



HOWEY

Political Report

V 12, No 31 *Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics*

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Immigrant Wars

Lugar sees zealotry, but Ellsworth wants to enforce laws

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

It was one of those news cycles where you had to recheck where the "Rs" and "Ds" really were.

There was Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth sending out a press release announcing he was against "amnesty" for illegal immigrants. "Giving law-breakers amnesty is wrong," Ellsworth said. "We need to crack down on illegal immigrants, not give them an excuse to break the law."

Ellsworth called for Senate passage of a measure sponsored by Republican Representatives James Sensenbrenner of Wisconsin and Peter King of New York that passed the House in December. It is intended to increase security on the nation's borders and require employers to verify job applicants' immigration status before hiring them. "For far too long folks in Washington have ignored this problem," Ellsworth said. "Now, illegal immigrants account for one of every 20 workers, taking jobs from Americans and breaching the security of our homeland."



U.S. Rep. John Hostettler (top, left), who chairs a House committee on immigration, is an ardent opponent of immigration expansion. He is shown talking to a constituent in a photo on his office website. His Democratic opponent, Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth (left), agrees.

It was a volatile news cycle. American cities from Los Angeles to Milwaukee had erupted into massive protests over immigration. Sen. Richard Lugar questioned whether any bill will end up on President Bush's desk because the Senate is unlikely to go along with the approach adopted by "zealots" in the House last year, according to the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*. "A good number of people there wanted a (campaign) issue and



"I came to Indiana for one reason. I think you can win championships at Indiana."

— *New Indiana University*
basketball Coach Kelvin Sampson

The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink Inc. It was founded in 1994.

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Subscriptions:
\$350 annually HPR via e-mail;
\$550 annually HPR & HPR Daily Wire.
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wanted to say they had met the issue rather than were serious about facing a huge American dilemma,” Lugar said.

And U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, one of 17 Republicans opposed to the House plan, derided it and call it “the most divisive issue” facing Republicans. He told the *Journal Gazette’s* Sylvia Smith, “All the individuals who so piously say that they believe anything that acknowledges that people are here illegally is amnesty admit we can’t even find the drug dealers to throw them out, let alone the 15 to 18 million people,” Souder said. “They have a good sound bite, but – let’s just put it bluntly – they all admit that we can’t deport the people who are here. So, how do they propose to address it? Have them be shadow people the rest of their lives?”

Ellsworth’s position shouldn’t be surprising. It is a political necessity in a state that has already been buffeted by isolationist and anti-foreigner rhetoric over issues such as the Indiana Toll Road lease. It comes in a state where dozens of communities are seeing distinct acceleration in Hispanic immigration. And, of course, Southwestern Indiana is very conservative.

Ellsworth's opponent, U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee for Immigration, Border Security and Claims. In that position, he has been a leading advocate of a crackdown on illegal immigration. The Federation for Immigration Reform gives Hostettler a 100 percent rating. The six-term Republican voted yes on a bill that would report illegal aliens who receive hospital treatment. He voted against a bill for more immigrant visas for skilled workers.

“Illegal immigration hurts American workers,” Hostettler said on March 19 at the World Gospel Church in Terre Haute (Greninger, *Terre Haute Tribune-Star*). “From 2000 to 2004, over half a million American jobs were lost. In 2004, there were more than half a million fewer native-born Americans employed than in 2000,” said Hostettler, R-Blairsville.

“It was not from a change in demographics, but rather there were a half million fewer jobs held by native-born American citizens. However, in the same time period there were over 2.2 million new jobs that were held by foreign-born workers,” Hostettler said.

Hostettler cited a net increase of about 1.7 million jobs, entirely the result of foreign-born workers, with half of those in the nation illegally, he said.

“**There is little empirical evidence** to support the notion that new immigrants are taking large numbers of jobs that Americans do not want to do,” he said.

Immigration added 1.1 million adult workers in these categories over the four-year period, “but there was nearly 2 million unemployed, adult native-born Americans in those same occupations in 2004,” Hostettler said.

HPR taking next week off

Next week, there will be no *Howey Political Reports* or *HPR Daily Wires* as we are taking a spring break. Whew.

We urge *HPR* subscribers to check into the *HPR* website - www.howeypolitics.com - for updates of vital news and headlines next week. The *HPR* website has become the new “hub” of Indiana politics, featuring original commentary, links to key blogs and campaigns. Soon to come will be the *HPR* “money line” following campaign finance.

There are also new advertising opportunities as the *HPR* website works to triple its monthly hits. To receive the *HPR advertising rate card*, contact us at brian-howey@howeypolitics.com.

The Howey Political Report will return on Thursday, April 13 and the *HPR Daily Wire* will be back in production on Monday April 10. ❖

There are an estimated 11 million to 12 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. today, Hostettler said. “Immigration also threatens our national security. The 9/11 Commission said if we had simply enforced immigration laws in place in 2001, the catastrophic events of 9/11 might not have happened,” Hostettler said.

Protecting U.S. borders is a constitutional obligation of the federal government, said Hostettler, who also is a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Hostettler said he opposes a guest worker program, that would “effectively render the presence of about six million illegal aliens who are currently illegally employed; it would deem them legally present in the U.S. As a result of illegal immigration and to some level legal immigration, American workers have been displaced,” he said.

Ellsworth campaign manager Jay Howser said that Ellsworth’s position is not a stretch. “He’s a law enforcement officer. When people break the law, the laws need to be enforced,” Howser said of the sheriff in an *HPR* interview this morning. “He’s all for immigration -- legally. And Brad doesn’t believe Americans don’t want to do the jobs. Millions are no longer counted in the unemployment statistics. Millions of Americans will take those jobs.”

Howser doesn’t know how many illegals are in the 8th CD. He said that Hostettler “has been in office 12 years” and that the number of illegal immigrants “has doubled.”

“Where’s the congressman been for 12 years?” Howser asked. ❖



The new HPR Commentators

For more than a dozen years, HPR Publisher Brian Howey and Washington writer Mark Schoeff Jr. wrote 90 percent of the weekly newsletter.

With the new *HPR* website, and now beginning with today's edition of *The Howey Political Report*, we are expanding our horizons with new voices.

Our featured commentators -- J. Cameron Carter, WXNT's Abdul Hakim Shabazz and IU law student Joshua Claybourn of Evansville -- will articulate conservative angles. Jennifer Wagner of the Indiana Democrats, Kyle Cox and

David Galvin will offer counterpoints. Each of these writers has, in our opinion, excellent real life experiences and the proverbial sky is the limit for each of them. Read their biographies at www.howeypolitics.com and watch for their commentaries here and on the HPR website.

