



HOWEY

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Daniels optimistic about jobs, DST, and a table full of options

New governor approaching his first legislative end game

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

Gov. Mitch Daniels expects the Daylight-Saving Time bill to make a Senate comeback, is buoyed by economic development opportunities that he says will begin generating headlines, and said that "nothing is off the table" when it comes to resolutions for the biennial budget and the Colts stadium.

Daniels sat down with HPR for 45 minutes Tuesday afternoon and surveyed the first quarter of the first year of his governorship. "The job is good. Life is acceptable. The work, I like," Daniels said while seated at his Statehouse desk. "I'm learning a ton. I'm learning in detail the repairs necessary for state government; the constantly growing anecdotal examples from what our department heads are fixing ... what we call the OMG (Oh My God) file. I'm learning about the parliamentary procedure that I've had to deal with."

Some have suggested there has been a "clash of cultures" between Gov. Daniels and legislative leadership. But Daniels explained, "Oh, not really. There are different rules of procedure, but the U.S. Congress can be fairly Byzantine. At the General Assembly, they adhere to the rules more faithfully than the U.S. Congress does. Are the rules and procedures frustrating? Sure, but they're supposed to be."

He believes his relationship with leadership is generally good. "I've got the hotline," he said, pointing to the phone console on his desk. "One button for Bosma. One for Garton. One for Becky." The Homeland Security phone is in an adjoining office.

Was he upset at Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton for what some believe was the demise of an early priority in Daylight-Saving Time?

No, Daniels said. "Because his viewpoint was, we'll keep looking. I think we're going to get a shot at it. I'm probably one news cycle away. Both Brian and Bob, we don't agree on every issue, but they have both been very constructive. They're looking for ways to make the really important things happen."



Gov. Mitch Daniels



"Have they ever met her? What color are her eyes? What's her middle name? What's her favorite color? They don't have any clue who Terri is. They should all be ashamed of themselves."

— Michael Schiavo

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DST could be revived by stripping it into a Senate bill, sources tell HPR. But it still will need to pass Garton's "germaneness" muster. Daniels said his rapport goes well beyond leadership. "It is a broad-based thing. First thing this morning, Rep. Robertson wandered in. He came in, sat down and we talked about the riverboat proceeds. I met with large groups from both parties on that subject."

The legislative end game

When the casino revenue for local counties was targeted by Sen. Luke Kenley, that prompted river and lake county legislators to see the governor Tuesday morning. He was noncommittal. The governor finds himself in the catbird seat.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon saw himself as a "facilitator" in the final days of the 2002 tax restructuring. What role will Gov. Daniels play? Facilitator? Instigator?

"Hmmm. I hope I play the role of initiator, starting right at the onset," Daniels said. "We're trying to be looking at the big picture. I have every reason to believe we're going to succeed in most of the 51 separate initiatives we offered. I'm going to try to be very respectful of the legislature's role. I really have very few complaints other than a few weeks ago. I'm still in a very comfortable mood that we'll have a very good batting average when this is all over."

He acknowledges that taxes and gaming will be the finishing components of the 2005 session. What has he learned about gaming?

"These are tentative conclusions," he began. "I really don't know what's ahead. I would say that despite the dependence of the state on gambling revenue, I am impressed that there remains a principled opposition or restraint against further, wholesale expansion. I mean, a lot of people feel that the reflex actions can solve all their financial problems this way. The Colts and the mention of a casino were going to be the end of that story. But it isn't the end. It may not be part of the answer at all. Now, we'll see."

Daniels repeated his mantra: "My single biggest legislative objective is an honestly balanced budget for the state. I have politely insisted on that. I'll be as flexible as I can be on the ways to get there. I'm just noticing gambling is not the first



Daniels directed the band at his inaugural. Now he will direct the legislative end game. (HPR Photo)

HPR Taking a Spring Break

The Howey Political Report will be taking a spring spring Friday through next week. This will be the last edition until Monday, April 4 when the HPR Daily Wire returns. The next weekly edition of HPR will be published on Thursday, April 7.

refuge of everybody trying to solve that problem. I'm not saying there won't be some kind of collapse of that point of view, but for all the warnings I've tried to give on the social costs of gambling at the current level and the fiscal addiction problem, people are showing some restraint about it."

