

May 3, 2004

Can  
 states really  
 bridge the  
 digital  
 divide?



Budget & taxes	
VA breaks budget deadlock	5
Politics & leadership	
Term limits termed out?	10
Governors	
Lame duck not on Locke's menu in WA	12
Across state lines	8
Hot issues	15
Once around the statehouse lightly	18

Top Story

*Only a few years ago states were touting e-government as a way to lower costs and provide better services, but budget problems and bureaucratic beefs have slowed the race to cyberspace.*

## SNCJ Spotlight

### States taking bumpy road to cyberspace

In his January 2000 State of the State address, then-Gov. Jim Gilmore of VIRGINIA spent much of his speech enthusiastically praising the role of technology in the future of government and calling for his administration to develop an all-encompassing “new model of Internet-focused services for citizens and consumers.” Gilmore’s stance was far from unique at the time, as states across the

country strove to exploit the seemingly endless promise of “e-government.” But extended budget deficits and low usage rates stalled the rush to convert the majority of services to the Internet, leaving many states still struggling to devise systems that are both user-friendly and cost effective.

Getting onto the fast track to cyberspace was ultimately tougher than many states anticipated, says P.K. Agarwal, former chairman for the National Electronic Commerce Coordinating Council, an alliance of many state and local associations that works with all 50 states to facilitate e-commerce.

“In 1999 only five or six governors did not mention e-government in their State of the State addresses,” Agarwal says. “But many states also had financial windfalls to fund the infrastructure development, something that went away very quickly.”

E-government aficionados also quickly learned that size actually does matter. The typical state government offers between 500-700 services across multiple agencies, many of which are not keen on adapting uniform standards and procedures, or even having Web sites that match in physical appearance.

“There still needs to be a huge amount of education among government itself for it to understand the possibilities of e-government,” says Christopher O’Kennon, the director of portal architecture for VIRGINIA. “All of a state’s Web sites should look the same, regardless of the agency. But too often individual agencies don’t want to give up their independence. Every agency wants its system to be unique, which is only to its detriment. They see change as creating too much career risk, and so they don’t want it.”

O’Kennon says ease of usability for consumers across every agency’s Internet platform should be the top priority for all e-government applications in every state. He notes that some states are doing better than others, particularly INDIANA and KANSAS for consumer accessibility and UTAH and VIRGINIA for consistency in their appearance. O’Kennon says that for more states to compare favorably with these four, government agencies will simply have to relinquish their “individual fiefdoms” and adopt generic, across-the-board standards for how they will conduct e-government.

William Eggers, Director of Washington D.C.-based Deloitte Research and a Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute, says that whatever bureaucracies might think, the reality is that government is in the middle of an irreversible paradigm shift.

*State Recaps  
available this  
week on the  
State Net Web site*

GA, IA, ID, IN, KY, MD,  
ME, NE, NM, SD, UT,  
VA, WA, WV, WY

2003-04 State Session  
Recaps showcase legislative  
statistics for each state.

“It is very clear we are in the middle of an historic transition from an industrial-age government to an information-age government,” Eggers says. “A lot of people narrowly see e-government only as Web sites, which could not be further from the truth.”

Eggers says the early promise of e-government — significant cost-savings for governments and improved services to citizens — are still valid, but that governments need to begin addressing how they get people to use the systems.

“The cost savings per transaction are huge when moving them to the Web, from 60% to 90%,” Eggers says. “But as long as governments are running parallel paper processes and using the same number of people to provide services, then that cost saving is not realized. In that case it can actually cost states more money to offer Web-based services. This is why adoption by the majority of the public is so critical.”

But gaining that adoption has been very hard.

“Some states are reaching 85%-90% in business adoption rates,” says Agarwal, “But even the best of states only have private citizen adoption rates between 10%-19%.”