In addition, HPR has added Mark Curry of Kensington, Md., to cover the emerging presidential campaign of U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh.

HPR has expanded. There are more original voices. More reporting throughout the world. We are extending to you a more dynamic, evolving product. We feel the sky is our limit, too.

- **Brian A. Howey** ❖

Wagner: The flak of immigration

By JENNIFER WAGNER

There's a lot of talk flying right now about immigration reform, an issue that seems to be splitting the GOP down the middle inside the Beltway and elsewhere.

What to do about illegal immigrants? Let them stay on as guest workers or build a wall around our country?

I know which plan is more xenophobic, but that's apparently a word that only Indiana Republicans are allowed to use when they're trying shove their plan to sell off state assets down Hoosiers' throats.



So let's stick to the issue at hand.

A recent poll found that a majority of legal immigrants think illegal immigrants are good for the economy. And I'd venture to guess that a majority of business owners agree that they couldn't run their enterprises without immigrant labor. See, immigrants, legal and otherwise, tend to do the work no one else wants to do in this country. They're the third-shift janitors you never see. They work food-prep jobs in the kitchens of your favorite restaurants. They might even have built the house you live in.

And popular sentiment seems to be that they're better employees than many Americans because this truly is a land of opportunity for them. That's not to say we don't need rules and possibly immigration reform, but the concept of building a wall around our borders strikes me as a bit counterintuitive on several levels.

First, though there apparently are those on Capitol Hill who believe the melting pot is full, we'd be wise not to forget that most of us came here as immigrants centuries or decades ago.

Second, if the millions of immigrants in this country suddenly went away, where would that leave our economy? Find me an American teen-ager who really, really wants to

clean toilets, and I'll buy you a tall, frosty beer.

Let's face it: Americans could learn a lot from the work ethic displayed by those who weren't born here, be they legal or not. We should be taking our cues from those who save up money for their families instead of maxing out half a dozen credit cards on big-screen televisions and fancy cars.

So let's have a real debate about immigration. Let's talk about ways to punish employers who hire illegal immigrants while bringing those who are here illegally out of the shadows and into the mainstream workforce.

There's a huge difference between knowing who's crossing our borders and building a wall to keep everyone out. ❖

Abdul: So what's a few illegal aliens between friends?

By ABDUL HAKIM SHABAZZ

I enjoy a good martini and my house servant Manolo makes a great one. I won't comment on his immigration status, but you're smart so think about it. He cooks, he cleans and he makes great alcoholic beverages. I don't know about you, but I am not a big fan of manual labor. I don't clean up after other people. I prefer to have someone else cook. And I prefer to have someone else keep up my property. And I honestly believe, given the chance, you would too. If you are like me, who has more worldly and intellectual pursuits to enjoy, then I must ask you ladies and gentlemen, "Why all the fuss about illegal immigrants?" Or as I fondly call them on my radio program, "UGWs." (Undocumented Guest Workers)



It's estimated there are 11-12 million UGWs in the United States. We saw a good many of them recently as well as other Americans taking to the streets protesting Congress'



proposals to crack down on illegals.

And it's not just Congress a number of states have looked at cracking down on illegals. According to the Associated Press, New Hampshire would fine businesses up to \$2,500 if they hire workers not authorized to be in the country. Arizona would build a wall and spend \$50 million on a radar system to track anyone who crosses over from Mexico. Georgia would have local police to check the immigration status of everybody they arrest. An attempt to crack-down on UGW's this year overwhelmingly failed in the Indiana House of Representatives.

Despite all these efforts, I think we are looking at the UGW issue the wrong way. Instead of tackling the issue from a supply perspective, I propose we look at things from a demand perspective. The UGW's come here not because there is a supply, but because we demand the cheap labor.

We Americans like to spend a lot of money, but we also want to get the biggest bang for our buck. So all things being equal, we usually pick the cheaper item. Many sectors

of the economy enjoy a certain benefit from the cheap labor. According to the Pew Hispanic Center, more than 1 of every 4 drywall installers and landscape workers are illegal, 1 in 5 workers in meat and poultry packing and 1 in 6 in the leisure and hospitality industry or construction. Think about that.

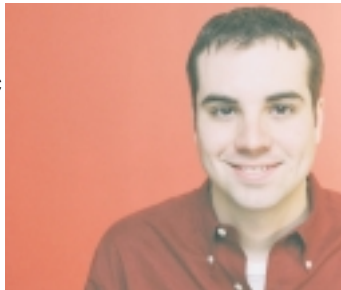
According to some experts, if every illegal immigrant was deported this nation's economy would not come to a complete halt, but it sure would slow down. With cheap labor no longer available, prices would rise for food, child-care, household maintenance. Businesses would have to pay workers more, and the demand for workers in some trades would drop.

We say we are willing to pay more, but I doubt that. Especially since the nation's largest retailer is Wal-Mart, which is well known for its low prices. We are addicted to illegal immigrants and the low wages they get which turns into the low prices we pay. Until we get rid of the demand we will never get rid of the supply. It's simple economics. I'm off now. Manolo has just finished my martini. ❖

Claybourn: Everyone is touched

By JOSHUA CLAYBOURN

Everyone has been touched by America's illegal immigration epidemic in some way, but the sheer volume of illegals crossing the border can be overwhelming. The Pew Hispanic Center used Census Bureau data to estimate that the United States had 11.1 million illegal immigrants in March 2005. But the center now estimates it has grown to a whopping 12 million and illegals account for one of every 20 workers.



And not all of them are from Mexico. According to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), at least 78,000 illegal aliens come from terror-supporting countries. And according to government statistics hundreds of foreign nationals suspected of terrorist involvement receive U.S. visas each year because of lapses in the background check system.

As mid-term congressional elections quickly approach, candidates nationwide are using these national security concerns as a central campaign issue. Rep. John Hostettler (R), facing a tight race with challenger Brad Ellsworth (D) recently said, "Immigration also threatens our national security. The 9/11 Commission said if we had simply enforced immigration laws in place in 2001, then catastrophic events of 9/11 might not have happened."