Asked about HPR's viewpoint that there is a lack of research caliber data on the subject, Gov. Daniels said, "I think that's right. But you can say that on many different subjects."

Does this state need research engines? "Absolutely. I keep looking. With the help of Lilly Endowment, I think I can get that kind of look," he said. "This question of gambling and other questions around like local government finance, I keep asking, 'What do we need to know that we don't? And who should be finding that out for us?' I hope if we work on this, we'll be able to draw on private resources to help us get to some of these questions."

Taxes or games?

Gov. Daniels believes he still has the best plan, as others offered by Sen. Luke Kenley and Rep. Jeff Espich have largely been shot down. He believes his 1 percent, one year temporary tax hike on households earning \$100,000 is still a

viable option.

"I didn't think a big casino in the middle of downtown Indianapolis was a good idea," he explained. "But I tried to encourage or at least not throw cold water on anybody's idea that might get us to balance. As people get more and more serious -- we're what, 70 days in? -- there's only one plan that gets us balanced. We can have a mix and match process. Different measures come in at different proportions. I'm not close-minded about virtually any of them."

He acknowledges that the fates of the Colts stadium and the budget are inextricably tied, though he cautions Indianapolis interests. "I constantly have to remind people here that it's a local issue," the governor explained. "It's a big one, but it's a local issue. It will get solved at the same time



the big issue is solved, which is how do we get to an honestly balanced budget?"

As for the other big tax component -- Sen. Kenley's move to replace property taxes with income taxes and local flexibility -- Gov. Daniels said he has been encouraging Kenley's exploration. "I've been talking to him a lot. I suggested him heading very much in this direction, disconnecting ... getting away from the scorpions in the bottle by decoupling state transfers to local governments from local spending, but providing more flexibility. You wouldn't have to limit yourself to just the income tax."

He sees the Kenley plan as a "departure" from the 2002 tax restructuring. "It's a fundamental departure after three-plus decades," Daniels explained. "There's only one set of taxpayers in Indiana. We will not automatically recycle a percentage as state and local spending growth. To me this is different than '02, which was another way to raise more money at large but leave in place the current system."

Definitive mark by year's end

Gov. Daniels was asked, How long before you have your mind around this and Hoosier government functions closer to your standards?

"I'd like to think we'll be there by the end of the year," he said. "It's all about the caliber of people we've got. The one reason I think so is we were able to trick some outstanding people to come in and take these jobs. We've never had a manager as good as Joel Silverman at Bureau of Motor Vehicles. We've never had a manager as good as this Dave Donahue guy at Corrections. He's very focused on the business of not just saving money, but of making sure his tenants don't come back very often."

He acknowledged the uncovering of problems while weeding the state garden.

FSSA is a "7 billion dollar enterprise without any kind of accounting system," he said. "There has been an eight-year project to put the state on People Software. As recently as today, talking to state employees in the cafeteria, there is a struggle to make this change. But the point is, inside government or with regard to these big societal issues, gambling, economic strength, we don't have the kind of information you wish you had so you know you are making the right choices."

Revelations?

"There are tons of them," Gov. Daniels said. "Some of them have worked their way out into the press; you know,

child protecton, INDOT, facilities with more staff than inmates."

He noted that in one agency with fewer than 100 people there were 62 laptop computers and 48 printers boxed in storage. "Why? Because at the end of the year when they had left-over money, they went out and spent it. So, yes, there are discoveries. The majority don't involve actual wrongdoing."

Will there be many indictments?

"There may be some.

A couple have already been referred," he said. "My view is I'm not so interested in seeing people indicted. I told my inspector general staff ... success for you guys will come when the leads dry up. What I'm really interested in is a watchdog that is effective enough that people stop trying

the things they shouldn't. It's the deterrent effect that I'm interested in. Knowing that someone is watching."



