

TIME CHANGE: THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS

How so many people got something so important so wrong.

by JOHN GASKI

The most contentious and enduring public-policy issue in Indiana history may be the seemingly straightforward matter of “what time is it?” This analysis and commentary targets some unresolved aspects of the state of Indiana’s recent change to daylight-saving time in conjunction with near-statewide Eastern time. Highlighted is the erroneous economic and commercial basis for the new regimen, along with educational and humane implications. Finally, a comprehensive position is taken and a proposal for resolution is outlined.

Although the concentration here is the Indiana situation, lessons can be generalized to other states, counties and regions facing similar time-policy considerations. Ultimately, a critical appraisal of one of the most incendiary and possibly fateful policy decisions by the U.S. federal government in recent years, even though provincially-focused, is offered as suitable grist for the journal audience.

Even those who are based nowhere near Indiana may be aware of the state’s convulsive time legislation experience, especially the most-recent such spasm of 2005-06. After nearly six decades of resistance, the Indiana Legislature approved daylight-saving time in the spring of 2005. The principal motivation for proponents, prominently including the state Chamber of Commerce and Governor Mitch Daniels, was work-day consistency and seasonal alignment with most of the rest of the country, which was expected to facilitate business convenience. That is, no more confusion by out-of-state, daylight-saving observant business contacts over the exact hour in Indiana.

This action only set in motion a derivative controversy about whether to be assigned to the Eastern or Central time zone. Although most of Indiana had nominally been in the Eastern zone for 40 years, because of non-observance of daylight-saving time (DST, equivalent to “Summer Time” in the U.K.), the state was effectively on Central time for six or seven months per year during that 40-year period. True to form, different Indiana counties opted for different time zones via their 2005 petitions to the federal government, but the majority of the state, 76 of 92 counties, remains on Eastern time ever since

DST has been imposed there. Yet because of some undesirable consequences of this temporal discontinuity, opposition

to DST, Eastern time, or especially both, continues within broad areas of Indiana. Before considering the implications, a more detailed review of the underlying background would be helpful.

Daylight-Saving Time History

The history of DST should first acknowledge the history of standard time, which was adopted in the United States and internationally as an outcome of the Prime Meridian Conference of 1884. Before then, individual jurisdictions, even municipalities, established their own local times, producing a patchwork quilt of time zones. The obvious havoc this regime created for railroad schedules was the principal impetus for standard time.

Benjamin Franklin may actually have been the father of daylight-saving time via a 1784 essay (Goodman 1931), the idea culminating in British Summer Time, enacted by Parliament in 1916. Franklin’s original rationale, remarkably enduring over the following two centuries, was energy savings — primarily from evening lamplight economies in his day. The desire to conserve national energy resources during the two world wars contributed additional American momentum, as DST was decreed in 1918-19 and 1942-45. U.S. states and localities had discretion over DST observance between 1945 and the late 1960s, when the Uniform Time Act (1966) created homogeneous national DST from April to October, subject to state or locality opt-out by ordinance. In 1986, the Reagan administration and Congress lengthened U.S. DST to approximately seven months per year from six, and now, as of March 2007, it extends for eight months, March to November (Energy Policy Act of 2005). Many foreign countries observe DST, but by no means all. Notable exceptions are China and India.

The Legislative Record

Overlaid upon this macro-history is the Hoosier state’s idiosyncratic and tortuous relationship with one of the four dimensions of the physical universe, *i.e.*, time. Highlights, such as they are, are hereby recounted.

In 1949, literally under the cover of night, the Indiana Senate passed a bill to outlaw DST and mandate Central time. In the state House, however, urban and rural legislators, representing DST/Eastern versus standard/



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Central time interests respectively, could not come to agreement. Only after filibuster and literal breaking of the official chamber clock, ironically, to prolong the session, did the pro-Central, anti-DST bill pass. The law ultimately was ignored by communities favoring so-called “fast time.”

In 1956, a non-binding state referendum found that a narrow majority of state voters preferred Central time without DST. A strong majority was opposed to the Eastern time zone along with DST. The next year the Indiana Legislature made Central time the official state time, but this law was repealed in 1961.

Based on a compromise plan initiated by the newly-formed U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in 1969, the Indiana Legislature approved Eastern Standard Time as the year-round technical norm for the state, with the understanding that the state would be exempted from mandatory DST by the United States Congress — producing the practicality of half-year Central time, in effect. The counties around Gary (near Chicago) and Evansville in the extreme southwest corner of Indiana would be allowed to abide by normal Central time with DST. This solution finally prevailed in 1972 after legislative override of Governor Edgar Whitcomb’s veto and Congressional concurrence via amendment of the Uniform Time Act. The pact survived for 33 years until April 2005 when, after numerous failed attempts spanning decades, the Indiana Legislature passed a DST bill (Act to Amend the Indiana Code . . . 2005), thereby implementing it effective upon the next national clock change. Later that year came the time zone petitions and federal hearings.¹

Children’s Safety

During the 2005-06 time-zone debate in Indiana, one of the most compelling arguments against Eastern time, ostensibly, was that the contrived hour advancement caused extended morning darkness.

