

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“Now I know why I wasn’t elected governor.” - Rex Early, after introducing Sen. Murray Clark to the 2nd CD caucus and mistakenly said that the LG nominee would be instrumental in passing a 25 percent property tax *increase*.

Frazier factor may determine 2nd CD

Independent means plurality wins

By **MARK SCHOEFF Jr.**

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - The outcome of the race for the open 2nd CD seat may hinge on whether independent candidate Bill Frazier turns out to be a Ross Perot or a Lenora Fulani.

Perot influenced the outcome of the presidential race in 1992. Fulani was a footnote in 1988. Regardless of which model Frazier follows, his run will offer a unique twist to the fall campaign. The Muncie businessman and former Republican state senator is competing against Republican Mike Pence, a radio and television talk show host, and Bob Rock, an Anderson lawyer and deputy city attorney.

They want to fill the seat being vacated by GOP Rep. David McIntosh, who is running for governor. McIntosh won with 61 percent of the vote in 1998. GOP Sen. Bob Dole won the district's presidential vote in 1996 by 3 percent. This year, polls show presumptive GOP presidential nominee George W. Bush running strong in Indiana.

"**There's not much historical** precedent for a legitimate independent candidate in an Indiana congressional race," said Chris Sautter, president of Sautter Communications in Washington and a Democratic consultant on many Hoosier campaigns over the last 20 years.

Nearly all observers agree that Frazier will cut into Pence's base. Even if he gets only a small percentage of the vote, it may tip the balance in favor of Rock. Frazier, 63, has personal resources that he's willing to use. Frazier's company, B.F. Co., generates more than \$1 million revenue annually by manufacturing and selling modular homes, building

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LUGAR BILL TARGETS TELEMARKETERS: Indiana's Sen. Richard Lugar is co-sponsoring the Know Your Caller Act 2000 that would put a crimp in the earnings of telemarketers (Tania Anderson, Fort Wayne News Sentinel). The bill would forbid companies from blocking their identities on Caller ID; require solicitors to identify the tele-marketer making the call; and require a company to provide a valid telephone number for requesting placement on a do-not-call list. The Indiana General Assembly caved in to heavy lobbying early this year and failed to pass a bill that would have allowed consumers to put their names on a do-not-call list.

LOTS OF CATFISH, NO DEBATE: Steve Deckard was wrong. The Shoals newspaper publisher was sure his every-two-years Great Catfish Debate would take place as usual this year even though the invitees were bickering about the event. Republican incumbent Rep. John Hostettler declined to come July 1 because Gov. Frank O'Bannon said he wouldn't be there. Republican gubernatorial candidate David McIntosh said he would be there even if O'Bannon isn't. Hostettler's Democrat opponent, Paul Perry, said he would be in Shoals some-

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Frazier, from page 1

and maintaining mobile home communities, and engaging in agribusiness. Frazier's business television ads can be ubiquitous.

Pence, 41, met with Frazier on June 2. "I'm in the race to defeat Mr. Pence and Mr. Rock," Frazier said. "I suggested to Mike Pence that he get out (of the race) and support me. Not everybody likes me, but hopefully more than one-third of the people will."

Frazier was a four-time GOP nominee for the seat during the 20-year tenure of former Democratic Rep. Phil Sharp and almost beat McIntosh in the 1994 primary. He sums up his political philosophy like this: "I believe in giving the individual the opportunity to be the best he or she can be with the least amount of interference by the government."

He opposes trade agreements like NAFTA because they have eroded the manufacturing base in the district. He also favors raising the minimum wage, strengthening national defense, increasing America's energy independence, and improving education. He rails against special interests. "The House of Representatives is the people's House, but it's gotten away from that. It's become the politicians House."

Frazier's issue menu has a conserv-

ative flavor, a point not lost on Pence. "He certainly presents an element in the race that increases the difficulty of keeping the seat Republican," said Pence. "We would just love to have his support. He's been an advocate of the conservative cause for many years."

But Pence argues that Frazier's emphasis on opposing trade agreements will attract labor support. "That may mitigate his impact on our candidacy, if he appeals more to Democrats than Republicans."

The Frazier effect is a central theme in Rock's fundraising efforts in Washington. "Without doubt, his candidacy will siphon votes from the GOP nominee and put this seat in real peril," Rock writes in a fundraising letter obtained by HPR.

Democrats emphasize that Rock's chances would be good even without Frazier in the race. Rock, 38, is pro-life and has served in the military. His father is a former mayor of Anderson and former lieutenant governor.

