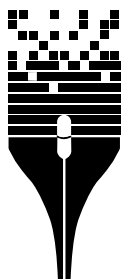


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Dan Burton would like to subpoena everyone ...”

- First Lady Hillary Clinton, on David Letterman’s Late Show Wednesday night after he asked her about Elian Gonzalez.

‘Bad for fish’ may be bad for Frank

White River fish kill hurting governor

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

In October 1996, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Frank O’Bannon unleashed a devastating TV ad that helped him in his stunning upset of Republican Stephen Goldsmith.

“First Steve Goldsmith turned over the city’s sewage treatment plant to a French company - and Hoosiers lost their jobs.”

“Then raw sewage was let out that threatened the public health. Half a million dead fish ... and taxpayers on the hook for \$100,000. Steve Goldsmith: Bad for fish. Wrong for Indiana.”

At the time, the Goldsmith campaign went nuts over that ad and implored the news media to, as O’Bannon had pleaded two months earlier with the Republican’s 38 tax increase ad, to “go out and find the truth.” No one lost jobs, said Goldsmith campaign spokesman John Hatfield. And the fish kill the ad referred to? The Goldsmith campaign supplied Indiana Department of Natural Resources documentation that no fines were assessed the city and that the privatized WWTP was not responsible. In fact, Hatfield noted, the DNR used tax dollars to kill shad - which made up 94 percent of the White River fish kill - on Glen Flint Lake.

But that ad was devastating. Hoosiers love their fish. Goldsmith lost Marion County by nearly 20,000 votes as well as the election in one of the biggest upsets ever. Three years later, Republican mayoral candidate Sue Anne Gilroy was dinged up by heavy media and public scrutiny about overlooked combined sewer outflow problems on the White River and its tributaries in Indianapolis. It wasn’t the issue

Continued on page 2

INSIDE FEATURES

Ticker Tape: Freman-Wilson to AG p. 2

O’Bannon’s State of State, reaction p. 4

Columnists: Marcus, Wieland p. 6

Horse Race: Shean to run against

Welch; Herriman v. Turner;

Hill gets gambling money;

Pence raises \$160,000

p. 7



TICKER T A P E

FREEMAN-WILSON TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL: Numerous high-ranking Democratic sources are telling HPR that Gov. Frank O'Bannon will appoint Gary City Court Judge Karen M. Freeman-Wilson to replace AG Jeff Modisett. Freeman-Wilson's selection will bolster the Democratic ticket in Lake County, and add race and gender diversity to the ticket.

GORE FOR GRAND CAL: Vice President Al Gore announced plans to ask Congress for \$50 million for Great Lakes restoration, including one for Gary and the Grand Calumet River (Times of Northwest Indiana). Said Gary Mayor Scott King, "\$50 million dollars spread all over the

Continued on page 3

Fishkill, from page 1

that destroyed the Gilroy candidacy, but it was a contributing factor.

And that is why Gov. Frank O'Bannon finds himself involved in perhaps the greatest threat to his governorship today. The White River, attacked by a chemical spill apparently from Guide Corporation in Anderson, is virtually devoid of fish from Anderson to Waverly, south of Indianapolis. Hoosiers have been bombarded with scenes from the White River of 62 tons of dead fish, hearings in Indianapolis and Noblesville packed with hundreds of people. Another in Anderson was postponed because organizers needed to find a bigger room to handle the crowds.

The *Anderson Herald-Bulletin* reported on Jan. 4 that "as various city and state agencies learned of a possible contamination of the White River, there was no interaction between agencies to thwart a potential environmental disaster."

Rep. Jim Atterholt pleaded for Gov. O'Bannon's "personal attention" in dealing with the White River contamination on Dec. 29.

This huge mess turned profoundly

political on Tuesday when Indiana Republican Chairman Mike McDaniel conjured up images of the October 1996 O'Bannon TV ad. "The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has completely bungled their response to the chemical spill that has devastated 50 miles of the White River," McDaniel said. "The governor is wrong to stay on the sidelines. You have to ask why the state waited so long to set up the local response center. The IDEM has known about this problem for three weeks." It was payback time.

Late Tuesday afternoon, O'Bannon - a man who loves wildlife and is an ardent bird watcher - responded by holding a press conference and asking that the FBI, EPA and the Department of Justice investigate the case. It smacked of an epically tardy response to a situation with the to galvanize an emotional response from voters.

