



Democrats take aim at ‘extreme’ GOP

GOP officeholders repeat mantra that Mourdock is ‘mainstream’

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FORT WAYNE - Once again, Republican U.S. Senate nominee Richard Mourdock appeared with a fellow Republican who vouched for the candidate as being from the “mainstream” of the Indiana Republican Party.

A week ago, it was U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman. “He has never been an extremist,” Stutzman said. “He is a mainstream conservative Republican. He was a conservative Republican before the Tea Party was even around, and he was Tea Party before it was even cool.”

The day after Mourdock’s stunning 61-39% win over U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar, he appeared with Gov. Mitch Daniels, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman and the rest of GOP State-house officials. Daniels described Mourdock as coming “right from the heart of the party.”



On June 1, U.S. Sen. Dan Coats compared himself to Mourdock saying, “Cause Richard and I come from the same place,” said Coats.

The notion of Mourdock as a radical Republican stemmed not only from his own rhetoric before Tea Party groups - much of it caught on video by Democratic trackers - but from the Lugar campaign and allies during a bitterly fought primary. Lugar said in a statement on Election Night that while he hoped his Senate seat would remain in GOP hands, he called on Mourdock to “revise his stated goal of bringing more partisanship to Washington. He and I share many positions, but his embrace of an unrelenting partisan mindset is irreconcilable with

my philosophy of governance and my experience of what brings results for Hoosiers in the Senate.”

But what is becoming increasingly clear - particu-

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President Daniels

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

NASHVILLE, Ind. - Gov. Mitch Daniels was voted in as president of Purdue University this morning by a unanimous vote from a board of trustees mostly of his own picking. “No institution of any kind means more to Indiana today or tomorrow as Purdue University,” Daniels said.



Daniels also vowed to fill out his full term as governor and will take the helm of Purdue in January 2013 after he leaves office.

It isn’t the presidency many Hoosiers had hoped the sitting governor would win. Many Republicans had



“Mitch Daniels will be here until our last day in office.”

- Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman



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dreams of Daniels residing at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

But last winter, HPI heard and speculated on rumors that Daniels had interest in the Purdue presidency, and vice versa. It was pretty much hush-hush.

We get a lot of rumors circulated around the North American headquarters of Howey Politics Indiana. But this one made some sense. And now that it's about to happen, it brings some fascinating synergies that made the initial rumor credible.

In modern Indiana history, we've seen other governors move on to a broader world view. Gov. Edgar Whitcomb literally circumnavigated the planet in a sailboat. Gov. Doc Bowen became U.S. Health and Human Services secretary. Gov. Robert D. Orr was named ambassador to Singapore. And Gov. Evan Bayh became a U.S. senator. In a way, each left Indiana in the rear view mirror.

Gov. Daniels is a transformational governor, particularly when it comes to education and transportation. He initiated and achieved sprawling reforms in education ranging from the funding of full-day kindergarten, to changes in the licensing of principals and teachers, how they are paid, how they are reviewed and what kind of resources they have. He has seen high school graduation rates increase to record high 85 percent. Daniels kicked off the initiative of allowing high school students to graduate early, earn college credits while in prep schools, and questioned the historic notion of why

it should take four years to attain a bachelor's degree.

On the infrastructure front, Daniels' Major Moves legislation in 2006 ignited what he called a "fully funded" 10-year highway program that has seen major strides in the U.S. 31 freeway, I-69 to Evansville, Hoosier Heartland Corridor, and scores of other improvements across the state.

So for the first time in memory, instead of watching a governor with eight years of knowing tens of thousands of nooks and crannies and researchers around the state and then

leaving with the knowledge, we will have one who will preside over Purdue University, which is an integral component of infrastructure (Purdue Road School), agriculture, engineering, logistics, research and education.

Daniels will be in a prime position to actually follow up on his cornerstone legacies as governor, and continue to impact them as president of Purdue.

It is ... well ... a brilliant move. All Hoosiers will benefit from his expertise, his vast reservoir of knowledge.

I mentioned to Daniels during an interview once that he probably has seen more corners of the state, met with more key players and researchers than anyone. Noting that the industrial revolution began at the advent of the 19th century, flight and ground transportation revolutions in the 20th, and Google and the iPhone at the beginning of the 21st, I asked him what the "next big thing" would be? Would we even be traveling by cars with rubber





tires on the Indiana Toll Road by the time the lease was up?

"Good question," Daniels said, but he declined to speculate on whether we were on the brink of any scientific breakthroughs. But the notion that he will be at the helm of one of the great public research universities that helped project the American space program, has been a leader in

things ranging from nanotechnology, to genetics and hybrid crops, to infrastructure and logistics is an exciting one.

It will also be fun to watch him press the House Ways & Means Committee for funding in future budget years.

President Daniels. It wasn't what we expected, but this is a great move for all Hoosiers (and Boilermakers). ❖

'Extreme' GOP, from page 1

larly after the Indiana Republican Convention on June 9 - is that the Indiana Republican party "mainstream" is on a rightward path of its own.

Within the rightward shifting ranks of the Indiana GOP, the prevalent view for now is to "end the fed" as Republican convention delegates chanted as the party platform was amended to call for an audit of the Federal Reserve; to reject bipartisanship and compromise as Mourdock has repeatedly said; to reject raising the federal debt ceiling, putting the U.S. government in default as Mourdock advocated in August 2011; to declare President Obama as a "socialist"; to question the 17th Amendment for the direct election of U.S. senators; and to call for an end to the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Education and the EPA.

At the Indiana Democratic Convention on Saturday, Democrats hammered away at the "extreme" and "radical" Indiana GOP. "Congressman Pence is allowed to have his extreme positions, but I wonder why he has gotten so quiet about them all of a sudden," Gregg said. "Now that he is running for governor, he is trying to reinvent himself on the run. I'll tell you why. It's because even Congressman Pence knows that his brand of extremism is out of touch with Hoosier families."

Gregg told delegates that Pence had the "audacity" to drive a Chevrolet Silverado pickup into the Republican convention last week. Gregg said that Pence voted against the auto rescue. "Imagine Kokomo without Chrysler," the nominee said.

Senate nominee Joe Donnelly cited his work to

save the American auto industry. "We didn't know if the auto plants would survive," Donnelly told delegates. "We went from almost 5,000 workers to almost nothing." He said he remembered calling Kokomo constituents to tell them that Chrysler would survive. "I told them, 'we won.' But it wasn't a political decision. It wasn't about scoring a victory. It was about you know you have a job tomorrow. Today, 5,000 workers to to work every day in Kokomo

building some of the greatest transmissions in the world."

Donnelly said the "tie in" to the Senate race comes down to "extreme partisan politics" and "Hoosier common sense. Of Richard Mourdock, Donnelly said, "He said he'd do it all over again. If by now you don't know that it is a mistake, what kind of judgment will you bring to the U.S. Senate?"

Donnelly described a phone conversation with former

President Bill Clinton. "Joe, I watched Richard Mourdock on election day. His comments sent chills down my spine. If everyone insisted on my way or the highway, we would never have gotten anywhere," Donnelly quoted Clinton.

Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, hosting the first modern Democratic convention held outside of Indianapolis, described a scene from "Alice in Wonderland" where Alice comes to a fork in the road and finds the Cheshire Cat. "What road should I take?" she asked. "It depends on where you're going," the cat says. "I don't know where I'm going," Alice responded, with the cat saying, "Both roads will take you there. Our opponents don't know where they're going."



U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly smiles as Indiana Democratic delegates cheered him at the state convention on Saturday in Fort Wayne. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



On Friday, Donnelly began a \$271,000 TV ad campaign designed to "inform" Hoosier voters on the mainstream ideas Mourdock wants to "inflict" on them. The ad quotes Mourdock as saying, "To me, the highlight of politics, frankly, is to inflict my opinion on someone else." The ad then said, "Here's what Mourdock wants to 'inflict' on us. He thinks that Social Security is unconstitutional. Wants to cut Medicare by \$200 billion. And would give more tax breaks to Wall Street."

