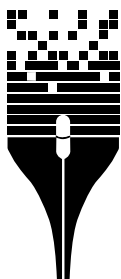

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“All the work we had done. Shot in one day.”

- Jackie Cissel, who heads the Indiana Republican Party's MBARI group, on the lack of censure of two Indianapolis councilors who called Black Expo attendees “gorillas” and “thugs.”

Hoosier Democrats confident, focused

Party girds for coming GOP assault

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in *French Lick*

Wheeling into French Lick/West Baden last weekend, some 700 Hoosier Democrats were confronted with dozens of campaign style yard signs stating in bright red letters: SOS.

In white letters on a blue water background, the intent was clear: “Save Our Springs: French Lick Springs; West Baden Springs.”

The SOS plea is applicable to the twin towering hotels nestled in the beautiful Springs Valley. As IU Trustee Steve Ferguson lamented from atop the dome of the West Baden Springs, “We’ve had all the major resorts in here. Gaming is about the only option left to save this.”

The SOS plea, however, is not applicable to the Indiana Democratic Party. At least not yet. The party faithful who gather here at the end of most summers seemed optimistic and coolly confident this year, while acknowledging they expect Jim Kittle’s awakening Republican Party to be competitive.

“We had close to 700 people total,” said Peter Manous, presiding over his first Camp O’Bannon as chairman. “I always base things on the Chairman’s Chuckwagon Thursday night and we normally have 25 to 30 people. We had 125 there that night.”

While Manous acknowledges the looming fight (See *HPR Interview*, pages 4-5), Hoosier Democrats are optimistic for a number of reasons. One, they still have the governor’s office and now the mayor of Indianapolis, which are robust fundraising engines. A case in point came last week, when Deputy Mayor Mike O’Connor had an event for Marion County sheriff candidate Frank Anderson, raising

INSIDE FEATURES

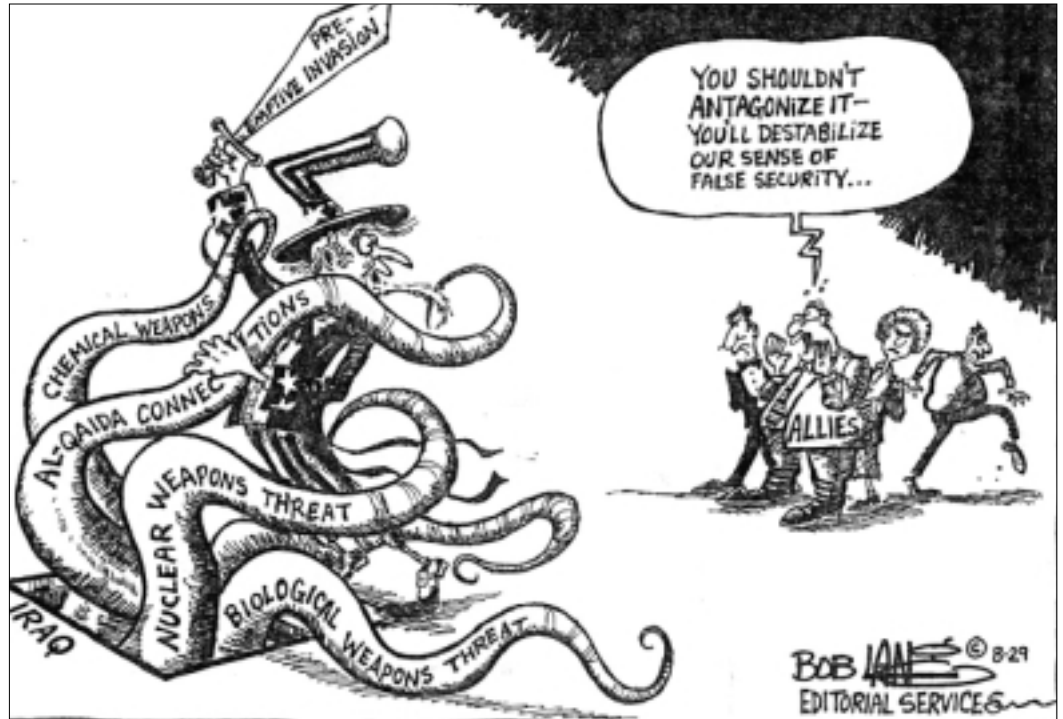
Ticker: Clark/Garton pen-pals p. 2
HPR Interview: Peter Manous p. 4
Horse Race: Chocola gets Farm nod p. 6
Columnists: Ullmann, Schneider p. 8