Daniels with Elkhart County Prosecutor Curtis Hill and Inspectro General Dave Thomas. (House Republican Photo)

School moratorium

He was asked about the 120-day school construction moratorium. "I've now seen some data," he said. "It is absolutely clear to me what I had strongly suspected. We spend far more in Indiana on our school buildings than the national average and far more than our neighboring states. I had an interim briefing yesterday. Our goal is to beat these deadlines, the 120 days, but I am more convinced than ever the need to protect taxpayers and to concentrate dollars in the classroom. You know the issue we have to face in education is overhead."

He perked up when news came that Tippecanoe School Corporation was eyeing a potential merger with Lafayette schools. "Yes I did," he said when asked whether he noticed that development. "Very interesting. That is the first one that I've seen. The whole question of fundamental restructuring may well have to come from bottom up. It will be a long time to where we're smart enough to somehow impose this. If you put local civil governments together, presto! You save a lot of money."

Jobs, jobs, jobs

Finally, Gov. Daniels promised impending job announcements on the economic development front. It echoed his campaign call to "aim higher" and "help is on the way." ❖



Speaker Bosma talks of Daniels, gaming, taxes, marriage ... and animals

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS -- After several weeks of HPR analysis of the "Animal House of Representatives," HPR Publisher Brian A. Howey was enjoying the St. Patrick's Day performance of Polka Boy at the Rathskeller when he turned around and - voila! - there was Speaker Bosma. Pleasantries were exchanged, and a breakfast interview was set up. Here is the exchange between the HPR publisher and House Speaker that took place Tuesday morning at LePeep's in downtown Indianapolis.



HPR: What's your critique of Gov. Daniels?

Bosma: The governor has been doing a great job. I think they came in with a certain degree of naivete about the legislative process. I'm not critical of them for that. They just have not been through it and it's a hard animal. They came in with high expectations and we're trying to meet the vast majority of those. He has been an unfailing communicator with legislative leadership. We've been together weekly for breakfast and have had constant communication during the week. I probably talk to the governor half a dozen times a week, many of those times at length, not just a passing conversation. He's done a great job of not only communicating, but reacting to our concerns with ideas and concepts, and, in some cases, changing course.

HPR: I know he's been frustrated; particularly over the walkout era. How do you think he's dealt with that?

Bosma: The first 48 hours was a shock for him. His reaction was one of being disgusted with it. He didn't see any reason why the major portion of his program should be torpedoed other than to torpedo him. And, frankly, I think that was part of the reason for it. His words and attitude were stern, but probably deservedly so.

HPR: So you think it was targeted at him?

Bosma: Yes, but he's calmed down now. We're going to resurrect the important parts of his agenda and the impor-

tant part of ours and are concentrating on working with us and the Democrats as well.

HPR: Is he rebuilding bridges with Democrats?

Bosma: I believe so. I know the conversations are going on. His tone is not what it was during those first 48 hours.

HPR: How important is it going to be for him to get some Democratic support on the budget?

Bosma: There are several scenarios. We could have an all Republican dance card on the budget, passing with 51 or 52 of our own votes. Or, because either gambling or taxes are involved, we lose some of our folks; or if there is not enough spending for some folks and we have to look at the Democratic side to complete the process.

HPR: I've been writing for a year and a half now that as far as the Colts go, the solution will either be higher taxes or gaming. Am I correct on that analysis?

Bosma: You are absolutely right. You cannot build a \$1 billion facility -- stadium and convention center -- for free. The money has to come from somewhere. The mayor seems to believe you can build a stadium in Marion County entirely at state expense, whether it is gambling or taxes. We have tried to, politely, inform him of that personally and legislatively.

I still don't think they're getting it. Regional legislators will never allow the state to build a new stadium with gambling money or state money alone. How we bring this together in the end remains to be seen. It will probably be the most difficult issue we deal with in the final weeks. I believe when you have a balanced approach where the state makes a healthy contribution, the city makes a healthy contribution and the Colts do, then we look to delay the convention center for two years, which we can do without losing any construction time, or find an alternate funding mechanism.

HPR: Sen. Kenley's plan, which hits Marion County businesses with a services tax, seems to forget that 77 percent of Colt attendees come from outside Indianapolis.

Bosma: I think a tax on services in Marion County is a little light. We'll have to see what the public reaction is, but I don't think it's going to be positive. One of the geniuses of Jeff Espich's \$10 ticket tax is that it is paid by the participants. It was really a doubling positive aspect. Most people don't realize they're already paying a \$5 per ticket tax on games at Conesco, the Dome and Victory Field to pay for Conesco Fieldhouse.