This condition, in turn, was held to be an intolerable danger to schoolchildren because it required them to wait in darkness for the morning school bus, at least for major segments of the school year. Why is this such a problem for Indiana but not other parts of the country? The difference is that Indiana, if in the Eastern zone, is at the extreme western boundary of an artificially expanded time zone which grotesquely exaggerates consequences and problems such as the abnormal morning darkness (to be explicated presently). Most U.S. geography at Indiana’s longitude is in the Central time zone.²

To what extent are children, and others, really being endangered by the time switch? Anecdotal accident reports from around the state are ominous (Evans and Tuohy 2006; Lopp 2007), although total traffic fatalities in the first partial DST year, 2006, may have been slightly reduced throughout Indiana (WANE.com 2007) — but short-term evidence is insufficient to establish a trend, and causality is inevitably more complex than this associative suggestion. (In fact, the improved safety record merely continues a four-year pattern.) More recent evidence suggests a spate of traffic accidents and abductions in Indiana’s neo-a.m. cloak of darkness (Central Time Coalition 2009).

The best evidence on the subject comes from a classic National Bureau of Standards (NBS) study showing that the excessive morning darkness resulting from, for example, a position on the extreme western edge of the wrong time zone, does indeed increase motor vehicle fatalities to schoolchildren (U.S. National Bureau of Standards 1976). However, the U.S. Department of Transportation, which had the task of ruling on the petitions of 18 Indiana counties that applied to move to the Central time zone in 2005, did not buy this argument and disallowed most of the cases. As expressed in its Final Rule of January 18, 2006, “(A)s for the

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1. The neighboring state of Michigan has had an erratic time zone experience itself, along with DST variations, straddling the Central and Eastern zones in a variety of ways in different periods. In 1968 the Michigan state government, against the popular will in the western half of the state, decided to unify its territory (except for part of the Upper Peninsula) on Detroit’s Eastern time, including DST. Many have believed the Detroit riots to be a precipitant, i.e., motivating later nightfall.

2. While on Eastern time, Indianapolis, in the middle of the state, averages 47 minutes ahead of astronomical solar time. The city is 1:44 out of phase, on average, during the daylight-saving portion of the year, for an annual average of 1:24 ahead of true solar time.

Because of daylight-saving combined with Eastern time, after-7:30 o'clock sunrises in Indianapolis will increase from 103 per year to 169, with the after-8 o'clock total rising from 52 to 72. By comparison, Chicago has none, New York has one, and Los Angeles has none. If on Central time, Indianapolis' total would be zero as well.

1976 National Bureau of Standards study . . . while there were reports of increased fatalities among school-age children in the mornings during the test period, it was impossible to determine whether this was due to daylight-saving time which would have resulted in a later sunrise" (U.S. Department of Transportation 2006). The DOT cited a 1975 report to Congress on the morning darkness danger issue: "(I)t has been discovered that, in the morning, school-age children fatal accidents were not significantly different from fatal accidents in the total population" (U.S. Department of Transportation 1975).

Unfortunately, the U.S. Department of Transportation misinterpreted this evidence in its Indiana time-zone decisions of 2005-06, thereby jeopardizing children in those counties whose Central zone petitions were rejected by the DOT. The department's use of the 1975 Congressional report to attempt to rebut the 1976 NBS study was no less than a *non sequitur*. Essentially, even if true that "school-age children fatal accidents were not significantly different," the relevant comparison is between (a) danger at a dark a.m. time and (b) danger at the same time with an hour's more daylight. In other words, even if schoolchildren and the total population share the same danger at a given early morning darkness time, the children (actually both groups) would be safer with an additional hour's worth of light. (This abstracts from possibly offsetting hazard to the general population from evening drive-time darkness—which would not apply to the schoolchildren segment, and is addressed subsequently.) So an Eastern zone decision adds to a.m. risk for schoolchildren by attaching the same degree of greater danger that the rest of the population also suffers—accepting the validity of the cited report. This, as should be obvious, is not valid evidence in rebuttal to the morning darkness danger argument.

In sum, the schoolchildren versus general population comparison is not on point. A schoolchildren-in-the-dark versus schoolchildren-in-the-light comparison is the proper one. Moreover, the NBS research post-dated the 1975 DOT Congressional report, and incorporated, reviewed and corrected it. Also noteworthy is that the

DOT has accepted the NBS results in previous cases.