TICKER T A P E

DANIELS TALKS STEEL, 2004 IN MERRILLVILLE: Asked if the appearance in Merrillville was the beginning of his run for governor, OMB Director Mitch Daniels said Wednesday he had plenty of time to make that decision. "I'll tell you what I've told a large number of people who have urged me to do this: I'll keep an open mind if they'll go away and let me do the job George Bush has asked me to do," he said (Post-Tribune). On the fact that President Bush has rolled back the steel tariff on 175 products, Daniels said, "This decision has drawn far more criticism than approval. There are many folks who believe the president should not have done what he did," Daniels said. Earlier in the week, Indiana Democratic Chairman Peter Manous said, "There is probably no one closer to the President than Mr. Daniels when it comes to domestic economic issues. Mr. Daniels needs to explain to Region workers why President Bush broke his promise on steel tariffs." Daniels explained, "Considering the interest of steel consumers and our desire to move to a freer world trade overall, I think the president has got the balance about right."

CLARK WRITES LETTER TO GARTON SEEKING REFORM COMMITMENT:

Continued on page 3



\$87,000. "The valets were swamped," O'Connor said.

While Kittle has his doubters on the Republican side, the Democrats are confident they'll have enough money.

Then there are the issues, ranging from corporate responsibility to prescription drugs, that they believe play to the party's strengths. OMB Director Mitch Daniels told HPR last month that U.S. House Republicans were dreadfully fearful of the fallout from prescription drugs. The fact that so many middle class Americans opted into the stock market since the mid-1990s and have watched their portfolios dwindle creates a new dynamic. And they believe they have the advantage on the Social Security issue.

"Right now we feel very good with Jill Long Thompson in the 2nd," Manous said. "We think she's making a major effort. I would think if we see George Bush and Dick Cheney coming in at this point even before Labor Day obviously they're concerned. Jill has made great headway with Chocola on a number of issues. We're very strong on that. We definitely have a chance to hold with Jill."

Manous also noted Brian Hartke in

the 8th CD, who "is making a lot of inroads, particularly with Congressman Hostettler's remarks to those breast cancer survivors and some other statements."

The ultimate gauge of how Indiana Republicans and Democrats are doing probably lies with the secretary of state's race. Neither John Fernandez nor Todd Rokita have much name ID, so the winner will likely be the beneficiary of the party which turns out its base in what many believe will be a low-turnout election.

Kernan's the future

Throughout the French Lick Springs Resort, folks were sporting "JOE" buttons and Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan basked in praise over his role in getting tax restructuring through the special legislative session. The fact that he's the party's unanimous choice to carry the torch in 2004 is not news.

But there is growing confidence in these quarters that Kernan can deal with the latest GOP 800-pound gorilla -- Mitch Daniels. Manous has been trying to soften the perception that Daniels could come back to Indiana and occupy the frontrunner's catbird seat while Kernan fends off

things like the growing PERF scandal. Manous has been lobbing shells toward Daniels over the steel tariffs, VX gas destruction at Newport, and IPALCO. Those are issues that may resonate in 2002, but not necessarily in 2004.

Hoosier Democrats have seen it before. Stephen Goldsmith was the odds-on favorite in 1996; David McIntosh in 2000. Of the modern-day party standard-bearers, the perception is that Kernan probably has the best stump and people skills out of the Evan Bayh, Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan triumverate. The general attitude at French Lick with regard to Mitch Daniels coming back home can be summed up in three syllables: Bring Him On (and not SOS).

Hartke and Jacobs

There was a real retro feel to the weekend with virtual ghosts from the past. Former U.S. Sen. Vance Hartke was a fixture in the resort lobby, where he pushed his nephew's struggling 8th CD candidacy. When I asked to take his picture with my new Kodak DX3700 camera (See the HPR website at www.howeypolitics.com), Hartke recounted the story of taking tens of thousands of Polaroid photos of himself and voters as he criss-crossed the state from the mid-1950s to the mid-'70s.