HPR: It seems that 10, 15 years after the lottery and



Speaker Bosma (right) with President Garton, applauding Gov. Daniels at the State of the State address. (House Republican Photo)



casinos came in, this state still has not reconciled its relationship with the gaming industry. I think it's safe to say that Hoosiers like to gamble.

Bosma: I think we all knew when gambling was legalized we would have to deal with addictive gambling. But I don't think all of us knew it was going to be the state. It seems that a large portion of our discussion at the General Assembly over the last 10 years has been those who want to expand gambling. It is now our third highest source of funding, surpassing corporate income tax. We're tied for third in gaming revenues in the country. So how far do we want to go down that path? Do we want to put slot machines in every restaurant? Do we forever change the flavor of downtown Indianapolis after 35 years of hard work to make it what it is today. Do we prop up an industry of horse breeding that seems to need continual propping up? It's the only industry that is propped up with state dollars.

HPR: And the horse racing industry maintains that slots will end that.

Bosma: That's what they said about the boarding money; that if they were given the boarding money, they would never need to be propped up. It's like heroin. Once you start, it's very hard to stop. It's my hope we get through this session without an expansion of gambling.

HPR: So, with the cherry masters, you see the Excise Police and the various ABCs going out and cracking down?

Bosma: I think we ought to enforce the law. For everyone to wink at it is like our ridiculous fireworks law. I think we're encouraging lawbreaking. Could we make an accommodation for the service industry? Maybe. But to have a half dozen machines in the back rooms of the truck stops across the state is pretty ridiculous.

HPR: Where is the line drawn between keeping the gaming industry competitive and stimulating tax revenues and what you call the "expansion of gambling"?

Bosma: The question is whether we want to encourage the expansion of gambling and where? I think we're fully invested in the gambling industry at this point.

HPR: The political and cultural reality favors the marriage amendment. It seems to preclude any kind of civil unions in the future. What is the problem with civil unions?

Bosma: A lot of the horror stories that these couples don't have these rights are really presented incorrectly. Couples of any persuasion, whether they are in a committed relationship or not, are free to will their property to each other.

Same sex couples can, by will, do what statute does for those with traditional marriage. Those wanting to visit those in the hospitals aren't acquainted with Indiana's health care power of attorney law, in which you can designate the person who makes medical decisions on your behalf. There are ways, through contract, couples can express their commitment to each other and receive virtually everything other than government benefits, which is a concern. While some have depicted this as a response to take rights away from those in alternative lifestyles, it's really an attempt to protect what is our fundamental society, which is traditional marriage between a man and a woman. If we allow that interpretation to be something else, then people will try to do all sorts of odd things. I hate to use the words slippery slope, I don't know how you stop relationships we all agree are inappropriate.

HPR: Mayor Peterson's Indianapolis Works legislation could have been written by a Republican. Sen. Lugar endorsed it. What's wrong with letting it pass and letting the mayor and the City-County Council reshape the city?

Bosma: It was Rep. Hinkle's conclusion that the information supplied by the mayor was incomplete, that it didn't give an adequate picture of what was going on.

HPR: But isn't that the function of the City-County Council, not the legislature?

Bosma: If he was doing that on his own, to change some Unigov statute, that's absolutely his pervue. But when he comes to the legislature to change state law that was created by the legislature, it is the responsibility of the legislature. I've sat down with both the advocates and detractors and I'm not sure anyone's figures are right. Take the mayor's plan to consolidate the police. To me, that's a no-brainer. I thought if there was a portion that would go through, it would be the law enforcement portion. We could sort through the 14 fire departments later because of the complexity of it.

HPR: But that's the role of the City-County Council. They are the ones who should be making those decisions.

Bosma: It is my understanding that they can take many actions to do what the mayor is asking the legislature to do on their own. But the mayor's tactic is to bring it to us and say, "Here, change this or I'm going to raise taxes." It's up to us to take a good look at it and make sure it's good public policy.

HPR: Why do you think Lugar endorsed it then?

