problems are not due to shortsighted legislators, but rather that the state's budget forecasts go only through two years while spending increases and tax cuts tend to last forever.

COST CUTS FOR TAX BOOST: Mayors in northern Indiana are trying to cut costs in exchange for a local income tax (Robin Biesen, Times of Northwest Indiana). The cities will have to reduce spending to the point that it reaches 150 percent of the median expenditure per person for the state. In Gary, that means cutting expenses \$3 million, and Mayor Scott King said he is about half way there. Whiting and East Chicago need to cut their spending by \$4.3 million and \$12.5 million, respectively. The mayors of those

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two cities say they are trying to cut their costs.

HOSTETTLER SPEAKS ON LIFE ISSUES AT IU: "The founding principle of the United States is the right to life," U.S. Rep. John Hostettler said Tuesday at the Indiana Memorial Union during a speech hosted by Indiana University Students for Life, but attended by people on all sides of the abortion issue (Bloomington Herald-Times). "Family planning dollars originally meant money for married couples," he said, "but it's evolved to the point that we need to reconsider whether the federal government should be involved in this at all."

KEEPING U.S. 31 TRAFFIC MOVING: The Indiana House passed a bill last week giving INDOT two years to remove 15 traffic lights on U.S. 31 between South Bend and Indianapolis or face a \$1 million fine for each light not removed (Martin DeAgostino, South Bend Tribune). The bill was written by Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, and added to a bill on Indiana Toll Road revenue. Several years ago, the General Assembly passed a resolution saying one traffic light must be removed for every one added. "It's been joyously ignored by INDOT ever since," Bauer said.

PERHAPS... WE WANDER

By Brian Howey

What I learned from the Vigo Rotarians

TERRE HAUTE - A Brian A. Howey speech is often designed to be an interactive thing. I want my audiences to learn something from my own experiences and observations. But as I travel about the state, I also see these temporarily captive audiences as a way to learn; to get the pulse of the state.

Thus, my speech on Tuesday before about 100 members of the Terre Haute Rotary Club was a two-way street. I basically reprised last week's HPR cover story: Two Political Indianas, parallel, Democrats dominating at the state and municipal levels; Republicans poised to have a run at the federal offices. I walked through the various redistricting scenarios that involved much speculation on whether their own congressman, U.S. Rep. Brian Kerns, would end up with a district (Mike McDaniel told me earlier this week that my redistricting scenarios are probably closer than Speaker John Gregg would like for me to believe).

What did I learn?

First, most of the influential locals pronounce Vigo County as "Vee-go" as opposed to "Viii-go." I worried about that, fearing I might mispronounce it. When I stopped for gas at the Thornton station on State Road 46, I asked the clerk, "What county is this?"

"Veeee-go County."

Once at the Holiday Inn, I heard an influential Rotarian pronounce it the same way. When I mentioned "Vee-go" County in my speech, no one flinched or smirked.

When I give a noontime speech, most people have been just fed and are drinking coffee, tea or some sort of caffeinated soda. The noon audiences are usually awake. The worst audiences are those occurring at mid-afternoon when

most would rather be taking a 20-minute Calvin Coolidge-style power nap (strip down to your scivvies; wake up with a smile and ask, "Did the world survive without me?")

If I see, say, 5 percent of the audience's eyes glaze over, I cut the text; shout declarative statements; and ask questions such as, "Ever been any botulism incidents at this restaurant?"

The best way to avoid the glaze phase is to make it truly interactive and ask questions. In Terre Haute on Tuesday, I asked four questions, three close to the top of the speech with the promise of more later (to keep folks on their toes).

Since the theme of my speech was "*Parallel Indianas: One on Eastern Time; the Other on Central Time*") I asked the critical questions leading into my political metaphors.

The legislature is thinking about changing to Daylight Saving Time. How many of you would support that?

About a third raised their hands. Local observers such as Max Jones of the *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* was amazed at the number who supported the move.

How many would support a move to Central Time, as opposed to Eastern time?