But it may have been too late for O'Bannon. WTHR's Roger Harvey intoned that the "fish kill is getting political" on Tuesday evening newscasts. Observed IUPUI's Bill Blomquist, "The opportunity to turn that ad around and use it does not happen very often."

WRTV announced on its Tuesday

evening newscasts that "the governor is taking the heat."

Republican gubernatorial candidate John R. Price is already airing the first TV ad of the gubernatorial campaign that shows him poking a dead fish on the banks of the White River. "Like Teddy Roosevelt, I want to conserve our environment. I want to protect our rivers," Price said.

That ad - in 181 spots - began running in the Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend and New Albany/Jeffersonville TV markets.

When Gov. O'Bannon gave his State of the State address, he touched on the White River fish kill. "Make no mistake about it. Any polluter that contaminates our rivers or befoils our air will be held accountable under the law. The severity of the fish kill in the White River - the worst in a generation - demonstrates the need for tougher penalties. In this session, I will propose doubling the fines for criminal environmental violations," O'Bannon said.

IDEM under scrutiny

What is inevitably going to follow is a wholesale scrutiny of IDEM, which first was notified about the fish kill on Dec. 20, four days after the DNR was notified. It wasn't until Dec. 29 that IDEM began well sampling.

The dilemma for Gov. O'Bannon is that in the age of \$1 billion to \$2 billion surpluses that the state has been boasting about for most of the '90s, IDEM has been an agency that has been chronically underfunded and understaffed ever since its inception under Gov. Robert D. Orr in the early 1980s.

Critics of the agency range from environmentalists, who say it is ill-prepared to deal with the kind of crisis that struck the White River these past few weeks, to manufacturers who have bitterly complained about a lack of manpower to process air and water permits.

Even when the legislature has approved funding for additional manpower, environmental critics of both the Bayh and O'Bannon administrations complain that the allocations were not spent on the necessary manpower levels to competently complete their tasks.

There is chronic turnover in IDEM because state employees are so poorly paid. IDEM has become a training ground for industry. Young talent comes to the agency, learns the processes and then is easily hired away by industries on the other side of the issues.

HPR asked Republican legislative leaders why O'Bannon could be politically tagged with IDEM's response to one fish kill. Isn't the legislature just as culpable?

"IDEM has 80 to 96 vacant positions," said House Minority Leader Paul Mannweiler. "The fees were raised substantially for IDEM. That may be an excuse, but not a reason."

Senate President Pro Tem Bob Garton added, "It's hard for us to create programs when they don't come to us for funding."

Mannweiler noted that IDEM has leveled only one fine at 100 percent of the law. "Fines do not bring back dead fish," said the Indianapolis Republican who owns a home on the White River a removed a dock late last month without knowledge that the chemical was in the water.

State Sen. Bev Gard, R-Greenfield, heard the question and reiterated the GOP leadership position. "We raised fees significantly in 1994," said Gard, who also serves on the Environmental Quality Service Council. "We created many new positions and many were not filled."

Why?

"You'll have to ask them," Gard said. "Over the last couple of years, they removed a number of the funded positions from the roster and that was not our request."

continued on page 4

TICKER

T A P E

Great Lakes certainly isn't cause for a ticker-tape parade, but I am very proud that the city and the Grand Cal, for the region, is on the short list for areas of concern." Of course, Gore's request won't hurt the vice president with Lake County voters should the May Indiana primary still have him fending off a challenge from Bill Bradley.

BRADLEY SIGNATURES: Indiana sources expect Bradley will have enough signatures to qualify his candidacy when filing begins later this month.

HOOSIER PORK RELIEF: A Purdue economist says that a strong demand for pork and declining supplies could make Indiana producers profitable (Associated Press). Chris Hurt said that hog farmers may see March profits averaging \$41 per live hundredweight for most of the year. "The most favorable prices of this cycle are expected in the mid-2000 to mid-2001 period," Hurt said.