Bosma: I'm not sure. I'm wondering how much time





Sen. Lugar spent looking over this proposal. I am wondering about the accuracy of the information he was provided. I know the information we received was inaccurate. I endorse the concept. We should not have 14 fire departments in Marion County.

HPR: You seem to be wanting the outcomes first. That would be like knowing the details of a biennial budget ... in January.

Bosma: When the original Unigov statute of enacted, then Mayor Lugar traveled the state and met with all 150 legislators and made his case. So when it came time for policy makers to make decisions, they had a confidence level. They understood the program. The mayor and I sat down and talked about this once. I don't know how many legislators he met with. The information he handed out to our legislators was clearly erroneous. So the homework was not done well on this issue. We haven't said no. In fact we put this issue on our top 40. It needs to be looked at. It's my hope that this summer we can look at this, with financial experts, and come up with a sensible merger plan.

HPR: You heard the exchange between LaPorte Mayor Leigh Morris and Gov. Daniels at the IACT luncheon. What's your perspective on a reform of state and local government? Maybe even a Constitutional Convention?

Bosma: My reaction was positive. It is time to look at our local governance to make sure the model that was creat-

ed in 1851 works today. It doesn't make sense to have 298 separate school corporations with separate purchasing agents. Does it make sense to have 1,008 separate townships doing poor relief and other services? Probably not. We have a different paradigm today. But there are a half dozen issues that need our attention today. Certainly we ought to have a healthy discussion on this.

HPR: When I say constitutional convention, does that make your skin crawl?

Bosma: It doesn't make my skin crawl, but I do hear those who say it would open the door for every hare-brained idea.

HPR: That's where good leadership comes in.

Bosma: I think we have to take a look and see how many of these changes have to occur constitutionally and how many can occur statutorially. I would probably concur with the more conservative approach for the General Assembly to put those in a referendum.

HPR: Will this session end up on time?

Bosma: I pledged to start on time, work hard and do my best to end on time. It is our goal to do just that. I think we're on track for that. The only issue I see out there that could stall before April 29 is the Colts. But progress is being made in that regard. Whether it's a good thing, the General Assembly does its best work under pressure. ❖

Our fly on the wall at One North Capitol

Lewis-Burks remains Democratic vice chair

By ANONYMOUS

INDIANAPOLIS - Word is gradually leaking out from an unusual Democratic state committee meeting this past Saturday, where internal fissures are threatening a party already reeling from November's losses.

It appears that several individuals close to Sen. Evan Bayh, upset as they were with Vice Chair Cordelia Lewis-Burks for not supporting fellow Hoosier Tim Roemer in his bid to become national party chairman, decided to launch an effort to depose her as state party vice chair and national committeewoman.

However, rather than recruit another African-American to take her on, they settled on Hobart Mayor Linda Buzinec, which opened the door for Lewis-Burks to do what she claimed she would not do -- play the "race card." (Lewis-Burks reportedly prompted a mention on Amos Brown's TV

show regarding whether State Chair Dan Parker and party Executive Director Mike Edmondson were sufficiently sensitive to the needs of the minority community.)

In addition to enlisting the support of U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, who appeared at Saturday's meeting, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson backed Lewis-Burks as did the increasingly assertive Indiana House Black Caucus.

The result: When the state committee members deadlocked 9 to 9 between Lewis-Burks and Mayor Buzinec, State Chair Parker (a close confidante of Sen. Bayh) cast the tie-breaking vote to retain Lewis-Burks, who he had very much wanted to see replaced).

Notwithstanding the tie-breaker vote in her favor, reliable sources tell HPR that Lewis-Burks, an AFSCME union official, wants "payback" and will be gunning for Parker and those on the state committee who tried to replace her.

Not a favorable situation for a new state chairman who, faced with trying to unify a fractious party out of power, now presides over an equally divided state central committee.

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Til death do us part?

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS -- Memo to my sons, my parents, my sisters, the state courts, the federal courts, and U.S. Reps. Mark Souder, John Hostettler and Mike Pence:

If, somehow, some day I end up brain dead ... in a vegetative state ... please let me go. I'll be ready to meet my maker. Bodily death is a beautiful part of life. While it is always initially tough to get your mind around leaving earthly, bodily confines, it is the ultimate and inevitable goal. If my mind goes ... just let me go.