The Donnelly ad, paid for with Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee funds transferred to the Indiana Democratic Congressional Victory Committee, follows a \$620,000 Cross-roads GPS ad that ran statewide for two weeks. Cross-roads is headed by Karl Rove. That ad attempted to align Donnelly with his vote for Obamacare and increasing U.S. debt.

Donnelly campaign manager Paul Tencher told HPI in Fort Wayne that DSCC actually put in \$271,000 for the Donnelly ad, but because candidate campaigns get better advertising rates from TV stations than the Super PACs, "We actually matched their statewide gross rating points except for the Terre Haute TV market."

"Richard Mourdock wants to inflict his Tea Party ideas on Hoosier voters," said Tencher. "This is an opportunity to let the people of Indiana know what exactly Mourdock stands for. While he wants to inflict his radical ideas like questioning the constitutionality of Social Security and Medicare on Hoosiers, Joe Donnelly will continue to travel the state talking about his bipartisan message of lowering the debt and creating jobs."

"While attempting to scare seniors by lying about an opponent's position on Social Security and Medicare is right out of the liberal playbook, this ad takes the falsehood to new heights by misusing speech footage to distort Richard Mourdock's record," said Mourdock spokesman Chris Conner. "Richard Mourdock clearly points out in the same speech that he is not against these programs."

"By making these false claims against Richard Mourdock, Joe Donnelly is attempting to distract voters

from his liberal record. The truth is, Congressman Donnelly is the one who voted to cut \$500 billion from Medicare when he voted for Obamacare. Donnelly is also placing Social Security at risk by refusing to reform it in order to save it from insolvency."

Over the weekend, Democrats hammered Mourdock over his statement that employers should not have to cover cancer in their insurance plans if they don't want to (Huffington Post). Mourdock, told the New Albany News & Tribune last week that not only should employers not have to cover health care services that they oppose -- such as contraception -- but also they should be exempt from

paying for anything they did not want to include, based on costs.

"Does that employer have the right to do it?" Mourdock asked the News and Tribune. "I would say yes they do if they want to keep their health care costs down but it also means it's less likely you're going to want to work here. If that employer wants to get the best employees coming in the door he's going to offer

the best insurance possible."

Murdock's campaign did not respond to a request to elaborate on his position.

According to the National Cancer Institute, more than 30,000 Hoosiers are diagnosed with cancer annually. The National Institutes of Health report that cancer cost over \$100 billion in treatment costs and another \$123 billion in lost economic productivity nationwide, and in 2009, medical bills were the cause of 60% of all U.S. bankruptcies. "More than 30,000 Hoosiers are diagnosed with cancer every year. Almost 13,000 die. Every one of us has been touched by someone who that has had to suffer an illness that not only threatens lives, but wipes families out financially," said Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker. "Richard Mourdock wants to gamble not just Hoosiers' health but our financial security in the name of his Tea Party agenda." **U.S. Senate Horse Race Status:** Tossup



Jill Donnelly watches as her husband, U.S. Rep. Joe Donnelly, speaks to delegates at the Indiana Democratic Convention in Fort Wayne on Saturday. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



Gregg makes his case against 'radical' Pence

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FORT WAYNE - Describing himself as a "work horse," Indiana Democratic gubernatorial nominee John Gregg tried to shine the light on his opponent's record at the Indiana Democratic State Convention Saturday while calling for an emphasis on jobs and education.

"I am truly blessed by the opportunities Indiana has given me," Gregg told more than 700 delegates at the Grand Wayne Center. "I am running for governor to secure those same opportunities for all of us, and more importantly, our children. The choice in this election is clear.

Voters will choose between a candidature whose life is grounded in Indiana and one whose life is out of touch with Indiana and its Hoosier values. On one hand, you have a 12-year congressman who cares more about playing politics and scoring political points than doing what is right for Hoosiers; a congressman who puts partisan ideology above all else and a congressman who in 12 years in Washington DC has passed exactly zero pieces of legislation."

"Mike Pence may be running for governor, but the one thing he can't run from is his record," said Gregg, who along with running mate Vi Simpson has spent the past two weeks describing what they call an "extreme" social agenda. "We won't let him. Let me be clear. If you want to know what Congressman Pence will try to do as governor, all you have to do is look at his record. He's trying another Washington DC trick because his rhetoric and his record simply do not match. Now, he tries to talk about jobs, but he has never introduced a jobs bill during his 12 years in Congress. Now he tries to talk about education, but he has failed to make college more affordable for Hoosiers. Now, when the economy should be the top priority for every Democrat, Republican and independent, he threatens to shut our government down just so he can keep our neighbors from getting a cancer screening at Planned Parenthood."

"Congressman Pence is allowed to have his ex-

treme positions, but I wonder why he has gotten so quiet about them all of a sudden," Gregg said. "Now that he is running for governor, he is trying to reinvent himself on the run. I'll tell you why. It's because even Congressman Pence knows that his brand of extremism is out of touch with Hoosier families."

Citing Gov. Mitch Daniels, who said several years ago he would not pursue Right to Work, Gregg said, "We were told one thing. What we got was another. Now Congressman Pence is saying one thing, while his record says another. Where I come from, your actions speak louder than words and Indiana simply can't afford Mike Pence's actions."

Gregg said that "Hoosiers have a better choice" and touted his record as speaker of the Indiana House.

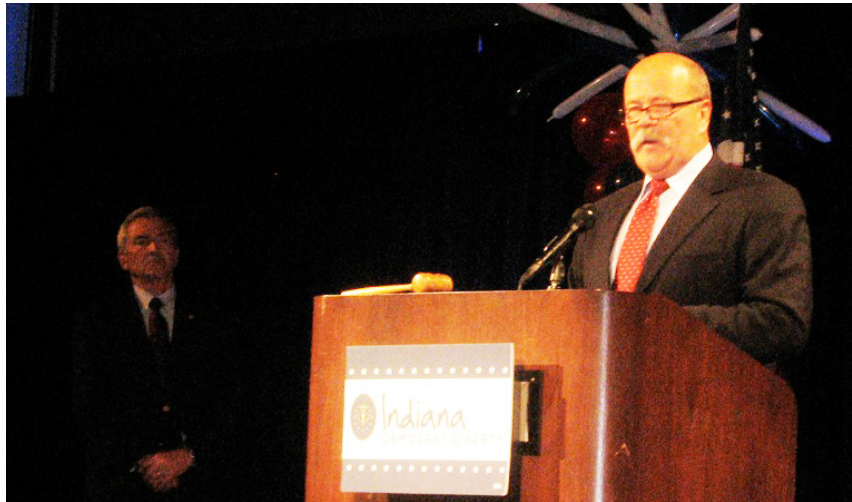
"When I was speaker, the House was divided 50/50 between Democrats and Republicans. That meant that every single bill that we passed required true bipartisan cooperation. It meant we had to work together to make Indiana stronger. And let me tell you my friends, there is no stronger word in the English language than 'we.'"

Gregg

called for focus to be centered on jobs and strengthening the economy. "That means further investing in energy, life sciences, transportation, advanced manufacturing and agriculture for both today and tomorrow."

Gregg called for the promotion of "safe, clean coal in Southwest Indiana." He also cited gas production in Northwest Indiana, and wind turbines in the Lafayette area. He said he will partner with state universities to develop life sciences. And he called for the promotion of stem cell research that will help those suffering from chronic disease. "Take it from an old farmboy, on agriculture, we need to partner with Purdue to strengthen the ag industry that feeds the world."

The Sandborn Democrat called for investing in early childhood education, making college affordable for all Hoosiers, "and it means treating teachers like the profes-



Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry watches Democratic gubernatorial nominee John Gregg give his acceptance speech Saturday. (HPI Photo by Brian A. Howey)



sionals that they are, and giving them the tools they need to help prepare our children for the challenges at hand."

And Gregg called for Democrats to reach out and talk to independents and "Dick Lugar Republicans."

"Tell them that we have room for them because we are the party of inclusion, the party of the big tent," Gregg said. "Indiana deserves leadership that will bring us together, not tear us apart."

State Sen. Vi Simpson, in accepting the lieutenant governor nomination, told delegates, "We put progress above partisanship. Those are real Hoosier values."

