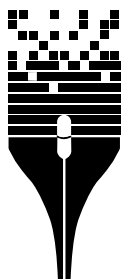


The Howey Political Report



2000 election could signal historic shift

Party of Bulen fading to Democrats?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

At the time, it seemed like a normal thing for a Republican to do. There stood David McIntosh in the auditorium of American United Life, beside Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Libertarian Andrew Horning in their first gubernatorial debate last Friday night.

Several minutes into his opening remarks, McIntosh stated, "Hoosiers deserve a governor who shares our commitment to freedom - not just some freedom, but every freedom. Take the 2nd Amendment: Gov. O'Bannon told us in Congress that we should support Bill Clinton's gun control bills. That's not the leadership Hoosiers want. I will defend freedom - including 2nd Amendment rights."

One hundred and fifty miles to the north a few days earlier, former presidential candidate Alan Keyes was stumping for 3rd CD Republican nominee Chris Chocola and McIntosh in South Bend. "There is a real danger if we elect politicians who believe that we are no longer a people who can make good decisions," Keyes said. "David McIntosh and Chris Chocola are people who will stand up for you because of the principles they stand for. If we want to save our nation, we must stand up for leaders like these. Their victory will renew hope for the people of this state."

For added measure, Chocola had taken aim at his Democratic opponent - U.S. Rep. Tim Roemer - over his counseling of President Clinton 10 days before the 1998 House impeachment vote.

Those were vivid examples of Republicans in the 2000 campaign homestretch, still seeking to rein in their GOP base. And that's what makes this election a historic

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The Howey Political Report is published by NewsLink Inc. Founded in 1994, The Howey Political Report is an independent, non-partisan newsletter analyzing the political process in Indiana.

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Subscriptions: \$250 annually via e-mail or fax. Call 317-254-1533.

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“I think it means it's going to be a real close race... - George W. Bush, on his kiss of Oprah Winfrey and Al Gore's kiss of Tipper and what it all means, to Larry King Live on CNN

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PRESIDENT CLINTON IN CARMEL: While President Clinton will be at a 4 p.m. Oct. 7 rally at the Colts Complex in Indianapolis for U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, we're also hearing that he'll be at a Carmel fundraiser for First Lady Hillary Clinton that same day. There's some irony in the fact that Hillary Clinton will be getting some funding from U.S. Rep. Dan Burton's home turf.

BUSH SURGES IN NATIONAL POLLS: Remember in last week's HPR Weekly when we suggested that George W. Bush's peck on Oprah Winfrey's cheek might represent a turning point in the 2000 presidential race? Tracking from over the weekend through Wednesday afternoon suggests just that. CNN/USA Today/Gallup's three-day tracking (Sept. 24-26 +/-4 percent) saw Bush erase a 10-point lead and now leads Al Gore, 46 to 44 percent. On Monday, CNN reported, "Bush has made significant gains since last weekend and, for the first time since Labor Day, appears to have done so at Gore's expense. Gore's support had not dipped below 47 percent in over two weeks, when Bush last led the race. There is no question that the race has tightened and Bush has gained strength in the past few days; it is less clear

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Bulen, *from page 1*

crossroads for the Indiana Republican Party. The last vestiges of the Party of L. Keith Bulen are present in what may be the final crowning campaign of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar.

Above him, an unpopular Democrat - Al Gore - was running only 7 percent behind George W. Bush. It begged the question of what if? What if a Democrat without the environmental activism that Gore possesses were running - a New Democrat of the Evan Bayh model? How would he or she do in this manufacturing and coal producing state in 2000? Given Gore's curious strength (what if it had been Bill Bradley?), it is easy to fathom such a Democrat actually becoming the first since 1964 to win Indiana.

Down ballot, there is McIntosh, the man who was to return the GOP to the governor's mansion after a 12-year hiatus, trailing by 15 percent. If McIntosh were to go down in defeat anywhere close to that margin, he most certainly would take chances of controlling the Indiana House with him.