BURTON TELLS RENO TO BUTT OUT: U.S. Rep. Dan Burton has told U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno not to interfere with a Florida court hearing concerning Elian Gonzalez. "We ask that you make a public commitment that the Justice Department will take no action to return Elian to

continued on page 4

TICKER

T A P E

Cuba until he has had the opportunity to exercise all his legal options," said Burton. The statement was signed by 13 House and Senate members, including Democrats Rep. Patrick Kennedy and Sen. Robert Torricelli. Earlier in the week, Burton released a statement after he issued a subpoena on Elian Gonzalez read, in part, "My primary concern is for the welfare of Elian Gonzalez. He should receive the full benefit of due process of law in this country. I do not believe that any precipitous action should be taken to return him to Cuba unless and until his lawyers have had the opportunity to exercise all of his legal rights. We asked them (INS) not to make any decisions in this case until the boy's father and his immediate family could come to the U.S. to consult with government officials. This is the only way to make sure that there is no coercion from the Castro regime. I'm very disappointed that the Clinton administration rushed into their decision without doing this. This should not become a political football." Meanwhile, protesters gathered outside of Burton's Indianapolis office in reaction to his subpoena.

HOOSIER PRESIDENTIAL: Heather Harder, a Democratic candidate for president, told the Times of Northwest Indiana that she

continued on page 5

Gard said that while the permitting process has excelled for most industrial permits, there is still a backlog for waste water discharges. As for a crisis response, Gard noted that it took three weeks for IDEM to seek on-site inspections at Guide. "I see they issued a search warrant for today - three weeks after the fact. That gave the company plenty of time. There may have been evidence that would have been available."

Similar mental health woes

Gov. O'Bannon has already been dogged by controversies surrounding the state-run mental health centers at New Castle - which he closed - and at Muscatatuck, which lost its Medicaid certification last year and did not meet December deadlines. The Fort Wayne Developmental Center has also been hit by similar controversies for the past decade.

Police agencies tell HPR that after Gov. Bayh closed Central State Hospital in Indianapolis in 1992, local lockups and jails became havens for the chronic mentally ill.

Muscatatuck problems have been nipping at O'Bannon's heels for the past two years, but the cruel political reality is that suffering by human mental patients in chronically underfunded and understaffed state facilities does not carry the same kind of impact as a river littered with tens of thousands of dead fish.

Mannweiler noted that there are only two uncertified state developmental centers in the nation and one is in Indiana. "The governor said last summer that it would be resolved, but there is still no plan. And before Muscatatuck we had New Castle closed down.

"We are in a state of delay," Garton observed.

Coming home to roost

The irony for Gov. O'Bannon is that as Republican-hired TV crews panned the White River seeking rotting fish, he

had seemed to dodge the earliest dangers in a political landscape littered with landmines.

Legislative Republicans have not won a decisive edge in the governor's call for a reassessment delay. Mannweiler and Garton noted that property taxes could go up 15 to 20 percent more during the delay. "Then he wants to reduce them 3 to 4 percent so people will get \$20 off their property taxes in 2004," Mannweiler said.

O'Bannon's decisive handling of the Sexcise Police scandal appears to have been enough as to allow it to recede. A lack of indictments thus far has helped him there.

Just over the horizon will be results from the Graduation Qualifying Exam that may flunk out a significant percentage of the Class of 2000. Already Price and David McIntosh are preparing to draw his blood on that education issue.

O'Bannon said he will still press for full-day kindergarten, but not until "next year."

But there remains the distinct potential that it will be images of dead fish next fall that will be the most devastating to his bid for re-election.

Rachel Gorlin, the 1996 campaign strategist who helped develop the fish kill ad, was present for O'Bannon's speech. She noted that "every fish kill is different," and added that the one the 1996 ad referred to was due to lack of oxygen.

"How can the administration be blamed for a situation where the city didn't even tell the state for days?" Gorlin asked.

So what would she advise the governor to do after two weeks of bad media coverage?

"Out of every problem there is an opportunity," Gorlin said.

Gov. O'Bannon wanted this speech to be his view of the future. Instead he found the press, public and opposition simply looking downstream. ❖

Marion County GOP leadership still in the air

A little more than two months after Sue Anne Gilroy became the first Republican mayoral candidate to lose in Marion County in 32 years, the Grand Old Party is still in a state of disarray.

The embattled long-time chairman, John Sweezy, still hasn't resigned to accept a post at IUPUI. Officials there were to huddle soon to iron out the details. Sheriff Jack Cottey has taken himself out of the race. During the month of December there seemed to be a new name every week- Scott Minier, State Sen. Pat Miller, State Rep. Mike Murphy, John Mutz - that was poised to take over the once cornerstone machine of Hoosier Republicanism.