"At a time when Hoosiers are calling for an urgent request for jobs, those in charge, that one party rule, are demeaning us with the politics of distraction," she said targeting "even the Girl Scouts of America. The entire middle

class is at risk." She called Mike Pence part of "the most polarizing leadership team" in Congress. "He voted to allow the U.S. auto industry to collapse, risking thousands and thousands of jobs right here in Indiana."

Pence said that ignored Gov. Daniels' call for a "truce" for social issues. "The last thing we need in Indiana to hand over state government to someone who only knows how to drive on the extreme right side of the road. Indiana needs John Gregg because he will be the leader for all of us. Restore our politics to the mainstream. We don't need to be like Washington DC. We need to be like Indiana used to be."

Horse Race Status: Likely Pence

Leaked Gregg/Simpson meeting helped forge both party tickets

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FORT WAYNE - If there was a truly emotional moment at the Indiana Democratic Convention Saturday, it was the nomination of State Sen. Vi Simpson as lieutenant governor.

It capped a 10-year odyssey that began with Simpson's gubernatorial run that was buffeted by Joe Andrew, the UAW, the death of Gov. Frank O'Bannon and the reemergence of Gov. Joe Kernan as a candidate for reelection. The Simpson story was featured in the May 22 edition of *Howey Politics Indiana* after she and Republican State Rep. Sue Ellspermann were offered LG nominations by John Gregg and Mike Pence.

But, according to multiple sources in both parties, it almost didn't happen.

Informed and reliable Republican sources tell HPI that heading into the May 18-19 weekend, the leading GOP contenders for lieutenant governor were Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold and Valparaiso Mayor Jon Costas. Seybold

had just run a 5th CD campaign where he finished fourth. But that campaign was really a test run for the ticket. Seybold started late in the process and ran a positive campaign while Susan Brooks, John McGoff and David McIntosh fought it out in a more traditional campaign.

Costas had been a darling in the eyes of the Daniels administration, with the governor openly backing him for attorney general in 2008 before he lost the nomination to Greg Zoeller. Both Seybold and Costas offered Pence the northern Indiana geography component. Both had lengthy interactions with the Indiana General Assembly as mayors. Seybold had been president of the Indiana Association of



Cities and Towns.

But heading into that fateful weekend, word leaked out that Gregg was talking to Simpson about joining the Democratic ticket.

Throughout that week, the buzz in Democratic circles centered on Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry as Gregg's probable running mate. Again, geography was seen as a



key. There was also talk that Henry would be able to put a dent in Pence's strength in northeastern Indiana. Democratic sources tell HPI that while potential candidates like Henry were being vetted by the campaign, Gregg abruptly indicated that Simpson would join the ticket, surprising key allies and campaign staffers.

Once the Pence team learned of a possible Gregg-Simpson ticket, the dynamic shifted toward Ellspermann, GOP sources tell HPI. The reason was obvious: Democrats were preparing an offensive against Pence that was centered on the phrase "war on women." It came in response to Pence's initiative against Planned Parenthood, an organization he views as the biggest provider of abortion services in Indiana. His Capitol Hill offensive against Planned Parenthood made the leap to Indiana, where Senate social conservatives offered up defunding legislation against Planned Parenthood. The bill was passed in both chambers by wide margins and signed into law in May 2011 by Gov. Mitch Daniels, who at the time appeared poised to seek the presidency.

Without Simpson, there probably wouldn't have been Ellspermann on the Republican ticket. Instead of three straight female lieutenant governors, that streak might have stopped with Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman.

Simpson accepted her nomination after long-time supporters demonstrated on her behalf at the Grand Wayne Center.

"For many years you and I have fought side by side, up and down this state on issues that define us as Democrats," a vibrant Simpson told cheering Democrats. "Affordable higher education. It's about a full day's pay for a full day's work for men and for women. And the right to organize and collective bargain for safety and respect in our workplace."

Simpson called for an "economic pie for all of us, not just a few. And let me add, fairness and equality for all Hoosiers, regardless of your gender, or how you look, or where you live or who you love. Together, we have achieved extraordinary things, but friends, the fight is far from over. And that's why we're here today."

"I'm taking this leap - and it is a leap - because of John Gregg," Simpson added. "Because I share his vision of the future of this state. I know that John Gregg will put Indiana first, ahead of ideology and outside special interests."

"To me, Indiana isn't just a place on the map, it's a place in my heart," Simpson said, calling herself a "Hoosier by choice."

"It's a crossroads of community, family, friendship and faith. It's a hometown, where you are when you're born, and they care about you when you die. It's a united front, when one neighbor falls, everybody rallies around. Those are true values, my friends." ❖

Incredibly, Democrats invited in a Socialist

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

FORT WAYNE - For months, Indiana Tea Party activists and Republicans have been branding President Obama and anyone even close to his coattails a "socialist." Republican National Committeeman Jim Bopp Jr. proposed an RNC resolution calling on the Democrats to officially call themselves the "Democratic Socialist Party."

So it was stunning when it was revealed on the eve of the Indiana Democratic Convention that U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Vermont Socialist and the only one in Congress, would address the AFL-CIO luncheon.



Republican Senate nominee Richard Mourdock couldn't believe his luck. "If that isn't the perfect symbol for the Democrat spokesman at the Democrat state convention," Mourdock said. "If they think that would sell in Southern Indiana, they're wrong. I suspect maybe that's why they moved (the convention) up here. To have Bernie Sanders on their program, that would not be playing well with south-

ern Indiana Democrats."

Indiana Republican Party spokesman Pete Seat said in an email: "First it was an evening with Nancy Pelosi and now a weekend with self-described Socialist Bernie Sanders. Are these really the folks Indiana Democrats want front-and-center?"

But you didn't see any photos of John Gregg with Sanders, just as there weren't any images of the nominee with Pelosi during the Democrat spring dinner. Democratic sources tell HPI there was much chagrin in the Gregg camp about the Pelosi appearance, to the point where then staffer Tim Jeffers pleaded with bloggers not to post images of Gregg and Pelosi.

In an HPI analysis earlier this year, it noted that past governors always controlled the party. Or as HPI columnist Shaw Friedman wrote earlier this year, the party should be at the "beck and call" of the gubernatorial nominee. Gregg has no such control after the Indiana Democratic Central Committee refused to install Jeffers as chairman last December and opted to retain Dan Parker.

Sanders told 350 Democrats, "Our job is to tell working people that we have got to stand together against the onslaught of big money or there is not going to be a middle class in this country." He said workers must "fight back in a way that has been true of the labor movement since its inception. That is, we educate and we organize." ❖



Obama's immigration order was a shrewd political move, polls show

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

ANGOLA, Ind. - President Barack Obama's order to halt the deportation of certain young illegal immigrants has drawn the support of most Americans, according to two new polls. And a Howey/DePauw Indiana Battleground Poll taken among primary Republican voters on April 30/May 1 indicates wide support in Indiana.

On Friday, President Obama issued an executive order - essentially bypassing Congress - that would allow illegal immigrants under age 30 who were brought to the U.S. before the age of 16 to stay in the U.S. A Bloomberg News Poll shows that 64% of likely voters approve the new policy and 30% disagree. But 86% of Democrats and 56% of Republicans support the order. Among independent voters, 66% favor the order.

In the Howey/DePauw Poll, Republican respondents were asked: "Do you support or oppose allowing the children of illegal immigrants who graduate from high school and have no criminal record and serve in the U.S. military or attend college a path of full U.S. citizenship." The survey conducted by Republican pollster Christine Matthews of Bellwether Research and Democrat Fred Yang of Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group found 22% said they "strongly supported" that; 32% said "somewhat support" while just 13% said they "somewhat oppose" and 19% "strongly opposed." The aggregate on that question was 54% supporting and 32% opposing.

A new Quinnipiac Poll taken after the order in Florida shows Obama up 4 points, 46-42%. That's a 10-point swing in just a month's time.