Behind McIntosh, the Republican bench is almost universally recognized as

weak and lean. The party's big city mayors - with the exception of Evansville's Russell Lloyd Jr. - have been defeated. Its Senate leadership is fossilized. Its House leadership is out of step with the activist front of the party over the abortion issue. On the Congressional landscape, a loss in the 8th CD by John Hostettler would even the state's delegation at 5 apiece.

The party's chairman - Mike McDaniel - has had the misfortune of running headon into the Evan Bayh legacy that has transformed this state into one where the Democrats flex their muscles from the TV airwaves (they're advertising earlier this year) to a CD-ROM driven ground war. McDaniel's Republican Central Committee is aging. Even party rising stars such as Allen County Chair Steve Shine absorbed a triple defeat in 1999 mayoral elections, as did its top female star, Sue Ann Gilroy.

A McIntosh defeat - particularly one of landslide proportions (not out of the question) - could signal the final collapse of the Party of Bulen.

Indiana would no longer be a Republican state. It might not even be a swing state. It could become a Democratic state.

Earlier this week, Russ Walker of *FreedomChannel.com* asked me: "What else can we look for in Indiana politics this year?"

Brian Howey: "I think this is going to be a very defining election, not only because of who controls the legislature and how the new legislative and congressional maps are drawn, but also whether here in this so-called Republican state we see 16 straight years of Democratic rule in the governor's mansion. Should O'Bannon prevail, should the Democrats keep the Indiana House and should they pick up another congressional seat along with the major mayoralships they hold, I think you can set the premise that Indiana is no longer a Republican state, that it may be gradually shifting into a Democratic mode. It's too early to tell at this point, but certainly we're seeing some inferences of the fact that the Democrats are holding the mayoralships is keeping some of the Republican fundraising down. The fact that they hold the governorship also has an impact on political fundraising for the Republicans. The fact that Al Gore is much stronger in Indiana than anybody ever dreamed, particularly with his high unfavorables, really leads me to wonder whether we're seeing some kind of a significant historic shift going on here."

It won't get any easier

As if the 2000 challenges aren't hard enough, the future doesn't promise to be any easier. Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan, who urged his party faithful to "keep our foot on their necks," would be the odds-on favorite for the 2004 gubernatorial nomination. He is an excellent speaker with a cunning political mind and an All-American resume with stints in the Hanoi Hilton and on the Notre Dame baseball team. House Speaker John Gregg, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard, Roemer, Democratic National Chairman Joe Andrew (should he return home) and cur-

rent U.S. Senate nominee David Johnson represent a powerhouse of next generation leaders for the Indiana Democratic Party.

And the Republicans? McIntosh could conceivably work at the Hudson Institute for three years and get another shot at the governor's office. Beyond him and U.S. Rep. Mark Souder, there are virtually no Republicans who have demonstrated any wide scale of electability.

McIntosh's epic role

For this reason, the McIntosh campaign is important to the GOP in virtually epic proportions. Should he ascend, it would be his organization that would spawn the next generation of Republican political leaders that had long been schooled in the Lugar, Coats and Quayle organizations.

The struggles of the McIntosh campaign have led long-time party activists to wince at his missed opportunities, his lack of discipline, his unwillingness to stay on message, and at the presence of Supt. Suellen Reed on the ticket, which has given Gov. O'Bannon cover on the vital education issues.

Last Friday night, before a meager statewide television and radio audience, they found McIntosh using the 2nd Amendment and partial birth abortion issues to stoke up his own Republican base while trying to energize the grassroots army of John Hostettler in Southwestern Indiana's Bloody 8th CD. At that point in the campaign, McIntosh should have been reaching out to moderate Republicans, independents and Reagan Democrats - folks deeply concerned over events such as Columbine High School.