With the drums of war were sounding and unlike the public pronouncements of U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh supporting Saddam's ouster, the Democrats here were pretty much skeptical of a coming war with Iraq and suspicious of the motives of President Bush and the warhawks and war wimps. Here was Vance Hartke, long reviled by Indiana Republicans as a Vietnam era liberal. "I was the only senator who spoke at the Moratorium," Hartke recalled. "The Kennedys wouldn't do it. I was the great dove."

Hartke was the first Democratic senator to break with President Johnson on Vietnam, on Jan. 8, 1965, after only a few thousand Americans had been killed.

"It hurt me back home," he said. "People have not forgiven me to this day in Indiana for breaking with my own party. They said it should be, 'My country right or wrong' and I would say, 'No, that's not the phrase. It should be 'My Country right or wrong, may she always be right, but if she is wrong, put her right.' Now look, even McNamara says it was wrong."

Hartke also reveled in a March 16, 1968, Carl Rowan column in the *Washington Post* which said, "Vance Hartke is the only person in Washington crazy enough to think President Johnson won't run for re-election."

As for now, Hartke said, "I agree with Armev. I agree with Bayh. I agree with Lugar. Before you ask someone to fight for their country, you have to define a noble cause."

At the Saturday night keynote, former U.S. Rep. Andrew Jacobs Jr. gave what could best be described as a "Seinfeld-style" speech, at one point acknowledging, "I suppose a speech ought to be about something." In between dozens of anecdotes and asides ("We spent \$40 million to find out our President isn't gay"); ("Here's the deal for W.: You give us back our economy and we'll get you a nice intern"); ("There was an Australian man who wanted a new boomerang but he couldn't figure out how to get rid of the old one").

Jacobs picked up on the anti-war mood, noting that Article One of the U.S. Constitution states that "Congress shall have the power to declare war" and Article Two names the president the commander-in-chief., observing that, "Article Two does not eviscerate Article One." Jacobs called the prospects for a U.S. war in Iraq a situation where "kids will be sent to slaughter to be cannon fodder for campaigns. I'm getting tired of presidents in either party killing our kids to get points in the polls." At the end of the speech, Hartke's voice could be heard throughout the hall: "Andy! Andy! That was a great speech!" ❖

TICKER

T A P E

State Sen. Murray Clark has written Indiana Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton a letter "outlining the things that need to change in some detail." Clark, who last week announced a challenge to Garton's 22-year presidency said, "It was prefaced by why there is a need for change. We need to empower more people. I talked about developing a cabinet-style leadership. We need to attack the budget thing in a more inclusive way. At the end, I wrote that if he acts in good faith, I wouldn't run against him." Clark said he also raised the issue of "term limits for committee chairs as they do in Congress" and the development of a Senate economic development staff that would have similar capabilities as the Senate fiscal staff. "In terms of long-range planning or vision, we rarely get beyond the next biennial budget," Clark said. "We have a real jobs crisis and economic development and this administration has no plan." Senate sources have told The Howey Political Report that in the wake of Clark's challenge, Garton has been telling senators that he would adopt a more open and inclusive leadership style. Clark said he copied his letter to Garton to members of the Senate Republican caucus and asked that Garton make

continued on page 4

TICKER

T A P E

a firm commitment to reforms.

2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION MAY BE TOUGHER THAN 2002: Several key Indiana General Assembly figures publicly girded for the 2003 legislative session that could include undoing part of the HB 1001 tax restructuring reforms. At a seminar hosted by Barnes & Thornburg and Crowe Chizek, lobbyist Joe Loftus predicted, "2002 in my 24 years was one of the toughest, if not the most difficult sessions. If you look to 2003, it will likely be worse. There is still likely to be well over a billion dollars in cuts between now and the spring or summer of 2003. If that is the case, as Sen. Borst and Kevin Brinegar alluded, some of the more onerous proposals may all come back on the table. This will make for very tough issues to come." He pointed to the state falling almost \$300 million behind revenue forecasts. Loftus jokingly acknowledged he did Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan "a disservice by setting himself up the way I did." Kernan, who gave the keynote address to the seminar, joked back, "If it's going to be worse than last session, I'm outta here. I hope it won't be as bad, but this is going to be a tough session." Kernan noted that everyone will be flying blind until the bipartisan revenue forecast is released in early December.