"We're watching it very closely," said John Del Ceccato, spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "It's a very real opportunity for us. Mike Pence is as right wing as right wing gets. Bob Rock has the perfect profile to attract swing voters and win the support of independents and moderate Republicans."

Washington Republicans are aware of the emphasis being placed on the 2nd CD by their opponents. "We have to pay more attention to it because we know that the Democrats will be more active," said Marit Babin, spokeswoman for the National Republican Congressional Committee. But "it's a Republican district and we have a great candidate."

Del Ceccato said the "issue environment" in the 2nd CD favors Democrats. A DCCC poll taken in August 1999 showed high double-digit margins in favor of Democratic positions on prescription drug coverage, HMO reform, and using the federal budget surplus for Social Security and Medicare rather than tax cuts.

Returning some of the surplus to Americans in the form of tax cuts is an issue Pence said he "will press hard. That would be an interesting debate: whether Hoosiers are in favor of tax cuts with a \$2 trillion surplus." Pence will emphasize strengthening the military and opposing abortion. "We'll be running strongly on the pro-family, pro-life agenda."

Bolstering military resources is a priority for Rock, too. "I'm for having a military presence around the world. In order to do that, you have to have a military that's well funded." Rock also advocates improving education, protecting Social Security, and providing Medicare

coverage for prescription drugs.

Pence and Rock split on trade. "I'm a strong supporter of free trade. I believe it means jobs in Indiana," said Pence. A Rock aide said he would make decisions on trade agreements based on how the pact affects human rights and workers' rights. Rock said he would have voted against giving China permanent normal trade relations. "I agree with my friends in labor about the deplorable conditions over there (China). They're competing against wage levels that aren't even in the same universe."

Democrats will try to portray Pence as being fiery and harsh, based on his races against Sharp in 1988 and 1990. Rock's media consultant was Sharp's campaign manager in his contests against Pence. "Bob Rock has put into place people who know the district well and who know Mike Pence well," said Ray Scheele, Ball State University political science professor and 2nd CD Democratic chairman.

"My experience in politics the last time was a defining moment in my life," said Pence. "It was deeply humbling. You can either learn from the past or run from it. We like to learn from it and incorporate the politics of civility into our campaign. We're going to present a mainstream conservative message that utilizes grass-roots, TV, radio and mail." ❖

McCullum to be Democrats school candidate

Indiana Democrats are prepared to tab Whiting School Supt. Gerald "Jerry" McCullum as their candidate for superintendent of public instruction. McCullum filed his candidacy on Wednesday for the Democratic convention this Sunday.

The 60-year-old career school administrator will challenge Republican Supt. Suellen Reed, who is seeking her third term.

McCullum is a Jeffersonville native who graduated from Indiana University. He has served as an administrator across the state, including stints at Scottsburg,

Edinburgh, Mississinewa, Argos, Garrett, Fremont, River Forest and Whiting.

"He is the consummate educational professional," said Doug Davidoff of the Indiana Democrats. "Kids First is not just a license plate to him."

McCullum becomes the second Lake County Democrat to make the 2000 Democratic ticket, joining Attorney General Karen Freeman-Wilson. Her opponent, Republican Steve Carter, is also from Lake County, having grown up near Lowell. ❖

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time during the festival even if Hostettler is absent. The debates started in 1986 and featured Rick McIntyre and Frank McCloskey.

CLARIAN PLANS IMPROVEMENTS: Clarian Health Partners Inc. properties will receive major renovation, construction and technology-related projects as the result of a planned \$450 million bond issue (Greg Jefferson, Indianapolis Business Journal). The plan includes renovation of 90 percent of hospital space at IU Hospital, Riley Hospital for Children and Methodist Hospital. About \$80 million is ticketed for information systems. The aim is to sell the majority of the bonds from early next month through September.

STEELE GETS COMPETITION: Republican State Rep. Brent Steele, seeking his fourth term in District 65 this fall, will have competition from David Rhum of Bedford, who was nominated Saturday during a caucus of district Democratic precinct officials (Steve Hinnefeld, Bloomington Herald-Times). Rhum is a United Auto Workers member. Steele is an attorney. The district includes Bedford, much of Lawrence County, eastern Monroe County and parts of Brown, Jackson and Washington counties.