The fact that it was late September and McIntosh was still trying to activate his base is an ominous sign for Indiana Republicans - a party that hasn't successfully reinvented itself since the heady and audacious days of L. Keith Bulen and the rise of Evan Bayh. ❖

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whether he will continue to do so or whether the race will remain tight. Bush gained 10 points among women since the middle of last week and only two points among men." Gore now leads with women, 48 to 44 percent, compared to 58 to 34 percent on Sept. 18-20. Newsweek's polling, which has had large leads for Gore for several weeks, now has Gore leading 47 to 45 percent. Fox News has Gore up 44 to 43 percent. STATE PRESIDENTIAL POLLS TIGHTEN: In Indiana, the South Bend Tribune/WBSB Poll had Bush leading Gore 49 to 42 percent. Pollster Del Ali of Research 2000 said Gore is not likely to get much stronger, citing an "astromically high" percentage of Hoosiers who have an unfavorable view of Gore - 41 percent. Polls in Sunday editions of the Chicago Tribune looked at the race in five of the largest battleground states from New Jersey to Michigan. The polls found that the races in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan were very close, while Gore has a lead in Illinois and New Jersey - something reflected in earlier polls. Rasmussen's Portrait of America reported Gore leading Bush 47 to 35 percent in Illinois, and Bush leading Gore 46 to 36 percent in Ohio, and 45 to 41 percent in Kentucky.

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BIPARTISAN HEATING FUEL ASSISTANCE:

Republican Sen. Richard Lugar and Democratic Sen. Evan Bayh announced that Indiana will receive \$10,692,040 in Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program emergency funds to help poor Hoosiers pay for home heating oil this winter. The joint announcement was somewhat surprising, coming in the middle of the political season, when Lugar is up for re-election and energy prices are rising to the top of the issue agenda. Usually congressional offices compete daily in the grant announcement sprint. Upon receiving word that the administration has allocated funds to a state, the congressman whose district is affected and senators rush to get a release out the door. But Lugar and Bayh cooperated, denying Lugar's opponent, David Johnson, an opening to criticize Lugar on the home heating issue, which Vice President Al Gore is emphasizing in his campaign. "Sen. Lugar has worked in a bipartisan way on hundreds of issues throughout Indiana," said spokesman Andy Fisher. "That will continue. Obviously, heating assistance to poor and elderly people in Indiana is a non-partisan issue." In the news release, Lugar said: "The heating oil and natural gas crunch facing us this winter could be severe. It is imperative that

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COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Morton Marcus, *Syndicated* - This misuse of statistics in the first gubernatorial debate damaged my confidence in the truthfulness of the candidates. Unable to check their statements, unaided by a non-aggressive press corps, I could not know what is reality. For those who felt as I did, let me try to clarify one point. How much have property taxes increased? Representative McIntosh says the property tax levy has climbed by 20 percent in four years. I'll bet his claim is correct. But is his statement misleading? The web sites of the state did not help me find the truth. But I did have two issues of the *Indiana Handbook of Taxes, Revenues, and Appropriations* published by the non-partisan Legislative Services Agency. From these I was able to determine that total property taxes collected by local governments in 1998 rose by 4.2 percent from 1997. If that rate of increase was typical of the past four years, then property tax collections could have increased by 17.9 percent from 1994 to 1998. That's close enough to 20 percent to satisfy me that we are in the same ballpark. But what does this mean? Local tax collections (the levy) rise when new buildings are constructed in our communities. Those new homes we see everywhere, those new retail stores, and those new factories add to our total assessed value and become part of the increase in property tax collections. During 1997, the assessed value of property in Indiana rose by 3.5 percent. This increase did not occur at the individual level (your home and mine) because reassessment did not take place across the state. This means that 83 percent of the increase in property tax collections (3.5 percent of the 4.2 percent increase) was due to economic growth. Who is against that? The remaining 0.7 percent increase in the levy came from an increase in the effective tax rate on property in Indiana.

Over a four-year period that is just 3 percent, not the 20 percent figure being used to describe our reality. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - O'Bannon hails the double-digit lead and also cites the 56 percent "favorable" rating for the Democratic governor as signs that he is going to win a second term. McIntosh cites the fact that the gap in this poll (48 to 33 percent) is less than in some other recent polls and claims he has the momentum to catch up. Analysis? McIntosh must capture a big part of the undecided vote, in particular the 22 percent of women still undecided, if he is to win. Education is the No.1 issue cited by Hoosiers, with women more concerned than men about the subject. ❖