On this Monday morning, ironically on the first full day of Spring when life is renewed, we find ourselves in a perplexing station here in the United States of America.



Michael Schiavo, the husband of Terri Schiavo, wants to let her die. We all know this case. Terri Schiavo has been declared in a "persistent vegetative state" for the past 15 years. She has no thought process. Her cerebral cortex is said to be "liquified." Her husband said it is her directive to complete the life cycle. For the past seven years, the spouse of Terri Schiavo and her parents have battled over whether to let her die.

After the state courts ruled in favor of the husband, and the U.S. Supreme Court passed on the case, Congress and President Bush have now intervened. "If we do not act, she will die of thirst," House Majority Leader Tom DeLay said.

"It is an invasion of the American people when you make a family matter public," said Michael Schiavo. "This is what Terri wanted, this is Terri's wish. It's not President Bush's wish. They should be ashamed of themselves."

U.S. Rep. Mark Souder voted for legislation written to ensure that Terri Schiavo's constitutional right to life will be given the federal court review that her situation demands. The House passed the bill by a bipartisan majority vote of 203-58. "We don't allow animals to starve to death, and early this morning we voted to let Terri's parents make their case," Souder said. "This young woman isn't unconscious, comatose or brain dead. And she's not on artificial life support. She smiles, cries and responds to those around her. She's a disabled woman who needs help eating, just as many disabled people do. We only have one chance to get this right. There's no second chance, because she'll be dead from starvation."

And U.S. Rep. Mike Pence is choosing the sanctity of life over the sanctity of marriage. "A society is judged by the way that it treats its most vulnerable citizens," Pence told the Associated Press. "No person in America should be deprived of the right to life without due process of law and Terri

Schiavo is no different. Terri Schiavo deserves to have her constitutional rights adjudicated by our federal courts and that right must not be infringed by any agency of government at any level."

The statements of Reps. Pence and Souder raise profound questions.

If marriage is sanctified, as both these Republicans have insisted, then doesn't the spouse have the final call in life and death situations? Didn't the father "give away" his daughter just prior to wedding vows at the altar?

Souder is now saying that the parents have this right. Where does this leave marriage? Both Pence and Souder have long been ardent proponents of the "rule of law." And states rights. When I asked Pence about marriage recently, he said that it is a state rights issue.

So after 20 Florida judges heard the Schiavo case and the final ruling was to allow her to die, as her husband said was her own directive, why is the federal government intervening?

These Republicans are trying to have it both ways. Marriage is sanctified ... unless the parents want to intervene, counter the wishes of husband and wife. Marriage is a state issue ... unless Congress, perhaps motivated by politics, decides to intervene. Pence was quick to laud ethically embattled House Majority Leader Tom DeLay. "I especially commend the heart of our Majority Leader Tom DeLay and Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner for their willingness to intervene in this case on behalf of this woman's constitutional rights," Pence said.

The war of Republican politicians against "activist judges" has taken a wild and profound turn.

The implications could be immense. "Congress' overreaching flies in the face of our entire system of checks and balances, trashes the partial sovereignty of the states, and flouts the protections our laws afford state adjudication from drive-by attacks by those disaffected with the results," Harvard University Prof. Laurence Tribe told the Christian Science Monitor.

"It's a real showdown with the courts," said Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, who has been in continuous contact with congressional leaders and "our grass-roots across the country" on the case (Christian Science Monitor).

Thousands of people are allowed to die via spouse or family directive every day. The government of Mike Pence and Mark Souder is now clearly in our bedrooms and dinner table.