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DEDELOW DEFENDS RESIGNATION REQUEST: Hammond Mayor Duane Dedelow claims he was merely looking out for the citizens of his community when he suddenly asked all city department heads to submit a letter of resignation (Jason Thomas, *Munster Times*). "The whole process asking for the resignations is part of a total process making sure everybody was on the team," Dedelow said. He declined to say if anyone has been released or resigned. He is interviewing department heads in a process that could take 30 days. Joseph O'Connor, corporation counsel for 16 years, said he no longer represents the city. He said he did not resign, but refused to elaborate.

INDIANA JOBLESS RATE AT 3.4 PERCENT: The state's unemployment rate stood at 3.4 percent, compared to 3.7 percent nationally, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. The number of Hoosiers employed in April stood at 3,005,100, according to Patrick Murphy of IDWD. Jobless rates in neighboring states stood at 4.0 percent in Illinois, 3.6 percent in Ohio, 3.7 percent in Kentucky and 2.8 percent in Michigan. The highest county jobless rates were 11.4 percent in Switzerland, 7.6 percent in Orange and

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McIntosh's march with Republicans included an embrace for the Right to Life team

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Those present at the relatively uneventful Indiana Republican Convention, could feel the David McIntosh gubernatorial campaign snap back into focus.

The keynote speech by the Republican gubernatorial nominee seemed to accent all the reasons why so many of his fellow party members wanted him to challenge Gov. Frank O'Bannon. The video leading up to his speech was a chapter out of Ronald Reagan's 1984 "Morning in America" TV ad campaign, set to the music of Enya. McIntosh, with his image on big video screens on each side of the stage, then cast a vision he will absolutely have to sell this fall in order to upset O'Bannon.

Talking about his guaranteed 25 percent property tax cut, McIntosh spoke of Reagan scolding the Democrats and calling them "advocates of no" as he proposed his economic plan. "We Republicans must remain the proponents of yes," McIntosh said. "There is a clear choice and two different paths: the broken promises of the past and the Republican vision of the future." Recalling his days as a shaker in the Kendallville Foundry, McIntosh said, "Yes, I know what it means to get dirty. You go home, wash off, and then get up in the morning and go back to work. I will take that same gritty, lunchbox determination to make sure you get a property tax cut."

McIntosh noted that O'Bannon had promised a 12-percent property tax cut in 1996. "I like Gov. O'Bannon and I think he's a nice man. But he has not lived up to the promises he made four years ago. When the going gets tough, Gov. O'Bannon appoints a commission."

Nice rebound

It was a nice rebound after two weeks when the McIntosh campaign

seemed to lose its focus and discipline. Coming off his commanding primary win over John R. Price and the successful selection of Sen. Murray Clark as his running mate, McIntosh ended the month in a hissy fit over whether he had been invited to march in the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade. The candidate and campaign showed up to march, only to be denied, and Republican fingers ended up pointing at First Lady Judy O'Bannon (not a wise target), and then the governor. Festival officials pointed out that only the mayor and governor ever march in the parade. The ensuing media coverage was embarrassing and had veteran GOP operatives shaking their heads in dismay.

Then came George Stuteville's *Indianapolis Star* story last Sunday about McIntosh's 88 missed votes in Congress. With veteran press aide Chris Jones at home helping his wife with a newborn child, an inexperienced aide had received Stuteville's call and patched the congressman through without vetting its nature, only to have McIntosh angrily denounce the topic as a "bull---- story."

While the campaign received some laudatory calls praising the congressman's candor and fury, the concern in some GOP circles was that the Indiana Democrats' "Straight Talk" e-mail assault on the McIntosh voting record was finally getting under his skin. It will be a clear and continuing strategy - to get McIntosh to snap - Democrats hope, like he did in the so-called airport shoving incident a few years back.

Buoyed by the faithful

With no contested nominations, a widely accepted Murray Clark as a running mate, and no floor fights over the platform, McIntosh found the Indiana Republican Party as united as its been since 1984.

As McIntosh made the rounds to

the various Congressional District caucuses, his tenor was friendly, good-humored and optimistic. In introducing his running mate, McIntosh joked, "If you like me, you'll love Murray Clark. And if you don't like me, you'll still love Murray Clark."

Right to Lifers Roll

After the district caucuses were finished and virtually all of the press had left the building, McIntosh and Clark joined the Indiana Right to Life rally where Jim Bopp, Eric Miller, Bill Butterfield, John R. Price, U.S. Rep. John Hostettler, Mike Pence, George Witwer and Michael Bailey had gathered. It was by far the most energetic segment of the convention as a room filled to capacity celebrated the inclusion of a pro-life plank in the party's platform.