UTAH, for example, received the 2003 Center for Digital Government’s (CDG) “Best of the Web” award for its e-government capabilities. The state offers more than 150 services online, including vehicle registration. But the CDG also says that only 12% of Utah’s registration renewals are online, which is still the highest mark in the nation. TEXAS is only at 2%, which is about where most states fall.

So how do governments go about improving usage? Most observers agree that governments could do a better job of marketing their e-services, but that has become an increasingly more difficult task for states strapped by hard fiscal times. But Eggers says it isn’t so much a lack of money as a lack of experience and motivation.

## *The Week in Session*

States in Regular Session:  
AK, AL, AZ, CA, DE, IL, KS, LA, MA, MI,  
MN, MO, MS, NH, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI,  
SC, TN, US, WI

States with Projected Special  
Session:  
GA on 5/3/2004  
KY on TBA  
OR on 6/1/2004

States in Special Session:  
TX “d”

States in Recess:  
AR “b”, CA “d”, CA “e”

States in Budget Hearing: NJ

Currently Prefiling:  
MT(Drafts for 2005)

States Adjourned:  
FL, GA, IA, ID, IN, KY, MD, ME, NE, NM,  
SD, UT, VA, WA, WV, WY

States in Special Session  
Adjourned:  
CA “a”, CA “b”, CA “c”, CT “a”, CT “b”, DE  
“a”, LA “a”, MD “2003 session”, UT “c”,  
WA “a”, WA “b”, WA “c”, WI “d”, WI “e”,  
WV “a”

Projected Regular Session  
Adjournment: CO, CT, HI, VT

Projected Special Session  
Adjournment: ME “b”, VA “a”

Letters indicate special/extraordinary sessions  
Source: State Net, 4/30/04





Kelso says privacy is a legitimate concern, but one easily overcome by some of the payment systems now available, such as the PayPal system used by the online auctioneer, E-bay. Kelso says a more significant problem is the cost to consumers of paying bills online. Credit card companies charge a transaction fee, which in some states is as high as \$4. Cash-strapped governments must pass this along to the consumer, a definite deterrent when compared to the 37 cents it costs for a stamp.

“This is where governments must be creative,” says Agarwal. “Right now e-government is not a priority (for the public), nor should it be until these problems can be solved.”

Kelso says governments can and should find multiple related revenue sources for subsidizing those costs, such as charging insurance companies a fee to access shared information they now get for free. Eggers, agrees, saying the real challenge in e-government is not in the cost of infrastructure and marketing nor in bureaucratic turf wars, but in getting government to change its mindset in how it goes about conducting online business.

“Governments need to think less about how to get people to go to Web sites,” he says. “What government needs to do is to think more about how to go to the people.”

— *By RICH EHISEN*

---

## Budget & taxes

**VIRGINIA BREAKS BUDGET DEADLOCK:** Forty-five days after its scheduled March 13 adjournment, the VIRGINIA General Assembly passed a \$1.36 billion tax plan, ending the budget stalemate that threatened a government shutdown. The compromise is the result of a plan initially proposed a few weeks ago by a group of maverick, centrist Republicans in the predominantly anti-tax House of Delegates. After two weeks of negotiations between those breakaway delegates and Senate leaders — who were initially seeking more than twice the \$748 million the House had approved — the lawmakers settled on the \$1.36 billion figure, along with a freeze in the repeal of the state’s car tax. Under the plan, the state sales tax will increase from 4.5 cents to 5 cents, the cigarette tax will increase from 2.5 cents to 30 cents per pack, and the real estate recording tax will rise from 15 cents per \$100 of value to 25 cents. The hikes constitute the first general tax increase in the state since 1986. The plan is seen as a major victory for Gov. Mark R. Warner (D), who apparently played a critical role in securing its approval, and who will now have



a legacy that could help his future political career. But the compromise was a major setback for the Republican leadership in the House, who not only saw the defeat of their no-tax stance and the dissolution of the car tax rollback which had helped bring them to power, but also suffered a serious rift in their party's caucus. House Speaker William J. Howell (R) was rather philosophical on that point, though, stating "When you've got a little teeny group of 35 you can be more monolithic, but we're a big tent and I think that's healthy." The state's budget crisis isn't completely over; lawmakers still have to work out a spending plan. But they are confident they'll have a completed budget on Warner's desk this week. (RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, VIRGINIAN-PILOT [NORFOLK])

