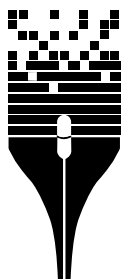


The Howey Political Report



Kernan TV spot brings talk of 2004

This could be calm before the storm

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

David McIntosh is running TV ads featuring George W. Bush talking about education, and another featuring his wife, Ruthie.

Gov. Frank O'Bannon's final campaign is up on the air featuring ... Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan. It could be the first time an LG candidate has been thrust into such a prominent role in the homestretch of a campaign, for it didn't happen with Bob Orr, John Mutz, Bob Green, or O'Bannon himself. If the most recent polling - a *South Bend Tribune*/WSBT survey showing O'Bannon up 15 percent - holds, then what Hoosiers are seeing is the opening shot of the 2004 campaign.

Kernan's profile in the O'Bannon administration has gradually increased over the past four years. But his name ID is low despite his first run for statewide office in 1996 and his regional familiarity in Michiana after serving as mayor of South Bend.

The TV ad shows Kernan as a Navy flight officer and then as a POW in Vietnam. "As a flight officer and POW in Vietnam and a businessman back here in Indiana I think I've learned something about character and leadership. For the past four years its been my privilege to work with Frank O'Bannon as your Lieutenant Governor. And I've had the opportunity to see up close what kind of leader he is. He's always in there fighting for Hoosier families whether it's jobs or improving education or being the first governor in America to take action and suspend the gas tax. I know Frank O'Bannon is the type of leader we can trust with our future."

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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“It's going to be an unbelievably close election...”

- DNC National Chairman Joe Andrew, on the presidential race, to CNN.

INSIDE FEATURES

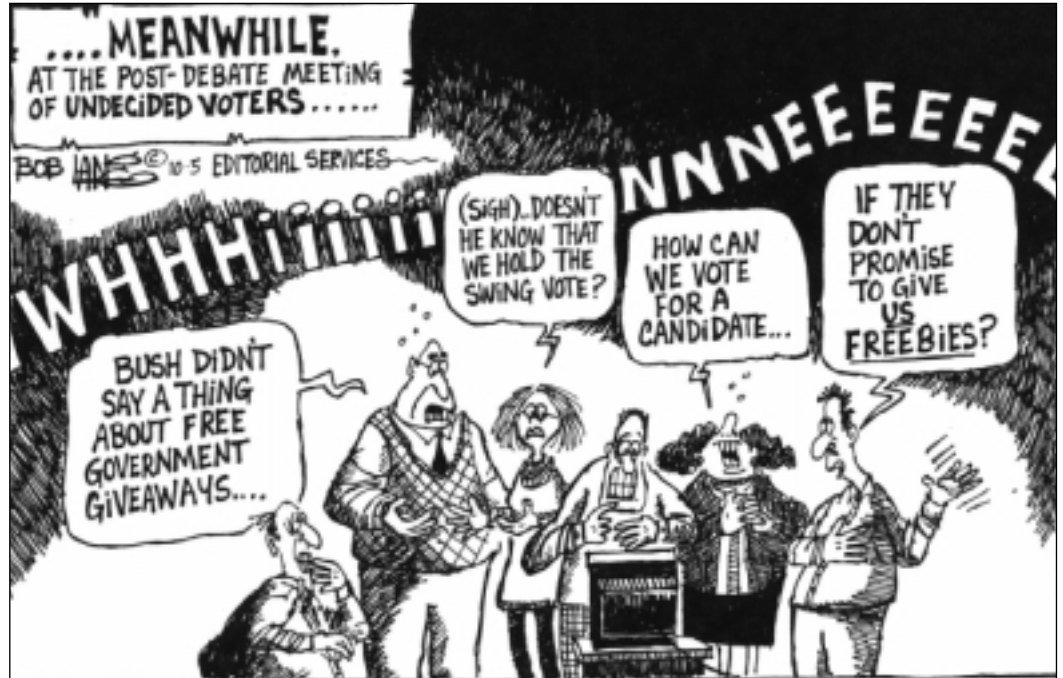
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BUSH INDIANA LEAD WIDENS: A poll released by the *South Bend Tribune* WSBT-TV on Thursday showed Republican George W. Bush surging ahead of Vice President Al Gore in Indiana, leading 54 to 38 percent with 6 percent undecided.

