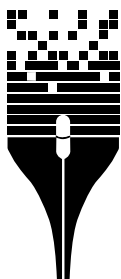


The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“There is no man in this country who can say, ‘What does it matter to me?’ because it matters to all of us. All of us here have a great stake in this.” - John F. Kennedy, speaking in Lafayette on April 7, 1960 (*Courier & Journal*)

Sniper arrests mean campaign refocus

McVey takes 3 point lead over Carson

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

This morning’s arrest of two sniper suspects in Maryland will return the national attention span to more normal topics. America’s obsessive grip on security, both foreign and domestic, may now loosen.

That will give Democrats the opportunity to highlight the economic woes. Indiana Republicans are trying to get Hoosiers to focus on the foibles of the O’Bannon administration, which is going to be a bit of a stretch since neither he nor Joe Kernan is on the ballot.

“There seem to be a lot of undecided voters out there,” said House Republican political director Mike Gentry. “We’ve felt the economy is the issue from the start. Our folks are talking about jobs, government spending and tax increases. Because of Sept. 11th, it’s compressed this whole election cycle. It’s breaking a little later than usual.”

The two most intriguing races in Indiana are occurring at the Congressional level:

1. 7th CD Republican Brose McVey is leading U.S. Rep. Julia Carson, 45-42 percent in a TeleResearch Poll conducted for Libertarian candidate Andy Horning. The sampling of 318 likely voters (+/- 5.4 percent) was conducted on Oct. 20-21. It included 41 percent Democrats, 35 percent Republicans and 24 percent independent. Horning had 8 percent and 5 percent were undecided. TeleResearch pollster Jeff Lewis said that McVey has a 10-percent lead among independents. He is also getting 16 percent of the Democratic male vote. “This race is turning,” Lewis said.

McVey campaign manager Tim Searcy said, “We are not surprised. This makes all the sense in the world because it reflects what we’re hearing on the street. Momentum is

INSIDE FEATURES

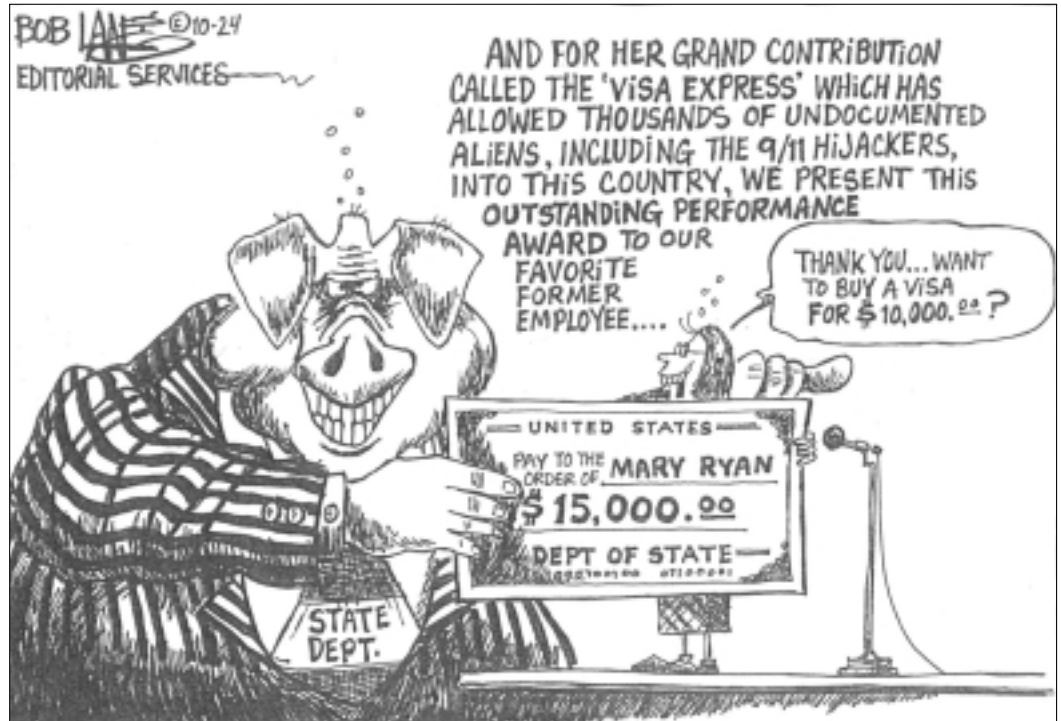
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BUSH AT 67 PERCENT: A new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll based on telephone interviews of 1,012 registered voters, conducted Friday to Monday by the polling organization of Peter Hart and Robert Teeter shows President Bush enjoys a strong 63% approval rating. Presidential approval ratings above 60% have translated into average midterm-election losses of only about five seats in the House; the overall average loss is 26 House seats. A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll shows that of Bush's management of the economy, 62% say he is not spending enough time on the problem. But 67% say they approve of the overall job he is doing.