"We have our plank and we'll have a pro-life ticket of David McIntosh and Murray Clark," said a jubilant Bopp. The show of force and appreciation belied an earlier McIntosh campaign spin that abortion was not a litmus test for the LG spot. Had McIntosh gone with a pro-choice running mate, the exultant mood of the room would have been vastly different.

"Victory will go to those who stand for principles," said McIntosh. "I appreciate what each and every one of you stands for. We share the sacred love of life."

McIntosh then issued a challenge to pro-life Democrats, saying, "I want each of you to go out and recruit independents and Democrats who share our views. I want you to challenge your colleagues to put a pro-life plank in their party's platform." LG nominee Murray Clark told the excited throng, "This campaign should be a campaign of ideas, one of clear cut contrasts."

Clark said the "battleground" will be about building a "better and brighter place. We will return Republicans to government." Curt Smith of the Hudson Institute distributed a list of votes Frank O'Bannon cast in the Indiana Senate. "He

tried to have it both ways. We think it's a critical issue and the governor is trying to have it both ways," Smith said. George Witwer, the 1996 LG nominee, surveyed the room and said, "My God, this is the heart of the Republican Party." Eric Miller warned the more than 300 people present, "If David McIntosh isn't elected, some of these people could lose their seats." Miller was referring to the dozen or so legislators present.

John R. Price noted that "until Americans are faced with the reality of what abortion is really all about" the status quo would remain the same (which the so-called pro-life abortion plank really said). Price credited controversial 9th CD Republican nominee Michael Bailey with bringing that reality home with his aborted fetus TV ads, even as Bailey himself was trying to ease into the GOP mainstream with the tacit approval of the party hierarchy.

As McIntosh gave his keynote address on Tuesday, Bailey was visibly present behind him on the big screens. While McIntosh saw the pro-life movement as the core of the party, some of his pro-choice colleagues wondered about the impact such imagery would have on a state that still favors abortion rights and where the gender gap could play a key role in what happens next November.

McIntosh's vision

While abortion was the convention's strong undercurrent (or undertow), in front of the Big Tent on Tuesday McIntosh had put the parades and tirades behind him. He laid out a vision that the GOP multitude embraced.

Faced with the most affluent and prospering society in the history of mankind, McIntosh knows that if his challenge to O'Bannon becomes a reaffirmation of the status quo, he will likely lose. But if he forces it to become a referendum on a vision of the future, he has a shot at marching into the governor's office. ❖

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Pulaski, and 7 percent in Starke. The lowest rate was 1.5 percent in Hamilton.

LIBERTARIAN CHALLENGES MANNWEILER: Charles S. Kennedy, the Libertarian nominee in HD86, has challenged Republican Rep. Paul Mannweiler to join the Indiana Citizens to Abolish Capital Punishment organization. "Do you agree with David McIntosh on this issue, or do you agree with Murray Clark and me?" Kennedy asked Mannweiler.

NORTH, SOUTH I-69 IN NEWS: More than 15 miles of I-69 in and around Fort Wayne will get extra lanes in each direction for 10.9 miles on the west side of Fort Wayne starting in 2003. Another 4.5 miles will be added in a second phase for a total cost of more than \$130 million (Lisa Shideler and Andy Gammill, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). On the other end of the state, HTNB Corp. was told to revise its cost estimate for planning an I-69 route around Evansville (Herb Marynell, Evansville Courier & Press). About \$1.8 million was set aside for the work, but the company's proposal was more than \$1 million more than that.

ESPICH WRITES GOV. O'BANNON: Ranking House Ways and Means Republican Jeff Espich wrote Gov.

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Frank O'Bannon a letter in which he took on the governor's "defense" of Indiana's high tech employment. News accounts said that Indiana was the only state out of 50 to actually lose high tech jobs during the past decade. "I must say I was struck by your simultaneous denial of the problem and announcement of appointees to a committee formed to analyze the problem," said Rep. Espich, R-Uniondale. "Interesting! I can't tell whether you believe Indiana is doing a terrific job attracting high tech jobs or think we are lagging behind." Espich added, "Another emasculated study committee, like the Citizens' Commission on Taxes, is not the answer." Espich urged the governor to move forward with "a strategy to create regional high technology centers."