PRESIDENTIAL RACE TIGHTENS UP IN NUMEROUS POLLS: Literally hours after Republican George W. Bush opened up what appeared to be a significant 8-point lead, Reuters/NBC showed Al Gore with a 45 to 43 percent lead on Wednesday; and CBS/New York Times had Bush up 46 to 44 on Monday. CNN reported, "The daily poll of 769 likely voters conducted October 20-22 paints a now familiar picture -- likely voters moving to George W. Bush in the immediate aftermath of a debate but quickly moving back to a neck-and-neck race after a few days. Bush is down four points since the weekend, and Gore's support has risen by three points in the same time. That's virtually the same pattern that occurred after the first debate, when Bush built an 8-point lead in the days after his initial match with Gore, only to see his advantage drop to a too-close-to-call 3-point edge by

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Kernan, from page 1

With the O'Bannon-Kernan ticket poised for victory, the Kernan ad leads most wide eyes to the 2001 legislative session.

Calm before the storm

As far as Indiana gubernatorial politics go, this election is an anomaly - the calm before the storm. The 2001 legislative session loaded with Daylight Savings Time, reapportionment, utility reform and regulation, and reassessment promises to push six months in time and unending controversy

HPR's analysis of the most explosive public policy and political issue in a generation - reassessment - is that O'Bannon's "Taxpayer Protection Plan" is probably going to be dead on arrival. The fact that McIntosh ruined his credibility on the issue by shoe-horning late statistics to match his snappy but errant sloganeering - Property taxes have doubled (they haven't); 25 percent property tax cut, guaranteed (a huge reality stretch if B. Patrick Bauer controls Ways and Means) - has given O'Bannon a huge political reprieve and just about ensures his re-

election.

However, the removal of welfare from property taxes to the general fund will have only a tiny benefit for rural counties and small towns. It will never sell there. That part of the plan is aimed at the urban areas of Lake County, South Bend, Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Indianapolis and Evansville.

A second part of the plan - the Shelter Allowance - will almost certainly be struck down by Tax Court Judge Thomas Fisher and the Indiana Supreme Court (according to economists Morton Marcus and Bill Styring), essentially dooming the second primary thrust of the governor's plan.

A Democratic state?

With O'Bannon's probable re-election giving Indiana 16 consecutive years of Democratic gubernatorial rule, control of the House and reapportionment, the big city mayoralities, and the prospect of the pitbull Kernan on the 2004 horizon, Indiana is on the verge of becoming not a Republican state, not even a swing state, but a Democratic state.

Kernan is undefeated as a politician, has a personality that ranges from

2000 Gubernatorial Race Polling Sequences

	HPR/TR 6/10-15	Star/13 8/24-27	WISH 9/9-10	SBT/22 9/18	JMA 9/24-25	HPR/TR 9/30-10/1	WISH 10/10	SBT/22 10/12
O'Bannon	44	50	44	48	48	46	46	49
McIntosh	40	29	26	33	34	38	26	34
Horning	3	--	1	--	1	4	2	2
Others	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	--
Undecided	13	21	29	17	17	12	26	15

POLLWATCH: HPR/TeleResearch will poll the statewide races this weekend. The latest statewide polling - *South Bend Tribune/WSBT* bold-faced in the last column - shows O'Bannon gaining three points and McIntosh slipping by four points from the last HPR/TeleResearch Poll. As for the intervening WISH/Vargus polling, Republican Rex Early said on *Indiana Week in Review* last Friday, "Of all the polls not to be believed, Brian Vargus is the least believable. He's never been right. He couldn't find his Dad in a room full of Chinamen." ❖

affectionate to pugnacious, and is a gifted orator with an All-American resume with added hero status.

The fly in this ointment for Indiana Democrats could be the reassessment issue. If the governor's Taxpayer Protection Plan fails and the expected 30 percent tax increases are passed on to homeowners, then Kernan could find himself as popular as Lt. Gov. Richard O. Ristine was back in 1964. Ristine cast the tie-breaking vote in the Senate on the bill that established the state's income tax in 1963 and was subsequently relegated to political oblivion.