continued on page 5

Manous assesses the Democratic chances

FRENCH LICK - We sat down with Indiana Democratic Chairman Peter Manous to get his perspectives heading into the fall sequence

HPR: Survey the Indiana political landscape from your perspective.

Manous: Obviously the recession has taken its toll in Indiana and we're trying to get a good gauge. We've got a lot of races across the state in the House and Senate that we're focusing on and we've got a strong ticket led by John Fernandez, who's working very hard. He's actually out today cutting some TV commercials. It's going to be competitive. We're positioned well, our fundraising is going well, and based on the enthusiasm we're seeing here at French Lick, we've got probably the largest crowd we've ever had.

HPR: Do you think the Republicans dodged a bullet with the SEC certification?

Manous: One of the things that's been showing up in our polling -- it's very strong in identification we've gotten -- is corporate responsibility. And when you look at everything from Harken Energy, to Haliburton, to the IPALCO situation, these are real issues people are keying into. It's affecting everyday people's retirements. That is continuing to go on. Just because the SEC filings has been completed and everyone has certified their books, people's 401K plans are still 50 to 75 percent below what they were. It's having a serious effect on people's quality of life. You look at some of these situations where the board allowed the sale to go on and froze out everyone else being able to liquidate at the same time and those are key issues; Democratic core issues that are still in play out there.

HPR: Are we going to see those messages conveyed in a coordinated manner from Indiana Democrats?

Manous: What you're going to be

seeing is some real core issues coming out this fall. Education, prescription drugs, the corporate responsibility issue. These are all core issues that are real strong issue.

HPR: Democratic issues.

Manous: Yes, Democratic issues.

These are things we should work our base with. That's going to be the key to our success. That's what we need to do to get our based energized. That's what I've been saying all weekend. The base has to get out. It's the off-year elections that we really must focus with extra effort to get our base out.

HPR: How about the Indiana House?

Manous: It's very, very competitive with redistricting, retirements. They are working very hard. I feel very strongly about our incumbents who are running

and I feel very good about our challengers. Not having Susan Crosby run hurts. But we're going to make every effort to hold it. I just want 51. If we get 51, I'll be a happy guy.

HPR: We all know Rep. Jim Atterholt is targeted. Any other Republican seats where you'll be making a full frontal assault, or are you primarily playing defense?

Manous: We're not really playing defense. We've got some great challengers that are open. We feel we're going in with a position of strength from our incumbents.

HPR: How many seat do you think you're winning right now?

Manous: I'd say right now we're at 51 or 52. We've got places where the Republicans are talking about a pickup, like Northwest Indiana where Pam Roth is taking on Bob Kuzman. He's one of the best campaigners we have in the House. Pam Roth is not going to beat Bob Kuzman. If that's the kind of effort they're making, that's fine, they can spend

HPR

INTERVIEW

their resources in those type of races.

HPR: What will the Sept. 11 anniversary mean? Some think it will create a very pro-incumbent environment.

Manous: It's hard to tell. We're dealing with an issue that in our generation no one has had to deal with since Pearl Harbor. It is a day when a lot of Americans around the country are going to sit back and take a look at our country. It had such a profound effect, whether you're a Democrat or a Republican. It's really not a political issue.

HPR: Neutral?

Manous: Neutral.

HPR: How does war on Iraq play in this election?

Manous: It's a strange time in this country right now. You've got Sen. Lugar who has been very clear on his position, pretty much at odds with the administration.

HPR: How about tax restructuring?

Manous: I think it's neutral. In Northwest Indiana it's being touted as one of the greatest successes in the legislature. I've got very strong Republican friends who thought it was about time something got done. That is something we can claim because Gov. O'Bannon and Joe Kernan were out there from the offset saying something needed to be done.