**U.S. SENATE TO CONSIDER INTERNET TAX BAN:** After five months of negotiations, the U.S. Senate voted last week to take up the issue of a permanent ban on taxing Internet access. The decision to finally bring the issue to the Senate floor for debate came after President George W. Bush declared his support for the ban during a visit to MINNESOTA. Pointing out that the United States ranks 10th in the world in high-speed Internet access, Bush said taxing Internet service would only impede its expansion. "In order to make sure it gets spread to all corners of the country, it must be affordable," he said. The ban, however, is opposed by a group of senators, including Lamar Alexander (R) of TENNESSEE and George V. Voinovich (R) of OHIO, both former governors, who argue that it could cost states billions in revenue, forcing them to increase property and other taxes to compensate. TENNESSEE and OHIO are among the eleven states that were exempted from a moratorium on Internet access taxes imposed in 1998 because they were already levying such taxes. (The other states are COLORADO, HAWAII, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW MEXICO, NORTH DAKOTA, SOUTH DAKOTA, TEXAS, WASHINGTON and WISCONSIN.) Alexander and Voinovich have proposed extending that moratorium — which expired in November — another two years to allow lawmakers more time to consider the issue. Meanwhile, Sen. John McCain (R) of ARIZONA has offered an alternative proposal extending the ban four years, which he called a reasonable compromise between the extremes of Alexander's two-year extension and a permanent ban. Observers say the president's backing of the latter should give it the edge. The Senate leadership is anxious to bring the issue up for a final vote so they can start negotiating with the House, which has already passed its own ban. (NEW YORK TIMES, TENNESSEAN [NASHVILLE])



**BUDGETS IN BRIEF:** A tax amnesty program just completed in **CALIFORNIA** has generated over \$1 billion, which is 12 times more than state officials were expecting and double the amount raised by any other amnesty program in U.S. history. The overwhelming success of the program, which targeted Californians using questionable tax shelters, actually caused some concern among officials, who fear they may only be seeing the tip of the iceberg; less than 900 taxpayers actually took part in the program (**CONTRA COSTA TIMES**). • A **TEXAS** lawmaker has introduced a plan to fund education using slot machine revenue that could make the Lone Star State the largest gambling center in the Southwest, with up to 40,000 of the video gaming machines. Although the plan has the support of Gov. Rick Perry (R), it faces a tough battle from anti-gambling forces in the House (**DALLAS MORNING NEWS**). • **MISSISSIPPI** Gov. Haley Barbour (R) said last week he would veto legislation raising the cigarette tax to fund mental health crisis centers which is currently under consideration in the Legislature. But he may not get the chance to do that, as lawmakers say the proposal has little chance of passing either chamber (**CLARION-LEDGER**).

— *Compiled by KOREY CLARK*

---

# Politics & Leadership

**T**ERM LIMITS TERMED OUT? The term-limits movement that swept through the nation in the early 1990s on the promise of allowing disenfranchised voters to oust entrenched politicians from office has fallen out of favor — at least in some circles. Five states — **UTAH, IDAHO, MASSACHUSETTS, OREGON, and WASHINGTON** — have already rescinded their-term limits laws, and a court case now pending in **WYOMING** could make that state the sixth. The other 15 states with term limits currently in place — **ARIZONA, ARKANSAS, CALIFORNIA, COLORADO, FLORIDA, LOUISIANA, MAINE, MICHIGAN, MISSOURI, MONTANA, NEBRASKA, NEVADA, OHIO, OKLAHOMA, and SOUTH DAKOTA** — are now trying to either loosen or repeal them. That was the impetus for a national conference held in Akron, **OHIO** last week which brought together researchers and politicians to compare notes on their experiences with term limits and assess the findings of two recent surveys on the subject.

