

February 11, 2005

Letter to the Editor,

I like Mitch Daniels. I believe that Mitch Daniels is a good man. But, good people can make bad decisions when they get bad advice. I believe that Mitch Daniels is following some very bad advice when he advocates raising Indiana's income tax rate.

Thousands of thinking Democrats and independent voters joined Republicans to elect Mitch Daniels as our Governor. They voted for him because of his reputation as a "blade" for budget cutting while he was the National Budget Director. Indiana needs a governor who will cut budgets.

Over the years, Indiana's state bureaucracy and budget have mushroomed. There is no limit to how much money an elected or appointed government official can spend. But, there is a limit to how much the citizens can bear to be taxed. Indiana has passed that limit. Indiana leads the entire nation in personal bankruptcies. Indiana is one of the eight worst states in the union as a place to die because of the confiscatory estate taxes.

When Edgar Whitcomb, my cousin, was governor, Indiana had low taxes: a 2 percent sales tax; a 2 percent personal income tax; a 2 percent corporate income tax. Now, Indiana has high taxes, a "Taj Mahal" for state offices just west of the Capitol, and businesses and people leaving the state.

Learn from history. If you persecute Jews, they will leave. If you persecute African Americans, they will leave. If you persecute any group of people, they will leave. For the past several years, Indiana's tax burden has been persecuting smart people who know how to use money to create jobs, opportunity, and wealth. Those smart people have been leaving Indiana, and the Indiana economy has suffered because of it.

Indiana needed to change its "tax more and spend even more" policies. That is why thousands of Hoosiers voted for Mitch Daniels – "THE BLADE". Mitch Daniels should abandon his "more taxes" position and become "THE BLADE" to Indiana government which the vast majority of Indiana voters wanted and expected him to be.

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