HPR: There is speculation that Lake and Porter counties are going to get whacked anyway and there may be a political backlash there.

Manous: It's going to be tough to tell what kind of increases people are going to see. Those areas that were under-assessed -- and we have a full scale reassessment going on in Lake County -- those people are going to have some increase, but it's really hard to tell.

HPR: How does the next secretary of state win that campaign.

Manous: We're in an off-year election and it's not like a governor's race where we'll be spending \$10 to \$11 million getting the message out. We think the corporate responsibility message is strong.

John has been effectively delivering that and we think it puts Todd Rokita in a position of having to defend an existing record. John is a great campaigner. This is going to be one of those deals where you get your message out when you can and work to get the base out.

HPR: How did Joe Kernan come out of tax restructuring?

Manous: It was a big minefield. No one thought we would get something passed that session.

HPR: I did.

Manous: You were in the minority. But it showed incredible leadership by Gov. O'Bannon and Joe Kernan to get that legislation passed. It was fascinating watching two leaders of that stature basically work in a bipartisan effort to get votes on both sides. It makes Joe Kernan look like an incredible leader. It shows some real statesmanship to get some real minds, whether they were Republican or Democrat, to get the finest tax restructuring plan this state has ever seen.

HPR: You've been busy firing salvos back and forth with Jim Kittle.

Manous: Jim Kittle is, obviously, a very successful businessman. I wish him the best as he leads his party. He, like myself, is trying to move the party forward in technology and fundraising. It's not easy.

HPR: He says it's easy.

Manous: I want him to keep thinking that. It's one thing to go ahead and buy the technology and it's another to make sure it effectively gets used properly. We've been working real hard on execution.

HPR: Kittle really needs a win and you're the guy who can stop him.

Manous: We're working hard. I think we're going to have the next sheriff of Marion County.

HPR: So if you can elect Fernandez, defend the House and pick up Jill Long Thompson ...

Manous: That's a good year for us. But it's going to be competitive. ❖

TICKER T A P E

"There will be things that need to be fixed. Some may be on the menu as soon as Organization Day in mid-November." Kevin Brinegar, president of the Indiana Chamber, agreed that 2003 "will be as challenging as last year. There will be a clash of priorities. As we head into January, there will be pressure to undo some of the business tax cuts or re-enact the more onerous business taxes. I hope the economic stimulus kicks in sooner rather than later." Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst lamented the "unfortunate passage" of the 2001 biennial budget that was \$700 million out of balance. He said that the budget changes in HB 1001 "ought to be enough for the current cycle, but added, "'03 to '05 will be a different story."

COUNTIES SLASHING BUDGETS: From a custodian to five security bailiffs to three court reporters, offices in the Tippecanoe County Courthouse will feel most acutely the effects of cuts made by county council members who have prepared a 2003 budget about \$1 million smaller than this year (Lafayette Journal & Courier). When the Allen County Council started cutting the county budget last week, it didn't set its sights high enough, County Auditor Therese Brown said Wednesday (Fort Wayne

continued on page 6

TICKER

T A P E

Journal Gazette). After reviewing the numbers, the auditor's office has determined the council must cut \$8.4 million -- more than \$1 million more than previously thought -- to balance next year's budget, Brown said.

SOUTH BEND COUNCILMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD: A City Council member accused of defrauding a bank where he worked of at least \$2.5 million has agreed to plead guilty to bank fraud (Associated Press). According to documents filed in federal court, Andrew Ujdak, who until early May was director of lending operations for Sobieski Bank, has agreed to plead guilty to a single felony count. Ujdak, 35, whose political career seemed so promising that he was regarded as a possible mayoral candidate next year, will instead resign from the council.

LUGAR'S OFFICE TARGET OF PROTEST: Saying the case for war has not been made, about 40 people urged more diplomacy and less talk of war against Iraq as they met privately Wednesday with U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar's Indianapolis staff (Martin DeAgostino, South Bend Tribune). The meeting and demonstration were part of a coordinated anti-war effort at the state offices of all 100

Indiana 2002, 2004 Racing Form

Trend Line: President Bush's vigorous campaigning to elect Republicans in November could make the elections a referendum on his presidency (Ron Fournier, *Associated Press*). Bush has been more active than most presidents in the midterm election cycle. He has personally recruited candidates, raised millions of dollars and traveled to dozens of states in an effort to help the GOP take control of the Senate and keep a narrow majority in the House. "If Republicans lose ground in the House and Senate, it'll be a major embarrassment to him," said Gilbert St. Clair, political science professor at the University of New Mexico. Still, he also said a president "doesn't have much control" over such elections.