Cottey could not hide his contempt at a status quo that threatens to turn the party's February slating convention into a tumultuous circus. "The candidates don't know what to do or what's going on," Cottey said. The second-term sheriff said that while volunteers such as Sen. Miller and others are running the Marion County Republican headquarters without pay, Sweezy sits at home and is trying to call the shots. "John is running the party from his house and undermining Pat," Cottey said. "If John wants to be chairman, he should come down and run the county headquarters. If he doesn't want to do it, he should quit and allow Pat to run. I want Pat Miller. She and I are on the same wavelength. She is a fine Christian lady who could fill out the term for the next 18 months. But none of that can happen as long as John is still there."

"To tell you honestly, I'm so disgusted."

The unsettled situation surrounding the Republicans has even the highest-ranking members of the party on their heels. Representatives of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar and the Indiana Republican Party are as apt to ask questions and profess a lack of knowledge at the situation

as members of the news media have.

The stakes are high for Hoosier Republicans, who have been locked out of the governor's office since 1988. After two terms of rule by Democrat Evan Bayh, ex-mayor Stephen Goldsmith was set to reclaim the governorship in 1996, only to lose not only the race, but Marion County by nearly 20,000 votes.

In 1998, the GOP rebounded with Prosecutor Scott Newman winning by 28,000 votes and Cottey's re-election by 35,000 votes while the rest of the ticket settled in with 12,000 pluralities.

Then came 1999 when Gilroy lost to Bart Peterson by 21,000 votes.

"We've lost our die-hard Republicans," Cottey said. "They're moving to surrounding counties. And these people are being replaced by people who aren't committed to either party. All this exodus doesn't mean the party is doomed. It's the candidate and the message."

Sen. Miller said she would be happy to take the helm of the party. "I'll do whatever is best for the party," she said Wednesday night. "I doubt that this will be resolved before the slating."

The continued controversy, lack of cohesion and mixed signals present an ominous dilemma for Republican gubernatorial candidates David McIntosh and John R. Price in their attempts to upset Gov. Frank O'Bannon next fall.

A continued rupture in the Marion County GOP - once the cornerstone for statewide Republican wins - represents an epic millstone around their necks.

Sen. Miller downplayed any notions that the party won't be ready in November. "Our party is alive and well," she said. "Our ward and precinct people performed well last year - better than they had in a decade. The problem there was with the candidate and her campaign." ❖

TICKER T A P E

never received an invitation to attend debates in New Hampshire. "They're just acknowledging the major candidates," she said. "I'm part of the ignored." Harder has been campaigning since last September. As for Granite State voters, Harder said, "There's a sense of skepticism. They've seen it all before and heard it all before." Harder said her 30-year marriage ended recently, "a casualty of her intense focus on the presidency."

DEMOCRAT RESURGENCE: Allen County Democrats are celebrating their resurgence. "This party had no headquarters, mailing address or phone number. We had no computer hardware or software," Democratic Chairman Brian Stier told the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel. "We did have a broken copy machine and a few tables." The party also had a debt of \$40,000. "There was a feeling of hopelessness and despair," said Stier. Now, he and Allen County Democrats are celebrating winning Mayors Graham Richard of Fort Wayne, Terry McDonald in New Haven and Clarence Reichart in Woodburn. Stier says the Democrats are now aiming at the three Republican county commissioners and legislative seats.

CHURCH DAY CARES: The

continued on page 6

TICKER T A P E

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

State of Indiana is now requiring church-operated day-care centers to meet a new list of minimum state requirements (Evansville Courier & Press)

PELATH NEW CHAIR: State Rep. Scott Pelath will succeed Judy Wilson as LaPorte County Democratic chairman. Wilson is stepping down due to personal reasons.

MISSING MODISSETT: John Graydon Smith of the American Lung Association is calling outgoing Attorney General Jeff Modisett "a true champion for the anti-smoking cause in Indiana" (Times of Northwest Indiana). "Now it's in the hands of the legislature. I think it's fortunate that the legal aspect is in place, but it'll be a shame not to have him to put pressure on the legislature." Robbie Barkley of the American Heart Association said of Modisett, "He was a true trail-blazer who set all this up."