*Continues on page 9*

# Across state lines

## *Women still earn less than men*

**A**lthough women have made strides over the last decade in wage comparisons with men, they still earn significantly less than their male counterparts. That point was made clear by findings in a new report from the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), a non-profit Washington D.C.-based public policy research organization that focuses on women's issues.

Based on data from 2002 compiled by the IWPR, the U.S. Census and the Urban Institute, women earn on average only 76.2% of what men earn under similar circumstances and conditions. On a state level, women fare best in HAWAII, where the average comparison ratio is 83.4%, with MARYLAND, (81.4%) CALIFORNIA, (80.7%) and NORTH DAKOTA (80.5%) close behind. The worst ratio is found in WYOMING, where women earned on average only 66.3% of men's wages. Also near the bottom were ALABAMA and MICHIGAN, which tied at 66.7%. LOUISIANA women earned 68.5% of what Pelican State men garnered.

MARYLAND women earn the highest annual income, averaging \$37,200 per year. MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT and NEW JERSEY are next, each at \$35,800. The highest annual wage states for men are CONNECTICUT (\$50,100) and NEW JERSEY (\$47,000). Women earned the least in MONTANA and SOUTH DAKOTA, each at \$24,400. ARKANSAS also placed low, with women averaging \$24,900 annually.

The chart below shows how each state fared. The data reflects median yearly earnings of noninstitutionalized men and women age 16 and older for full-time, year-round employment during 2001-02. Income figures are shown in adjusted 2003 dollars. Full time was defined as at least 35 hours per week and 50 weeks per year.

To learn more about this issue or to view the full report, visit the IWPR Web site at <http://www.iwpr.org/>.

— *By RICH EHISEN*

**Women's economic status in the states**

State	Median annual earnings: women	Median annual earnings: men	Earning ratio between sexes	Rank
	Dollars	Dollars		
ALABAMA	\$26,600	\$39,900	66.7	49
ALASKA	34,300	43,600	78.7	8
ARIZONA	29,700	37,200	79.8	7
ARKANSAS	24,900	31,700	78.5	11
CALIFORNIA	32,700	40,500	80.7	4
COLORADO	32,200	40,900	78.7	8
CONNECTICUT	35,800	50,100	71.5	43
DELAWARE	31,200	40,900	76.3	20
FLORIDA	28,600	35,800	79.9	6
GEORGIA	28,600	37,400	76.5	18
HAWAII	30,700	36,800	83.4	2
IDAHO	25,600	35,300	72.5	40
ILLINOIS	30,700	40,900	75.1	24
INDIANA	28,100	38,400	73.2	37
IOWA	27,100	36,400	74.5	30
KANSAS	29,100	37,400	77.8	14
KENTUCKY	27,000	36,400	74.2	31
LOUISIANA	25,200	36,800	68.5	48
MAINE	26,900	36,400	73.9	33
MARYLAND	37,200	45,700	81.4	3
MASSACHUSETTS	35,800	46,800	76.5	18
MICHIGAN	30,700	46,000	66.7	49
MINNESOTA	31,900	43,000	74.2	31
MISSISSIPPI	25,600	33,200	77.1	16
MISSOURI	29,700	37,800	78.6	10
MONTANA	24,400	33,200	73.5	36
NEBRASKA	26,000	36,400	71.4	44
NEVADA	27,500	35,800	76.8	17
NEW HAMPSHIRE	31,200	45,000	69.3	47
NEW JERSEY	35,800	47,000	76.2	21
NEW MEXICO	25,600	34,300	74.6	29
NEW YORK	30,700	40,900	75.1	24
NORTH CAROLINA	26,400	35,800	73.7	34
NORTH DAKOTA	25,600	31,800	80.5	5
OHIO	30,000	41,600	72.1	41
OKLAHOMA	26,600	35,100	75.8	22
OREGON	29,100	39,500	73.7	34
PENNSYLVANIA	30,700	41,100	74.7	28
RHODE ISLAND	31,200	41,600	75.0	27
SOUTH CAROLINA	26,600	36,400	73.1	38
SOUTH DAKOTA	24,400	32,200	75.8	22
TENNESSEE	26,900	35,800	75.1	24
TEXAS	28,100	35,800	78.5	11
UTAH	27,000	38,400	70.3	46
VERMONT	29,100	37,400	77.8	14
VIRGINIA	32,400	41,600	77.9	13
WASHINGTON	32,200	45,000	71.6	42
WEST VIRGINIA	24,900	34,300	72.6	39
WISCONSIN	28,100	39,500	71.1	45
WYOMING	25,600	38,600	66.3	51