POS POLL HAS BRIZZI WITH BIG LEAD OVER OSBORN: Marion County Republican prosecutor candidate Carl Brizzi leads Democrat opponent Jim Osborn 54-30 in a recent survey. The survey of 300 likely Marion County voters was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies on Oct. 21-22. Libertarian Kurt St. Angelo has 1 percent; 11 percent are undecided; and 4 percent refused to answer the poll. "My campaign has focused on substantive safety issues like those included in my plan, The Brizzi Brief, and I'm encour-

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building and cresting. We are riding a wave. This is exactly where we want to be."

A tell-tale that seems to bolster the TeleResearch poll comes with Carson's continued airing of a TV ad where she talks of helping to exonerate USS Indianapolis Capt. Charles McVey. That ad is obviously aimed at that Democratic male who has defected from the Carson cause.

HPR has learned that the DCCC was planning to air TV ads attempting to link Brose McVey to the issue of privatizing Social Security.

Wednesday afternoon, McVey attempted to squelch the issue, putting out a news release noting that in his 1999 State of the Union address, President Bill Clinton introduced the idea of Universal Savings Accounts, which would allow for some Social Security funds to be invested in the stock market on a voluntary basis. This investment of federal surplus monies in individual investment accounts is a concept some Democrats now characterize as "privatization".

An article written by David Haase and George Stuteville in the January 20,

1999 issue of the *Indianapolis Star* said:

"Democratic Rep. Julia Carson of Indianapolis was particularly impressed with Clinton's proposal to use 60 percent of the budget surplus to help finance Social Security while allowing some of those funds to be invested in the stock market."

The article quoted Carson as saying, "I think that what the president has done very creatively is present something that is palatable to both sides of the political aisle," adding that Clinton had done a "persuasive ... presidential" job in addressing the plight of Social Security and how it can be resolved.

"Rep. Carson's inconsistency on the issue of Social Security is another example in which she forgets her own record while criticizing an imaginary foe," Searcy said. "Brose has gone on the record and even voted on Rep. Carson's website against privatization."

2. In the 2nd CD with rumors that President Bush will return to South Bend to campaign for Chocola, both campaigns have found all South Bend television time bought up, and have begun to advertise in the more expensive Indianapolis market.

Despite an IUPUI poll by Dr. Brian Vargus showing Chocola up by 12 percent, no one on either side is buying that. The 2nd CD has all the earmarks of a nailbiter through the end.

The week's most conspicuous story was the emotional reaction of Jill Long Thompson's husband, Don, to an NRCC flier that he said tied his wife to terrorists. Our experience has been that campaigns with momentum remain cool and focused, and Thompson's Monday press conference was anything but. The Democrat should be prepared to weather a hurricane between now and Nov. 5.

Battle for the House

Democrats hold a \$462,000 to \$305,000 money advantage heading into the homestretch. "We concentrated on having the money edge at the end," said Joel Miller of the House Democratic caucus. "We've been frugal with our dollars,

not spending them on payroll. Our intention was to be effective with the money at the end."

While House Republicans denied involvement with a TV ad paid for by insurance tycoon J. Patrick Rooney blaming Democrats for raising taxes and cutting education, House Democrats didn't seem too worried. "That buy was not big; not even 1,000 points in just Indianapolis," Miller said. "My only concern about the Rooney ad is where did the money come from? In the last 10 years, the most effective ads have been ones that highlight bipartisan solutions."