With Democratic leader Harry Reid threatening to filibuster any immigration bill that does not include amnesty for illegal aliens, Republicans are perfectly poised to capture the issue. Will it work? A new Gallup Poll released Tuesday

reveals the issue Americans worry about most is "the availability and affordability of healthcare." 68% said they worry about this a "great deal," with Social Security garnering 51%. Indeed "the possibility of terrorist attacks in the U.S." ranked a distant sixth in a ranking of issues.

For Republicans the national security threat from illegal immigrants may not pay election dividends. But is illegal immigration so distinct from "the availability and affordability of healthcare"? What happens to that availability and affordability when the country's twelve million illegal aliens become eligible Medicaid? Right now those illegals are ineligible. But if many Democrats have their way these illegal immigrants will be considered guest-workers or given amnesty. Medicaid and a whole host of other government programs for the poor will suddenly be available to them.

This fact seems to be largely missing from the debate and the result could cripple state and federal budgets. As of last year 58 million Americans depended on Medicaid for basic health services, a 26 percent increase from 2001. An additional twelve million added because of amnesty or guest-worker status would yield another 21 percent increase on the taxpayer dime.

Medicaid is just the tip of the iceberg. Food stamps, Head Start, and thousands of unique state programs will also be an issue. Congress can stipulate that any amnesty or guest-worker program must declare ineligibility for government benefits. But those stipulations aren't certain to be included, and even if they are, the recent nationwide protests demonstrate the power of the immigrant rights advocates. For Republicans to successfully campaign on illegal immigration, their strain on public healthcare costs must be part of the equation. ❖



Andy Jacobs surveys another war

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - On Sunday, there was former congressman Andrew Jacobs Jr. at Big Hat Books in Broad Ripple, reading on C-SPAN from his newly updated book, *"The 1600 Killers: A Wake-Up Call for Congress."* It is a 1999 chronology of the "unconstitutional wars" waged by U.S. presidents since 1945.

It contains new chapters dealing with Iraq. In the chapter, *"The Whens of War,"* Jacobs quotes his father, a former one-term congressman himself, saying, "There are too many people making history who have never read history."

He calls Sept. 11 "the tragedy of our time." But, he adds, "It was also the great money-maker for huge campaign-contributing government contractors who didn't pay much tax on contract profits because of tax preferences finagled as another consequence of the contributions."

"The falsely 9-11 premised Iraq war was a gold mine of no-bid billion boondoggle contracts to 'rebuild Iraq' after the 'shock-and-awe' mass destruction rained on it by the U.S. invasion."

In a one-page Chapter 12 - *"Mad Math"* - Jacobs writes, "There will be wars and rumors of wars. Not being a cynic, I'm not so sure about that. I am, however, quite sure about this: The apocalyptic prophecy is more likely to be validated when those we supposed to be educated and intelligent declare that war is a reasonable means by which to 'achieve clearly definable aims.'"

He asks, "Have you ever seen two grown men in a bare-knuckle fist fight on a sidewalk?" If so, he says, your reaction would be "shock? Disgust? Insecurity? Probably all three. Yet, multiply those two men by tens of thousands and intensify the violence by tons of dynamite, steel and gunpowder with the resultant quantum of blood, viscera, stone-cold rigor mortis and corresponding broken hearts back home and frail wise men such as writer George Will will vicariously celebrate this madness of war, itself, as 'a profession.' Go figure."

HPR's Brian A. Howey sat down with Jacobs and his two nephews at Shalimar Indian Restaurant in Broad Ripple on Wednesday, where we had this conversation:

HPR: Last week, Vice President Cheney explained that he would serve out the rest of his term, insisting he was "drafted." Were you surprised to learn Cheney was drafted for anything?

Jacobs: It was one of those self-drafts. An old come-

dian named Eddie Mayhoff in a film with Jerry Lewis called *"That's My Boy"* and he was the great athlete. He was the kind of guy who never got away from college. A razor blade company did an ad with him and here's what he said: "Who was the greatest athlete of all time? Modest as I am I have to admit it was me." Bad grammar. Dick Cheney told the Bush family, "Who was the best candidate for vice president? Modest as I am, it is I." He had a lot of college and a lot of scholarship."

HPR: And, what? Five deferments from Vietnam?

Jacobs: But he had good grammar.

HPR: The last general we had as president was Eisenhower and he had three different opportunities to go to war and chose not to. Is that a correct assessment?

Jacobs: Yes it is.

HPR: Hungary, Vietnam, Suez ...

Jacobs: It was Hungary, Mideast.

Dien Bien Phu in '54. Admiral Arthur Radford was chairman of the joint chiefs and of course Nixon was vice president and they were harping at a security meeting for Eisenhower to send in air strikes to help the doomed French. The United States financed 80 percent of the French immoral re-entry into Indochina. The reason for that was they were having a hard time persuading France that Germany should be rearmed for NATO. That was the price the United States paid. And I knew Arthur Fleming pretty well at HEW and he was then part of that council. And the next

day, Eisenhower made a public announcement: "This country will not go to war except through the constitutional process that gives Congress the warmaking power." As I said in my book: think of it, a president of the United States who can read and comprehend the Constitution to preserve, protect and defend. Eisenhower, not a member of my party, and John Adams, not a president of my party, are my favorite presidents because nothing is more important to me than saving some hapless young American from being blown to bits as a prop in somebody's damn political career. That is a monstrous realm that neither can nor ever should be forgiven.

HPR: Are you aware of an correlation between presidents who have served in battle and the way they governed? Kennedy and Eisenhower served in battle. Kennedy was preparing to exit Vietnam.

Jacobs: The war hawk has never been to war and, by definition, doesn't know what he's talking about. The Democrats of 1952 insisted if you elect Eisenhower, he'll get us into war. And all cottage cheese is made in cottages.



Former congressman Andrew Jacobs Jr. (HPR Photo)



Eisenhower is the premier peace president.

HPR: Should Americans be looking at a general in 2008?

Jacobs: I think they could do worse than Wesley Clark. Are you talking about the glitter, or keeping us out of war?

HPR: I'm talking about the been there, done that, know what it's like to hear a real bullet whiz by your head. Something President Bush and Vice President Cheney never got to experience in college and the Alabama Air National Guard.

Jacobs: Wesley Clark seems to understand the provisions of the Constitution.

HPR: Kevin Phillips in his new book "American Theocracy" makes the case that over the past three decades, American foreign policy has been held captive by petro economy. We've been fighting wars for oil.

Jacobs: I wrote a poem in 1955 or '56 and it was in Irving Liebowitz's column in the *Indianapolis Times*:

'Though we send our kids to foreign soil, but will not spill a drop of profitable oil.'