And the people may not be happy about that. An ABC News poll on Sunday said 35 percent support the federal law rushed through Congress ... and 60 percent were opposed. We may be witnessing not only a personal and family tragedy with the Schiavo case, but an epic political overreach. ❖





David Rutter, *Post-Tribune* - When you're just trying to do God's work, fate can be a sudden, unpleasant torment. Like a big, wet, stinky cosmic fish slapped upside your head. Ask Lake County Sheriff Roy Dominguez. He got the wet-fish-in-the-ear treatment this week. He was zooming down Interstate 65 on a mission of mercy, as is always the case when the worst happens. The sheriff, a passenger in one of his county cop cars, was one of what seemed like a starting NASCAR grid of cop cars supplying mercy convoy duty on Tuesday. Ten bus loads of property-tax protesters were hauling themselves down to Indy to have a terse word with the gov. The sheriff was required in this duty, he said. "There were lots of elderly people on those buses," Dominguez said. "What if, God forbid, one of them were to have a heart attack? Our officers are trained in first aid, and there are first-aid kits in the squad cars." Yeah, I know, I know, but it was what he said. The motto on the side of Lake County cop cars apparently has been changed to: "To protect, serve and apply emergency defibrillation to old ladies on buses." So when the squad car flipped several times after clipping a semi — suffering what appeared to be a \$30,000 total loss — he was set upon by all manner of small-minded critics. They demanded to know what the Sam Hill he was doing frittering taxpayers' money on such a vaudevillian political production. I don't know who Sam Hill was. But his name was involved in many parental discussions of my youth, and the inquiries were never in a positive vein. I can't offer a more hilarious explanation why he was there than the one he presented. And neither could Sam Hill. ❖

Gary Gerard, *Warsaw Times-Union* - This was a week when, in a couple instances, fact truly was stranger than fiction. Following is a compendium of things that defy laws of common sense. Gas prices. As I am writing this, gas prices are right around \$2.25 per gallon. And it's not even the expensive, vacation gas time of year. I hear people complaining. You know, I think people in America need a simple economics lesson. Let's discuss the law of supply and demand, for example. The more demand there is for something, the more difficult it is to supply. The more difficult it is to supply something, the more it costs. So, at a time when there are tight supplies of oil, Americans should be reducing their demand for gasoline. Is that what we're doing? Oh no, we're breaking records in demand for gasoline. Therefore, prices will rise. Decrease demand, prices will fall. I understand the concepts of comfort, convenience and safety. I understand that the current crop of enormous SUVs are comfortable. Heck, they've practically got La-Z-Boys for seats. I know you

can haul lots of stuff in them. I know they're pretty safe. But there is a price to be paid. And we're paying it at the pump. You could drill holes all over the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve and all up and down the Gulf Coast and still not produce enough petroleum to satisfy the American motoring public. I overheard a guy talking the other day while filling up his pickup. It was a Ford F250 4x4. It had four doors. Aftermarket window tint. A modest lift kit, cool chrome wheels, brush guard, fog lights, stainless exhaust with some kind of mufflers that made it growl a little bit. It was absolutely awesome. The owner was complaining about gas prices. It made me chuckle. It's like complaining about the price of milk while you're pouring it down the drain. ❖

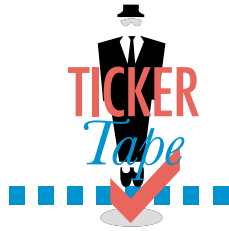
Peter Ciancone, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star* - Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman got a good chuckle out of (South Vigo High School) students after being asked if she thought women, in general, have to be more qualified than a man in order to be considered for a job. It seemed that she was a little reluctant to give this answer, and she asked everyone in the room not to take it the wrong way, but she said, "I believe sometimes women think they have to be over-qualified to even apply. Men sometimes think they're born qualified." Frankly, the Spectator has seen the truth behind that so many times that it's hard to imagine why Skillman would be shy about saying it. Good on Skillman for telling it squarely to teenagers. The moral of that one is, "Don't be shy." ❖

Jeffri Chadiha, *Sports Illustrated* - For some strange reason, I thought Bob Knight would be over this by now. His Texas Tech team is one of the biggest stories of the NCAA Tournament. That should be enough reason for him to rejoice and to avoid whining about the past. But Knight can't help himself. When it comes to his former employer, Indiana University, the bitterness boils continually while the feelings of injustice can't escape his soul. It's really sad, too. Thanks to the Red Raiders' victory over Gonzaga last Saturday, Knight is making his first appearance in the Sweet 16 since 1994. But that moment hasn't generated half as much buzz as the recent interview Knight gave Sporting News Radio. During that conversation, he claimed he stayed "six years too long" at the university, bashed former Indiana athletic director Clarence Doninger and declared he had planned on firing current Hoosiers head coach Mike Davis when Davis was a member of Knight's Indiana staff. Five years have passed since Indiana axed Knight after a 29-year coaching career in Bloomington. The way he ranted, it sounded as if he keeps voodoo dolls of Doninger and Davis in his bedroom. ❖