What Kernan and Indiana Democrats have to be hoping for is an emboldened O'Bannon coming out forcefully in 2001 with a comprehensive restructuring of the Indiana tax code in order to compete with states like Michigan, where Gov. John Engler revamped the tax system there half a decade ago. The governor will have to threaten to hold legislative feet to the August fire and use every bit of political capital he earns on Nov. 8 of this

year to take care of the reassessment issue once and for all. It was an opportunity he passed up in 1997 and was poised to compromise his re-election bid this year.

The full burden of reassessment will hit homeowners in 2003. Taking any bitter medicine in 2001 and giving time for Kernan to spin it would give the Democrats an opportunity to create a new political order in Indiana.

Second shot for McIntosh?

The one broad assumption, should O'Bannon fail to prevail, is that McIntosh will be a rare Hoosier politician who could be afforded a second shot at the governor's office. Any protracted wrangling over reassessment and any resulting big increases in property taxes for homeowners would allow McIntosh to re-emerge in 2003 (possibly from the Hudson Institute) saying the proverbial "I told you so." ❖

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the following week. In fact, the basic story since Labor Day is that neither candidate has been able to hold onto a lead for more than a few days at a time. It is important to note that although Gore has gained some ground, it is too soon to say whether this is a temporary phenomenon or a fundamental change among likely voters." On the Electoral College race, CNN estimates that Bush leads in states with 209 votes, Gore is ahead in states with 175 votes and 14 states are considered tossups.

TECH GROWTH AND POLITICIANS: Indiana's political campaigners have tried to claim they can transform Indiana's economy into a high tech model. But there are those in the business community who believe the fastest way to achieve that goal is for politicians to stay out of the picture (Peter Schnitzer, *Indianapolis Business Journal*). Brian Williams, executive director of the research and lobbying group TechNet Indiana, believes technology growth will need help from both political parties, but the politicians may be less important to that growth than they think. Keenan R. Hauke, president and general partner of Samex Capital Partners LLC said the politi-

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cians should step out of the way of the private sector. "You have to let the free market work," he said.

CLINTON STUMPS FOR JULIA: President Bill Clinton, seeking a home-stretch role on behalf of Vice President Al Gore, campaigned for U.S. Rep. Julia Carson Saturday at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. "We tried it their way for 12 years and we tried it our way for eight years. Our way works better," Clinton told the crowd of about 5,000 people. "I'm telling you, this is a huge election. You can't afford for anybody to tell you it doesn't matter whether they vote and for whom they vote. Test scores are up. Dropout rates are down. The high school graduation rate is up. The college-going rate is at an all-time high. We went from 14 states to 49 states with strong academic standards that will be applied to all students in all schools." And then there was the reason the President was here in the first place: "Because Julia Carson asked me to, and I always do what she asks," the President said. "Congresswoman Carson moves like a stealth bomber for Indiana in Washington. She's got more moves than Larry Bird and Isiah Thomas put together."

KNIGHT ON JOURNALISTS: Former IU basketball coach
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Bailey to RNC: Hello? Wanna win the House?

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis
MARK SCHOEFF JR. in Washington

"I'm gonna win!" declared 9th CD Republican Michael Bailey to HPR on Wednesday.

Then came this observation of the Republican National Committee, which has refused to fund his race. "I'm frustrated with the national committee," Bailey said. "It's like, Hello! Wanna win the House?"

Is a Bailey victory over U.S. Rep. Baron Hill possible? Hill, with the \$300,000 to \$3,000 money lead? Hill, who has sent his top campaign staff across the Ohio River to other battles?

The 9th CD has the potential for being a tough one for a first-termer because of its size and because it's trending Republican. Bush and Lugar both have more than 20-point leads in the 9th, according to Republican and Democrat sources. It is a huge district with 21 counties that can take up to five hours to cross by car. The Indianapolis, Louisville and Cincinnati TV markets are expensive.

Bailey's name ID, because of his past controversies (the 1992 aborted fetus TV ads), may be close to Hill's. Said one Democratic observer, "We know he is a little crazy. But average voters are just remembering his name."

The 9th CD has been dramatically unpredictable for the past four election cycles. Bailey has won upset primary victories in 1992 and 2000. Jean Leising almost defeated Lee Hamilton in 1994. It took a concentrated effort by Hamilton to pull Hill from a 10-point deficit in 1998 in the final week. If Hamilton emerges for an extended stumping tour, or Hill goes up with attack TV in the final week, that will be a real sign that Hill is running scared.