Of course it is. A year ago, Kim Jong Il of North Korea had announced the United States was going to invade, and, by the way, I don't recommend it. It's chilly up there. My thought was, get real, Kim II, when was the last time you had any oil in your country? We have a dictator in Pakistan in Mushareff. He's all right. We have a dictatorship in Kuwait. Give me a break. Was this about mass destruction? Was this about democracy? Was this about establishing democracy and knocking out a dictator?

HPR: President Bush seems to have wagered his entire presidency on Iraq. How do you view that legacy?

Jacobs: If he's going to count on that. I don't even think it was the oil. I think it was a bunch of amateurs; the neo-cons. Iraq was tying the steering wheel as you go down the road. When you head down the road, you're going to crash because the road turns. That's the trouble with being doctrinaire, We all know there are people who don't plan to go themselves. War wimps. They are like babies with machine guns. They get the levers of authority. They never read the Constitution. They wouldn't understand it if they did. Too many people who have taken the oath of the Constitution have never read the Constitution. They think there are good guys and bad guys and if he's a bad guy, you hit him, which is about the level of movies in this country. I guess you have

to say, 'Forgive them because they know not what they do. They are being heroes in someone else's time.

HPR: I'm going to throw a couple phrases at you for your reaction, OK? Mission accomplished.

Jacobs: I'm trying to remember the origins of that.

HPR: USS Abraham Lincoln, May 2003.

Jacobs: No, no, I know where it happened temporarily. I'm trying to think of the origins. I guess it was World War II. It's another imitation of life. Another person, who in essence in the case of the president ... you know I was in combat in the Korean War and I'm sure if I would have told them I needed to go take a business course at Harvard, they would have let me go home. Who's that other guy?

Buchanan? Pat Buchanan. In his campaign for president, had speeches that were laced with military terms. Let's lock and

load. Let's move out. Phillip Wiley in a book called "Generation of Opposites" said the doctrine of the opposites, "Whatever you are, use the terminology of the opposite. Evoking sounding tough. So mission accomplished, well, that's a military term, from movies of how glorious war was. Mission accomplished, John Wayne standing, we're all right. Now that guy's good, the one who said, "We'll either bring them to justice or bring justice to them." What's that guy's name?

HPR: Mike Gerson?

Jacobs: Yeah. He's gifted. Very gifted. It's very tough for the president to read that stuff, but he's getting better ... reading that stuff.

HPR: What about the phrase, "Bring 'em on"?

Jacobs: My thought on that occasion ... the resistance fighters? Or the caskets? What was he referring to? *Bring 'em on ...*

HPR: How do you believe history will judge those who supported this war?

Jacobs: Let me put it this way. President George W. Bush's father, H.W. are personal friends. I am enormously fond of him. That's my answer.

HPR: What should Americans take out of this experience.

Jacobs: Read a little history. The same thing happened in the Korean War. My father quotes, "Civilization is impossible until the unconcerned are as outraged as the victims." The Marine Corps used to have a saying, "Things aren't what they used to be and, in fact, it never was." So here we are. ❖





The twin albatrosses of fossil fuels and the 'Oil Presidency'

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - You remember the twins, don't you? Katrina and Rita? And their cousin from 1998, Hurricane Mitch (our governor is not the only big wind). That was the most devastating hurricane in two centuries, killing 10,000 people. Before 1976, temperatures in the central Pacific would commonly dip below 66 degrees. Now they are rarely below 77 degrees.

As Tim Flannery points out in his book *"The Weather Makers,"* in 1997-98 we had the post powerful El Nino ever recorded. In 2002, Europe had its hottest summer ever. In 2003, the first South Atlantic hurricane in history was recorded. In 2004, Florida was racked by four hurricanes.

And then there are the two Category 5 Australian cyclones these past couple weeks, Larry (180 mph) to the east and Glenda (190 mph) to the north.

If all this isn't hitting close enough to home, Dennis Cogswell writes in the Michigan City News-Dispatch that startling satellite imagery of a "rich doughnut of plant life" in Lake Michigan, unknown until recently, stretches from Muskegon to Gary, a massive ring of chlorophyll extending all the way to the bottom of the lake. It is new life in a warmer lake.

I've been a "global warming" skeptic, reasoning that mankind's 10,000 years have been only a blip in the 4 billion year old planet. But Flannery writes of ice core samples allowing scientists to measure air bubbles, millions of years old, and comparing the amounts of CO2 or greenhouse gases in earth's fragile atmosphere. Since 1800, the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, earth's temperature has risen 1.13 degrees. CO2 emissions have gone from 315 parts per million in 1958 to over 370 ppm in 2000. Prior to the Industrial Revolution, they were below 240 ppm.

In 2002 alone, the burning of fossil fuels - coal (41 percent), oil (39 percent), and gas (20 percent) -- resulted in 23 billion tons of CO2 pumped into the atmosphere. The result is the melting of the polar ice caps, warmer oceans which provide hurricane fuel in some areas while expanding deserts in others. Last week, a city-sized iceberg broke free of the Antarctic's Fimbul Ice Shelf, the continuation of a trend that by 2100 could raise ocean levels by 23 feet.

China is currently constructing more than 200 coal-fired power plants (part of the 249 to be built worldwide

between 1999 and 2009). Another 480 are projected to be built by 2019. Millions upon millions of emerging middle class subcontinent Indians and Chinese are now driving motorized vehicles.

I believe we have ... a big, big problem.

Global warming is one. Another is that for more than 30 years, American foreign policy has become dominated by petro politics. In a groundbreaking speech before the Brookings Institute, U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar explained, "The gasoline price spikes following the Katrina and Rita hurricanes underscored for Americans the tenuousness of short-term energy supplies. But, as yet, there is not a full appreciation of our economic vulnerability."

"In a remarkable moment during the State of the Union Address, President Bush caught the attention of the nation with five words: "America is addicted to oil," Lugar observed. "Those five words probably generated more media commentary than all the rest of his remarks from that evening combined. I had an opportunity soon after the speech to talk to the President about energy, and he admitted that he had not anticipated the impact of that statement or that some commentators would find it incongruous.

"Though not hostile to alternative energy sources, the Bush administration clearly downplayed their significance during the early part of his presidency," Lugar explained.

Vice President Cheney, who oversees Bush administration energy policy, stated on April 30, 2001, "Years down the road, alternative fuels may become a great deal more plentiful than they are today. But we are not yet in any position to stake our economy and our way of life on that possibility. For years down the road, this will continue to be true."