House races that appear to be in play include HD 8 (Dvorak vs. Baxmeyer); HD 17 (Heim vs. Winters); HD 36 (Austin vs. Kincaid); HD 56 (Plfum vs. Hamm); and HD 86 (Atterholt vs. Orentlicher). Miller believes a 52-48 Democratic margin is "a conservative estimate." ❖

Indiana 2004 Racing Form

Governor 2004: Republican: David McIntosh, Sen. Murray Clark, Sen. Luke Kenley, OMB Director Mitch Daniels, Eric Miller, Petersburg Mayor Randy Harris, Ambassador Dan Coats. **Democrat:** Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan. **1996 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,075,342, Goldsmith (R) 997,505, Dillon (L) 35,261. **2000 Results:** O'Bannon (D) 1,230,345, McIntosh (R) 906,492, Horning (L) 38,686. **2004 Forecast:** This is the huge unreported story in the mainstream press, a potential Dan Coats gubernatorial candidacy. We know that Coats and Daniels had a meeting recently in which the 2004 gubernatorial race came up. Friends of the former senator say that Marcia Coats wants to return to Indiana and is fully supportive of a gubernatorial bid by her husband. We don't believe we'll see Coats and Daniels slug it out in a 2004 primary. But as we said last week, if Daniels opts out, Coats becomes a dominating figure should he decide to give up his diplomacy day job. State Sen. Murray Clark is advocating the use of Indiana's tobacco settlement money in order to get the state out of its fiscal jam. He also wants to unleash a "cost-cutting brigade" to save money. Clark issued a statement saying, "As I prepare for the upcoming legislative session, my deep concern for the well-being of our state persists. Even with \$1.8 billion in new taxes, a budget deficit of \$400 million or more is being projected. And despite a nominally positive revenue report in September, talk is swirling at the Statehouse that we may be in for even more tax increases when the General Assembly organizes for its budget-writing session next month. Any talk of further tax hikes should stop. One significant revenue source we should consider is Indiana's share of the tobacco settlement." McIntosh has continued to be active on behalf of the state ticket and legislative candidates. He sent out an e-mail this past week backing the Rokita candidacy. **Status:** *Tossup.* ❖

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aged and humbled to receive the support of the Fraternal Order of Police, the Indianapolis Star and many voters who care about our community," said Brizzi.

MOURDOCK, BORRIES CRITICAL OF SoFS ADS: Critiquing ads for WGFB radio in Evansville, Vanderburgh County Commissioners Richard Mourdock and Rick Borries said current ads for Secretary of State candidates John Fernandez and Todd Rokita are misleading. Both Fernandez, the Democrat, and Rokita, the Republican, are running ads stating if elected they will make sure that chief operating officers of companies who "cook the books" will go to jail. Mourdock was defeated by Rokita in the Indiana Republican Party convention for the party's nominee for secretary of state. Borries and Mourdock agree the secretary of state in Indiana has no power to lock up anyone (Evansville Courier & Press).

TERRE HAUTE MAYOR ANGERED AT EVANSVILLE: Terre Haute Mayor Judy Anderson, angered about the cities of Evansville and Bloomington backing the new terrain I-69, said using existing roads, including U.S. 41 that runs through her town, would be the most reasonable action. But she

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also had words about Evansville (Jennifer Whitson, Evansville Courier & Press). "Terre Haute as a whole is upset about the attitude of the people from Evansville," she said, adding she feels Terre Haute has been attacked. She said the city also gets treated like the state's stepchild, and Democratic Gov. Frank O'Bannon ignores its needs, even though it votes for his party loyally. "It seems like we're always giving to the state," she said. "Give something back to us." Anderson wrote to all Hoosier mayors asking them to contact O'Bannon in favor of an I-69 route through Terre Haute. When asked whether using the U.S.41/I-70 route would increase accessibility between Evansville and the Indiana University campus at Bloomington, Anderson said, "Well then send (college students) to the University of Southern Indiana. Evansville Mayor Russ Lloyd Jr. said he would never put down another city and said Southwestern Indiana does need better accessibility than what a U.S.41/I-70 route would provide. "I'm an Indiana University graduate, and I drove the lousy highways for four years," he said, noting that the roads haven't changed much. "(Bloomington and Terre Haute) have easy access to the state capital and we don't," he added. "They

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Sodrel's battle for the South

Hill, challenger duke it out in Clark, Harrison, Floyd counties

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON -- Republicans in the 9th CD think that geography may be on their side this year and produce an upset win for GOP challenger Mike Sodrel over incumbent Democrat U.S. Rep. Baron Hill.

Since he was first elected in 1998, Hill has won southern counties Clark, Floyd and Harrison by a wide enough margin to overcome Republican gains in the remainder of the conservative-leaning district. The electoral math may be different for Sodrel, a small business owner and lifetime native of the southern part of the district near Louisville.