Stuart Rothenberg, *Roll Call* - With six weeks to go until Election Day, seated House Members seeking re-election look as invulnerable as ever. There is no sign that voters are angry with incumbents, as they were in 1992 and 1994, when political scandals and a "time for a change" mood swept the country. Although Reps. Anne Northup (R-Ky.), Jay Dickey (R-Ark.), John Hostettler (R-Ind.), Brian Bilbray (R-Calif.), Clay Shaw (R-Fla.), Saxby Chambliss (R-Ga.), Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.), Jim Maloney (D Con.), Cal Dooley (D-Calif.) and Illinois Democrat Evans all face credible tests (in some cases the toughest of their Congressional careers), none of them fit the mold of previous incumbent losers. If only one or two of them lose, which seems likely, they will become the newest "exceptions" to the incumbent re-election rule. Looking over recent election cycles has only confirmed my view that, in non-"wave" years, House elections tend to be referenda on incumbents, rather than a choice between two candidates. ❖

Pence plans late TV buys; Frazier looms

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR.**

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Mike Pence is hoping that good things come to those who wait. Wait to go up on network TV, that is. Pence, the Republican candidate in the 2nd CD, is currently putting up between \$15,000 and \$20,000 worth of advertising each week on cable television in 11 counties and on 21 radio stations. That strategy, which features a bio spot, started on Sept. 18 and will continue through Nov. 7. In the final two weeks of the campaign, he will go up on Indianapolis television with a \$235,000 buy.

"Our focus is making sure that we finish strong on network television," said Pence, a former radio talk show host who ran for the seat unsuccessfully in 1988 and 1990. Pence is betting that people won't get around to deciding how to cast their votes until after the Olympics and World Series. Then he'll pounce.

"Our objective is going to be to come out of the box strong with a mainstream conservative message," said Pence, who is planning both bio and issue ads that will concentrate on reducing taxes and rebuilding the military. "We're raising money and putting it down on air time. I've seen too many campaigns squander resources early."

His Democratic opponent, Robert Rock Jr., is not yet up on television or radio and didn't want to reveal his plans. "That's part of our campaign strategy," he said. "That's something that we keep close under our hat."

But he acknowledges that he has a smaller war chest than Pence. "I don't have the resources he has," said Rock, an Anderson attorney and son of a former Anderson mayor and lieutenant governor. "I always wish I had more. You deal with what you've got." As of the June 30 FEC filing, Pence had \$196,500 cash on hand; Rock had \$108,089.

Bill Frazier, a former GOP state senator who is running as an independent,

is doing more television than Pence. He's been up since the spring with a series of ads, one of which focuses on his pledge to put \$250,000 of his congressional salary into a college scholarship and teacher merit award fund. Most recently, he's hit the airwaves with an ad that criticizes the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Frazier, a farmer who owns modular home and agribusiness firms in Muncie, says he could put 12 ads into rotation. He's also up regularly with spots for his businesses and owns his own ad agency. He is spending personal money on the race. The NAFTA ad strikes a chord among voters, Frazier said. In the spot, he asks people to call or e-mail him with their views on the trade agreement. "I've had scores of anti-NAFTA phone calls," he said. Job losses dominate the feedback. "There are some heart wrenching stories coming through."

Frazier will emphasize his opposition to trade agreements in a series of debates with his opponents. The three candidates met Monday Columbus and will get together again in Anderson on Tuesday. Another five debates are scheduled. Rock thought that he gained traction on fiscal issues in the first debate. "I just love the fact that I'm the one talking about paying off the national debt. That's the most conservative and fiscally responsible thing to do."

Pence stresses reducing the marriage penalty and eliminating the estate tax. He ties tax cuts to debt pay-down efforts. "Pro-growth tax cuts are essential in maintaining the rate of economic growth necessary to eliminate the national debt."

Tax cuts must come in small bites, Rock said. "I'm not opposed to some tax cuts that are affordable. Everyone recognizes the value of paying off the debt when you have the opportunity." Rock is skeptical of trade agreements while Pence is a free trader.

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we are prepared to respond quickly with help for our most vulnerable citizens." Bayh said: "It is critical that we have the resources to assist Hoosier families during the difficult winter ahead. Natural gas prices this year are expected to be anywhere from 15 to 40 percent higher than last year."