The order could have a bearing on the U.S. Senate race where Republican nominee Richard Mourdock has ardently opposed the DREAM Act, but has been mum on the issue since the Obama order was released. Mourdock is drawing back on his Tea Party affiliation. On Election Night the campaign asked a Tea Party supporter in Revolutionary War garb to change into a Mourdock T-shirt. The campaign website has taken down many positions that Mourdock

used to gear up Tea Party support. Since the election, he has appeared with a number of Indiana Republican officeholders who have proclaimed him to be a "mainstream" Republican.

Various Indiana Tea Party cells, however, have ardently opposed the DREAM Act. State Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, who has authored key immigration legislation in recent years, called the move a "step towards tyranny" on his blog. Delph explained, "Public officials at all levels of government take an oath of office that binds them to the rule of law. This one is unique to the President of the United States. We are either a nation of law or we are not. For the leader of our country that is dutifully bound to enforce the law to stand up and say that he refuses to do so, regardless of the subject matter, should send a chill through every American. It's an abuse of power and a step towards tyranny."

Indiana has the 21st largest Hispanic population in the nation, according to the Pew Hispanic Center, 2010), but the state's Latino population grew by 82% between 2000 and 2010 to 389,707, or 6% of the population.

Latinos accounted for 43% of the state's population growth. There are 116,000 eligible Latino voters in Indiana, or 2% of the total.

The announcement on June 15 appears to have clearly erased Obama's enthusiasm deficit among Latinos, according to a Latino Decisions Poll conducted with America's Voice. Asked how they felt about Obama's action, 49% of Latino voters said it would make them more enthusiastic about Obama, compared to 14% who were less enthusiastic, a net enthusiasm

advantage of +35 points.

Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney framed the order as a political move. "I thought we were about to see some proposals brought forward by Senator Marco Rubio and by Democrat senators, but the president jumped in and said I'm going to take this action," Romney said. But when pressed on the CBS show "Face the Nation," on Sunday, Romney said he would press for a long-term solution, but would not say whether he would repeal this order in the interim. In a Fox News interview, Romney dodged the question of whether he would reverse Obama's deportation policy, just as he did in an interview that aired Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation." "What I can tell you is that those people who come here by virtue of their parents





bringing them here, who came in illegally, that's something I don't want to football with as a political matter," Romney told Fox.

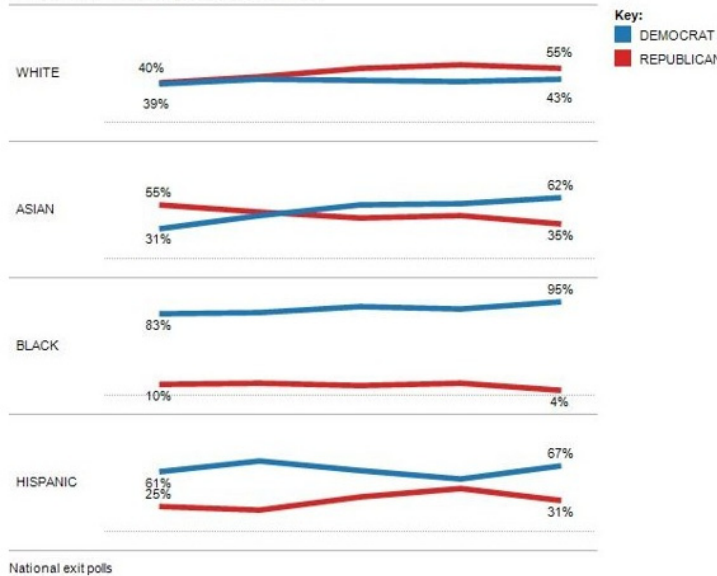
Roll Call reported on Wednesday that Congressional Republicans are flummoxed by the move and waiting for Romney, who for months has tried to dispell notions of being a flip-flopper and a political opportunist with no core values. But Romney had used his opposition of the DREAM Act to drub Texas Gov. Rick Perry out of the race last year.

Now, he faces a more moderate voter poll and risks what would be a glaring flip-flop.

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell told Roll Call that he is waiting for presumptive GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney to figure out his own position first. "I think we're going to wait until we hear what Gov. Romney has to say on this issue. My view is he is the leader of our party from now until November and, we hope, beyond, and we're going to wait and see what he has to say about it and be happy to respond to that at that point," the Kentucky Republican said Tuesday.

The Obama administration said the policy change an-

Vote for president, by race, 1992-2008



nounced Friday will affect as many as 800,000 immigrants who have lived in fear of deportation. The policy was announced Friday morning by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. "Effective immediately, young people who were brought to the US through no fault of their own as children and who meet certain criteria will be eligible to receive deferred action for a period of 2 years and that period will be subject to renewal," she said.

Speaking in the Rose Garden on Friday, Obama said, "Over the next few months, eligible individu-

als who do not present a risk to national security or public safety will be able to request temporary relief from deportation proceedings and apply for work authorization. Now, let's be clear -- this is not amnesty, this is not immunity. This is not a path to citizenship. It's not a permanent fix. This is a temporary stopgap measure that lets us focus our resources wisely while giving a degree of relief and hope to talented, driven, patriotic young people."

It was obviously a shrewd political move that helps shore up another key constituency - Latino voters - who had been unenthusiastic about Obama's reelection. ❖

General Election: Romney vs. Obama

Polling Data						
Poll	Date	Sample	MoE	Obama (D)	Romney (R)	Spread
RCP Average	5/29 - 6/19	--	--	46.6	44.3	Obama +2.3
Bloomberg	6/15 - 6/18	734 LV	3.6	53	40	Obama +13
Rasmussen Tracking	6/17 - 6/19	1500 LV	3.0	45	47	Romney +2
Gallup Tracking	6/12 - 6/18	3050 RV	2.0	45	46	Romney +1
Reuters/Ipsos	6/7 - 6/11	848 RV	3.4	45	44	Obama +1
Monmouth/SurveyUSA/Braun	6/4 - 6/6	1152 LV	2.9	47	46	Obama +1
IBD/CSM/TIPP	6/1 - 6/8	841 RV	3.5	46	42	Obama +4
FOX News	6/3 - 6/5	907 RV	3.0	43	43	Tie
CNN/Opinion Research	5/29 - 5/31	895 RV	3.5	49	46	Obama +3

See All General Election: Romney vs. Obama Polling Data



Pence begins his 3rd TV advertisement

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Republican nominee for governor Mike Pence is now running his third TV ad since the primary.

The ad, narrated by Pence, talks about the remarkable spirit of Hoosiers and the strength they showed amidst tragedy in the June 2008 Columbus flood. The spot includes footage of the devastation the flood caused, including damage to the home Pence grew up in. Pence joined Mayor Fred Armstrong for a tour of the flooded city. Among the places they visited



was the Pence home. It was the first time he had been back since he was 12 years old.

Pence later wrote about the tour and his friends and neighbors in the hometown Columbus Republic. "... the flood waters rose, the wind blew and beat against these houses but they did not fall because 2744 31st Street, like all of Columbus, like all of Indiana, is built on a foundation of faith and compassion and generosity that no storm can ever defeat," Pence wrote.

The 30-second spot will be airing on broadcast TV and cable stations statewide. It is also available at www.mikepence.com.

The Indiana Republican Party's new platform makes no mention of same-sex marriage, even though Pence has sought a national ban in Congress and legislators have pushed to put a ban in the state constitution. Indiana Democrats, meanwhile, voted last weekend on a platform that includes taking a stance against the state constitutional amendment after being silent on the matter for the last several years, The Indianapolis Star reported Thursday. Micah Clark, executive director of the conservative American Family Association of Indiana, which wants Indiana to have some type of ban in the constitution, said he was disappointed by Republicans' silence this year. The GOP platform has in recent years emphasized that marriage should be only between a man and a woman "That kind of caught me off-guard," Clark said. As a congressman, Pence voted to add a gay marriage ban into the U.S. Constitution. Democratic nominee John Gregg also opposes same-sex marriage and voted for a state ban when he was Indiana House speaker. "It's unusual for a party to contradict their candidates at the top of the ticket," Clark said.

Indiana Republican Party spokesman Pete Seat downplayed the importance of the change in the state platform, which was approved during the party convention June 9. "A lot of issues are covered; a lot weren't," Seat said. "This platform reflects the broader priorities of the Indiana Republican Party."