Whether it was a lapse of logic or misreading of the reported 1975 findings that led the DOT to conclude wrongly about this critical component of the issue in the Indiana instance, the damage has been done and some probability of dire future outcomes has been programmed. Because children's safety was acknowledged by DOT as a major element of its 2006 final ruling for Eastern time—hereby exposed as a fatuous nostrum—that decision should now be rendered and adjudged invalid and rightfully rescinded, especially in view of the potentially catastrophic consequences. Without attributing motives, an alternative interpretation of the DOT's inexplicably shallow dismissal of the child-safety concern is casuistry, for whatever reason. Contemporaneous reports from DOT personnel were that the Indiana state government had been applying unremitting pressure for an early and pro-Eastern time zone decision from the department, so an ethical question arises.

Quoting anonymously one of the state's leading Central time advocates (yes, there are opposing time-ideological factions), to capture and lend texture to the vehemence of that camp's position:

Now do you see what we meant when we said Eastern time, along with daylight-saving time, would be wrong for most of Indiana? Now are you satisfied—when you see the small children waiting in pitch darkness for the morning school bus? Actually, most of those who supported DST with Eastern time couldn't care less about it because the little ones waiting on the street corner in the dark are not their children. Theirs are being chauffeured to school in the family SUV.

There most certainly is a class warfare subtext to this time issue. And the preceding quotation approximates the spirit of the Indiana state PTA and many school districts in contesting DST and Eastern time, the combination Indiana locals refer to as the odious "double fast time."

In fact, this ultimately may not even be an empirical question, but rather an analytical one. It seems physically inescapable that darkness during a.m. drive time will be more dangerous to children than the same during the

evening, especially in the winter. There are problems of fog and black ice following the colder night-time temperatures that do not translate in the evening, following the warmer daytime, in addition to early morning driver and pedestrian drowsiness. Because of daylight-saving combined with Eastern time, after-7:30 sunrises in Indianapolis will increase from 103 per year to 169, with the after-8:00 total rising from 52 to 72. By comparison, Chicago has none, New York has one and Los Angeles has none. If on Central time, Indianapolis' total would be zero as well. Is the reader beginning to appreciate how this issue really does affect child safety?

One can suspect or accuse the Eastern/DST proponents of malfeasance only as a polemical last resort, despite appearances. Unfortunately and objectively, misfeasance is a realistic charge, compounded every time an Indiana child is injured or worse from an early-morning auto accident that would not have happened if the state were either (a) in the Central time zone or (b) not plagued with daylight-saving time, now to be extended into November and March. Then there is the increased risk of darkness-facilitated child abductions. Alarmist? It would be melodramatic to impugn the Eastern time backers, typified by business interests and their political clients, as having the proverbial blood on their hands (imagery befitting the high stakes, worst-case concern of the time zone "resistance movement"), but let us try telling that to the grieving families when the inevitable tragedy happens to the morning darkness-afflicted and endangered children. Cited evidence and logic say the Eastern time/DST detractors have a point (also see Coren 1998). And, no, there is no corresponding afternoon darkness danger if and when Indiana is on Central time. In that case, the earliest Indianapolis (or South Bend) sunset during the school year would be 4:20 p.m., with the earliest dusk at 4:50 p.m., long after the school buses have run. (This can be verified with Naval Observatory numbers at the website of the renowned

Bloomington statistician, Mr. Jeff Sagarin, whose sports rankings appear in most U.S. daily newspapers: www.sagarin.com [Sagarin 2006].)

Furthermore, extant evidence purporting to show public-safety enhancement from extended evening daylight (qua DST or misplaced Eastern time; Aldrich 2005, p. 4) does not necessarily apply to an area on the far-flung fringe of the wrong, unnatural time zone, such as Indiana (or Michigan). In fact, other recent empirical evidence confirms the opposite, literally an increase in traffic accident rates of seven percent attributable to DST (Coren 1996). The 1973 federal law that required the nation to observe daylight time year-round was actually repealed less than a year later because of an increase in highway traffic deaths (Emergency Daylight-Saving Time Energy Conservation Act, 1974). The people of Indiana now suffer the equivalent of year-round daylight time, and then some, via irrational time-zone assignment.³

Subsidiary Issues: The Academics

Eastern-*cum*-daylight-saving time's transgression against Indiana children is not limited to school safety, regrettably. Forcing schoolchildren to awaken and try to function an hour (or two) earlier than their biological clocks command, an hour earlier than natural time, is detrimental to scholastic performance. This is the circadian rhythm problem, sometimes manifestly aggregated into "Seasonal Affective Disorder," which may appear to be gobbledygook until one discovers that it is true. For the individual's daily routine to grossly violate the quotidian sun cycle does indeed cause physiological and psychological harm. Persuasive scientific evidence in the medical literature affirms the phenomenon and connection. (See IARC 2007; Moore 2006; White *et al.* ["Incidence of Winter Depression Varies within Time Zones," Society for Light Treatment and Biological Rhythms] 2005-2006; National Sleep Foundation 2000.) The basic mechanism is the astronomical

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3. If any alleged empirical benefits of Eastern time or DST would not materialize for Indiana because of dissimilar geographic characteristics between Indiana and the research locales (i.e., relative time zone position), then the detriments, e.g., traffic accidents, might not either, by the same reasoning. However, the extreme case of year-round DST, as repudiated nationally in 1974, does equate to Indiana's new condition, as would its ill effects.