FACTSABOUTFRANK TIME 2: Republican gubernatorial candidate David McIntosh has created a website, www.factsaboutfrank.com, to list all the negative things the Republicans can come up about Gov. Frank O'Bannon. Not to be outdone, the Democrats anted up \$35 to register their site, www.factsaboutfrank.org, to give the other side of the story (Mike Smith, Associated Press). The two websites are proof that in this era of Internet warfare two sides can battle in cyberspace. The Chicago Tribune reported in Tuesday editions, "With the Internet firmly established as a political tool, the latest twist is a proliferation of edgy, anti-candidate web sites." The Tribune's Frank James added, "even as they reach a wider audience, however, the sites raise new questions about accountability for the accuracy of the charges they disseminate, as well as their provenance."

MCINTOSH A NO-SHOW:

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For the second time, Republican gubernatorial candidate David McIntosh canceled a meeting in Fort Wayne (Shannon Lohrmann, Fort Wayne News-Sentinel). The town hall-style meeting was scheduled for Monday night, but his campaign representatives said they couldn't schedule a room at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne for the event. An earlier town hall meeting in August was rescheduled so McIntosh could attend fund-raisers at the Republican National Convention at Philadelphia. McIntosh is scheduled to meet Gov. O'Bannon and Libertarian Andrew Horning in a debate in Fort Wayne Oct. 10.

BOWEN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY DUE THIS WEEK: Former Gov. Otis "Doc" Bowen's new book, "Doc: Memories from a Life of Public Service," has been published by Indiana University Press and will be available in bookstores on today for \$24.95 (Associated Press). Bowen said the book, written with former aide Bill DuBois, is his "best effort to write a true account of what happened to a Hoosier who loved being a small-town physician but saw politics and public service as an incurable disease."

GARY AIRPORT BOOSTED: Gary and state officials say

Indiana 2000 Racing Form

TRENDLINES: Here are a couple of out-takes on the fight for Congress and the Indiana governor's race:

Norman J. Ornstein, Roll Call: "So here's my favorite scenario: It's 3 a.m. the day after the elections. The returns are in, and the House Democrats have picked up seven seats -- plus or minus two, because two seats have margins of 50 or fewer votes, and are headed for full-scale recounts. The House majority hangs in the balance, and may hang there for days or weeks. One race is so close that some observers call for Congress itself to resolve the issue, a la the Indiana 8th contretemps of 1984-85."

The Muncie Star Press's take on last Friday's gubernatorial debate:

The spins came quickly after Friday's gubernatorial debate among Democratic Gov.

Frank O'Bannon, Republican opponent David

McIntosh and Libertarian candidate Andrew Horning. McIntosh's campaign faxed out news releases minutes after the debate, proclaiming the Republican as the clear winner. The press release claimed Gov. O'Bannon, forced to defend his record of mismanagement, scandal and broken promises, talked about his past, while David McIntosh shared his vision for Indiana's future. Thad Nation, O'Bannon's campaign press secretary, said it was a good night for O'Bannon. While O'Bannon offered a positive vision for the future, Nation said, McIntosh went negative. "There was never a time that the contrast was so clear," Nation said. Rob Collins, McIntosh's campaign press secretary, said Nation must not have seen the same debate. O'Bannon "stumbled, was defensive and passed the buck," Collins said. "(O'Bannon) refused to take responsibility." McIntosh said his vision for Indiana included "lower taxes, stronger schools and better high-tech, higher paying jobs." Amazingly enough, O'Bannon said he had worked to keep "the economy strong, improve schools and cut taxes." So much for a stark contrast between the major party candidates.