MUSCATATUCK PASSES ANOTHER INSPECTION: Medicaid funding has now been restored to half the Muscatatuck State Developmental Center, according to the Indiana Family & Social Services Administration. Six additional living units - home to 73 residents - will begin receiving federal funding dating back to last Friday. A total of 145 beds remain to be certified, FSSA said. It will allow an additional \$440,000 a month in federal funding for the troubled developmental center

The Howey Political Report/Baker & Daniels
FORUM ON CAMPAIGN ETHICS

June 19, 2000

Westin Hotel Indianapolis, Indiana

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Indiana 2000 Racing Form

GOVERNOR, congressional races

Governor: Republican: U.S. Rep. David McIntosh. **Democrat:** Gov. Frank

O'Bannon. **Libertarian:** Andrew Horning. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon 1,107,342, Goldsmith 997,505, Dillon 35,261. **2000 Forecast:** McIntosh challenged O'Bannon to 10 town hall meetings this summer to talk about property taxes and then went on the attack after the governor refused. "Gov. O'Bannon has repeatedly criticized my 25 percent property tax cut plan saying it can't be done," McIntosh said. "Now, he refuses to meet with the very people who are paying those taxes to explain to them why he's

failed them in his first term and how he intends to make good on his four-year-old pledge to lower their taxes." O'Bannon said he refused because the McIntosh plan lacks details. "I do agree with you that Hoosiers deserve to know where each of us stands on property tax relief," O'Bannon wrote in a letter dated May 26. "That is why I think you may have gotten ahead of yourself. Before we debate the merits of our respective plans, Hoosiers deserve to know the full details of your plan, and its effects on education funding. When you have sufficiently done this, I look forward to debates this fall with Andrew Horning and yourself when Hoosiers are more actively engaged in this election." Meanwhile, Indiana Tax Court Judge Thomas Fisher has ruled that the state must complete guidelines for reassessment by June 1, 2001. Under that ruling, the state would have until March 2002 to finish the process. Both McIntosh and O'Bannon have opportunities and pitfalls on this issue. McIntosh must fill in the blanks for his 25 percent property tax cut after the fiscal year ends, or the press will be all over him. Sources tell HPR that the June 30 surplus is expected to be about \$1.5 billion and that will give McIntosh an opening as he will complain that the state should either spend the money or give it back. O'Bannon is faced with the reality of the tax reassessment mess and what McIntosh is calling a "December surprise" that conjures images of Gov. Orr dropping bad deficit news just days after the 1982 elections. McIntosh reacted to an *Indianapolis Star* story about his 88 missed votes in Congress by telling reporter George Stuteville, "You know it is such a bull--- story! You do! You know it's a bull--- story." It was the first time in memory that a major party candidate in Indiana has been quoted using profanity in the press. Clearly the Democratic Party's "Straight Talk" e-mail and fax assaults on McIntosh have gotten under his skin. The *Star's* story on Sunday said that McIntosh has the worst voting record for making votes of anyone in the Indiana congressional delegation and his voting record is the third worst in Congress this year. Two others in that group are also running for statewide office. *Rothenberg Political Report* in its June 2 edition noted, "This race has the potential to shape up into a real dog fight." **General Status:** *Leans O'Bannon.*

Congressional District 2: Republican: Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Robert Rock Jr.

Independent: Bill Frazier. **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:** Pence hired Lani Czarnecki as his campaign manager. Czarnecki was the 1999 Republican mayoral nominee in Anderson. Also, House Majority Leader Dick Army will appear with Pence and McIntosh in Muncie on June 16. **Status:** *Leans Pence.*

Congressional District 5: Republican: U.S. Rep. Steve Buyer. **Democrat:** Greg

Goodnight. **Libertarian:** Scott Benson. **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 (L) 2,317. **2000 Forecast:** Buyer turned down an invitation

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that was decertified in 1999.

LAW FIRM, ADVOCACY GROUP MERGE: The Bose McKinney & Evans public affairs section will merge with the Treacy-Boyle Advocacy Group, the largest non-law firm provider of government advocacy services in Indiana. The new organization is called BoseTreacy Associates LLC. It will begin serving clients July 1 from offices at 135 N. Pennsylvania Street.

NEW EVANSVILLE JOBS: About 200 customer-service jobs will be moved into Evansville by next summer by Vectren, the new parent of Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Co. There currently are 118 customer-service employees in Indianapolis, Muncie and Bloomington who will be offered positions in Evansville. The balance will be filled by new hires.

SOUDER RAPS CHINA TRADE: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder says the bill approved by the House last month making China a permanent trading partner of the U.S. will harm the nation's foreign policy (Tania Anderson, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). Souder voted against the bill, saying, "I don't understand some of my conservative friends who have switched sides on this." A Senate vote on the issue is expected in June.