The McCloskey '84 parallel

There are historic parallels. In the neighboring 8th CD, it was Frank McCloskey's first re-election battle (1984)

where he was almost defeated. McCloskey's name ID was low in 1984 despite two years in office because the 8th was tough to communicate in. When Ronald Reagan carried the 8th by 50,000 votes in 1984, it was almost enough to sweep McCloskey away. George W. Bush is in a similar situation to do that to Al Gore in the 9th this year.

Bailey has been conspicuous in strange and different ways. He's printed up and deliver 550,000

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Bailey for Life newspapers. His signs have popped up like spring dandelions all over the district - 13,000 yard signs, including 2,000 in both Clark and Floyd counties.

He said "rank and file" union members upset with NAFTA, GATT and trade with China distributed a significant percentage of his newspapers and yard signs. He's received other help from the Right to Life and home schoolers.

Bailey, a former advertiser, has raised \$140,000 for the cycle and believes the newspapers and yard signs will be as effective as the 30 and 60-second sound-bites. "I do TV and radio for a living. I'm well aware of how this works," Bailey said. "I had to be efficient with my money. Hey! I know what it's like to run and know you won't have a chance to win, and this isn't that."

Baileys' right wing polemic

Although Bailey has talked about a whole range of issues in his campaign, his reputation as a right-wing polemicist precedes him. He is still defined by the graphic abortion television ads he ran in 1992. Even in an election year in which the Republicans are fighting to maintain their six-seat majority in the House, the national GOP keeps Bailey at arms length.

"This is a race we continue to monitor," said Jim Wilkinson, spokesman for

the National Republican Congressional Committee, the House GOP campaign arm. The panel has not targeted the 9th. "If there's some last-minute action, we'll rethink our view. There would have to be solid polling data that shows this race very close and several other factors." WCPO-TV in Cincinnati will poll the race in the next few days, Bailey said.

When pressed on whether Bailey is a candidate the GOP can embrace or one that makes the party cringe, Wilkinson said something rarely uttered by a campaign spokesman: "No comment."

That lack of enthusiasm from Washington is disconcerting to district Republicans. "I wish the Republican congressional leadership could see fit to give him a little extra boost," said Max Middendorf, GOP chairman in the 9th CD. "He's worked very hard and he has a lot of people working hard for him, especially in Democratic areas like Jeffersonville and New Albany. There seems to be a groundswell for Bailey." Middendorf said Bailey is benefiting from many \$10 and \$20 contributions and the related enthusiasm. "Someone who gives you any kind of money is likely to vote for you. I'd rather have 100 people give \$10 for 100 votes than one person give \$1000 for one vote."

But Bailey's donations add up slowly. By contrast, Hill has been raking in money. As of Sept. 30, Hill had raised \$930,652 for the cycle and had \$298,931 on hand. Bailey had raised \$183,214 and had \$2,838 on hand.

Hill's money enabled him to go up on television on Oct. 18 in Evansville and Oct. 23 in Louisville.

Washington Democrats think Hill has the race won. "Congressman Hill is in solid shape," said John Del Ceccato, spokesman for the DCCC. "He has proven to be a perfect fit for that district."

In a *National Journal* survey covering 1999 votes, Hill was ranked as more liberal than 60 percent of the House on economic issues and 55 percent on foreign

policy.

Unions Come Back to Hill

Hill voted in favor of granting permanent normal trade relations to China. Unions fiercely opposed the measures, fearing that cheap Chinese labor would mean a loss of U.S. jobs. But since the May vote, Hill seems to have mended his fences. He has received the endorsement of the Teamsters union as well as the South Central Indiana Central Labor Council, which represents about 17,000 families in the 9th CD.

"Baron has a lot of labor support," said Angela Belden of the Hill campaign. Workers have gone to plant gates and door-to-door with Hill and have volunteered for get-out-the-vote efforts. Hill will speak at a Teamsters rally on Oct. 29 in Louisville.

"Overall, Baron has a decent record," said Chuck Whobrey, president of Teamsters Local 215 in Evansville. But the memory of PNTR lingers for some workers. "Whenever you gear up for a fight, it is very difficult to forget all about it. You can't turn your emotions on and off like a water faucet."