HORSE RACE

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:** Friday night's gubernatorial debate actually had pretty good viewership numbers in the Indianapolis market. WISH-TV reported a 10 share, or 5.7 percent of the market's households, which is about half of what *Wheel of Fortune* and *Jeopardy* normally pull in that time slot. Our take on the debate was that there was no decisive winner. If you use this week's HPR lead story about McIntosh's veer rightward on the 2nd Amendment and partial birth abortion to stoke up his base, and then read Jack Colwell's *South Bend Tribune* column (on page 4) about the Republican's need to appeal to independent women who are concerned about education, then you can make the case that McIntosh is in trouble. The other interesting reaction we had was something that we predicted a long time ago about: O'Bannon would use Republican Supt. of Public Instruction Suellen Reed to take the wind out of McIntosh's attacks on the crucial education issue. O'Bannon talked about working with Reed to bolster standards. He'll be using the recent Rand Corporation study on standards to further deflect criticism and can do so because that same report also cites George W. Bush's Texas along with Indiana as the states making the greatest strides. McIntosh said Indiana "is falling behind because we are standing still." O'Bannon observed, "Our schools are better. Our economy is good. We've cut taxes over \$1.5 billion. More children have health care. More seniors have

choice. And our streets are safe." McIntosh tried to score on the "mismanagement" issue that he had pounded O'Bannon with in a TV ad campaign last week. "When it comes to running government, we have seen in the last four years one scandal after another, one mistake after another. It was a legacy of mismanagement. Harry Truman said the buck stops here, and that's my model for leadership." O'Bannon responded, "You're right; the buck does stop here. Every now and then, we get an employee that steps off the wrong way and we get rid of them." On property taxes, what TV viewers didn't see was O'Bannon's eyes and veins bulging when McIntosh whipped out his hand-written pledge not to raise property taxes. The Draconian debate agreements prohibited the use of any candidate props. O'Bannon went after McIntosh, saying, "Let me tell you, that agreement in which you describe a 25-percent tax cut. That can't happen to everyone. You're fooling the public. You can get an average. I'll stand on my record. I've cut taxes \$1.5 billion." To which McIntosh responded, "Nobody has seen that \$1.5 billion tax cut. If Gov. O'Bannon really cut taxes by a billion and a half, then Al Gore really did invent the Internet. He needs to show us how he can do it. He hasn't shown us the details." In that exchange and his use of partial birth abortion issue, McIntosh used a page from his 1994 debates with Joe Hogsett and tried to link O'Bannon and President Clinton and Al Gore. Will that tactic work? Will the "mismanagement" TV ad campaign work? Last week, the South Bend Tribune/WSBT poll had O'Bannon leading by 15 percent, 48 to 33, with the sample coming prior to both events. HPR/TeleResearch will be in the field this weekend to gauge where this race stands after the debate and the comparative ads.. Watch for the results in next week's HPR Weekly. **General Status: LIKELY 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 national polling firm Research 2000 has found that 48 percent of its respondents didn't recognize the name of Johnson (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). The poll was commissioned by the *South Bend Tribune* and WSBT-TV. It showed Lugar with 66 percent, Johnson with 17, other candidates with 2, and undecided 15. Tim Shock, Johnson's campaign manager, agreed that, "People don't know who David Johnson is," but they will because of a heavy statewide TV buy that started last week. Lugar said of the poll, "It's good news. We're going to finish as strong as I expected. This is a race I've taken very seriously." **Status: Safe Lugar.**

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:** The first debate seemed to find more common ground between Pence and Rock. The Democrat really needed to distinguish himself from Pence and needs an issues or two to do so. **Status: Likely Pence.**

Congressional District 3: Republican: Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Tim

Roemer. **Geography:** South Bend, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Northern Indiana. **1994 results:** Roemer 72,497, Burkett 58,787. **1996 Results:** Roemer 114,381, Zakas (R) 80,748, Taylor (L) 2,331. **1998 Results:** Roemer 84,625, Holtz 61,041. **2000 Forecast:** DCCC has polled for Roemer, but his campaign traditionally doesn't flak its polling. South Bend Tribune/WSBT will poll this race next week for the first independent numbers. Alan Keyes appeared with Chocola and David McIntosh in South Bend. **Status: Leans Roemer.**

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:** It apparently depends on what the definition of negative is. Democrat Greg Goodnight, 5th CD candidate for Congress,

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Gary's airport, now 10 months into daily commercial service and actively recruiting airlines, should become the area's third major airport. Opponents believe that's wishful thinking (Andrea Holecek, *Times of Northwest Indiana*).