Folks, this is the "Oil Presidency" talking. President Bush says we have to have "certain" proof of global warming before acting, when the only certainties in life are death and taxes. We may be destroying our planet's fragile atmosphere. Our economy is hostage to petro rogue regimes.

American voters should be demanding their government commence a Manhattan Project on energy, creating cleaner fuels that have less impact on the atmosphere, and don't leave us hostage to rogue oil states.

Lugar concludes, "My message is that the balance of realism has passed from those who argue on behalf of oil and a laissez fair energy policy that relies on market evolution, to those who recognize that in the absence of a major reorientation in the way we get our energy, life in America is going to be much more difficult in the coming decades. No one who is honestly assessing the decline of American leverage around the world due to our energy dependence can fail to see that energy is the albatross of U.S. national security."

And fossil fuels may be the albatross around the neck of mankind. ❖



Brian Howey's Column



Bayh to NH: 'I'm here for you'

By MARK CURRY

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - For more than half a century, the political geography of New Hampshire has defined many key battles in the war of ideas that is America's presidential elections. A who's who of winners and losers have toured time and again through just about every settlement the Granite State has to offer, and many a promising political career has begun and ended in towns with names like Chittenden, Wolfeboro or Stowe.

"Live Free or Die" is the state motto, and voters, said to be welcoming and open-minded, take pride in asking the hard questions. It is the site of America's first presidential primary, preceded only by the Iowa caucuses, and candidates arrive either desperate to bolster a disappointing campaign or determined to improve success. In the final days before an election it's survival of the fittest as elbows fly among erstwhile colleagues jockeying for endorsements and publicity.

"Here is democracy at its best, for it takes more than a big bankroll or name recognition to impress us," explained the late Nackey Loeb, who published two conservative newspapers.

Commission favors changes

But 2008 may be different. A Democratic Party commission formed after the 2004 election favors inserting one or two contests between Iowa and New Hampshire. The commission recommended that the Democratic National Committee determine which states should be selected based on "racial and ethnic diversity; geographic diversity; and economic diversity including union density."

Reportedly, the New Hampshire representative on the panel cast the lone vote in opposition. The DNC will meet in New Orleans next month to discuss the issue, although nothing final is expected before this fall.

In 1976, Evan Bayh interrupted his sophomore year at Indiana University to campaign in New Hampshire for six weeks during his father's race for the White House, and he recalled those days in a speech Sunday at a political fundraiser for State Rep. Betsi DeVries of Manchester, N.H.

"I traveled all over New Hampshire," the Hoosier senator said, according to a transcript provided by spokeswoman Meghan Keck. It was in the state's "living rooms, and coffee shops, in union halls and small businesses," he said, where he "fell in love with the political process."

Sen. Bayh reminded listeners of a commitment he made during a previous visit with Gov. John Lynch.

"My strong impression is that the people of New Hampshire have X-Ray vision, you can spot a phony a mile off," Bayh said, and he promised "to do everything I can" to "retain your position."

Judging by media accounts, state democrats took a shine to the offer. Yesterday, Gov. Lynch offered a speech advocating the state's cause and made special mention of Bayh's support.

"Here in New Hampshire, I think voters will be watching carefully to see which candidates stand with New Hampshire to protect its traditional role," he said, according to remarks published in the Manchester Union Leader. "That's why I was so pleased to read Sen. Evan Bayh's comments earlier this week. It is clear he is a true friend to the New Hampshire primary."

In a separate article, the newspaper noted that Bayh's remarks separate him from potential Democratic Presidential candidates Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico and U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, who have said they are fine with adding a caucus between Iowa and New Hampshire's contest.

A full plate

Sen. Bayh visited New Hampshire intending to accomplish more than raising money for local candidates and winning friends at the four publicized events he attended. He also hoped to convince voters he possesses the style and substance that can lead democrats to victory in the 2008 elections. Several newspapers posted favorable reports online.

He told a group of young democrats "The destiny of your generation is at stake," the Foster's Daily Democrat reported. The Portsmouth Herald quoted a former mayor of Port City: "It's obvious he's very experienced as a speaker," Robert Shaines said. "He's very charismatic." An 800-word Associated Press article published in the Boston Globe included details on the substance of Bayh's speeches and noted he reiterated a position reported by HPR in December



U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh meets with Concord, N.H. environmentalists. (Bayh Flickr Photo)



2004: Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld should either resign or be fired.

Monday, the senator is slated to appear in Washington at the Legislative Conference of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO. On April 8, he heads to Detroit for the Michigan Democratic Party's Jefferson-Jackson Dinner.

As Sen. Bayh joins the war of ideas in the emerging political landscape, he faces several difficult obstacles, not the least of which is New York's Sen. Hillary Clinton, who in the role of front-runner has already laid claim to vital monetary resources. The 2008 Democratic field numbers at least 10 contenders and so Bayh must seek to differentiate and elaborate his mes-

sage to establish a singular persona of leadership, reassure Democratic voters conflicted by the war with Iraq, and persuade disaffected Republican voters on issues of security and economy.

Now, more than two years before the election, he has chosen New Hampshire as one his battlegrounds. Hoosiers

wondering how Bayh will fare in the months ahead might have enjoyed hearing the following conversation during a meet and greet event at a private residence on Sunday, as reported in the March 27 Portsmouth Herald:

"We're part of a filtering system to weed out bad candidates," said Peter Somssich of the Portsmouth Democrats.

"I hope I don't get weeded," Bayh responded. "Pruned a little, but not weeded." ❖



Sen. Bayh answers media questions in Manchester, N.H. last weekend. (Bayh Flickr Photo)



Reports from the Ground

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China's advance doesn't have to set back U.S.

Winning is what you know

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

The Howey Political Report

SHANGHAI, China--Even a brief glimpse of China reveals a country that is bursting at the seams--at least in and around Shanghai.

The western side of this port city of 12.5 million, the largest in China, didn't even begin to develop until 1990. Now it boasts the world's fourth largest building, set in the midst of a thriving business district.

On the other side of the river, Shanghai's history melds with its present in a dense confection that consumes what seems like every square inch of real estate. There's simply no room to build anything else unless something is knocked down, a tack that the government tends to take even when it requires destroying historic neighborhoods and structures.

