

HPR Daily Wire from Indianapolis and Washington

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2001

"King of Steeltown" Plays in Washington: As a Democratic campaign consultant, Chris Sautter said he often witnessed stories that would make a good movie. Now he has acted on that thought. Sautter's documentary about the 1999 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary between incumbent Robert Pastrick and challenger Stephen Stiglich was featured at the Georgetown Independent Film Festival on Sunday. The 75-minute film, "The King of Steeltown," was shot in cinema verité style, a la "The War Room," a chronicle of the 1992 presidential campaign of then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton. Sautter, the producer and director, created a paean to oldschool machine politics through his depiction of rough-and-tumble northwest Indiana electioneering. Figures like Pastrick and former Chicago Mayor Richard Daley are fading from the political scene as consultants and advertising dominate modern campaigns. "My motivation was to present a certain type of politics that we don't see anymore," Sautter said in a discussion with the Georgetown audience. "The King of Steeltown," which has premiered in Los Angeles, is slated for a screening at the New York Independent Film Festival this fall. Sautter serves as media consultant for Democratic candidate Jill Long Thompson.