BEING NO. 2 NO FUN:

Former Vice President Dan Quayle said in a speech in Washington recently that life in the White House is filled with drama and almost hourly crises, but for a vice president its confining and restrictive (Sylvia A. Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "It's impressed on you that you are No. 2 and not No. 1," he said. "And if you forget that, the president's staff will impress upon you that you are No. 2 and not No. 1." As a senator, he said, "you have real autonomy. You make individual decisions. It isn't a matter of consensus."

IDEM CRITICIZED: A report by a Washington-based environmental group ranks Indiana second in the nation for the number of alleged high priority Clean Air Act violators not inspected in fiscal year 1998-99 (Lauri Harvey, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). The study, "Prime Suspects: The Law Breaking Polluters America Fails to Inspect," was released in July by the Environmental Working Group, a non-profit

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organization funded by national foundations. Lori Kaplan, IDEM's commissioner, wrote to the organization's president in August that the group used "archaic and often inaccurate national EPA databases." The EPA conducted an internal review and found that the Environmental Working Group properly used the federal data.

ESPICH COUNTERED: Rep. Jeff Espich, R Uniondale, Monday said property taxes between now and 2003 could increase by as much as 56 percent, but State Tax Board Chairman Timothy Brooks disputed some of Espich's findings (Niki Kelly, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Economists have predicted property tax changes would lead to increases of about 32 percent. Espich claims new data push that number to 38 or 39 percent and two other factors - the planned reduction of the homestead credit from 10 to 4 percent, plus typical tax rate increases averaging 11 percent - plus the increase to 56 percent. That would mean a typical tax bill of \$1,400 would balloon to \$1,723. Brooks disputed the homestead credit figure, saying Gov. O'Bannon plans to keep it at 10 percent. He also took issue with averaging rate increases over the last 10 years because the last two to three years have shown a downward trend.



agrees with Howard County GOP Chairman Doug Tate that "where you run into problems are twofold: one, if your negative campaigning is attacking someone on a personal level, or making attacks that are not founded on any fact" (Marc C. Geller, *Kokomo Tribune*). Goodnight has criticized his opponent, Rep. Steve Buyer, for missing 10 percent of the votes in Congress and compared that with his unblemished attendance at work over 11 years. Buyer's sister, Karen Buyer Burkhardt, a Republican state representative candidate, said, "I think the issue here is giving relevant and correct information. I believe that people are just really tired of half-truths and spin." She said negative campaigning is "any campaign that takes a record and distorts it or preys on the fears of people." **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:** Hostettler was one of only 3 House members to vote against the Violence Against Women Act. It passed on Tuesday by a 415-3 vote. "I was sad to see that Congressman John Hostettler voted against this important legislation," Perry said. "His reckless disregard for the women of Indiana sends a clear message to all Hoosiers that he is not representing our interests." Hostettler said he voted against the measure because he objects to passing laws that "federalize" the nation's approach to fighting crime. "It's a slippery slope that, arguably, we continue down but one I think is not in the best interest of solving the problem," he said (Steve Hinnefeld, *Bloomington Herald-Times*). "Nor is it consistent with hundreds of years of criminal jurisdiction in this country." Hostettler, who first won office in 1994, said he couldn't explain why so many of his fellow conservatives no longer seem intent on reducing the size and power of the federal government. "I don't have a very good answer to that," he said. "It's been a point of discussion in this office all day today." **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 put a call into Indiana Chair Mike McDaniel to see how excited he was by the Bailey campaign's release of a Corydon McCullough Poll showing the Republican trailing by a mere 2 percent. McDaniel never called back, which is a pretty interesting indicator of how serious the Republican establishment is taking this race. If Bailey really was trailing by only 2 points, you can bet the RNC and the NRCC and state Republicans would be crowing, but that hasn't happened. Perhaps they really don't want to see Bailey in the Congress. **Status:** *Safe Hill.*

INDIANA HOUSE r aces

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:** Both Welch and Shean are anti-abortion candidates, but Indiana Right to Life is backing Shean. **Status:** *Leans Welch.*