Beyond individual constituencies, it's hard to say how the political currents will churn in the conservative-leaning district. Middendorf says that he has seen polls showing GOP presidential nominee George W. Bush leading by 20 points and Gov. Frank O'Bannon maintaining the same edge over Rep. David McIntosh. "You've got a lot of people out there splitting their tickets," Middendorf said.

The Hill campaign is mum about internal polling. "He didn't release his polls in 1998, and we still have that policy," said Belden. The incumbent isn't feeling an undertow from Gore. "Baron is running his own campaign. In southern Indiana, all politics is very local."

Hill told the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, "I feel very confident, but I'm not overconfident." ❖

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Bob Knight talked about journalists in Indianapolis on Tuesday night, saying, "It never ceases to amaze me how many 8th grade dropouts end up in the press" (WTHR-TV). Editor's Note: HPR's Brian Howey has a BA degree in history from IU-Bloomington.

BAYH RECALLS 1948 PRESIDENTIAL RACE: Sen. Evan Bayh came to Southwestern Indiana on Thursday to tell party faithful to get out the vote for Democratic Party candidates (Susan Taylor, *Evansville Courier & Press*). Bayh compared the current presidential race to the one in 1948 between Democrat Harry Truman and Republican Thomas Dewey. After 12 years of Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Bayh said people were debating whether it was time for a change of parties in the nation's highest office. Nearly all of the political pundits of the day were giving the race to Dewey, Bayh said. "Truman didn't let that get him down. He took his campaign directly to the people," the senator said. Then Bayh took a line from Truman: "I've come here tonight to ask you to vote for yourselves."

NO PAYBACK FOR 1-69: Bill Styring, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute and one of the most respected

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Hoosier economists, said a new I-69 following a direct route from Bloomington to Evansville would not be worth its cost (Tim Starks, Evansville Courier & Press). He spoke to a gathering of supporters of an I-69 following I-70 and U.S. 41 through Terre Haute. Styling said the idea of putting out capital for a new terrain route now in order to get future benefits doesn't make financial sense. "It's kind of like if you said, 'Loan me a dollar now and I'll pay you a dollar back in 25 years. A dollar won't be worth as much then.'"

SOUDER WANTS MORE DRILLING: In his first radio advertisement of the campaign, U.S. Rep. Mark Souder advocated drilling for more oil in the U.S., building more pipelines and refineries, and using more ethanol (Sylvia A. Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). It was the first mention by either Souder or Democrat Mike Foster, his opponent, of energy as a concern.

LIEBERMAN TALKS ABOUT FAITH AT NOTRE DAME: Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Joe Lieberman talked about faith in America at a University of Notre Dame speech billed as a major policy address. "I believe our best hope for rekindling the American spirit and

Indiana 2000 Racing Form

TRENDLINES: Check out the HPR Pre-Election Briefing Series at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 1, at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis; and 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Downtown Holiday Inn in South Bend for fresh TeleResearch polling on all statewide races. The race for the Indiana House appears to be tightening up, particularly along the Illinois line. We think Democrats Bob Kuzman, John Frenz and possibly Jonathon Weinzapfel are in for a heart-thumping election night. Same, perhaps, for Bob Bischoff, trying to fend off a Jean Leising comeback. The Republicans appear to be diligently defending Rich McClain in Cass and Carroll counties, and the Jeff Linder seat in Shelbyville. Republican Bob Buell and Democrats Dale Sturtz and Peggy Welch all have a slight edge. Until we poll, we don't have a realistic feel for whether Bush/Lugar or O'Bannon will have coattails that extend to statewide and legislative races. Gov. Bayh always had big legislative coattails (3 to 6 seats). The House, at 53-47 now, could conceivably end up anywhere from 50/50 to 56-44 Democrat. Stay tuned.