Source: Institute for Women's Policy Research

The surveys found that one of the major impacts of term limits was a shift in the balance of power in the direction of the executive branch, with party leadership having a harder time countering governors' agendas and overturning vetoes. The surveys also indicated that term limits had failed to meet the expectation of more diversified legislatures by creating more opportunities for women and minorities. But the overriding concern of legislators and researchers is that while term limits may have brought fresh faces and new ideas to statehouses, they've also brought considerable chaos. A case in point is MICHIGAN, where term limits forced 71 percent of the state's legislators out of office last year, creating a huge leadership vacuum. Even lobbyists, who were expected to garner considerable power as a result of term limits say they actually spend a good deal of their time educating lawmakers on the issues.

Larry Sabato, a political science professor at the University of VIRGINIA, summed up the general consensus among the conference attendees: "Those [academics] who study seriously what term limits are doing to legislatures in terms of erasing institutional memory are virtually unanimous in declaring them a disaster." That attitude has been the motivation for many efforts by legislators and university researchers to reform or overthrow term limits. But they keep running into one big roadblock: voters. Polls across the nation show voters' disdain for their elected representatives at an all-time high. In CALIFORNIA, state legislators actually received lower approval ratings than recalled Democratic Gov. Gray Davis. With that kind of support, observers say the reformers have their work cut out for them. (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR)

**THE PRICE OF POWER IN GEORGIA:** With the party switch of five House Democrats and a new court-drawn map giving GEORGIA Republicans a legitimate shot at the one chamber they still don't control — and haven't since Reconstruction — many lifelong Republicans say they can already taste victory. But Matt Towery, the CEO of Insider Advantage, a political media firm, as well as a former legislator and current GOP nominee for lieutenant governor, thinks the party's long-sought-for dominance may come at a price. Towery believes the party will become more moderate and less cohesive as a result of being "cannibalized by the Democrats who become Republicans."

Towery is referring to the fact that Democrats who are switching to the GOP are falling into leadership positions with the potential to fragment the party. The process actually began with Gov. Sonny Perdue, who switched to the Republican party in 1998 and then used his ties as former Senate president pro tempore to convince four Democratic senators to switch parties, giving the Republicans

control of the chamber. Those four Democrats were allowed to retain their leadership positions or were given new ones. Three of the more recent party switchers were chairman of committees and a fourth — Rep. Carl Rogers — served on the Appropriations Committee, the most powerful committee in the House. And Towery thinks it probably won't take long for them to regain positions of power as Republicans.

“In essence, the best and the brightest in the Democratic Party as they come into the Republican Party end up running the Republican Party,” he said.