As you move outside the city, the density continues. The road from Shanghai to Suzhou, a 1.5 hour trip, is lined with factory after factory and the worker dorms associated with many of them. It's a continuous string of industrialization. Farm land has been reduced to modest slivers. Greenhouses dot the landscape, an effort to increase food production in area where land is at a premium.

These are some of the scenes I saw during a five-day trip to China in the middle of March. I traveled with a group from the National Press Club. It wasn't an official media tour, but I did take my notebook along.

Although my interviews and observations were far from scientific, I came away with the impression that the key to prospering in a complex economic relationship with China is for the United States to maintain an advantage in knowhow rather than to cower behind protectionist barriers.

Knowledge is best obtained by remaining engaged in the global economy, primarily by welcoming it when it comes to us. For instance, I met a former Honda engineer who was traveling to Shanghai to teach a class on Japanese production efficiency techniques to a group of Chinese plant managers.

The instructor was an American who holds an electrical engineering degree from Michigan State University. During his tenure at U.S. Honda plants, he helped the car maker roll out several new models. Now a consultant, he's showing the Chinese how to develop and introduce new products into mass production.



Mark Schoeff

Perhaps there are managers at the Toyota truck facility in Evansville or the Isuzu plant in Lafayette who one day will impart their knowledge in a distant region. It's a creative way to lower the trade deficit. The important thing is to acquire skills by staying engaged internationally.

To do this, Hoosiers in all walks of life have to embrace the world rather than shun it. They have to appreciate foreign direct investment, even if it doesn't directly impact their lives.

That process is already happening, according to one expert. "There is a widespread understanding of the U.S. role in the global economy and how we're interdependent with other countries," said Nancy McLernon, vice president of the Organization for International Investment. "They can see their neighbors who are employed by U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies. The evidence is all around them."

Although the United States must constantly improve the skills of its workforce to maintain a competitive edge, it's also important to note that China in many ways still lags behind us. Sometimes worries about China eating our economic lunch are overwrought.

Certainly Chinese factories can build a mousetrap at a low cost but they aren't yet adept at designing a better mousetrap--or at fixing problems as they crop up in production. I met two British manufacturers who came to China to talk with officials at a company that produces components for a generator they make. The Brits were frustrated that the machines were bedeviled by problems with a 50-cent part that the Chinese had failed to solve.

An American expatriate who runs a firm that manages water projects says Chinese employees are good at executing plans laid out for them but not necessarily skilled at taking the initiative on their own.

Two video game programmers from San Francisco praised the technical ability of their Chinese counterparts but noted that they haven't yet demonstrated the creativity required to develop new games.

Certainly the Chinese workforce is intelligent and capable. And it's huge. The country is going to produce more scientists and engineers than the United States simply by virtue of its numbers. Over time, intangibles like entrepreneurial spirit will grow.

Already, young people are hopeful about their economic future. I could see it in the eyes of two young women who recently graduated from college. One was in the tourism industry, the other was a conference planner. They were both enthusiastic about advancing their careers in a way likely unknown to their parents.

While China is evolving, the United States must stay engaged, maintaining its economic advantage through what it knows and what it does. ❖



Bret Swanson, *National Review Online* - There's about to be a building boom in Indiana, which is desperate good news for a state that has been severely challenged by the global manufacturing shift and years of ambivalent leadership. The chief architect of the boom is the state's decisive Governor Mitch Daniels. In the state's short legislative session, just completed, Daniels achieved two sweeping victories. The first is the nation's most aggressive telecommunications deregulation, which will spur hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in invisible infrastructure - the "fibers and frequencies" of the digital age, as Daniels describes it. The second is a \$4 billion privatization lease of the Indiana Toll Road and the new I-69 interstate. This will fund the largest-ever upgrade of Indiana's visible infrastructure: its antique roads and bridges. Indiana's telecom laws had not been updated since 1985, while the state's Utility Regulatory Commission has administered some of the most severely anti-investment rules and price controls in the nation. But in a single leap, Indiana has moved from the back of the pack to number one in terms of the modernity of its telecom regime. By the end of this month, most of the state's obsolete telecom rules will lapse. By 2009, the industry will be almost totally deregulated in the state. An Indiana-wide video-franchise process was also adopted to replace the fragmented and wasteful cable TV franchising system that has 300 towns and counties telling global communications firms what to do. The new system opens up the investment valves by granting easy and quick approval to new providers of broadband communications services. Ironically, Daniels' "Major Moves" plan to lease the Indiana Toll Road, the seemingly more tame and obvious measure, turned out to be far more controversial. It passed by a single vote with just 15 minutes remaining in this year's legislative session. Weeks before anyone had heard of Dubai Ports World, the bid by Australian-Spanish consortium Macquarie-Cintra to manage Indiana's 157-mile stretch of I-80/90 had already ignited a xenophobic melee in the heartland. But unlike the DP World roll-out, Daniels had actually sought bidders for the Toll Road. ❖

Mark Kiesling, *Times of Northwest Indiana* - Scott King is going to miss being mayor. He may get a job making big coin but it's not going to have the high profile that being Gary mayor does. Now that he's resigned no one is going to sweet talk him for his support or pledge unswerving loyalty. A week ago, candidates for office in the May 2 primary craved a moment of his time, sought a word of support, lent an ear to his mayoral counsel. Right now, he's probably walking along Wells Street Beach, wearing a pair of baggy shorts and carrying a metal detector. On the fifth floor of Chicago City Hall, Mayor Richard Daley once took his calls. Now, he's making slashing motions across his throat to his secretary when she

tells him King's on the line. Yeah, he's going to miss being mayor. He's reactivating his law license, and I will bet you a cup of tasty Times coffee that it isn't so he can hold the hands of a bunch of drunken drivers in small claims court. He said he was quitting because he has kids to put through college. But he was making what I figure has to be close to a quarter million a year when you add all the unseen bennies to his \$107,000 base salary. A lot of people put kids through college with a lot less. Down at the Lake County rumor pond, where I went fishing this cool spring Monday to see what I could catch for today's column, I've pulled up a big one that says King will surface quietly as an attorney for the state's Major Moves project, helping craft legal boilerplate for Regional Development Authority bonds that would be worth millions. Someone's got to do it, and the rumor is that it will be Gov. Mitch Daniels' way of giving a hearty Hoosier "thanks" to the guy who pushed hard in this area for the RDA and who got state Sen. Earline Rogers to defect from the Democratic majority and vote for Daniels' Major Moves economic incentive package. ❖