When on Eastern time, the cumulative hourly difference between Indiana businesses and other U.S. contiguous time zones is: 3 (Pacific), 2 (Mountain), 1 (Central) and 0 (Eastern), for a total of six hours. If on Central time, the respective numbers are 2 + 1 + 0 + 1 = 4. In other words, Indiana is aligned with commerce in the rest of the country better if in the Central time zone.

light-darkness cycle that regulates human bio-rhythms, along with the derived lethargy from extended morning darkness, especially during winter — in contravention of the natural harmony — which undermines intellectual function and even emotion.

The dramatic results of White *et al.* (2006, p. 744) vivify well:

(L)ater clock time of sunrise in winter . . . is . . . depressogenic. . . (I)ncidence of winter major depression, . . . fatigability, hypersomnia, and weight gain were all significantly higher in the western tier of the Eastern time zone than in the . . . eastern tier of the Central time zone . . . The delayed clock time of sunrise in the western tier of a time zone exaggerates the incidence (of) winter depression, raises the proportion of people with clinically significant seasonality, and promotes atypical neurovegetative symptoms.

Frankly, the Seasonal Affective Disorder aspect should be a monumental issue in its own right, apart from its relation to scholastic achievement. “Leave it to downstate Indiana hicks to suddenly become conscious of the state’s brain-drain problem and yet be blind to the root cause of other statewide brain damage that they, themselves, are causing” — as an observer from outside the state of Indiana concluded from all this (anonymously, again).

Forthcoming evidence actually finds about a 16-point decrement in SAT scores associated with Eastern daylight time at Indiana longitude, even controlling for socioeconomic status. (The study is based on longitudinal and cross-sectional data within Indiana’s multiple combined time zone and DST regimen as a quasi-natural laboratory). The commercial and economic side-effects of such statewide “dumbing-down” should also be self-evident. Geographically similar Michigan has maintained Eastern time with daylight-saving for decades and now has the highest unemployment rate in the nation, though other causal variables such as “Big Three” auto manufacturer problems surely contribute.⁴

Still another academic dysfunction induced by “fast” Eastern time in Indiana

is the greater frequency of weather-related school delays and cancellations. As testified to at various in-state hearings (U.S. Department of Transportation 2006, pp. 25-26) by school corporation officers and other public officials, that extra hour can make all the difference with a morning fog or snow delay, or a school district’s decision to cancel a class day (a judgment which must be finalized within the first two hours of the daily schedule).

“It’s for the children” has become the caricature and tedious mantra of the craven political charlatan. We can lament that tendency because it cheapens the impact when the quoted sentiment really is true. This, the Indiana time controversy, appears to be such a case.

Subsidiary Issues: Economics

But do not the economic arguments for Eastern time in Indiana outweigh the other concerns? The DOT is guided by “convenience of commerce” as its supreme criterion in deciding time-zone boundaries, after all. In reply, (1) the DOT acknowledges that “safety is the number one priority of the Department and we are committed to improving safety of school children” (U.S. Department of Transportation 2006, p. 27). (2) The most fundamental and important commerce of all is that between families and schools. The upshot of this realization is that the DOT erred in concluding that federal Executive Order No. 13045, “Protection of Children from Safety Risks,” does not apply to the Indiana time-zone matter on the grounds of no economic significance (U.S. DOT 2006, p. 59). This negligence amounts to a crucial abdication by the DOT, and is further grounds for vacating the 2006 Indiana Final Rule. (3) To the U.S. DOT and Indiana Eastern-ophiles: If you do place financial gain ahead of education and children’s safety, you probably should not admit it to anyone. (4) This may surprise readers who are more, rather than less, familiar with the history of this issue, but the economic case actually supports Central time for Indiana.