The prospect for dissension within the GOP as a result of the influx of former Democrats has already been demonstrated. When Perdue took office, he proposed a tax increase to offset the state's budget deficit, a move that angered many Republicans. But some Republicans say they expect the road to becoming the dominant party to be rocky, and also that being in control provides no guarantee that conflict will end, pointing to the example of SOUTH CAROLINA, where a Republican governor is battling it out with a Republican House and Senate. Others point out that a Republican takeover this year is also not a certainty. Even with the recent party switches, House membership stands at 104-75 in favor of the Democrats, with one independent. And although the House Reapportionment Office reports that 96 of the 180 House districts under the new legislative maps supported President Bush in 2000 by 60 percent or more, Georgians typically vote for one party in national elections and the other in state races. The continued conflict in Iraq and sluggish economy could also lead voters to punish Republicans on the same ticket as President George W. Bush. (ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION)

**SINE DIE:** IOWA lawmakers wrapped up their 2004 session last week by approving a \$5.2 billion budget they say funds the state's priorities, including education and public safety, without a tax increase. But the session will likely be remembered for the passage of legislation expanding racetrack and riverboat gambling in the state. The legislature accomplished little beyond that, however, prompting Gov. Tom Vilsack (D) to remark, “This Legislature was unwilling to tackle too many tough issues. They felt that [gambling] was about all that they could handle. I think they could have done more.” Among the things lawmakers didn't do was pass the cigarette tax hike and sales tax expansion Vilsack proposed. And despite his annoyance that their failure to do so will likely lead to an increase in property taxes — and their claims that their budget held the line on taxes — Vilsack said he will not call a special session on the issue. Among the other things that didn't survive the session were Vilsack's school anti-bullying



measure and a proposal to permanently fund the state’s Values Fund economic development program, which Sen. Pres. Jeff Lamberti (R) said would be “high on the list next year.” (DES MOINES REGISTER, QUAD-CITY TIMES, THEIOWACHANNEL.COM)

— *Compiled by KOREY CLARK*

---

# Governors

**“ LAME DUCK” NOT ON LOCKE’S MENU:** WASHINGTON Gov. Gary Locke (D) has already announced he will be leaving office in November, but that doesn’t mean he intends to go quietly. Last week Locke outlined a crowded agenda for his final months in office, one which includes formulating a two-year budget that his successor will inherit and hosting the National Governor’s Conference in July. The governor also detailed plans to step up his appeals to voters to support his initiative to raise the state sales tax by a penny on the dollar — with revenue going to fund preschool, K-12 and higher education — as well as visits to China, Europe and Mexico to promote trade. Locke apparently also no longer feels the need to hold back any potentially controversial opinions. In an address last week to the state’s Superior Court Judges Association Locke urged judges to take a pledge not to consume alcohol in public, or to at least limit themselves to a single drink. In the audience was state Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge, who last year received a deferred prosecution and treatment after a drunken driving arrest. Locke said his comments were not meant to embarrass Bridge, who told reporters later that “she couldn’t agree more.” Her feelings were likely assuaged by the balance of Locke’s comments, which included advocating for all public officials to adopt a “stringent and even harsh code of conduct” and jabs at the U.S. Supreme Court for their role in the 2000 election of President George W. Bush. (SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER, IDAHO SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, SEATTLE TIMES)

**RILEY’S REBEL YELL:** ALABAMA Gov. Bob Riley (R) has walked a fine line on the Heart of Dixie’s enduring struggle to honor its Confederate legacy ever since coming to office in 2002. Riley, a descendant of a Confederate soldier held prisoner during the Civil War, has in the past year attended commemorations for both slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. and Confederate General Robert E. Lee to acknowledge their role in state history. He again paid homage to the state’s Civil War past last week in a ceremony celebrating the restoration of the

82-foot-tall Confederate Monument that stands on the north side of the state Capitol building in Montgomery. Riley said the bulk of soldiers in the Confederacy were fighting for their homes and newly seceded nation, not to uphold slavery. He also praised their “lasting legacy of patriotism,” saying no other region of the country is as patriotic as the South. State Sen. Hank Sanders (D, who is black, professed no problem with honoring the soldiers, but did say he wished more Americans would honor the thousands of black soldiers who fought and died for the Union. (BIRMINGHAM NEWS)