Jack Cowell, *South Bend Tribune* - Votes in Boston won't decide whether Congressman Chris Chocola wins or loses in Indiana's 2nd District. That's good for Chocola. The conservative Republican closely allied with President Bush would be about as popular in Boston as a New York Yankee fan at Fenway Park. Although Boston voters have no voice in an Indiana election, a story in *The Boston Globe* last week could be the start of what Democratic challenger Joe Donnelly desperately needs in trying for the second time around to defeat Chocola. What Donnelly needs is money, lots of it for those oft-decisive TV spots and all else necessary for a first-class challenge throughout a sprawling 12-county district. What Donnelly needs to get that campaign funding is national attention, especially from Democrats at the national level who gave him no support, zilch, two years ago. What Donnelly needs to get that national attention is the perception that he has a real chance to win in a race that could determine control of the U.S. House. The *Boston Globe* story was written by reporter Charlie Savage, who came to South Bend's Farmer's Market and other sites in the 2nd District where folks gather, such as coffee shops, after an *Indianapolis Star* poll showed the president with a "particularly shocking" 37 percent approval rating in, of all places, Indiana. The reporter found pessimism about Iraq involved in the drop in the president's support among Republicans. No big surprise there. In looking at a Donnelly vs. Chocola rematch, Savage found Chocola facing a possible "double whammy," unpopularity of Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels over the Toll Road deal combining with the president's decline in popularity. No surprise there either. ❖



National media descends here; Press corps PMSing over time

TRENDLINE NO. 1: The national news media is honing in on Indiana's Congressional scene. *NPR's* Brian Naylor reported on the 6th CD's Pence/Welsh race and the *Boston Globe* in the 2nd, with HPR supplying key sourcing. Coming up will be an *Philadelphia Inquirer* story on U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh's presidential campaign, also with HPR sourcing. And the *Los Angeles Times* surveyed the 9th CD and the impact of the war on the Hill-Sodrel race.

TRENDLINE NO. 2: The Statehouse press corps was PMSing on the time issue last weekend as Indiana prepared to synchronize with the global economy. The *Indianapolis Star* centered its coverage on one Martin County School bus driver who will lose "half his income" because he will have to drop one of his routes. Is there a trend there? The *Evansville Courier & Press* described it as as "time troubles head east." The *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* reported that Gov. Mitch Daniels was to blame for bar owners missing an hour of last calls on April 2. It also described Rep. Troy Woodruff's "infamous vote." In the *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, a counter revolt is underway to switch back to Eastern time. Pulaski County is now on "commerce time" after the feds refused to allow it to switch back to Eastern. The May primary election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. there (or is that 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.?) Bitchy. Grumpy. Hoosiers and their reporters are kicking and screaming into the 21st Century.



2006 Congressional Races

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** An accusation by the Indiana

Democratic Party is intended to put Hostettler on the defensive. Has Hostettler, who campaigns as a fiscal conservative who refused to accept the lifetime congressional pension because it would add to the federal debt, voted four times to raise his own pay? Hostettler denies it, saying Democrats deliberately are mischaracterizing votes he cast on large spending bills and ignoring his votes on the only amendments that have directly addressed congressional pay since his 1994 election. "Using their logic, if you vote for any bill, then you vote for a (perpetuation of the annual congressional pay raise mandated by a law Congress passed in 1989)," Hostettler told the *Evansville Courier & Press*. **Status:** TOSS-UP

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill, Gretchen Clearwater, Lendall Terry, John "Cosmo" Hockersmith. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Results:** Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541.

2006 Forecast: Sodrell expected to raise \$500,000 from his event last Friday in Indianapolis with President Bush, calling it a "big boost for the campaign." Bush said in his speech, "It's in Indiana's interest to send Mike



President Bush with Rep. Sodrel in Indianapolis. (HPR Photo)

Sodrel back to Congress. I like a man who doesn't run a poll to tell him what to do." Using the refrain, "Mike Sodrel understands," Bush defended the most volatile issue in Indiana right now, the war in Iraq. "Removing Saddam Hussein has made the nation and the world a safer place. I need Members of Congress who support a plan for victory in Iraq. Mike Sodrel understands that and is a strong supporter of the military." Bush called the Iraq insurgency "an ideology of darkness" and said it would be defeated with "a philosophy of light and liberty." The *Los Angeles Times* reported from Seymour: As Liz Larrison cooks up breakfast for customers at her fami-



ly's diner in a farm town long friendly to the Republican Party, she listens as the regulars sling political opinions as easily as she slings ham steaks. Increasingly, the talk these days revolves around Iraq, and it is the kind of talk that could spell trouble for the GOP. "Nobody is against the people fighting the war. I think you'll hear that everywhere," she said. "We're just against it going on and on." On top of other woes confronting Republicans, the continuing violence in Iraq and President Bush's message last week that the deployment would last several more years has heightened Republicans' concerns about how voters such as Larrison will view the party in the November elections. Baron Hill, who hopes to unseat the Republican who represents this region of Indiana, said it used to be hard for Democrats to criticize the Iraq war without sounding unpatriotic. "Not anymore," Hill said in an interview. "I think people are very skeptical now about what is going on over there, and you have more freedom to talk about Iraq." It's too soon to conclude whether the political winds will blow against Republicans all the way until election day in November. In travels around his district during a congressional recess last week, Sodrel was asked often about Iraq. Though he supports the president — and stood side-by-side with Bush at a public fundraiser Friday — he emphasized not only progress but also his hopes for withdrawal. "The goal isn't to have an Iraq that is bomb-free or incident-free before we can leave," Sodrel told students at Shawe Memorial High School in Madison, Ind. "We just have to have a government that is stable enough and a military that is trained enough and a society that is cohesive enough." A few hours later, speaking at Hanover College in Hanover, Ind., his pitch was more direct: "I would like to see a serious withdrawal as soon as this government is formed." The tone appeared to work with his audience. Some said it sounded as if Sodrel had changed his position on the war. But Sodrel said that his support for the president and the war hadn't flagged and that he was not worried about Bush's sagging poll numbers. Former Seymour Mayor Bill Bailey predicted that many Republicans might not bother to vote this year. "With this Iraq war, every month that goes by, it becomes tougher for Sodrel or any other Republican who rode in on Bush's coattails," Bailey said. "I think you'll see a lot of people stay home."