4. *Indiana actually is nearly comparable to Michigan in automobile industry dependence, with an industry employment index of 5.0, second nationally only to Michigan’s 7.0 as of 2005 (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2007). In terms of Gross State Product, nine percent of Indiana’s is auto manufacturing-related (Indiana Business Magazine 2002). The auto industry factor would therefore be roughly constant across the two states.*

The simplest way to explain it is this: When on Eastern time, the cumulative hourly difference between Indiana businesses and other U.S. contiguous time zones is 3 (Pacific), 2 (Mountain), 1 (Central) and 0 (Eastern), for a total of six hours. If on Central time, the respective numbers are 2 + 1 + 0 + 1 = 4. In other words, Indiana is aligned with commerce in the rest of the country better if in the Central time zone.

The state Chamber of Commerce has touted the fact that 39 percent of Indiana exports are to the Eastern time zone, more than go to any of the other three. So adjust the preceding set of numbers by zonal export volume, as shown here:

Table 1. Trade-weighted cumulative deviations from other time zones

SUM OF INDIANA TIME-ZONE DEVIATIONS (D), WEIGHTED BY EXPORT VOLUME		
Zone - trade percent	d (if Eastern Zone)	d (if Central Zone)
Eastern - 39	0	39
CENTRAL - 25	25	0
Mountain - 11	22	11
Pacific - 25	75	50
	122	100

(Source: Indiana Chamber of Commerce)

What we find is that commerce-adjusted time differences still favor the Central time zone for Indiana. By flacking for Eastern time in the recent time-zone debate, the leaders of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce revealed that they fail to understand, to put it benignly, that their own data verify Central time as better for Indiana economically. We can make it even easier for them: If 39 percent of export trade is with Eastern, that means 61 percent goes to Central and points west. (Imports are about a 50-50 wash between Eastern and other zones, so the focus is on exports, which are the drivers of commerce anyway.) Let us also note that the economic center of gravity in the United States keeps shifting westward, according to every U.S. census over the past 200 years. Remarkably, some Indiana “Hoosiers” have concluded that it makes sense to buck that trend.

To elaborate this issue and refine the Table 1 approach, the “business-choice

maximizing” model developed by faculty at Indiana University represents common (daily) business hours shared with other time zones, adjusted for zone population — i.e., overlap with working hours in other time zones, population-weighted (Sagarin 2009). Table 2 data show that the Central time zone outperforms all other U.S. time zones on this score. The highest total number indicates the closest common economic alignment, that is.

Table 2. Business Choice Maximizing model results

POPULATION-WEIGHTED TEMPORAL COMMONALITY WITH OTHER TIME ZONES	
Eastern	88.39 percent
CENTRAL	89.18 percent
Mountain	82.23 percent
Pacific	73.72 percent
Alaska	61.39 percent
Hawaiian-Aleutian	36.61 percent

Note: Totals represent percent of U.S. population working hours covered, even including non-contiguous time zones. (Source: www.kiva.net/~sagarin.)

The Eastern time proponents have also stressed the presumed advantage of temporal consistency with the financial markets of the U.S. East Coast. That argument is weakened not only by the preceding but by the instantaneous information transfer of modern e-technology. Frankly, it should have been diminished by the telephone and telegraph, as well.

Humane Issues and Political Ramifications

One other feature of this temporal mess that may come as news to Indianapolis and Fort Wayne area denizens is TV time. This may also seem bizarre to readers from out-of-region, but even during the months when most of Indiana was always on Chicago time, local television stations in the Fort Wayne and Indianapolis markets had actually delayed-broadcast all evening prime-time network programs by one hour, to install a perpetual eight-to-eleven p.m. prime-time schedule, instead of allowing the pleasure and convenience of seven-to-ten prime time, like Chicago and most of the Midwest have, for part of the year.

Note that the economic center of gravity in the United States keeps shifting westward, according to every U.S. census over the past 200 years. Remarkably, some “Hoosiers” have concluded that it makes sense to buck that trend.

By ordaining the Eastern with DST parlay, the result is that one side gets everything and the other side, in this case a statewide plurality at least, gets nothing. That is not fair. That is not ethical per either utilitarian or deontological norms. That is a prescription for endless political conflict, strife and disequilibrium over the time issue, an inherently unstable condition

Not surprisingly, they did this for their own convenience and money. That is, the hour-delayed prime time allows stations to sell local advertising for the coveted 7-to-8 p.m. period. (Oligopoly power in local broadcasting enables such consumer betrayal.)

Of course, different people have different preferences and some will simply find the later prime time more to their liking. Among those who have experienced both, though, the author would wager, based on exploratory empiricism, that most would prefer 7-to-10 because it allows more flexibility for the large audience numbers who watch the late news. (In this one case, only analytical hypothesizing is offered because of an absence of hard empirical evidence on the subject.)