Central Time easily won out, much to the probable chagrin of Scott Jones and the Gannettsters, who have been making the case that New Yorkers like to deal with Hoosiers on their own time. One Rotarian noted that New York companies deal with Chicago companies just fine. It makes sense that folks in Western Indiana would want to align with Chicago as opposed to New York. Had I been in Richmond or Fort Wayne, I suspect Eastern time might have won out.

With various redistricting scenarios putting Kerns in John Hostettler's 8th CD,

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I asked, "How many would vote for a congressman who didn't live in the district?" An overwhelming majority indicated they wouldn't; that the congressman had to live in their district, even if Indiana Democrats mischievously paired up Kerns and Hostettler, or Dan Burton and Mike Pence, or Chris Chocola and Mark Souder.

Then the talk turned to Sen. Evan Bayh's potential 2004 dilemma: running for re-election or running for president. It's important to note that Terre Haute is a suburb of the ancient Bayh homestead of Shirkieville, and he is considered a hometown boy; one of them. When I mentioned that the early and tragic death of Bayh's mother, Marvella, might be a clue to Evan Bayh's driven notion to accomplish as much in life as early as

possible, many heads nodded in agreement.

So the final question was this: Would you support Evan Bayh doing similar to what Joe Lieberman did: Running for president AND re-election?

I was mildly surprised to see that perhaps 60 percent of this crowd would support a dual Bayh candidacy.

Of course, this polling was conducted with absolutely no scientific methodology, which still makes it as credible as similar surveys conducted by Dr. Brian Vargus.

Having said that, I'm willing to bet that such a scientific survey would probably bear out these results.

That's just a gut feeling on my part, sponsored by the Terre Haute Rotary Club here in Vigo County. ❖

Burton looks tame, compared to Carter and Jordan

By MARK CURRY

Former President Jimmy Carter called President Clinton's pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich "disgraceful." Carter's chief of staff Hamilton Jordan likened Bill and Hillary Clinton to "grifters."

Then there's U.S. Rep. Dan Burton, who has consumed much of the past several years in a largely fruitless effort to discredit the Clinton administration. In a Saturday editorial, the *Washington Times* explained: "Previously, Mr. Burton was pilloried for his perennial pursuit of the peccadilloes, perjuries and various actions of dubious legality pervasive in the Clinton administration. Now Mr. Burton's simple call, 'The American people deserve to know the facts,' has been echoed by Clinton sycophants such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*."

Burton, who garnered 70 percent of the 6th CD vote in the last election, may finally be coming into his own as chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, so much so that the pundits have all but ignored recent comments by Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.): "I don't know what they're doing. I think what they're doing is what they've been doing for the last eight years. They just can't seem to help themselves. You know, they will investigate. I'm sure they will investigate Bill Clinton's grandchildren."

Such sentiment might have prevailed only two months ago, before Clinton left office, but now it seems that even Clinton can't save himself. The former president's attempt to explain his actions in op-ed piece in Sunday's *New York Times* has resulted in only more controversy. During CBS' *Face The Nation* Sunday morning, Burton and other guests cast numerous aspersions on Clinton's written argument. Later the same day, Burton appeared on CNN's *Late Edition* and host Wolf Blitzer asked him "the point" of the committee's next hearing, slated for March 1. "What we're trying to find out is why. The American people want to know why one of the most wanted fugitives in the world was granted a pardon. And so what we want to find out is why he did it. If there was a quid pro quo, that's a felon ❖

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SOUDER CALLS FOR GREATER EMPHASIS ON DRUG TREATMENT: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, who is taking over the helm of a House subcommittee that oversees anti-drug policies, is calling for a greater emphasis on drug treatment. "All interdiction and law enforcement can do is stabilize the problem," said Souder (Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). "It can't eliminate or reduce it. You have to have some prevention and treatment." But Souder said that doesn't mean he favors moving money allocated for law enforcement into drug prevention programs. "Law enforcement and interdiction has to be there to make the prevention and treatment work," he said.

LUGAR MAY SUPPORT ARCTIC OIL DRILLING: Sen. Richard Lugar, a hero to environmentalists last year when he voted against oil and gas drilling in a remote Alaskan wilderness area, signaled Wednesday he might change his mind. "We need more energy. That is clear," Lugar said (Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). He said he'll evaluate the proposed exploration of a slice of the Arctic National Wildlife Preserve within the context of a national energy policy.