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:** The Great Gas Tax Suspension - the shrewdest use of incumbency in recent memory - ended Wednesday night. Gas stations see huge lines on eve of tax returning. Prices will increase about 6 cents a gallon. A *South Bend Tribune*/WSBT-TV poll (Oct. 12-14, 602 registered voters statewide, +/- 4 percent) shows O'Bannon with a 49 to 34 percent lead over McIntosh. Horning polled 2 percent and 15 percent were undecided. O'Bannon's fav/unfav rating stood at 58/25 and McIntosh stood at 47/33. "McIntosh just is not moving," said pollster Del Ali of Research 2000. "He's not moving up. He's not pulling O'Bannon down." The poll revealed that O'Bannon has a 22-point lead among women while 19 percent of the women remained undecided. O'Bannon also led in all six regions of the state, including the Indianapolis area. Democrats tell HPR they believe O'Bannon will carry Marion County, just as he did in 1996. The McIntosh campaign says their ad featuring George W. Bush talking about education is "moving the numbers" and insist the race is tightening up. McIntosh told the *Indianapolis Star* that he will serve only one term if he can't deliver on his 25-percent property tax cut. "I would feel I had not kept my word and I would not seek re-election," McIntosh said. The Republican said he thought about making the one-term promise a TV ad, but said, "I was a little worried it would appear gimmicky." O'Bannon and McIntosh have raised \$18.8 million, breaking the 1996 record of O'Bannon and Stephen Goldsmith at \$18.5 million, the *Indianapolis Star* reported. O'Bannon has raised \$10.2 million and McIntosh has raised \$8.7 million. O'Bannon has \$3.1 million in the bank and McIntosh has \$1.1 million. Libertarian Andrew Horning has raised about \$16,000. **Status:** *Leans O'Bannon.*

U.S. Senate: Republican: U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar. **Democrat:** David L. Johnson. **Libertarian:** Paul Hager. **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:** In a poll released by the *South Bend Tribune*/WSBT-TV on Thursday Lugar had a commanding lead over Democrat David Johnson, 69 to 18 percent. The campaign of Gov. Frank O'Bannon didn't seem too alarmed by the big Republican numbers. Tom New, O'Bannon's campaign manager, said, "Twenty-five years ago I would have been more concerned." But he pointed out that there now is extensive ticket-splitting in Indiana, with Democrats winning the past

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three governor races -- Evan Bayh in 1988 and 1992 and O'Bannon in 1996 -- even though Republican presidential candidates were carrying the state big in all of those years. The final debate between Lugar and Johnson in Elkhart centered on the incumbent's record on Medicare. Johnson accused Lugar of wanting to take \$270 billion from Medicare and direct the money to tax cuts (Associated Press). Lugar said after the debate, "The record will show I voted for a 6-percent increase in Medicare that year, the same agreed to in a bipartisan way in 1997," Lugar said, adding that Johnson's figures were "a stretch of the imagination." If you missed the C-SPAN broadcast see: <http://www.c-span.org/campaign2000/Sendebates.asp>. Scroll down until you see "Indiana Senatorial Debate" and click. To view, you must have RealPlayer installed. Friends of Dick Lugar has campaign assets of more than \$2 million for the last reporting period, including \$461,376.64 cash-on-hand and \$1,568,656 in pre-paid media during the closing days of the campaign. **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:** Frazier began a huge TV buy over the weekend at about \$110,000 a week. He told local TV and radio stations to "match Pence." Pence said he will be up over 1,000 gross rating points a week through Election Day. Pence started a TV ad Sunday featuring his wife, Karen, saying "Everything I know about education, I learned from my wife." Pence dropped mail aimed at 44,000 senior citizen households last weekend and 75,000 households this week. **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:** This is a potentially volatile race; Roemer is most vulnerable in a presidential year. A poll released by the *Elkhart Truth* showed Roemer with a 44.5 percent to 37.6 percent lead over Chocola. The poll was conducted by the IU Public Opinion Laboratory of 407 registered voters from Oct. 12-14, +/- error rate of 5 percent. The Chocola campaign was designed to peak right at Election Day. Chocola may be benefiting from a lot of George Bush TV advertising in the South Bend media market aimed at Southwestern Michigan. Roemer is running "defensive" TV ads. Meanwhile, Chocola said his opponent's contention that he is profiting by lending his campaign \$225,000 is "a little absurd" (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). Roemer claimed Chocola would make a profit if the loan were repaid at the 8 percent rate listed in Chocola's campaign expense report. Chocola said legal counsel and a CPA advised him that the loan interest was legal. There has been no complaint to the FEC. **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:** Buyer polling shows him with a big lead in Kokomo. AFL-CIO's Ken Zeller tells HPR that Goodnight will surge. Big Three UAW contract gives autoworkers Election Day off. **Status:** *Likely Buyer.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Dr. Paul Perry. **Libertarian:** Tom Tindel. **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 picked up the endorse-

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reclaiming our American values is to have faith again," Lieberman said (Kevin Rader, WTHR/ Indianapolis Star). Lieberman called for the entertainment industry to reduce the amount of violence and explicit sex in films and TV shows. Lieberman was interrupted by a heckler, who called out, "What about abortion?" Lieberman responded, "You've made your point and I respect that. I ask only that you respect my right to continue to speak."