The television-schedule issue may seem trivial, and compared to other dimensions covered here it may be, but it does indicate one other class-conflict aspect. For most working-class people, a few hours of evening TV constitute one of the meager entertainment options available, and eleven o'clock or so is just too late to stay up — hence, the social equitability of Central time. (Buy TiVo or a DVR? That suggestion would be the modern-day equivalent of “let them eat cake.”) Again, the Republicans in the Indiana Legislature (who are responsible, along with the Governor, the Chamber types and U.S. DOT, for enacting Eastern daylight-saving time) have demonstrated that they have little sympathy for those people. Those Republicans also seem too myopic about this issue to grasp that such abject cynicism eventually tends to get politicians fired in a state like Indiana, so someone should remind them. They are hereby reminded by this registered Republican (which also confirms the non-partisanship of this whole exercise).

The above review of practical concerns may have the corollary effect of assisting non-Indianans in comprehending the intensity of DST- and time zone-charged emotional reactions on the part of Indiana residents. This perspective, in turn, will help illuminate the next iteration of our

“time-wars” saga for outside onlookers, whatever and whenever it will be. Readers may be gathering that the Indiana time contest, as spectator sport, is truly something to behold. Outsiders can also be grateful that they do not have to live it.

The Politics

The political bedfellows on the Indiana time-zone issue are rather curious. Conservative Republicans line up with the liberal, “effete” East, preferring New York time, while nominally liberal Democrat legislators around the state align with Midwest values and Chicago time. Curious, indeed.

In this regard, the most critical long-term political implication of the time-zone/DST controversy apparently has never been understood by the state politicians who jammed Eastern DST down much of Indiana’s collective throat despite widespread public opposition. The problem is this: Those who wanted daylight-saving time also generally supported Eastern time (just like six decades earlier). The Central time advocates also tended to be opposed to DST — because they were afraid their state would get stuck with both Eastern and daylight-saving. By ordaining the Eastern with DST parlay, the result is that one side gets everything and the other side, in this case a statewide plurality at least, gets nothing. That is not fair. That is not ethical per either utilitarian or deontological norms.⁵ That is a prescription for endless political conflict, strife and disequilibrium over the time issue, an inherently unstable condition — but it also points the way to resolution: neo-compromise.

An enlightened and even Solomonic solution to the decades-long Indiana time dilemma is what may be called “the grand compromise.” To wit, put the ball in the court of the Eastern DST side. Let them decide. Tell them they can have one or the other, Eastern time or DST, but not both. Let them choose one, and then the state government will enact. If Eastern time, then we go back to the old regimen and repeal DST. (There is something to be said for never having to adjust your

5. *The nouveau status quo of DST/Eastern time fails the utilitarian (consequentialist or teleological) test by virtue of, at minimum, the preceding commercial trade statistics. Deontological deficiency is revealed by the invidious punishment directed at one particular, and very large, segment of the population, i.e., improper means.*

clocks, as many Indianans may now be realizing. Arizona and Hawaii residents will experience heightened understanding also if they ever succumb to the temptation of daylight-saving time. And this is not to suggest that there are no benefits at all resulting from DST; it is a question of balance.) If DST, they — the Eastern and DST disciples — must then accede to Central time.

But the state cannot dictate time zone, can it? Sure it can, sort of. If the Indiana government would support a time zone petition for all or most of the state's counties, or whatever number would request zone reassignment, the U.S. DOT would be hard-pressed to deny it. Historically, the DOT defers to such a jurisdiction's consensus preference.⁶ And, obviously, those pockets of counties in the Northwest, Southwest and Southeast corners of Indiana are special cases that should be allowed to continue to go their own ways.

(As mentioned, the counties around Evansville and near Chicago have operated on Central time all along. Those near Cincinnati and Louisville, Kentucky, were traditionally permitted to observe DST unofficially to remain synchronous with their metropolitan area practice. See Figure 1 map.)

To those who would oppose this accommodation rectifying the state's time conundrum on the grounds that Indiana time is now a "settled" issue, that sophistic, obstructionist position can be readily disqualified as self-contradiction and hypocrisy as well with one rhetorical question: Why not accept the status quo ante of five years ago as a "settled issue"? It had been settled for decades, after all.

Conclusion

Throughout this treatment, both sides of the debate have been given exposure. It is just that the pro-Eastern DST position — when applied to incompatible geography

— is sometimes thin and vaporous to the point of canard, thus readily eclipsed. How, then, could the U.S. DOT come to rule against Central time for most Indiana-petitioning counties? Eastern time was accorded default status in the proceedings even though Central time was de facto the prevailing reality by a factor of seven-to-five; *i.e.*, Indiana had been on the equivalent of Central daylight time (literal Eastern standard), conjoined with Chicago, seven months per year for two decades. Therefore, the Central time side suffered an undue burden-of-proof impost. Also, the Indiana governor, after pledging official support for Central time before

being elected, actively campaigned and lobbied against many counties' petitions (Sulok 2005).