NEW MAYORS BUSY: Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson has called for a race relations summit for Jan. 29 and has met with the 11 Marion County school superintendents. Fort Wayne's Graham Richard is putting the finishing touches on his restructuring of the administration, which includes a full-time human resources director and a full-time legal

Morton Marcus, *Syndicated* - To restore my spirit, I visit Lake County in Northwest Indiana. The diversity of cultures and temperaments, the perversity of turf wars, the traditions of excellence and the acceptance of mediocrity - all those essential complexities of humanity - are on display in Lake County every day, all day. Your eyes may be startled, but your brain will rejoice as you examine the new Lake County Interstate Visitors Information Center. This remarkable \$6.5 million building - with its grand map of Indiana at the entrance, with its Indiana state flag banners, with its tourist materials from every corner of the state - was not built with state funding. It is the realization of a dream, developed in Lake County, by the people and businesses of Lake County, from funds collected in Lake County, for the benefit of Lake County and the state. Indiana does not greet visitors arriving from Chicago. Perhaps we believe that travelers have not arrived in Indiana until they get past Lake County. (Indiana Governor Thomas Marshall, later vice-president of the U.S., once suggested it would be well if Gary slid into Lake Michigan). Hence, Lake County, with its accustomed "We'll-show-you" attitude, built its own visitor center, an architectural declaration of self-reliance if not independence. ❖

Phil Wieland, *Times of Northwest Indiana* - It's good to know that at least some Indiana officials are doing their part to make this a nicer state and world. State Rep. John Ulmer, R-Goshen, has proposed legislation to teach niceness in schools by requiring students to address teachers and other school personnel as "sir," "ma'am," "Miss," "Mrs." "Mr." and "Ms" or whatever appropriate respectful form applies. Gov. Frank O'Bannon said he supported

niceness but was reluctant to endorse the bill. He is afraid to endorse anything until after the election, because the Republicans will only reject it anyway and blame him. That's not nice. ❖

Harrison Ullmann, *NUVO* - When he refused to extend clemency to D.H. Fleenor, Gov. Frank O'Bannon said he "wouldn't second guess years of judicial proceedings" to save Fleenor from his sentence to die. But the law gives the power of clemency to our governors for exactly that reason - so that they may second-guess cops and prosecutors and judges and juries who may have got it wrong. And the facts should tell our governors that sometimes we do get it wrong when we send someone up to Michigan City to be killed by the State of Indiana, which is still you and me. Our governor is a good man, but he was wrong to let his employees kill D.H. Fleenor. And the rest of us were wrong to let it happen. ❖

Larry McIntyre, *Indianapolis Star* - It's interesting to note that the O'Bannon-backed bill to delay the reassessment two years has specific language forbidding the state tax board from adopting any rules for reassessment until Dec. 1 - just after Election Day. That ensures Lake County voters won't have a clue as to how hard they're going to be hit until after they've dutifully pulled the levers for O'Bannon. Lake County also gains more than any other entity from the governor's call to eliminate property taxes for welfare. Lake County accounts for one-fourth of the \$280 million collected annually for welfare in Indiana. That's why companies like U.S. Steel are lobbying so hard to kill that tax. Its mill in Gary pays over \$6 million a year in property taxes just for welfare. ❖

Indiana 2000 Racing Form

gubernatorial, congressional races

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh, John R. Price. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank O'Bannon. **1996 results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** McIntosh named Capitol Hill veteran Rob Collins as press secretary. He can be reached at 765-284-3283. Price has been extremely active, airing the campaign's first TV ad, which he is doing to try to dispel the notion that he can't raise money. McIntosh has been out of the country and out-of-pocket on the fishkill. **General Status:** *Leans O'Bannon.*