In the past, Indiana Democratic leaders have tried to distance themselves from their national party on issues such as allowing gay marriage (Indianapolis Star). But Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker said: "Opinion on this has dramatically changed since the Republican Party in Indiana started pushing for an amendment in 2004. We are taking a stand for the first time saying that the party is in opposition to amending the Indiana constitution. We do not think that it's necessary." Aaron Schaler, leader of the Indiana Stonewall Democrats, an organization for gay Democrats, said he considered the platform change a victory. "We're ecstatic that we're getting a stance against the amendment," he said. "We've never had that before."

U.S. Senate: Social Security war

Indiana Democrats marked the 77th anniversary of Social Security passing the Senate by echoing a primary campaign attack Senator Richard Lugar leveled at Tea Party candidate Richard Mourdock, who has challenged the constitutionality of Social Security, backs deep cuts to the program. Lugar, in the last stages of his primary campaign against the Tea Party-powered Mourdock, released a web video highlighting a \$2500 annual benefit cut Mourdock proposed inflicting on the more than 1 million Hoosiers currently receiving Social Security.

"Seventy-seven years ago today the Senate passed Social Security in an overwhelming fashion, with 16 Republicans joining Democrats to pass a program that still serves more than 1 million Hoosiers," said Indiana Democratic Party Chairman Dan Parker. "Richard Mourdock has challenged the constitutionality of Social Security and has come under fire from members of his own party for the extreme cuts he wants to 'inflict' on Indiana's seniors. Indiana deserves leaders like Senator Lugar and Joe Donnelly who will put partisanship aside and stand up for our seniors, not Richard Mourdock's 'my way or the highway' partisanship."

"On the 77th anniversary of Social Security passing the Senate with bipartisan support, I repeat my strong support for this program that has assisted so many seniors and should continue to support retirees in the future," said Donnelly. "We need to ensure that seniors continue to receive the benefits they were promised while also strengthening Social Security so it will provide benefits for our children and grandchildren. While Richard Mourdock chooses to question the constitutionality of Social Security, I choose to



support protecting and defending Social Security for future generations.”

Congress

5TH CD: Reske changes marriage stance

State Rep. and 5th District Congressional candidate Scott Reske surprised some folks by changing his position and pledging support for marriage equality (IndyPolitics). Reske was one of 11 Indiana Democratic state representatives that voted for House Joint Resolution 6 that would write discrimination into the Indiana Constitution. Reske faces Republican Susan Brooks in November. **Horse Race Status:** Safe Brooks

Indiana General Assembly

SD40: Caucus to replace Simpson

The Indiana Democratic Party has called a caucus to replace State Sen. Vi Simpson, who was formally nominated on Saturday to be the party’s candidate for lieutenant governor. The caucus for Indiana State Senate District 40 will take place on June 28 at 7 p.m. in the Bloomington City Council Chambers. Executive Director of Monroe County Solid Waste Larry Barker has announced his candidacy for the senate seat to be vacated by Simpson. Barker is a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel. He says his 28-year military career has provided him with the leadership skills he needs for the position (Indiana Public Media). Simpson is leaving her senate seat after accepting the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor. Two other candidates have officially announced their campaigns. Monroe County Commissioner Mark Stoops and Monroe County Assessor Judy Sharp are competing for the spot. The Monroe County Democrats will decide on Simpson’s replacement in a caucus. That candidate will run against Republican Reid Dallas in the November election.

SD24: Miller replaces Lawson

Indiana precinct leaders elected Avon Republican Pete Miller over Adam Love by a 29-26 vote for the November nomination Wednesday night. Miller had already won a nine-way caucus to finish Connie Lawson’s term in the Senate after she was named secretary of state. Miller faced two new opponents: Tea Party activist Brett Pittman of Brownsburg and social studies teacher Adam Love. Democrats have nominated consultant Charles Bender. “It was a close race,” said Hendricks County Republican Chairman Mike O’Brien. “Adam is a relative newcomer, though his mother, Karen Love, is a well-respected Superior Court Judge in the count. But he worked overtime campaigning over past several weeks and really got traction late. Pete pulled it out.”

The Danville caucus is the first of three made necessary by political developments. Gubernatorial candidates Mike Pence and John Gregg both chose state legislators as their running mates, with Pence tapping Ferdinand Representative Sue Ellspermann and Gregg turning to Simpson of Bloomington. Those picks forced Ellspermann and Simpson to give up their reelection campaigns. Democrats in Monroe County will fill Simpson’s ballot spot next Thursday.

SD16: Long primed for reelection

Indiana Senate President Pro Tem David Long will formally kick-off his campaign for reelection tomorrow with a reception at his campaign headquarters (Howey Politics Indiana). “We are very fortunate to have David Long representing Fort Wayne as President Pro Tem of the Indiana State Senate,” campaign manager Chris Creighton said. “A true leader, his distinguished record of balanced budgets, fiscal responsibility and common-sense Hoosier values is crucial if we are to keep Indiana moving forward.” Long has led the Senate as President Pro Tempore since 2006.

HD74: No date set for Ellspermann replacement

Republicans haven’t set a date yet for the caucus to replace Ellspermann on the ballot. The winner will face retired teacher Mike Schriefer in November.

HD39: Socialist to challenge Rep. Torr

There’s a socialist running for a seat in the Indiana General Assembly and his name will be on the ballot in Hamilton County (WISH-TV). John Strinka is a warehouse worker who collected more than 450 petition signatures, enough to get his name on the November ballot. As he delivered them to the state election division wearing his Socialist Party t-shirt, co-director Brad King said he’s the first socialist candidate to qualify for the ballot in Indiana since the early ‘80’s. “I think it’s a victory for American democracy,” says Strinka. Strinka hopes to unseat Republican state Representative Jerry Torr, an unlikely goal, but he has others, too. “And I want people to see what Socialists stand for and primarily, the simplest way I can put it to you,” he said. Torr said he is confident that voters in Carmel are going to choose capitalism over socialism,” says Torr, who is unconcerned but also not surprised. “You can do nothing in the Statehouse and stay popular and win elections,” says Torr. “If you’re gonna do bold things you’re always gonna tick somebody off.” **Horse Race Status:** Safe Torr ❖



Daniels not fit for this presidency either

By **DAVE KITCHELL**

WEST LAFAYETTE – When news spread across the Purdue campus Tuesday that the next campus president might be Indiana’s governor, there was no sit-in at the Union where protests were common during the Vietnam War.

But there weren’t any chants of “We Want Mitch” either.

A worker in the next booth from me at McDonald’s praised the possibility because the governor “balanced the budget”, not knowing that the governor has nothing to do with the state budget other than signing after the legislature passes it. One student in a class I’m taking there questioned if Daniels would begin privatizing residence halls. Even if Dick Cheney doesn’t persuade Halliburton to bid on it, don’t rule it out.



The “why” of how Daniels will become the successor to France Cordova is easy. When you pick the people who can pick

most of the people who can pick you for the job and you want it, it’s only a matter of a few calls. Trustees can be reminded of IOUs for the job that isn’t IU and if Mike Pence or John Gregg is elected, the likelihood they won’t be reappointed if they don’t pick Daniels. Trustees, who face the reality that – unlike their IU counterparts -- they raise more research funding from private funds than public dollars, might be playing on Daniels’ name recognition to secure more federal funding and Washington influence.

Like Cordova, Daniels will have a D.C. residence at his disposal if he wants to lobby Congress, the administration or whatever officials he so pleases.

Of course, trustees might be thinking Daniels is the closest thing they have to a lever to help them pry more state funding away from the Indiana General Assembly. But don’t bet on it.

This was a clear shift away from the tradition of Purdue’s presidential traditions. Daniels has no connections to any expertise involving a specific college unless politics counts as animal science. He is a Purdue parent, but not a Purdue grad, and he has far weaker an academic resume than the woman he is replacing.

He isn’t a minority as she is, and he assures Purdue of not only making Daniels’ supporters happy, but Daniels’

opponents even unhappier. Whether that will translate into less public giving to Purdue remains to be seen, but political affiliations tend to have a polarizing effect in academe.