Now, finally, a regional time zone plan for resolution and reconciliation is proffered that is equitable, sensible and addresses the error of what has been inflicted on the citizens of Indiana. The state's politicians may prudently wish to get on with it. If not, they may pay a heavy electoral price soon. And there

is no need to stall with the kind of referendum that has been publicly proposed, either, because the 2005 opinion polls were that referendum, and few voted for the worst-of-worlds combination they have now. (Final results of a statewide poll conducted by SurveyUSA in 2005 were 56 percent for Central time and 32 percent favoring Eastern.)

The "time" has come, as the people of Indiana may now be timing their public servants. Fortunately, this article has supplied the ideal political cover: This time, it really *is* for the children.

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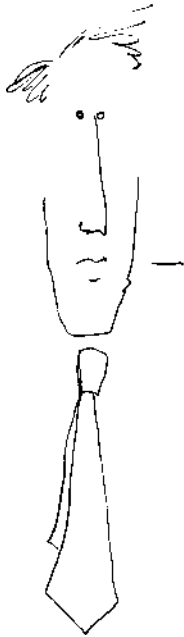
To those who would oppose an accommodation rectifying the state's time conundrum on the grounds that Indiana time is now a "settled" issue, a rhetorical question: Why not accept the status quo ante of five years ago as a "settled issue"? It had been settled for decades, after all.

Figure 1



6. The 2005 Indiana DST law required the state government to support any county petition for Central time. When it came time for that support to be given, the state redefined "what the meaning of the word 'support' is."

COVER ESSAY



Time — the corrector
when our judgments
err.
(Lord Byron)

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THE TUESDAY LUNCH

Indiana Time: A Casualty of Hubris

When the tide defied Canute, the great Viking king, he leapt back from the advancing water to proclaim: “Let all men know how empty and worthless is the power of kings, for there is none worthy of the name, but He whom heaven, earth, and sea obey by eternal laws.”

Whereupon he hung his golden crown on a crucifix, never to wear it again.

So Canute exemplified not hubris but humility. If you want a honest-to-goodness, unrepentant example of official hubris, turn to Indiana’s suspension of the fourth dimension of the physical universe.

Yes, it’s back, the time-change debate. A Notre Dame professor says officialdom didn’t fix the problem five years ago, it made it worse.

In the first in a group of essays that explores the arrogance of government, Dr. John Gaski addresses each of the arguments that led the governor, the Legislature, leaders in both political parties and even the state Chamber of Commerce to endorse what he calls the “worst of the worst” — that is, Eastern Time with daylight-saving time (DST), or what those in western Indiana disparage as “Fast-Fast Time.”

His findings:

- On Eastern time, even centrally located Indianapolis averages 47 minutes ahead of astronomical solar time. And during the DST portion of the year, the city is 1:44 out of phase, for an annual average of 1:24 ahead of true solar time.
- Yes, there is a scientific argument that such changes in the timing of daily routine violate the quotidian sun cycle and cause physiological and psychological harm, *i.e.*, the collapse of the Colts offense.
- No, the safety of Indiana school children has not significantly improved as promised by the U.S. Department of Transportation.



Napoleon Crowned by Time, before 1833 (oil on canvas)

- Yes, school delays and cancellations have increased.

- Yes, there is a 16-point decrement in SAT scores associated with Eastern time at our longitude.

- And yes, Indiana television stations can make more money on Eastern time at the expense of viewer convenience and flexibility of schedule.

Most troubling is the doubt that Dr. Gaski casts on a promise by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and others that the time change would serve the “convenience of commerce”:

What we find is that commerce-adjusted time differences still favor the Central time zone for Indiana. The leaders of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce seemed not to understand, to put it benignly, that their own data verified Central time as better for Indiana economically.

Dr. Gaski proposes what he calls “the grand compromise,” a petition on either Eastern time or daylight-saving time but not both.

If the decision is Eastern time, then Indiana goes back to the old regimen and repeals DST (with counties near Cincinnati and Louisville, as before, allowed to observe unofficial DST). If we want

DST, though, we will have to live on Central time.

The solution tracks with an early poll predicting that 56 percent of Hoosiers would be unhappy with the current arrangement. And indeed, according to a recent national Rasmussen survey, 57 percent doubt that even DST is “worth the hassle.”

Finally, the solution borrows nicely from the Canute example. Politicians hang up their titles of imagined power and let a higher power decide — in this case, a workaday electorate that each morning must deal with an apolitical alarm clock. — *tcl*

*“If you want more daylight,
get up earlier.”*

*(John Gregg, former Speaker of the
Indiana House of Representatives)*

*In Congress, July 4, 1776,
the unanimous declaration of the thirteen United
States of America:*



When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes: and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.