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. **Democrat:** David L. Johnson. **1988 results:** Lugar (R) 1,430,525, Wickes (D) 668,778. **1994 results:** Lugar (R) 1,039,625, Jontz (D) 470,799, Bourland (L) 17,343, Barton (A) 15,801. **2000 Forecast:** The Friends of Dick Lugar Committee reported \$2,037,960 cash on hand at the Dec. 31 FEC deadline. Allen County Democratic Chairman Brian Stier says of Johnson, "Don't underestimate him. In 10 days he raised \$100,000." *Cook Political Report* continues to call this race "solid Republican." **Status:** *Safe Lugar.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: Mike Pence, State Rep. Jeff Linder, Andrew Phipps, Brad Steele, Fred Wenger, Bill Fraizer, Luke Messner. **Democrat:** Ron Guyre, Bob Rock Jr., Troy Liggett. **Geography:** Muncie, Anderson, Richmond, Shelbyville, Columbus and East Central Indiana. **1994 results:** McIntosh 93,592, Hogsett 78,241. **1996 Results:** McIntosh 122,288, Carmichael (D) 83,478, Zimmerman (L) 4,662. **1998 Results:** McIntosh (R) 99,584, Boles (D) 62,426, Federle (L) 2,236. **2000 Forecast:** Melina Fox left the Democratic field and endorsed Rock, who will report about \$25,000. Guyre is preparing to announce. Gethers left the Republican field due to treatment for vision loss (*Muncie Star Press*). Frazier appears to be ready to join the field, running TV ads in the Indianapolis market promoting his mobile home business and ending with a pitch for education. Pence announced he has raised more than \$160,000 with \$150,000 cash on hand. He opened his campaign headquarters in Anderson (765-623-3300), hired Bill Smith from the Indiana Family Institute as his campaign manager, and will move to Edinburgh in Shelby County. Linder (317-398-7428) will release figures later this week and calls them "respectable." Sources tell Horse Race Linder will report around \$125,000. Linder hired Greg St. Claire to handle his media and mailing, and Glen Bolger of Public Opinion Strategies for polling. CD Chairman Virgil Scheidt told the *Star Press*, "The only active campaigning I have seen is out of Linder and Pence." Steele opened campaign headquarters in Muncie (877-289-8181). Messer opened a campaign office in Muncie (765-286-0612). He said he will introduce "54 solutions for working families." Messer's campaign contact is Zach Main. **HPR Primary Analysis:** Rock may have a leg up with the Fox endorsement, which should help him in the district's five southernmost counties, and with the Anderson and Madison County Democratic organizations behind him. The lack of money, however, means this primary battle is far from over. Liggett's presence in the race may be preventing the flow of labor money into this race. While few establishment Democrats believe Liggett has a chance, donors don't want to tick off his father, State Rep. Ron Liggett, who heads the House Labor Committee. The problem with this scenario is that national Democrats are beginning to write this race off even if it is an open seat. *Cook Political Report* lists it as "likely Republican." On the GOP side, this looks to be a two-way battle between Pence and Linder, with Pence getting an early advantage based on the fact that he out-raised Linder in less than two months. This race, however, is far from over. **Primary Status:** *Leans Pence (R); Tossup (D).*

Congressional District 5: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** Greg Goodnight. **Geography:** Kokomo, Marion, Peru, Monticello, Lowell, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Buyer 108,575, Beatty 43,619, Alfred (L) 3,328. **1996 Results:** Buyer 133,604, Clark (D) 67,125, Lehman (L) 5,255. **1998 Results:** Buyer (R) 101,567, Steele 58,504 (D), Waters

TICKER

T A P E

department. Richard's chief of staff is Andrew Downs. Richard fired neighborhood and citizens advocate Barb Schoppman, and then celebrated her work with a "Barb Schoppman Day." Schoppman is GOP city chair (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr. announced that he anticipated no city tax rate increase in 2001. "I wasn't elected to raise taxes," Lloyd said (Evansville Courier & Press).

The federal budget surpluses are expected to be up to \$800 billion larger than the \$3 trillion estimate announced in 1999 (Associated Press).

INDIANA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: It stood at 2.8 percent in November, compared to 3.8 percent nationally. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced the number of employed Hoosiers stood at 3,020,100.

INDIANA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: It stood at 2.8 percent in November, compared to 3.8 percent nationally. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced the number of employed Hoosiers stood at 3,020,100.

An East Chicago city councilman was paid after he resigned his job, the Times

continued on page 8

TICKER T A P E

of Northwest Indiana reported. Former Police Chief George Pabey received one day's pay after he resigned as a court bailiff to become a council member.

Vanderburgh County homeowners should expect to see their property taxes rise slightly, according to the Evansville Courier & Press.

The Elkhart County Council had to approve \$100,000 to pay defense attorneys in three death penalty cases, including two who were involved in a racially motivated shooting of a black Elkhart man (South Bend Tribune).

State Sen. Charles "Bud" Meeks has proposed legislation that would lengthen the terms of county sheriffs to two, six-year terms. "Eight years isn't enough time for them to get their projects done," Meeks told the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette.

Indianapolis attorney Milt Thompson is expected to take over WNDY's public affairs show that has been hosted by Mike Pence, now a candidate for the 2nd CD.