House District 64: Republican: Gerald Holcomb. **Democrat:** Rep. John Frenz. **Geography:** Knox, Pike, Davies and Gibson counties. **1994 results:** McConnell (D) 10,741, Marshall (R) 7,672. **1996 Results:** Frenz (D) 11,414, Krieg (R) 9,853. **1998 Results:** Frenz (D) 12,623. **2000 Forecast:** The *Indianapolis Star* put this race on their watch list and Republicans have been talking it up and saying that Frenz has been telling people he can always be a lobbyist if he loses. But Speaker John Gregg is quite emphatic when he vows that a Republican legislator will never serve along side him in Knox County, and O'Bannon's numbers approach 60 percent in the district. Holcomb has the John Hostettler connections to stoke up the vote, but at this point and without a GOP wave, we're betting Frenz returns. **Status:** *LEANS FRENZ.* ❖



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HPR Pre-Election 2000 Briefing Series

The second annual HPR Pre-Election Briefing Series will take place on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2 in Indianapolis and South Bend. The briefings will feature statewide polling and analysis by HPR's Brian Howey and Mark Schoeff Jr., TeleResearch Pollster Jeff Lewis, Ron Gifford of Baker & Daniels, Stuart Rothenberg of the *Rothenberg Political Report* and Jack Colwell of the *South Bend Tribune*. Join us for lunch and analysis of the fascinating 2000 election. Here are the details:

Indianapolis: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1 at the Columbia Club. Sponsors include Baker & Daniels, DLZ, Vectren and National Graphics. Cost: \$20. **South Bend:** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Holiday Inn in downtown South Bend. Sponsors include Baker & Daniels, DLZ, the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce. Cost: \$15.

To register, call 317-254-0535 or 317-254-1533
or e-mail us at: brianhowey@earthlink.net

The
Howey
Political
Report



The
Chamber
Chamber of Commerce of St. Joseph County



Pence, from page 5

In coming debates, Rock will try to portray Pence as too conservative for the district, which was represented for 20 years by a Democrat and voted Republican for president by a slim margin in 1996. "My opponent is a right-wing ideologue with an agenda that's not in the best interest of the district," said Rock, who is pro-life and anti-gun control.

Rock's conservative approach to abortion will be undermined if Rock wins and votes for Rep. Dick Gephardt (D-Mo.) as Speaker of the House, Pence argues. "At the end of the day, this is a choice between an Al Gore/Dick Gephardt Democrat and a George Bush/David McIntosh Republican." McIntosh, the 2nd CD incumbent, is running for governor.

That characterization of the ballot gets under Frazier's skin. He says the media and his rivals are overlooking him. "When they talk about their opponent, it's always singular. It should be plural. They'll find out on Election Day." The 63-year-old Frazier speaks warmly of Pence, 40, and Rock, 38, but describes them as "two young lawyers," a phrase that highlights a Frazier theme. "It's time to put someone back in office who has practical experience in agriculture."

Although he may feel overlooked in the district,

Frazier is the basis for Democratic hope in Washington that Rock could take the seat with only a plurality. "We're watching it closely," John Del Ceccato, spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said in mid-September. "The dynamic there presents a unique opportunity. It's been called a sleeper. We're going to see how it develops." In Washington parlance, though, that is a somewhat tepid analysis, meaning the race falls short of "targeted" status.

Rock and Pence have engaged in a battle of the surrogates. House Speaker Dennis Hastert visited the district this week to raise about \$30,000 for Pence. Republican Sen. John McCain came through in August and former Vice President Dan Quayle is scheduled for later this month. Rock has had U.S. Rep. Pat Kennedy in.

The political currents will help propel his candidacy, said Rock. Vice President Al Gore is gaining ground in Indiana since the Democratic convention. "Even better than that is Frank O'Bannon is running so strong and even beating McIntosh right here in the Second District, which should be his base."

Pence vows to run a positive campaign in the stretch. "We're going to go after our voters. We're not going to go after our opponents," he said. Frazier's presence ensures that "whoever will come out the winner has earned it." ❖