The same issue was raised when former Sen. Evan Bayh retired and his name was instantly associated with the Purdue vacancy.

What exactly the choice accomplishes for Daniels other than being a resume builder is anyone’s guess.

After being a White House budget director and a governor, why bother with a college presidency? And if Cordova was not a choice worthy of a new contract even though she qualifies for one beyond the usual retirement age of 65 and previous presidents have been afforded that opportunity, what exactly will the expectations be that measure his success?

Was this the best that Purdue could come up with after a search that took more than a year, or were the trustees just biding time until Daniels was clearly out of the running not only for the presidency, but the No. 2 slot on the Republican ticket?

The answer we may not know for some time, but we know now that his decision to head to his next job with still half a year remaining at his current one is the worst kept secret in West Lafayette. ❖

Kitchell is an award-winning columnist who lives in Logansport.

Panel votes on Holder contempt

WASHINGTON - A congressional committee voted Wednesday to recommend that Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. be held in contempt after the Obama administration, citing executive privilege for the first time, refused to turn over documents pertaining to a botched gun-trafficking operation (Washington Post). The party-line vote at a marathon session of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee intensified a feud between the Obama administration and Republican lawmakers and dealt an embarrassing blow to the nation’s highest-ranking law enforcement official.

House leaders said they will schedule a vote of the entire chamber on the matter next week unless the attorney general turns over certain documents on Operation Fast and Furious. If the full House votes to find Holder in contempt, the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia — who is employed by the Justice Department — will have to decide whether to criminally prosecute him. In a statement, Holder called the vote “an extraordinary, unprecedented and entirely unnecessary action, intended to provoke an avoidable conflict between Congress and the Executive Branch.”



Lugar statement came in neither haste or anger

By JACK COLWELL

WASHINGTON - Sen. Dick Lugar says his election night advice to Richard Mourdock, the man who beat him, was written neither in haste nor anger.

Lugar thought then - still thinks - it was good advice when he said Mourdock should "revise his stated goal of bringing more partisanship to Washington" and loosen "his embrace of his unrelenting partisanship."



In an interview here, Lugar also said he has no regrets about seeking a seventh term, even though targeted by the Club for Growth as an example for what happens to a Republican who won't swear 100 percent conservative "purity." He said the alternative of giving up and accepting accolades and testimonials in voluntary retirement was

not his style.

Nor is he giving up on Senate causes.

Lugar will travel to Russia and trouble-plagued Ukraine in August, still seeking destruction of more weapons of mass destruction through the Nunn-Lugar program as he concludes final months of his final Senate term.

Of his election night statement, criticized by some Hoosier Republican officials as not appropriate, Lugar said it was no spur-of-the-moment reaction. He said he drafted the statement "several days before the election," when it was clear to him that he would lose in the Republican primary. The purpose, he said, was not to hurt Mourdock but to warn of the divisive Washington partisanship that threatens now, without compromise on the approaching year-end tax and spending crisis, to send the nation "over the fiscal cliff."

Lugar said, as he did on election night, that he hopes Mourdock wins in November to help provide a Senate majority for Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, a personal as well as political friend.

But Lugar also repeated his disagreement with Mourdock's political approaches, including Mourdock's efforts as state treasurer to halt government rescue of Chrysler and his pledges of partisanship.

Lugar said he has no present plans to campaign for Mourdock. He didn't say "never." Right now, however, it seems unlikely that Mourdock will embrace Lugar's advice or Lugar will compromise on his views on partisanship.

Lugar said he had "a good relationship" with 2nd District Congressman Joe Donnelly, the Democratic nomi-

nee for the Senate. "He speaks well of me, and I appreciate that," Lugar said. Donnelly calls Lugar and former Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh role models for how he would seek bipartisan cooperation in the Senate.

Lugar said he also had "a good relationship" with former Republican Congressman Chris Chocola, when Chocola represented the 2nd District. Chocola, now president of the Club for Growth, an organization seeking ideological purity of Republican candidates, was instrumental in Lugar's defeat. The Club spent heavily for TV ads criticizing the senator.

Chocola said it was "nothing personal." Lugar agreed. He viewed it as business for Chocola, with the Club president needing to show "some results for your stockholders or the millionaires who are putting in the money."

Looking back at the primary campaign, Lugar said he perhaps should have listened to the advice of National Republican Senatorial Committee strategists. The committee supported Lugar as an incumbent regarded as sure to win the seat in the quest for a Senate majority. Back when Mourdock was little known and having trouble raising money, committee strategists urged Lugar to "destroy him" with a massive TV attack. "It may have been my own naiveté," Lugar said. "But it never had an appeal to me."

Thus, Mourdock, with help from super PACs, began defining Lugar before Lugar defined Mourdock.

Lugar envisions no future governmental office. He still could advocate continuation of the Nunn-Lugar program, instituted in a bipartisan effort with former Democratic Sen. Sam Nunn. It has eliminated myriad weapons of mass destruction in the old Soviet Union. Many of the weapons were on over 900 now-destroyed intercontinental ballistic missiles once pointed at the United States and its allies.

Lugar said new threats loom, especially with deadly biological and chemical substances that should be destroyed or secured through Nunn-Lugar to keep them from terrorists.

On his August trip, working with the Defense Department, Lugar will inspect compliance and encourage further reductions. These trips were a factor in some county Republican chairmen turning against Lugar. They wanted him to come to more of their political events rather than go off to seek elimination of ballistic missiles. ❖

Colwell has covered Indiana politics over five decades for the South Bend Tribune.



Jobs, jobs, unneeded jobs

By **MORTON J. MARCUS**

INDIANAPOLIS - "More than 100 people lost their jobs when the Indiana Toll Road automated its toll collection system," Dwight Duwright shouted in my ear as we stood at a social gathering.

"Wonderful," I replied at equal volume. "No human should be condemned to a day or night stuck in a metal booth, sticking his/her left arm out to collect and distribute change."

"That's appalling," he said. "Some people don't have greater levels of skill. What are they going to do?"

"Look," I said, drifting toward a less noisy side of the room, "do we make jobs for people according to their skills or do we help people develop the skills for contemporary jobs?"

"It's not that simple," Dwight said.

"I agree," I said. "It is not simple, but that is the choice before our society. For more than 200 years we have seen improved technology displace workers. Remember elevator operators? They were discharged from hotels and office buildings when self-service elevators were introduced.

Would you relegate people to sitting or

standing in an elevator all day so they could have a repetitive job that can be done by a machine?"

"But what about the people," he said. "Once upon a time, a manager was considered successful when she increased her span of control, the number of people over whom she had direct authority. Today a manager is celebrated if she can reduce her workforce and maintain or increase output. That means we have thousands of managers whose job it is to cut out people, make them redundant, replace them with machines or more efficient systems."

"Right," I said gleefully. "But the key for management is to find or develop the skills of workers to achieve better results while giving more dignity and responsibility to the job and the person performing it."

"That sounds noble," Dwight said, "but

it is hard to do. Employers don't want to spend their time and money nursing the unskilled into higher level jobs."

"If an employer cannot find a job for a person who has been working for him," I said, "then he should take some of the money gained from higher productivity and use that to train the worker. There are plenty of public and private organizations waiting to do training.

"Our basic error," I continued, "is assuming the current level of skill demonstrated on the job is the highest level that worker can attain. Many years ago, my secretary date-stamped each publication coming into our office and recorded its receipt in a large loose-leaf notebook.

It seemed like a practice left over from the 19th century, unneeded in the 1970s. When we stopped doing that, my secretary could take over various tasks I was doing, such as arranging meetings and travel. She had all the necessary skills, it was mainly a matter of recognizing the fact and getting her some experience."

"A very nice story," he said, "but do you really believe it is widely applicable to the American workforce?"

"Yes," I said emphatically. "The bigger challenge is to upgrade the skills of those who, regardless of degrees and certification, didn't learn how to learn." Then I drifted away to refill my drink. ❖

Mr. Marcus is an independent economist, writer and speaker formerly with the IU Kelley School of Business.