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(L) 2,317. **2000 Forecast:** Greg Goodnight, a steelworker from Kokomo, jumped into the race and got the AFL-CIO endorsement. *Cook Political Report* rates this race as "solid." **Status:** *Safe Buyer.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Kevin Shaw Kellems. **Democrat:** U.S.

Rep. Baron Hill. **Geography:** New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville and SE Indiana.

1994 results: Hamilton 91,459 (D), Leising (R)

84,315. **1996 Results:** Hamilton (D) 128,885,

Leising (R) 97,747, Feeney (L) 2,315. **1998**

Results: Hill (D) 92,477, Leising (R) 87,278,

Feeney (L) 2,397. **2000 Forecast:** The more we

look at this race, the more we sense that Hill will have a real battle on his hands. Kellems announced he has raised \$130,000, with \$100,000 cash on hand, with 83 percent raised within the district. Half of Kellems' revenue came from Clark and Floyd counties, the district's population center. *Louisville Courier-Journal* reported that Hill attended a December reception at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and raised \$13,000. "I don't like going to Las Vegas and having a fundraiser, but you do what you have to do with fundraising as long as you are compliant with the law." Kellems pounced, saying, "No, you don't *have* to do anything that raises so many questions or that just doesn't feel right. After years of watching former Rep. Lee Hamilton and Sen. Richard Lugar serve honorably while running effective campaigns, I would say it's a safe bet there was little chance Baron would run into one of them asking for money in a Las Vegas casino." Three riverboat casino referendums passed by small margins over the past four years and Madison rejected them. Then-incumbent mayors in the casino cities of Lawrenceburg, Aurora, Rising Sun and New Albany were defeated last fall, despite having lots of casino tax revenue to lavish on their constituencies. The gambling issue could be a loaded one for Hill. Another potential vulnerability for Hill is his vote against the flag burning bill. And, finally, Vice President Al Gore is not popular in the 9th CD. **Status:** *Leans D.*

Congressional District 10: Republican: Tony Samuel, Marvin Scott. **Democrat:**

U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **1994 results:** Jacobs (D) 58,573, Scott

50,998. **1996 Results:** Carson (D) 90,869, Blankenbaker (R) 69,248, St. Angelo (L) 3,505. **1998**

Results: Carson 69,673, Hofmeister (R) 46,892, Peterson (L) 3,009. **2000 Forecast:** Carson

spent almost two weeks in the hospital over the holidays battling pneumonia, which has raised mild concern in party circles over her health. Sources told HPR that Carson tends to run a hectic schedule, wearing herself down. Samuel announced he has gone to 2,000 homes. While it still looks as if Carson is in good shape politically, whether that continues could depend on how her health is. **Status:** *Likely D.*

2000 Indiana house races

House District 32: Republican: State Rep. Eric Turner. **Democrat:** Bart Herriman.

Geography: Madison, Grant and Miami counties. **1994 results:** Turner (R) 9,496, Beck (D)

7,722. **1996 Results:** Turner 13,188, Stanley (D) 8,981. **1998 Results:** Turner 10,006, Schmidt

(D) 6,607. **2000 Forecast:** Herriman is an assistant attorney for Senate Democrats. Turner will

be tough to beat after turning back a well-funded effort in 1996. **Status:** *LEANS R.*

House District 57: Republican: Open. **Democrat:** J.D. Lux. **Geography:**

Shelbyville, Shelby and Rush counties. **1994 Results:** Linder (R) 12,626. **1996 Results:** Linder

13,730, Thayer (D) 6,704. **1998 Results:** Linder 12,741. **2000 Forecast:** Republican candidate

from party hierarchy will announce a candidacy soon. **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 60: Republican: John Shean. **Democrat:** State Rep. Peggy Welch.

Geography: Bloomington, Bloomfield, Lawrence. Greene and Monroe Counties. **1994 results:**

Bales 11,825, Anderson 5,210. **1996 Results:** Bales 15,743, Germann (L) 1,931. **1998 Results:**

Welch 10,172, Ellington 8,987. **2000 Forecast:** Shean is an attorney from Ellettsville who,

Republicans say, is articulate and has a good people network. Jeff Ellington may try for this seat again. He was at a House Ways and Means Committee meeting this week and was collecting filing papers. **Status:** *LEANS D.*

- Brian A. Howey ❖