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GYURE LOOKING FOR WORK: Ron Gyure, who took a leave of absence in January as executive director of Muncie's Urban Enterprise Association board to run for the 2nd District Democratic nomination for Congress and losing to attorney Robert Rock Jr., was turned down by the UEA board when he opened a discussion on re-employment (Rick Yencer, Muncie Star Press). Gyure was told the board is thinking of combining the director's duties with downtown redevelopment and should not consider his dismissal from the \$52,000-a-year job a firing.

WINSTON HONORED BY MAGAZINE: Indiana Democratic Chairman Robin Winston was one of five political people featured on the cover of Campaign & Elections Magazine. Winston was part of 60 people considered "rising stars" in the magazine's May 2000 issue.

NRA GETTING BIGGER: Membership of the National Rifle Association was reported as 3.6 million during its recent annual convention. More than 200,000 persons have joined during the last two months. The goal is 4 million members by the November elections.



to debate his Democratic opponent, Greg Goodnight, in a pair of debates sponsored by the *Kokomo Tribune* and *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*. Buyer said when he first ran for the office there was only one debate each election cycle and he is sticking to that tradition. He said he would debate Goodnight once, but would negotiate the time and place with him. Goodnight said he would attend the two debates sponsored by the newspapers even if Buyer doesn't. **Status:** *Likely Buyer.*

Congressional District 8 Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Dr. Paul Perry. **Geography:** Evansville, Bloomington, Vincennes and SW Indiana. **1994 results:** Hostettler (R) 93,529, McCloskey (D) 84,857. **1996 Results:** Hostettler (R) 109,582, Weinzapfel (D) 106,134, Hager (L) 3,799. **1998 Results:** Hostettler (R) 92,227, Riecken (D) 81,381, Hager (L) 3,395. **2000 Forecast:** Perry released a poll on Tuesday that indicates he is neck-and-neck with incumbent GOP Rep. John Hostettler in the 8th CD. The results of the survey of 403 likely general election voters showed Hostettler with

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46 percent, Perry with 42 percent and 12 percent undecided. The margin of error was +/- 4.9 percent. The question put to residents: "If the general election for Congress were held today, and the candidates were Paul Perry, the Democrat, and John Hostettler, the Republican, for whom would you vote?" Bennett, Petts and Blumenthal, a Washington, D.C. firm, conducted the poll. Perry generated name ID in the primary by going up with nine weeks of television ads, each of which focused on health care issues. Perry is a Warrick County orthopedic surgeon. Close races are becoming commonplace for Hostettler, who was first elected in 1994 and won with 52 percent in 1998. The Perry campaign is confident. "This is a very winnable race," said Carter Wells, Perry's campaign manager. "We're looking forward to the summer and fall." **Status:** *Tossup.*

Congressional District 9 Republican: Michael Bailey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Geography:** Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, Connersville, 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:** "We will make this race exciting," Bailey told HPR at the Indiana Republican Convention. "We've got a legitimate shot." Bailey said that Indiana Republicans "were in shock for a couple of days" following his primary upset over Kevin Shaw Kellems. He attributed that upset to 258 pro-life radio ads on 9th CD Christian radio stations that galvanized his "bedrock support." He said that during the primary his website registered 16,000 hits. "In 1992, I had no support from the party. That is radically different now. They've seen me for eight years. I have a lot of personal relationships with my county chairs. When I speak it is from my heart and they know I mean it." Bailey was widely applauded at the Indiana Right to Life rally at the convention, then took a seat behind David McIntosh at the convention on Tuesday. So while Indiana Republicans appear to be giving Bailey a chance to enter the mainstream, he acknowledged that the GOP establishment in Washington is still writing him off. Bailey said he is about to unveil a mold-breaking yard sign campaign aimed at getting union support. "The unions are irate at Hill. I'm going to give union people a place to go after Hill's WTO China vote," Bailey explained. "I'm going to have signs about China and WTO, NAFTA and GATT." Bailey believes that Al Gore will tank in the 9th CD. He will attack Hill on labor and taking gambling money from casinos during a trip to Las Vegas last year, and he will benefit from a strong ticket featuring George W. Bush, Sen. Richard Lugar and McIntosh. As HPR was talking to Bailey, a couple from Evansville approached him, congratulating him on his previous stand on abortion. "How can we help?" asked the woman. Bailey responded, "You can pray for me and send cash." **Status:** *Safe Hill.*

- By Brian A. Howey ❖