"They have been running this thing almost like a local campaign in Clark, Floyd and Harrison counties, to the point of canvassing door-to-door like a mayor's race," said David Graham, a Scott County Republican who served for many years as southeast regional director for GOP Sen. Richard Lugar. "If they win down there, I think they can win (the seat)."

But Hill has several advantages over Sodrel, the biggest one being his four-year incumbency. "I don't see any slippage for Baron here at all," said Warren Nash, Floyd County Democratic chairman. Hill was in the area on Monday knocking on doors.

"He got a good reception everywhere he went," said Nash. "I don't think Mike Sodrel is doing any better than (2000 GOP candidate) Mike Bailey did in Floyd. Sodrel comes across as mean spirited. I don't think he's catching on at all."

Beyond building a name-identification advantage over challenger Sodrel, Hill has spent four years courting communities on local issues. For instance, he has worked to help secure federal funding for a plaza in Clarksville commemorating the

western exploration of Lewis and Clark. The effort is helping establish Clarksville, rather than St. Charles, Mo., as a focal point for a celebration of the Lewis and Clark journey next summer. Hill is also credited with bringing in funding for a road and bike trail that would connect Jeffersonville, New Albany, and Clarksville.

"He's done a lot for Clark and Floyd counties," said Bill Stewart, Clark County Democratic chairman. "Clark County will reward him by voting him back in."

Civic-Minded Sodrel

But Stewart's counterpart is brimming with enthusiasm about Sodrel's chances of ousting Hill. "He's winning here," Clark County Republican Chairman Glenn Murphy Jr. said of Sodrel. "I can tell you that with 100 percent confidence."

Murphy attributes Sodrel's strong showing in the county to his community involvement over the last 25 years. "He's been the consummate civic leader. Whenever people need something to happen, they go to Mike first." He cited Sodrel's leadership in the Southeast Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Jeffersonville Rotary Club, the regional Boy Scouts, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Guerin Providence Home for Children. In addition, Sodrel has built good will by never laying off workers at his 500-employee bus and trucking company in Jeffersonville.

"People are voting for Mike Sodrel because he's touched their lives in one way or another," said Murphy.

DC Warming to Sodrel

The local kudos for Sodrel haven't translated into warmth from Washington. But that situation may be changing. The National Republican Congressional

Committee has not yet funded the Sodrel campaign. But the chief spokesman of the organization made a point of getting on the phone with HPR this week to praise Sodrel.

"We've always believed that he is a strong candidate and Baron Hill is a weak incumbent," said Steve Schmidt, communications director for the NRCC. "Mike Sodrel has run a good race. We're going to make final (funding) decisions soon. It's one of the races we have our eye on."

The Indiana Republican party has jumped into the race by financing a TV ad that alleges that Hill supports investing Social Security funds in the stock market. The Hill campaign calls the ad "typical attack-style Washington politics." Hill has accused Sodrel of favoring the privatization of Social Security.

Hill has distinct advantages over Sodrel in Washington. Political action committees in the capital tend to lean toward incumbents. Hill has generated more than half of the \$893,415 he has raised from PACs. The rest has come from individuals. He has \$317,912 on hand as of Sept. 30. Sodrel has raised more than \$1 million as of Sept. 30, contributing \$717,061 in personal funds. He is carrying a \$510,000 debt and has \$17,042 on hand.

"Baron Hill has worked the district very, very hard," said Rodney Smith, director of government relations for Ameritech. "Baron is a very good politician. He's back in the district a lot. He holds a lot of town hall meetings. He works the district from end to end."

Hill has cast enough votes with business to garner support from that community. He backed Ameritech, for instance, on a bill that would allow the company to offer high-speed internet services to customers.

Smith said that the 9th CD race hasn't yet hit the radar in Washington. "I have not seen his name appear on what we call toss-up lists from the NRCC," Smith said of Sodrel.