**UTAH UNREST:** Lawmakers in UTAH successfully overturned two vetoes issued by Gov. Olene S. Walker (R) last week, but the bills themselves were not nearly as compelling as the intrigue and infighting surrounding them in the House. At the heart of the squabble was an attempt by some House members to force the chamber to debate all five of Walker’s vetoes from last session rather than just the two on the docket. The ensuing jousting dragged on long enough to anger the Senate body, which had dealt with the veto debate in a mere 30 minutes. After an hour of waiting on the House, Senators angrily adjourned and scattered from the statehouse. Walker, who could be facing a challenge for her job from as many as seven fellow Republicans in the next election, called the House actions “purely politics.” She also angrily denounced legislative leaders who she claims bullied her and her staff into calling the session. She did agree to call another special session to deal with the two revived bills. (SALT LAKE TRIBUNE)

---

## Quote ...

“I will not be cowed by those threats. I hope Utahns will look carefully at the action of the Senate and House and see it for what it is.”

—**UTAH Gov. Olene S. Walker (R) responding to alleged threats to her staff from House Republicans that they “would make trouble” for her at next month’s GOP convention if she did not call a special override session to debate recently vetoed legislation.**

---

## ... unquote

“I don’t know how to respond. I haven’t threatened the governor or any of her staff. We’re simply fulfilling our constitutional responsibility. It’s too bad she has resorted to name-calling.”

—**UTAH House Majority Leader Greg Curtis (R) denying Walker’s allegation. (SALT LAKE TRIBUNE)**

### GOVS ASK BUSH TO STOP JOB DRAIN:

Three Democratic governors — all from Midwestern states that could be key to the 2004 presidential election — appealed to President Bush last week for greater federal help in slowing what has in recent years become a steady loss of manufacturing jobs.

MICHIGAN Gov. Jennifer Granholm organized the event, where she was joined by PENNSYLVANIA’s Ed Rendell and Jim Doyle of WISCONSIN. The trio scolded the Bush administration for what they say is a failure to force foreign countries to play by fair trade

rules. They also asked for Congress to finance retraining programs for laid-off manufacturing workers and to reduce health care costs for employers. Republicans called the event a transparent campaign effort for presumed Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, who was visiting WEST VIRGINIA, PENNSYLVANIA, OHIO and MICHIGAN at the time to promote a job development plan. Granholm denied the trip was political, noting that 22 governors, many Republican, were invited to attend the forums. (DETROIT FREE PRESS, LANSING STATE JOURNAL, POST-CRESCENT [APPLETON])



**GOVERNORS IN BRIEF:** The **LOUISIANA** House unanimously approved two bills championed by Gov. Kathleen Blanco (D) designed to improve the Pelican State’s image as politically unethical. Both HB 1015 and HB 1246 move to the Senate (NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE). • The mayor of Philadelphia filed suit against **PENNSYLVANIA** Gov. Ed Rendell (D) over a new state law that gives the city very little say in controlling its own parking regulations and enforcement (PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER). • **MISSISSIPPI** Gov. Haley Barbour (R) signed legislation creating the MISSISSIPPI Blues Commission, which will be charged with using the state’s status as the birthplace of the blues to promote tourism and spur economic development (SUN-HERALD [BILOXI]). • **NEW JERSEY** Gov. James E. McGreevey (D) was uninjured after his state trooper-driven vehicle crashed into another car. A McGreevey assistant suffered an injured hand and was taken to a local hospital. The driver of the other vehicle was cited for failure to yield to traffic (TRENTON TIMES). • **CALIFORNIA** Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (R) traveled to Israel last week to attend the opening of a museum groundbreaking and to look for potential business opportunities for the Golden State’s languishing economy. He also visited California troops stationed in Germany (SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE). • **IOWA** Gov. Tom Vilsack (D) submitted background documents to the campaign of presumptive Democratic presidential nominee and MASSACHUSETTS Sen. John Kerry (D). Vilsack will not confirm or deny he is a potential running mate for Kerry in November (SIOUX CITY JOURNAL).

— Compiled by RICH EHISEN