HOWEY
Politics Indiana

When Chris Cillizza of the *Washington Post* posed the question to readers across the nation - Who's the most influential political journalist in your state? - the answer in Indiana was this: Brian A. Howey of *Howey Politics Indiana*. Since 1994, *Howey Politics Indiana* has provided news, analysis and commentary from throughout Indiana and Washington D.C. Howey reaches the most influential insiders with his newsletters and the masses with his weekly newspaper column and www.howeypolitics.com.

Photo: Howey with Richard Lugar and Sam Nunn in Russia.

The Washington Post
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2007

"The Best Indiana Political Reporter: *Howey Politics Indiana* editor Brian Howey."



Rep. Rokita and the poor

By RICH JAMES

MERRILLVILLE - U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita, R-Indianapolis, hasn't been in Washington all that long, but he's already out of touch with the American people.

Rokita, whose congressional district includes Newton and Jasper counties, hails from that Lake County bastion of Republicanism called Munster.

He began his slide into radical conservatism when – as secretary of state – he relished the attention he received when he carried the bill to require all voters to show a government-issued photo ID at the polls. Rokita attempted to justify his proposal by saying he was out to almost single-handedly stop voter fraud in Indiana.



I guess someone forgot to tell Rokita that 99 percent of the vote fraud occurs through absentee ballots that don't require the showing of a photo ID.

Having to show a photo ID is punitive to those who don't own a car and thus don't need a driver's license. Those folks generally are the poor and minorities.

But no one ever has accused Republicans, especially those like Rokita, of being compassionate toward the poor.

Rokita showed his true colors again last week when he had nothing better to do than attack the president's health care bill. When Republicans run out of something to say of importance, attacking health care is an easy out.

The 2010 Affordable Care Act, which Republicans call Obamacare, increases Medicaid eligibility beginning in 2014 to Americans earning 133 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$30,657 for a family of four.

Rokita said those people should be able to purchase their own health insurance. Really?

I suspect Rokita never has priced private health insurance. As secretary of state and now a congressman, he hasn't had to buy health insurance for himself and his family.

Clearly Rokita is correct in that a family of four making \$30,000 a year can afford its own health insurance. They might have to give up eating on a daily basis, but yeah, they probably could buy a policy with an out-of-sight deductible.

The kicker is what Rokita thinks about the poor.

"Right now, depending on how you define it, the 'poor' in this country sometimes have one or two cars, have color televisions, have cable, have air conditioning," Rokita said. "It doesn't necessarily fit the definition of poor that I think many Hoosiers are thinking of when we say that word."

So, according to Mr. Rokita, if you are 'poor', maybe you should own one car at the most, have only black and white television, be barred from purchasing cable and live through the hot summer months without air conditioning.

Such compassion.

What Rokita and GOP U.S. Senate candidate Richard Mourdock – talk about peas in a pod – want to do is cap federal spending and give states total control over eligibility, coverage and spending decisions for Medicaid – the federal-state health insurance for the poor. Do it and watch the ranks of the poor mushroom.

That isn't all.

Rokita and Mourdock also want to privatize Medicare, which is the federal health insurance program for senior citizens. Seniors would receive government vouchers to cover some of the cost of private insurance premiums. In other words, a step back from what they have now – from what they worked for all their lives.

So they have attacked the poor and now are going after senior citizens. That's my kind of guy.

They say that competition among insurance companies is the way to go. What they forget to say is that essentially is what we have been doing in this country for decades – allowing the insurance companies to rape Americans, all while making record profits.

Wouldn't it be nice to fix Medicare and Medicaid from within rather than officials shirking their elected duties by making some in the private sector wealthy at the expense of the poor guy who can't afford air conditioning and the senior citizen who has to choose between prescription drugs and eating.

And guys like Rokita, Mourdock and other Republicans wonder why the poor and minorities largely vote Democratic.

Duh!

Rich James is the former editorial page editor and columnist for the Post-Tribune in Merrillville.



Doug Ross, NWI Times: Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike Pence is understandably concerned about the need to prepare Hoosier students for 21st century careers. So are people in Northwest Indiana. I'll add to this list the need to prepare high school graduates for college and other post-secondary instruction as well. Often, there are wide gaps between high school graduates' knowledge and what is expected of them in college. Pence's solution is to create regional "Indiana Works Councils" that bring employers and educators together so they can try to bridge the "skills gap" through a variety of programs. Pence's Democratic opponent, John Gregg, says the gap needs to be addressed, but he says a "Washington-style committee" is not the right answer. Allow me to invite both of them to Northwest Indiana, where Pence's proposed solution has been in place for some time now. The Times has written reams about the local efforts between employers, colleges and high schools to address these very issues. The Regional Education and Employer Alliance for Developing Youth (RE²ADY) program, under the One Region, One Vision umbrella, is led by Linda Woloshansky of the Center of Workforce Innovations, Mark Maassel of the Northwest Indiana Forum and Hobart school Superintendent Peggy Buffington. RE²ADY brings together educators, employers, economic developers and local elected officials committed to transforming high schools so graduates are ready for college and careers. For some, this means offering dual credit programs so high school courses are rigorous enough to earn college credits for a head start on college careers. That guarantees the high school students are ready for college-level work. ❖

Brandon Waite, Muncie Star Press: Savvy politicians and their advisers are often the first to take advantage of new technologies to convert followers into voters. In the 1930s and 1940s, it was radio. In the 1950s and 1960s, television took over. Now in 2012, we have social media, smartphones and tablets. President Obama used social media in 2008 as a key method to develop a grassroots effort to attract young voters. Through Facebook, Twitter and other platforms, the Democratic Party candidate was able to bring his message to millions of young people who are the first to embrace new technologies. Earlier this year, a Ball State University study found that smartphone ownership by college students has increased to 69 percent, up from 27 percent in 2009. But young people aren't the only ones that politicians are focusing on for their new media efforts. The number of people using social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter, has nearly doubled since 2008. Likewise, the population of social network users has gotten older, with more than half of them above the age of 35. And Americans are accessing these sites not only with

smartphones but also with new tablets — including Apple's iPad — that have been best-sellers for the past year. As these changes have occurred, the lead Democrats once held in cyberspace has quickly diminished as research has found. The Pew Internet and American Life Project found that in the midterm elections of 2010, political social media users skewed Republican (40 to 38 percent) and voted for Republican congressional candidates over Democratic candidates (45 to 41 percent). ❖

Tim Etheridge, Evansville Courier & Press: Joe Donnelly whisked through Evansville last week, spending time with former Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel and some local business leaders to bolster his presence in a run for the U.S. Senate. After that breakfast meeting, the itinerary for the northern Indiana congressman, a Democrat, included an hourlong conversation with editors and reporters at The Courier & Press, where he stuck to his talking points of jobs first, Hoosier values, and a willingness to collaborate. The last point, he said, is what sets him apart from his November opponent, Darmstadt Republican and Indiana state treasurer Richard Mourdock, who has been painted — somewhat with his own brush strokes — as intractable. "You're hired not to just be inflexible, you're hired to do what's right for the country," Donnelly said. But partisanship did not keep Mourdock from routing six-term Senator Richard Lugar in May. Just a few months before that primary, Mourdock was given no chance. He triumphed by 140,000 votes, 61 percent to 39 percent. According to polls by both sides and independent parties, Indiana's U.S. Senate race is a dead heat. Barring a major malfunction, it will come down to who gets out the voters. To that end, Donnelly said he will spend every weekend away from Washington in Indiana, hitting all corners of the state. His stronghold is his home district near South Bend, and he understands he needs to raise name recognition elsewhere. Mourdock, through the primary fight, is now known by voters on both sides of the aisle. Outside groups pumped almost \$5 million into Indiana during the primary season, most backing either Lugar or Mourdock. Negative ads pointed at Mourdock and Donnelly are on the air in June. It's not a trend, Donnelly said, that he supports. "It would be better if we each had half-a-million to spend as we see fit, and that's it." Donnelly has seen both sides of political races. He lost to incumbent Chris Chocola in his first run for Indiana's Second District Congressional seat by 25,000 votes in 2004. In 2006, with a light turnout, he beat Chocola by 15,000 votes. In 2008, he swamped a Republican challenger by 103,000 votes with a heavy turnout. And in 2010, he barely hung on, winning by 2,500 votes over the Republican with a light turnout and a Libertarian Party candidate named on nearly 10,000 ballots. ❖





Daniels discusses Purdue job

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels admits that experience in academia "would obviously be helpful" for a university president (Indianapolis Star). But as he laid out the challenges facing higher education, Daniels also argued that it just might take an outsider to address them from a new perspective. Not that he was admitting Wednesday that leading Purdue is his next job, saying it was "just not appropriate" for him to discuss it. But in every sentence, in every smile, as he fielded questions from reporters, Daniels never refuted what has become the worst-kept secret in Indiana: He's one easy election away from being Purdue's new president. "You can't pick up a newspaper or magazine these days without reading an article challenging higher ed as it is," Daniels said as he spoke to reporters after an economic development announcement at Roche Diagnostics in Indianapolis. "For the first time, people are writing books and articles about 'Is college worth it? Should so many people be going to college?'" Daniels said. "There are more Americans today with college debt than with college diplomas. So there are an awful lot of people saying that as important as it is, the way it is may need some changes."