Thanks to several tough votes on trade, Hill won the endorsement of the Indiana Farm Bureau and has received support from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. A member of the House Armed Services Committee, he is backed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Washington Democrats are confident in Hill. "We know he'll be re-elected and back in Washington working for southern Indiana," said Kim Rubey, spokeswoman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. "No one at the DCCC is losing any sleep over Mike Sodrel." ❖

HORSE R A C E

Congressional District 9:

Republican: Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **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 9th CD has been one of the most perplexing races from the Republican standpoint. Sodrel made the rounds in Washington last July and most reports from the folks who make the funding decisions were unenthusiastic, particularly since the 9th votes Republican presidentially and Sodrel brings a good resume and his own fat wallet to the table. Sodrel's campaign maintains it has recent polling showing him within the margin of error, but while NRCC personnel are on the ground in the 2nd and 7th CDs, we haven't seen that kind of support for Sodrel, nor do there appear to be Bush or Cheney 11th hour visits in the offing. For that lack of tall tale signs, we believe this is Hill's race to lose.

Status: *Leans Hill* ❖

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have very good highway access and Southwestern Indiana is left out."

NO HD17 DEBATE: The anticipated debate between the District 17 candidates for the Indiana House of Representatives apparently, will not take place in Plymouth (South Bend Tribune). "There's nothing scheduled," Sam Denton, campaign chairman for Democrat Ralph Winters, said Tuesday. "We never got a time or date." Republican Steve Heim disputed Denton's remarks, saying, "The Chamber (Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce) contacted our campaign October 4 regarding a debate. I said yes, that I could do it October 28. They were to contact my opponent, who has not given them an answer." Doug Anspach, executive director of the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce, which was to sponsor the event, is away on vacation and was not immediately available for comment. Chamber office personnel said they had not heard back from the Winters campaign regarding the debate. Heim was frustrated that the event is, apparently, called off. "The campaign is about informing the public," Heim said. "It's a community tradition. I think we owe it to the people to stand up in a debate and discuss our positions on the issues ... If

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you are afraid to debate in a public forum, I don't believe you should be running for office."

WHITE HOUSE BEGINS PLANNING FOR ULTIMATE POWER: White House officials and Republicans on Capitol Hill are so optimistic about winning control of both chambers of Congress in next month's elections that they have begun mapping how they would use their new power, including the possibility of speeding up tax cuts that were to take effect gradually (Mike Allen, *Washington Post*). With the elections 16 days away and polls showing many crucial races too close to call, Republicans are drawing up plans that would aid a broad array of industries, after hammering business during the corporate responsibility debate touched off by this year's accounting scandals. Business lobbyists said their wish lists include substantial nationwide limits on the amount of damages that can be awarded in medical malpractice cases, plus a major overhaul of the tax code to reduce the burden on corporations. Both measures have been part of President Bush's agenda and would have a better chance of becoming law if the GOP retook control of the Senate and kept a House majority in the Nov. 5 elections.

Indiana 2002 Racing Form

Trend Line: CNN's *Inside Politics* reported on Wednesday that among all registered voters, Democrats have a 9-point edge in the nationwide congressional vote. But among those likely to vote, the Democratic lead nearly disappears. Which suggests that Republican voters are more highly motivated. And in a midterm election, motivation and turnout are everything. What do Republicans have to motivate them? Two words: President Bush. And what do Democrats have? Two possibly less compelling words: the economy. Said CNN commentator Bill Shneider, "We'll see which force is stronger."

Indiana Statewide Races

Secretary of State 2002: Republican:

Deputy Secretary of State Todd Rokita

Democrat: Bloomington Mayor John Fernandez.

Libertarian: Rebecca Sink-Burris. **1994 Results:**

Gilroy (R) 902,100, Jeffers (D) 542,539, Dillon

(L) 32,483, Knight (A) 13,948. **1998 Results:** Gilroy 828,557, Little (D) 652,565, Dillon (L)

51,775. **2002 Forecast:** Fernandez has raised more than \$1 million this year, more than twice

the amount Republican Todd Rokita has taken in since Jan. 1 (*Lafayette Journal & Courier*).

Fernandez took in \$997,020 from Jan. 1 to Oct. 11, but also raised at least \$63,500 after the

reporting period, said campaign manager Angela Belden. He had \$158,539 cash on hand as of

Oct. 11. "John committed to this race over a year-and-a-half ago and he had the advantage of

coming into the convention (in June) without opposition and with the full support of his party,"

Belden said. "We all know it takes a lot of money to win a statewide race." Rokita, deputy secre-

tary of state, raised about \$414,000 for the year, spent \$260,860 and had \$153,395 left. **Status:**

Tossup.