POLL SAYS CLINTON WOULD HURT GORE: The latest CNN/USA Today/Gallup tracking poll indicates 58 percent of Americans approve of the job Clinton is doing as president. But after surviving impeachment more than a year ago, Clinton trails Gore in the number of people who view him favorably. CNN reported that overall, 17 percent of all voters say they would be more likely to vote for Gore if Clinton were to campaign for the vice president. But 40 percent said they were less likely to vote for Gore with Clinton stumping for him, and 40 percent said that would have no effect. Among independent voters, the net loss for Gore could be far greater: Gallup's survey indicated that 45 percent of independents would be less likely to vote for the vice president if Clinton were to cam-

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ampaign for him, while only 10 percent said they would be more likely to support Gore. Another 37 percent of independents said Clinton's efforts would make no difference. President Clinton appeared in Indianapolis last Saturday, officially to stump for U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. However, Clinton enthusiastically endorsed the candidacies of Gore and Gov. Frank O'Bannon, who was not present.

PRESIDENTIAL TRACKING BACK TO DEAD HEAT: CNN/USA Today/Gallup has the presidential race back to dead heat status after Republican George W. Bush had pulled out to an 8-point lead over the weekend. The latest three-day tracking has Gore leading, 46 to 45 percent. Reuters/MSNBC tracking has Gore up, 47 to 44 percent.

HENDRICKS COUNTY BANS RU-486 COVERAGE: The Hendricks County Commissioners voted unanimously to ban the abortion drug RU-486 from medical coverage for its employees (WRTV).



ment of the FOP in large part due to Hostettler's recent vote against domestic violence legislation. First Lady Judy O'Bannon appeared at the endorsement press conference in Evansville and said, "I was not asked to be here today. Instead I had my staff call down to Dr. Perry's campaign and tell them I wanted to speak about this important issue. Domestic violence is an issue that touches all families and every aspect of our community. While the Congressman has turned his backs to the needs of women, I know that in Dr. Perry we have found someone we can trust and depend on." Hostettler was one of only three members of Congress to vote against the Violence Against Women Act while 415 voted yes. Said Michael Cook of the FOP, "This was a bill that benefits women who are victims of violence from their spouses or boyfriends. I just do not understand how a Congressman could vote against a bill that funded for counseling, shelters and toll free hotlines and additional domestic violence officers." Out of 834 crimes in Evansville last January, 126 were reported as incidents of domestic violence. The *Evansville Courier & Press* has endorsed Perry. The newspaper had endorsed Hostettler in 1996 and again in 1998. The editorial reads: "In 1994, when John Hostettler was first elected 8th District congressman, he was a man for that time. He was a part of the Republican revolution of 1994, the one that brought the GOP control of Congress and, most important, forced Washington to accept the concept of fiscal restraint. We were not so alert to Hostettler's potential in 1994, but in 1996 and 1998, we recognized the value of sending an absolute fiscal conservative back to Washington, in great part as a counterbalance to the Democratic administration. We endorsed his re-election. Hostettler has not changed; he is, today, that same strict fiscal disciplinarian. But we believe the times have changed. The complex issues surrounding Social Security and Medicare will be solved only by congressional representatives willing to abandon hard partisan positions that have prevailed in recent years. Neither of the two main 8th District candidates - Hostettler and Democrat Paul Perry - would go to Washington and individually decide these issues. Neither would wave a magic vote and make things right. But we do believe that the issues will be decided by consensus. In that vein, compromise has never struck us as a part of Hostettler's nature." The editorial concluded: "But for this conservative, if somewhat politically schizophrenic, 8th District, Perry is probably a good fit - a conservative Democrat who opposes abortion and gun control. He would be, in our view, the right congressman for this district at this time." This race will tighten up in closing days. **Status:** *LEANS HOSTETTLER.*

INDIANA HOUSE races

House District 19: Republican: Ron Johnson. **Democrat:** Rep. Bob Kuzman.