Indiana Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: Chris Chocola. **Democrat:** Jill Long

Thompson. **Geography:** South Bend, Michigan City, Mishawaka, Elkhart, Kokomo, Plymouth, Logansport; LaPorte, St. Joseph, Starke, Marshall, Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Carroll and parts of Howard, Porter, Elkhart and White counties.

Media Market: South Bend-Elkhart, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Chicago. **Websites:** www.jill-longthompson.com; www.chocolaforcongress.com **2000 Result:** Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Forecast:** The first negative TV ad in the 2nd District congressional race has hit even before Labor Day. In the spot, Chocola attacks Thompson on the Social Security issue (*South Bend Tribune*). Chocola will get the 2nd CD Farm Bureau endorsement. It's significant since Long Thompson was the Clinton administration's undersecretary in the USDA. Thompson received the endorsement of the National Education Association on Tuesday, with the teacher introducing her saying that "Jill has a proven record in Congress." Just the day before, Rep. Roy Blunt, the Missouri Republican who is chief deputy majority whip, was in South Bend to cite Long Thompson's record in Congress (Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune*). But Blunt, here to campaign for Republican congressional nominee Chris Chocola, found fault with that record, saying it showed Long Thompson was for big-spending programs and was weak on national defense. **Status:** *Tossup.*

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. **Democrat:** Melina

Ann Fox. **Geography:** Anderson, Muncie, Richmond; Wells, Adams, Blackford, Jay, Madison, Delaware, Randolph, Henry, Wayne, Rush, Fayette, Union, Decatur, Franklin, and parts of Bartholomew, Shelby, Johnson and Allen counties. **Media Market:** Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Dayton, Cincinnati. **Websites:** www.foxforcongress.com; mikepence.house.gov/ **2000 results:** Pence (R) 106,023, Rock (D) 80,885, Frazier (I) 19,070. **2002 Forecast:** Fox declined an interview with the Indiana Farm Bureau, stating in a letter to it, "I reviewed your adopted Farm Bureau Policy from the January 2002 convention in Reno. On page 161, lines 126 and 127, it states: 'We oppose any expansion of Medicare entitlements.' It is clear that Farm Bureau's stance is not the same as mine concerning prescription drug coverage for seniors." Fox said, "I must decline meeting with your organization because I would not be able to accept any endorsement if offered. I would not be upholding my pledge to the people." Fox is a former Clinton administration agriculture appointee. A debate is in the works with the Richmond Chamber. Fox returned a \$1,000 donation from Salomon Smith Barney/Citi Group, currently under an SEC investigation. **Status:** *Leans Pence.*

Congressional District 7: Republican: Brose McVey. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Julia

Carson. **Libertarian:** Andy Horning. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **Websites:** www.juliacarson.house.gov; www.broseforcongress.org **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** This is still Carson's race to lose, but she's got some real problems in the Jewish community in this district. The Bren Simon \$1,000 donation to McVey that we reported on earlier this summer was on the tip of the iceberg. Her

HORSE R A C E

recent appearance before the Jewish Community Center was viewed as a disaster by those who attended. It did nothing to help with the perception that she is part of the McKinney-Hilliard clique in Congress, with those Members going down to defeat as Jewish money poured into their opponent's campaign. The McVey campaign says it has ongoing talks with national Jewish contributors such as Chicago White Sox/Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf. McVey's campaign also said that Carson walked in "unannounced and uninvited" to a recent meeting with McVey, HUD Secretary Mel Martinez, and local African-American pastors, then leaving halfway through. McVey has tried -- successfully to some extent -- to make inroads into the African-American community. Marion County Democrats believe Carson will be re-elected, in part because the Frank Anderson sheriff candidacy is expected to run so strongly. However, the Jewish dynamic could pose a double-edged sword with Dr. David Orentlicher's race against State Rep. Jim Atterholt in HD86 poising him to become the first Jewish member of the legislature in years, bringing out a greater vote there in what many expect to be a low-turnout election. Some awkward fissures are being exposed in traditional areas of Carson support. She has to be careful because if a ticket-splitting dynamic were to take shape, she might not benefit from the expected Anderson groundswell. **Status:** *Leans Carson.*

Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:**

Bryan Hartke. **Geography:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Greencastle; Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Gibson, Pike, Martin, Daviess, Knox, Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Warren and part of Fountain counties. **Websites:** www.bryan-hartke.com; www.house.gov/hostettler/ **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **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 Results:** Hostettler 116,860, Perry (D) 100,461. **2002 Forecast:** Hartke says the new 8th CD has 110,000 strong Democrats and 62,000 strong Republicans. "What that means is for me, I have to get out the vote. It has to be a grassroots effort," Hartke told HPR. "There are clear differences between me and my opponent. When John Hostettler met with cancer survivors, they wanted to go to him to talk. They needed him to listen. He wanted to talk about abortion and that led to cancer. The issue isn't so much about abortion, as it is an insensitive way to approach these women. They went for help and he just basically rebuffed them and was really mean to them. That's something a congressman shouldn't do." Hartke says he has been approached by "Republican women who have told me they have never been more outraged. They may not be changing to Democrats, but that they'd be supporting me in this election." As for his previously anemic fundraising, Hartke said he focused early on "building a grassroots organization" and has now shifted to fundraising. **Status:** *Likely Hostettler.*

Congressional District 9: Republican: Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep.

Baron Hill. **Geography:** Bloomington, Columbus, Lawrenceburg, Rising Sun, New Albany Jeffersonville, Madison, Nashville; Spencer, DuBois, Orange, Crawford, Perry, Harrison, Washington, Jackson, Brown, Jennings, Scott, Floyd, Clark, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ripley, Ohio, and parts of Dearborn and Monroe counties. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **Websites:** www.house.gov/baronhill/, www.mikesodrel.com **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 Results:** Hill 125,978, Bailey (R) 101,790, Chambers (L) 4,634. **2002 Forecast:** The Indiana Farm Bureau ELECT announced its endorsement of Hill. "Baron Hill understands the challenges that Indiana farmers face," said Kent Yeager, president of the Indiana Farm Bureau. "He listens to his constituents, he keeps his ear to the ground, and he's there for Hoosier farmers." The Sodrel campaign released a radio jingle which it says strikes a chord with voters in the 9th CD with its emphasis on Hoosier imagery and values. The jingle has a country-rock feel. The words are as follows: "From Indiana's heartland; From farms to riverside; We'll defend our flag for freedom; We'll salute America's pride; We are for Mike Sodrel; A leader we can trust; Mike Sodrel for Congress; He's getting things done for us!" The Green Party candidate for the 9th CD failed to collect enough signatures to add his name to the ballot, state election officials said (*Associated Press*). **Status:** *Leans D.* ❖

TICKER

T A P E

U.S. senators on Wednesday. The event was organized by MoveOn.org, an Internet gathering of people who oppose unilateral U.S. military action to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

U.S. GDP AT 1.1 PERCENT: After bolting out of the starting gate at the beginning of the year, the U.S. economy slowed in the spring, growing at an annual rate of just 1.1 percent (*Washington Post*).

COUNCIL DOES NOT CENSURE MASSIE AND DOWDEN: The City-County Council Monday rejected a move to punish a pair of their own for referring to police critics as "gorillas and thugs." By a vote of 15-11, the Council turned away a Democratic resolution to censure Republicans Robert Massie and William Dowden for their Aug. 9 statement and strip them of their committee chairmanships (*Matthew Tully, Indianapolis Star*). Two Democrats -- Harvey Knox and Mary Moriarty Adams -- joined council Republicans in voting against the resolution. Massie and Dowden did not vote or attend the meeting, said it was "patently ridiculous for public officials to capitulate to the real gorillas and thugs -- those extremists who would use the horrible label racist against anyone who doesn't do exactly what