Reed calls for school background checks

INDIANAPOLIS - In light of tragic Florida news regarding the abduction, molesting, and murdering of a third grade girl, Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction, today asked Indiana school corporations to review their policies regarding background checks of employees or employees of contractors. "Indiana is very fortunate to already have a law in place that requires school corporations to have a policy regarding background research of employees or prospective employees," said Reed. "With recent national events serving as unfortunate and tragic reminders, school safety is of the utmost importance. This is one more way of keeping Indiana's students in a safe learning environment."



Skillman testifies before Senate Ag committee

INDIANAPOLIS - The effort to create an Indiana Department of Agriculture passed one of its final hurdles today. This morning Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, who serves as Indiana Commissioner of Agriculture, testified before the Indiana Senate Agriculture and Small Business Committee on behalf of HB 1008. Following testimony, the committee approved the bill and sent it to the full Senate. "We are closer than ever to giving Indiana agriculture the recognition and attention it is due," said Lt. Governor Skillman. "With leadership, vision, and effort, we are convinced Indiana can become the capitol

for bio-based products in the nation. We also pledge to create a visionary economic development strategy that will create jobs and opportunities throughout this sector. With the creation of this department comes a new day in Indiana agriculture." Under House Bill 1008 a Department of Agriculture and separate Office of Rural Affairs would be formed. By law, the Lt. Governor will hold the position of Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. However, the Daniels-Skillman Administration chose Andy Miller to act as the state's first Director of Agriculture. This will be a cabinet level position in the Daniels Administration. Over the next several months the structure and function of both agencies will be determined through an aggressive strategic planning process. They are scheduled to be unveiled at the Indiana State Fair this August.

Court rules against Schiavo feeding tube

ATLANTA - For the second time in less than a day, a federal appeals court Wednesday rejected a bid by Terri Schiavo's parents to have her feeding tube re-inserted. Florida lawmakers, meanwhile, debated another last-ditch effort to prolong her life (*Associated Press*). In a 10-2 decision, the Atlanta-based U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused Bob and Mary Schindler's request for an "expedited rehearing" by the full court. A three-judge panel from the same court ruled against the family earlier Wednesday. The court did not immediately give an explanation for its decision. The parents have vowed to take their fight to the U.S. Supreme Court, which has refused to get involved previously. Supporters of the parents grew increasingly dismayed by the developments, and 10 protesters were

arrested outside Schiavo's hospice for trying to bring her water. The severely brain-damaged woman's mother pleaded, again, that her daughter be kept alive. "When I close my eyes at night, all I can see is Terri's face in front of me, dying, starving to death," Mary Schindler said outside the hospice. "Please, someone out there, stop this cruelty. Stop the insanity. Please let my daughter live." Terri Schiavo has not received any nourishment since the tube was pulled Friday afternoon. By late Tuesday, Terri's eyes were sunken, her skin was parched and flaking and her lips and tongue were parched, said Barbara Weller, an attorney for the Schindlers. Doctors have said she could survive one to two weeks without the feeding tube. A lawyer for Michael Schiavo said he was "very pleased" by the initial appeals court ruling. But he worried that, as her parents ran out of options, either Gov. Jeb Bush or lawmakers might try again to take Terri Schiavo into their custody and circumvent years of court rulings that support the husband's position. Michael Schiavo argued that his wife has no hope of recovery and would want to die.

Bush calls Schiavo case 'very sad'

DALLAS - President Bush said Wednesday he is watching how federal courts deal with the Terri Schiavo case and defended actions by himself and Congress to try to prolong her life (*Associated Press*). But he sidestepped a question on what avenues might remain, if any, for him, saying he had previously "looked at all options" before signing a bill giving federal courts jurisdiction. "This is an extraordinary and sad case," Bush said.