Geography: Crown Point, south Lake County. **1994 results:** Conlon (R) 8,850, McCall (D) 5,280. **1996 Results:** Kuzman (D) 12,236, Sparks (R) 10,453. **1998 Results:** Kuzman 9,130, Gasparovic (R) 6,917. **2000 Forecast:** Our sense is that this had turned into a real dogfight and is a pure tossup. Kuzman and Johnson found much to disagree about during a debate at Merrillville Wednesday (Susan Erler, *Times of Northwest Indiana*). Johnson opposed dockside gambling and favors a moratorium on additional gambling in the state. Kuzman pointed out that gambling revenue has provided millions of dollars for public projects. On the issue of abortion, Kuzman said that is one area "where the government shouldn't be involved." Johnson said he thought government "existed to defend the weak" and fetuses in the womb "are the weakest of them all." **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 24: Republican: Rep. Rick McClain. **Democrat:** Bob Sabatini.

Geography: Logansport, Cass, Carroll, Miami counties. **1994 results:** McClain 10,421, Frantz (D) 7,686. **1996 Results:** McClain 15,538. **1998 Results:** McClain 10,281, Fincher (D) 7,345. **2000 Forecast:** McClain had raised \$147,483, according to the pre-election fund-raising report filed Oct. 15. Democrat Bob Sabatini reported raising \$103,828 (Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune*). Sabatini had some heart-related health problems during his term, but says he has received a clean bill of health from his cardiologist. Both candidates are running on TV and Sabatini has a radio ad by Sen. Evans Bayh on his behalf. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 57: Republican: Mike Herndon. **Democrat:** J.D. Lux. **Geography:** Shelbyville, Shelby, Bartholomew 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:** Lux

It's time to register for the HPR Pre-Election 2000 Briefing Series

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

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went on the attack at last week's debate, leading Republicans to believe there will be negative fallout. Remember, former sheriffs run well. But Lux is flush with cash and we see this race going down to the wire. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 60: Republican: John Shean. **Democrat:** 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:** State government should concentrate on holding the line on taxes and improving education, Welch and Shean agree (Steve Hinnefeld, *Bloomington Herald-Times*). The district includes parts of Monroe, Greene and Lawrence counties. Both candidates say they have records of working to solve community problems. Shean said he favors state-funded full-day kindergarten and tax credits for private school tuition. Welch said she has voted for charter school legislation, opposes vouchers, but supports giving parents more choices in the public school system. **Status:** *Leans Welch.*

House District 64: Republican: Eric 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:** We sense (and this is partly reading tea leaves) that Frenz is in for a real battle. He's out-raised Holcomb \$170,000 to \$112,000, but local sources say Holcomb has been an impressive candidate. Speaker John Gregg insists that he will pull Frenz through and O'Bannon will run strong in this district. Fasten your seatbelt. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

House District 76: Republican: Dan Hostettler. **Democrat:** Rep. Jonathon Weinzapfel. **Geography:** Posey, Vanderburgh counties. **1994 results:** Lutz (D) 14,474. **1996 Results:** Lutz (D) 13,981, Harry (R) 7,530. **1998 Results:** Lutz 13,051, Germann (L) 1,303. **2000 Forecast:** House Democrats insist that Weinzapfel has a 20-point lead in this race. We still think a strong race by Congressman Hostettler (the little brother), who has the best ground organization in the state, could help the Republican. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 89: Republican: State Rep. Larry Buell. **Democrat:** Brian Sims. **Geography:** SW Indianapolis, Irvington, Beech Grove. **1994 Results:** Buell (R) 9,583, Feeney (D) 5,770. **1996 Results:** Buell 11,281, Osborn (D) 7,872. **1998 Results:** Buell 8,235, Jeffers (D) 5,761, Hubertz (L) 230. **2000 Forecast:** Sources from both parties indicate that Buell may have turned the corner on this one. However, Democrats say O'Bannon will carry Marion County and we're going to be watching his coattails on this race. **Status:** *Tossup.* ❖