continued on page 8

TICKER T A P E

they want." Monday, Massie repeatedly apologized. Democrats, however, tried to make the criticism official. The proposed resolution called the statement "most repugnant to the body of the City-County Council and its electorate." The Council did unanimously adopt a resolution apologizing "to all citizens and guests to our city for the disparaging characterizations." Meanwhile, MBARI's Jackie Cissel, the Republican group designed to bring more minorities into the GOP, told the Indianapolis Star's Mary Beth Schneider that she was devastated to read Massie's and Dowden's words. "All the work we had done," she said, shaking her head. "Shot in one day." Cissell said that Secretary of State Sue Anne Gilroy "was the only one with the courage" in the GOP to denounce the remarks (actually, Evanville Mayor Russell Lloyd Jr., called for the censure, also). Cissell and Steve Quick were equally bothered by those who told MBARI that it, too, should remain silent. "That's the problem with their party," said Quick. Their party? "Our party," he corrected himself. But, he acknowledged, episodes like this feed the impression that it is still "their party."



COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Harrison J. Ullmann, *NUVO*

Newsweekly - William Dowden is a Rat's Ass Republican. Say, you ask, who the hell is William Dowden? Dowden is a member of the City-County Council, a guy from Geist who is a senior member of the permanent Republican majority in Unigov's legislature. Senior? Actually, all the Council Republicans are senior members, many of them as old as Unigov; most of them older than dirt and just about as perky. Our city council has got a ruling genontocracy that makes the Chinese government look like a bunch of kids doing a student council. And say, you ask, what's a Rat's Ass Republican? I mean it the same way you mean it when you say, "We're going to do this my way because I don't give a rat's ass what you want." (*Publisher's Note: This column was originally printed on Jan. 1, 1998.*) ❖

Mike Smith - *Associated Press* - At a time when the state of Indiana is taking its deepest, darkest dive into the regulation of gambling, Gov. Frank O'Bannon is taking the Fifth. Call it a horse racing controversy, call it a scandal, call it a war. Terms such as McCarthyism, character assassination, disgraceful, sleazy, "breach of the public trust," and Watergate have been used by the opposing sides. Say any of those things -- say anything at all -- and you will have said more about it than the governor has publicly. The governor's press office says it would be inappropriate to comment on the bitter disciplinary dispute between the state's second pari-mutuel track -- Indianapolis Downs -- and the staff of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission. Inappropriate -- maybe even illegal -- they say, since the matter is now pending before an administrative law judge and has spilled into court. But the fact is, O'Bannon wasn't saying anything about it before then. Without explanation last February, he removed his own

appointee -- Nick Stein -- as chairman of the Horse Racing Commission after only a year at the helm. Just four months later, again with no explanation, O'Bannon "accepted" Stein's resignation from the commission and appointed him to the board of the Criminal Justice Institute. Mary Dieter, O'Bannon's press secretary, did say this: "We were looking for a change in leadership of the Racing Commission." When two reporters requested an "availability" with the governor to ask him about Stein's removal as chairman and other pari-mutuel matters, Dieter said, "I don't think that's going to happen." This whole thing has gotten ugly, and there are strong signs it will get even worse. It threatens the integrity of Indiana's fledgling pari-mutuel industry, and perhaps more importantly, the state's ability and reputation for regulating it. It is all unfolding on O'Bannon's watch, but he's not saying a word about it. He's taking the Fifth. ❖

Mary Beth Schneider, *Indianapolis Star* - ❖

Jane Bryant Quinn, *Newsweek* - Creditors started meeting last week to divvy up Conseco, a large financial-services company. Conseco -- yes, another hot, mid-'90s stock - missed some interest payments on its debts. If it can't restructure fast, you'll see it flopping around in bankruptcy court. Why am I telling you this? Because Conseco owns 14 life and health insurance subsidiaries, with some 7 million policyholders. One of its companies specialized in coverage for long-term care, a type of policy that is just beginning to make its way in the marketplace. The status of big insurers hasn't been questioned since the early 1990s, when three major insolvencies came down. Conseco is your wake-up call. ❖