MAYOR FERNANDEZ PRO-

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MOTES EDUCATION

ROUNDTABLE: Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez took the stage of the Buskirk-Chumley Theatre to present his sixth annual State of the City address. "I've got to tell you, I was thrilled to come around the corner on Kirkwood Avenue and see that marquee lit up," the Bloomington mayor said (Marda Johnson, Bloomington Herald-Times). Fernandez has announced he is seeking the Indiana secretary of state post in 2002. Fernandez said education, advanced technology and investment in the community's character are keys to a strong economy. "Far too many kids are falling through the cracks here. And I wish I could stand here and say I've got the magic wand, and I've got the silver bullet, we're going to solve this problem tonight with a simple declaration. I don't. But I do know we have to focus on this problem, and it is a problem." Fernandez urged the community and the school system to work together to improve education, following the model of the governor's roundtable on education. He said the Monroe County Education Roundtable is making an effort. "But there's a missing piece here and that's a real commitment from our school system to make this work." ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - A New York Republican, Rep. Peter King, has written legislation to ban telemarketing calls from 5 to 7 p.m. He says telemarketers should be prohibited from blocking caller ID. There are two groups that don't like this idea: Telemarketers and the Libertarian Party. "Message to Congress: Don't do us any favors," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director and a former Fort Wayne resident. "Not every minor irritant requires a new federal law and realize that legislation-happy politicians are more of an annoyance than pesky telemarketers will ever be." The Libertarians' beef is that the proposal is unnecessary, unfairly restricts free enterprise and, "worst of all, treats Americans like children." ❖

Mike Leonard, *Bloomington Herald-Times* - Anthropologist Rick Wilk is a nationally known authority on consumerism and consumer culture, and as a result, he often is contacted for commentary on the issues of the day. The *San Francisco Chronicle* rang him up recently for a piece it was putting together to debunk the stereotype that California's energy crisis has been caused by its high-flying, hot-tubbing, energy-wasting citizenry. Particularly of interest to Hoosiers, however, should be the statistics compiled by the newspaper, which show that, actually, Californians rank a very respectable 47th out of the 50 states in total per capita energy consumption. Indiana residents are among the nation's least efficient energy users and are sandwiched between Kentucky and Alabama in the nation's bottom 10. Energy policy, or the lack thereof, is a contributing factor. The IU anthropologist was shocked when he moved to the Hoosier state several years ago and discovered that his local REMC actually rewarded excessive consumption

with a "the more you use, the less you pay per unit" rate structure. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - It was a beautiful gerrymander. Beauty, of course, is in the eye of the beholder. The Republican-drawn redistricting in 1981 for Indiana's congressional seats was a classic--just a beautiful gerrymander for those who admire skill at drawing districts to do the most harm to the opposition. Floyd Fithian called it ugly. He was the Democratic congressman in Indiana's 2nd District in northern Indiana, in his fourth term and with growing popularity after his Watergate-assisted upset of Earl (don't confuse me with the facts) Landgrebe. Since Republicans controlled both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly in 1981--and the governor was a Republican, too--they could do their best in drawing districts on the basis of the 1980 Census. Their best was the worst for Fithian. His district was torn asunder. Some of it went into the 1st District, where there already was a Democratic incumbent. Some went into the 3rd District, which was made more Republican to help re-election chances of John P. Hiler. Some ended up in the 5th District, drawn to make that district safer for the Republican incumbent there. Some was put in the 7th District. That's where Fithian's Tippecanoe County base was moved. There wasn't even a 2nd District left in northern Indiana. That number went to a district placed south of Indianapolis and gerrymandering its way to the Ohio border. That's why the numbering system of the districts still is out of numerical order even to this day. There's more. Three Democratic congressmen were put in the same district. Beautiful. At least in the eye of Republicans, who used computer technology for the first time in Indiana redistricting to update the way Elbridge Gerry did things. ❖