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A FUTURE THAT WORKS

Our mission is to marshal the best thought on governmental, economic and educational issues at the state and municipal levels. We seek to accomplish this in ways that:

- Exalt the truths of the Declaration of Independence, especially as they apply to the interrelated freedoms of religion, property and speech.
- Emphasize the primacy of the individual in addressing public concerns.
- Recognize that equality of opportunity is sacrificed in pursuit of equality of results.

The foundation encourages research and discussion on the widest range of Indiana public-policy issues. Although the philosophical and economic prejudices inherent in its mission might prompt disagreement, the foundation strives to avoid political or social bias in its work. Those who believe they detect such bias are asked to provide details of a factual nature so that errors may be corrected.

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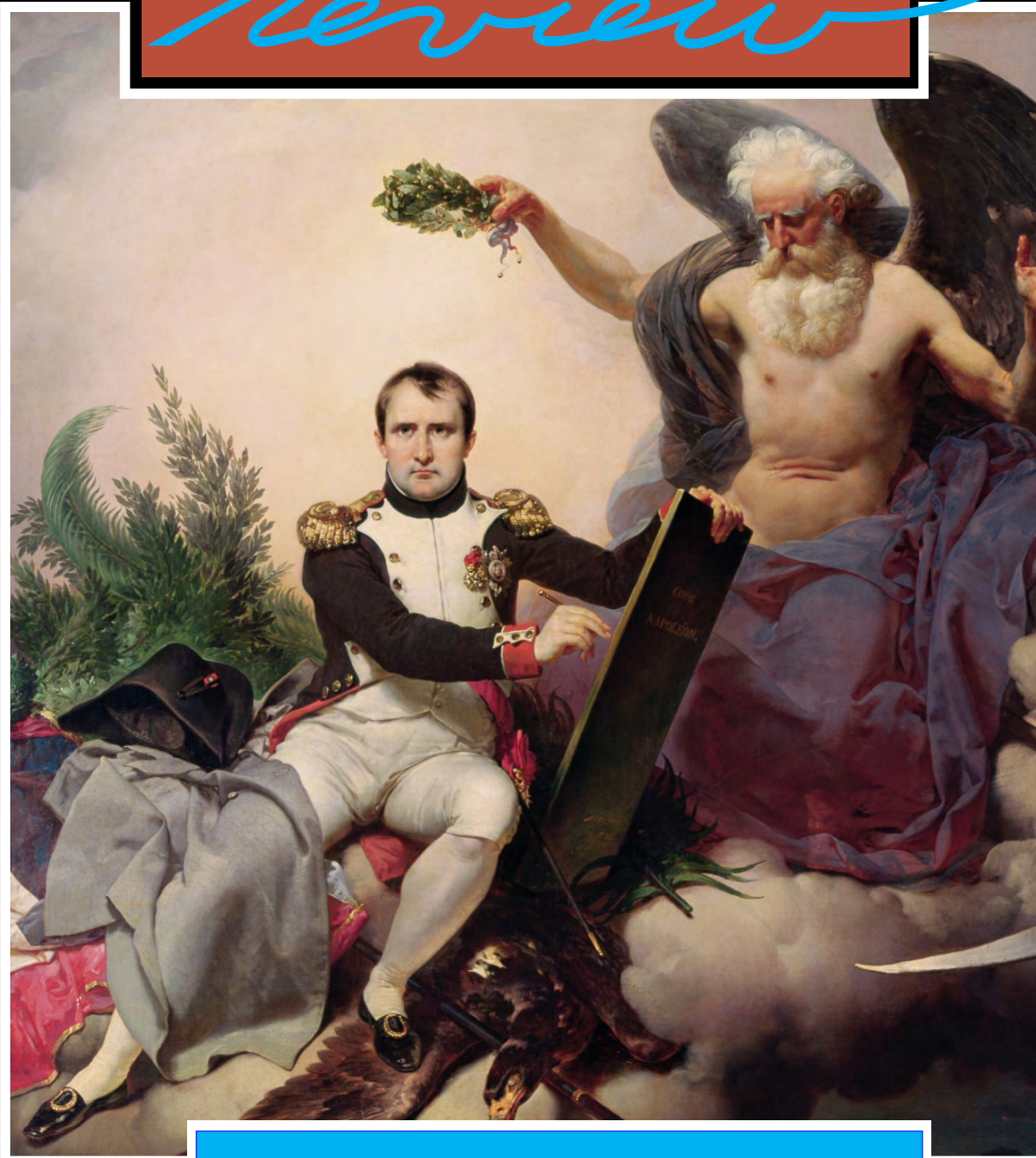
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INDIANA POLICY

review



Time Zones, Healthcare, Education, Religion

THE ARROGANCE OF GOVERNMENT

"A future that works."