Primary Status: *SAFE HILL.*

2006 State Races

Senate District 41: Republican: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton, Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. **2002 Results:** Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast:** All quiet

on this front. Garton has a big billboard on I-65. Walker has been quiet. His website is down. **Primary Status:** *LIKELY GARTON.* **General Status:** *LEANS GARTON.*

House District 57: Republican: Shelbyville Councilman Rob Nolley, Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart, Edward Dundas, Karen Frazier, Marvin Pavlov. Democrat: J.D. Lux. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004. **2006 Forecast:** There doesn't appear to be a clear favorite in this race. Some local observers believe it will ultimately come down to the two councilmen - Nolley and Eberhart. Some believe Frazier is also a factor and could sneak in. **Primary Status:** *TOSSUP*

House District 58: Republican: State Rep. Woody Burton, Johnson County Council President Ron West. **2002 Results:** Burton 9,917, Montgomery (D) 3,453, Miller (L) 437. **2004 Results:** Burton 18,766, Turley (D) 7,420. **2006 Forecast:** Woody Burton appears to be coming on like ... King Kong. He has several hundred yard signs up. By our observance, West had one sign up and there was a Burton sign next to it. **Status:** *LIKELY BURTON.*

House District 64: Republican: State Rep. Troy Woodruff. Democrat: Kreg Battles. **2002 Results:** Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. **2004 Results:** Woodruff 12,698, Frenz 12,507. **2006 Forecast:** Time is rearing its ugly head in this race. "Nothing's going to change until the fall, when we'll turn back our clocks an hour," said Rep. Troy Woodruff, R-Vincennes (Robbins, *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). But until then, given comments heard Saturday, the "time issue" will figure prominently during the election campaign. "It's definitely going to be an issue," said Kreg Battles. "It's more of a mess now than it was before that vote." "That vote" was the one cast by Woodruff in the waning minutes of the 2005 General Assembly which led to passage of the law putting Indiana on daylight-saving time. Woodruff said Saturday he believes the state will ultimately benefit from the time change. "We've joined the world economy," he said during the final "Meet Your Legislators" program held at Vincennes University's Walter A. Davis Hall. Woodruff's optimism that switching to daylight-saving time would help the economy isn't matched by Battles, who says those he's talked to about the time issue are frustrated and confused, and that the whole matter gets back to Woodruff's not "representing" the constituents. "He assured us he would never vote for a bill that didn't put the whole state in the same time zone, but that's exactly what he did," Battles said. "It comes down to his saying one thing here and doing something else in Indianapolis." Woodruff stands by his vote, saying Indiana as a whole will benefit from the switch to daylight-saving time through more jobs and investment. Central, most of the state should be in. **Status:** *Leans Battles*





Blumenberg may enter Gary mayoral caucus

GARY - City Democrats may have three candidates in the race to replace Scott L. King as mayor in a special party vote next week (Grimm, *Post-Tribune*). With only six days until Tuesday's precinct vote, Calumet Township Assessor Booker Blumenberg announced he is canvassing the city's 138 precinct committeemen to see if he can beat out declared candidates Rudy Clay and Dozier T. Allen Jr. "There is some interest in my candidacy. I've been getting calls," Blumenberg said Wednesday. "By this time, a lot of people may have made up their minds. We're working on a short timeline. "I will have a final decision by (the deadline to file) on Tuesday."



Chamber ranks Indiana economy low

INDIANAPOLIS - For those who thought business tax cuts and regulatory changes undertaken in recent years have improved Indiana's economic performance, think again. According to a report commissioned by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and released Wednesday, Indiana has held steady at an overall "C-" in its efforts to be business friendly. That's the same grade the state got in 2001 and 2003. "What are the root causes of Indiana's inability to return to its wealth-creating stature of the early 1950s?" writes lead researcher Graham Toft, Ph.D. "Three drivers are likely major contributors: low entrepreneurial activity, a lack of preparedness in the human capital (talent) base and insufficient capital investment." The report, in its sixth year, gave Indiana its highest mark, a "B+," in government

and regulatory environment. The lowest marks came in infrastructure and quality of life, with both grades dropping from 2003. Indiana's neighbors also didn't rank highly - Michigan and Illinois received "Cs"; Ohio a "C-"; and Kentucky a "D."

Daniels says critics will be watching Major moves

Challenging Hoosier transportation workers to make the most of his Major Moves lease of the Indiana Toll road Wednesday, Governor Mitch Daniels warned that the plan's opponents are waiting for any slip-up (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*). "Those folks who had concerns about this measure have the right to ask, 'Will you bungle it?'" the governor told Hoosier transportation workers at the 92nd annual Purdue University Road School. Daniels used his speech in front of the sold-out conference crowd -- which attracted more than 1,600 transportation workers this year -- to address some of the major concerns of the plan's critics. He called opposition to foreign investment an old-school way of thinking that should be left behind. "It is a prescription for poverty to say we want to make the world go away and only deal with our own kind," Daniels said to widespread applause. "Capital moves around this world, and it looks for the places that are the most promising and the most hardworking. It is not a loss of anything when \$4 billion comes here."

Goode named deputy chief of staff to Daniels

INDIANAPOLIS - Earl Goode, who has been commissioner of the Indiana Department of Administration, was named deputy chief of staff to Gov. Mitch Daniels on Wednesday (*Indianapolis Star*). Goode will focus on the implementation of the Major Moves transportation package, which involves

leasing the Indiana Toll Road, and on economic development issues. A new commissioner of the Department of Administration will be named in a few weeks, said Harry Gonso, Daniels' chief of staff. Before joining the Daniels administration, Goode was a retired president of GTE Information Services. He also continues to serve as president of the Indiana Sports Corp.

Urban meth invasion predicted

FORT WAYNE - Methamphetamine production and use may be a bigger problem in southern and rural parts of Indiana, but state and local officials want to be prepared for an urban invasion that they say is already happening (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). That was part of the message at a town hall meeting Wednesday night at Indiana Tech. About 30 people attended the event sponsored by the Drug & Alcohol Consortium of Allen County. "We want to make sure Fort Wayne and Allen County (are) prepared," said Mike Cunegin, a Fort Wayne police sergeant and Allen County councilman. "We want to give out as much information as we can to make sure we're well-prepared and don't get blindsided like we did a few years ago (by crack)."

ISTEP science scores are low

INDIANAPOLIS - Slightly more than half the nearly 81,000 Indiana seventh-graders who took the ISTEP science test last September had passing scores -- a result that was below the performance on other parts of the exam. The Indiana Department of Education announced the statewide numbers yesterday, noting that it was the first time the seventh-grade exam had been administered. The results were delayed while the state set passing scores. ❖