Most laud Daniels choice for Purdue

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Republican Party State Chairman Eric Holcomb says Daniels as Purdue president "makes perfect sense." It was part of a stream of almost all

laudatory comments about the unanimous vote making Daniels thenext president. "For a school always aiming higher, sending nearly two dozen of their own into space, naming Mitch Daniels as the next president of Purdue University makes perfect sense," Holcomb said. "Governor Daniels will bring a lifetime of experience in the private and public sectors to West Lafayette in order to tackle the important work that lies ahead." GOP gubernatorial nominee Mike Pence said, "Governor Mitch Daniels is an outstanding choice to serve Purdue University as their next president. Mitch's intellect, energy and visionary leadership will benefit not only Purdue's students and faculty, but also improve the quality of Indiana's workforce and create new economic opportunities for all Hoosiers." And House Speaker Brian Bosma observed, "As a Purdue engineering graduate and a longtime advocate for the university in the General Assembly, I am thrilled with the selection of Governor Mitch Daniels as Purdue's next President. As a world recognized leader in engineering, science, technology, agriculture, pharmacy, education and dozens of other disciplines, if leveraged properly, Purdue will be one of the principal drivers of Indiana's future economic success. With his experience and key role in transforming Indiana over the last eight years, Gov. Daniels is uniquely qualified to capitalize on Purdue's tremendous faculty and international reputation. I look forward to working with the Governor to take Purdue, and our state, to the next level."

Durham convicted; faces life in prison

INDIANAPOLIS - A federal jury has found financier Tim Durham guilty on all 12 felony counts stemming from what prosecutors charged was a massive Ponzi scheme that cost investors

in Ohio-based Fair Finance more than \$200 million (Schouten, Indianapolis Business Journal). The jury found Jim Cochran, who co-owned Fair, guilty on eight of 12 felony counts and Rick Snow, the firm's chief financial officer, guilty on five of 12 counts. Judge Jane Magnus-Stinson ordered all three held at the Marion County Jail until a hearing Monday morning, when she will determine whether they should remain detained or be released on home detention until sentencing. Durham, 49, Cochran, 56, and Snow, 48, were handcuffed and led out of the courtroom by U.S. Marshals, who transported them to jail. The defendants did not exhibit an obvious reaction, though a few family members who had gathered in the courtroom wept. The defendants each faced the same 12 counts: 10 counts of wire fraud, one count of securities fraud, and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and securities fraud. After deliberating for about eight hours, the jury found Durham guilty on all counts, while splitting its decision on Cochran and Snow. The pair were found not guilty on three charges involving wire transfers of funds from Fair that wound up in Durham's bank account. For wire fraud charges involving recorded phone calls, the jury found the two defendants on each particular call guilty. Durham was a participant on every call that resulted in charges. The jury found all three defendants guilty of securities fraud, conspiracy to commit wire and securities fraud and two counts of wire fraud involving the dissemination of an offering circular for investors in Fair Finance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Winfield Ong urged the defendants be taken into custody, telling the judge they are flight risks. The defense attorneys argued their clients should be released back to home detention pending sentencing. "Tens of millions of dollars are missing," Ong told the judge. "All of them are facing life sentences. All it takes is \$2,000 to get across the border." The judge



said she would make the decision after hearing evidence on the question at 10 a.m. Monday.

Parker comments on Durham verdict

INDIANAPOLIS – Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker issued the following statement in response to the news that disgraced Republican financier Tim Durham was convicted today of defrauding roughly 5,000 people of more than \$200 million. “Tim Durham stole money from innocent investors and laundered it through to dozens of GOP candidates and the state and local Republican parties. Well, the culture of corruption just came home to roost, and we can all be grateful that justice has been served

Rokita talks of Holder case

WASHINGTON - U.S. Rep. Todd Rokita today issued the following statement after the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform voted to cite Attorney General Eric Holder for contempt for his refusal to turn over documents related to the Justice Department’s handling of the “Fast and Furious” operation. This morning, President Obama invoked executive privilege in withholding the documents sought by the committee. “In less than a week, we’ve seen two brazen moves that indicate that the White House places its political agenda above the rule of law. “Last week’s executive order suspending enforcement of immigration laws, and the ongoing refusal by Attorney General Holder to comply with a legitimate request by a congressional committee, both show a troubling pattern from this administration,” said Rokita.

Ethic complaint filed against Fries

FORT WAYNE - A formal complaint alleges Allen County Sheriff Ken Fries and County Councilman Paul Moss violated the county’s ethics policy after Moss was pulled over during a drunken-driving investigation that led to no arrests or charges (Sade, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Philip Pease, a former county employee, filed the complaint Monday with the Allen County Ethics Commission. Moss made a phone call to Fries and was ultimately let go after refusing to take a portable breath test. In his complaint, Pease said Fries “should have immediately informed Moss that he could not get involved in the situation and terminated any further communication.” The complaint states that ethics were breached when Fries “interacted with officers at the scene, which was unnecessary and unwarranted.”

VandyGov support expect money edge

EVANSVILLE - A potentially lopsided financial advantage may aid advocates of Evansville-Vanderburgh County government consolidation as they seek to persuade voters in this year’s referendum campaign. A leading planner for Citizens for Unification, the political action committee leading the charge, said the committee will hire a full-time employee by month’s end for a campaign that could cost “easily six figures.” By contrast, a leader of Citizens Opposed to Reorganization in Evansville said that group will be lucky to raise \$30,000.

I-69 begins to take shape

PETERSBURG — The 65-mile

stretch between Evansville and Crane, Ind., is looking less like dirt cleared for something to come and more like the interstate highway that is set to open six months from now (Evansville Courier & Press). Though motorists leaving Evansville can’t go much past the Interstate 64 exchange, they can see miles of paved highway adorned with Interstate 69 signs. When paving and striping for that section is finished, the first half of the 142-mile Evansville-to-Indianapolis project will be completed — just as the man who pushed to fund it, Gov. Mitch Daniels, packs up and exits the Statehouse doors. seen for several miles by motorists. Highway workers’ vehicles move continuously just south of SR356 east of Petersburg, Ind., as they prepare I-69 for concrete work Wednesday morning. As Daniels prepares to leave office in January, the “Major Moves” deal — a \$3.85 billion, 75-year lease of a northern Indiana toll road, the proceeds of which are funding the I-69 extension — is getting a new round of attention. It was the subject of a story published by Stateline, the daily news service run by the Pew Center on the States, this week, which said the deal will define Daniels’ legacy. “Major Moves will be the first thing, if not one of the top things, that people think of when they think back to Mitch Daniels as governor,” University of Evansville political science professor Robert Dion told Stateline. “The average person, across the board, will put that at the top. That is his crowning achievement.”

Jay councilman killed in crash

REDKEY - A Jay County Councilman Daniel G. Orr, 70, was killed Tuesday night when his motorcycle collided with a van on Ind. 67 (Muncie Star Press).