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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.jilllongthompson.com; www.chocolaforcongress.com **2000**

Result: Roemer (D) 107,076, Chocola (R) 98,367. **2002 Outlook:** A poll by IUPUI's Brian

Vargus shows 2nd CD Republican Chris Chocola with a 12-percent lead over Democrat Jill

Long Thompson, 46.9 to 35 percent, and 4 percent for Libertarian Sharon Metheny. Undecided

voters made up 14.1 percent of the sample. The Oct. 10-13 poll had a +/-5 percent error with

398 respondents (Trevor Wendzonka, *Elkhart Truth*). For years now, we've asked Dr. Vargus to

show his track record (polling sequences matched up with final results), and he resists. There is

no one on either side who thinks that either candidate has a 12-point lead. This race goes down

to the wire. Long Thompson countered Vargus' results with her own poll data. Taken Oct. 10-14

by Lake Snell Perry and Associates, the Democrat's survey showed her leading by two points,

again within the margin of error, and 12 percent undecided. "The validity of data collection has

a lot to do with how questions are worded, the sampling methods, the time of day called," she

said, adding that Vargus "is notorious for using invalid polling methods." Long Thompson

added, "My favorables have consistently been better than his. And because we both have very

good name identification, I find it hard to believe 14 percent are still undecided. Your poll is

way off. This is going to be a tight race." **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:** Pence and Fox talked about many issues Wednesday, but debated only one. The economy. "It is such an important issue," said Pence, seeking re-election to the new 6th Congressional District. Fox said, "I would be in favor of repealing NAFTA and starting all over" (Rick Yencer, *Muncie Star Press*). They will appear at another forum in Anderson on Monday. Pence stuck to his record of supporting a war against Iraq, supporting trade promotion authority, and allowing younger workers to put some Social Security earnings in personal investment accounts. Fox called for a clear military mission in Iraq, strongly opposed current trade policies, and rejected privatization of Social Security. Pence has raised \$1,051,335 since Jan. 1, 2001, and reported \$42,437 on hand Sept. 30, according to FEC reports. Fox raised \$318,515 and spent all but \$88,183. Libertarian Doris Robertson did not raise the \$5,000 minimum that would require her to file an FEC report. Fox said she could not out-raise Pence, but she could out-work him. "I think we can compete," said Laura Black, Fox's campaign manager (*Muncie Star Press*). U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., will be in Muncie Thursday as host of a fund-raiser for Fox. Black said Fox would use direct mail, radio and cable television to communicate her message. Pence already has been on network television in Indianapolis and other markets, and has used radio and other media. His latest TV talks about the "covenant" of Social Security, attempting to refute Fox's claims that Pence wants to privatize. "We have been blessed with financial support," Pence said during a recent campaign stop. **Status:** *Likely Pence.*

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

Julia Carson. **Libertarian:** Andy Horning. **Geography:** Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **Websites:** www.juliacarson.org; www.broseforcongress.org **2000 Results:** Carson (D) 91,300, Scott (R) 61,818, Ali (L) 2,513. **2002 Forecast:** Vice President Cheney is scheduled for a Nov. 1 campaign breakfast for McVey. U.S. Sen. Joe Lieberman came to stump for Carson, but the media coverage centered on their different votes over the Iraq war resolution. A critical piece of polling data we're seeking is President Bush's fav/unfavs among 7th CD African-American voters. Campaign finance reports filed this week showed that as of Sept. 30, Carson and McVey had raised similar sums this year. McVey has raised about \$691,000; Carson, \$674,000, but she had far more left to spend. McVey's cash on hand was only about \$86,000, while Carson had \$591,000 (*Indianapolis Star*). While the last TeleResearch poll has McVey up by 3 percent, the critical question is whether Carson can fire up her undefeated GOTV effort for a last hurrah. McVey has run an almost flawless campaign, inoculating himself thus far on the economy and Social Security. He has run at Carson from the moderate middle and not the hard right. Carson seems tired and flustered and is relying on the Great Society formula that we've seen unravel in the McKinney and Hilliard primary defeats in Georgia and Alabama this year. The emerging African-American middle class won't be buying into the traditional urban liberal agenda. **Status:** *TOSSUP.*

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.bryanhartke.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 100,461. **2002 Outlook:** Birch Bayh comes in to campaign for Hartke, who will begin a significant TV buy this weekend including the Indianapolis market. Hostettler is up on TV. Hostettler doesn't seem to be suffering any fallout from his no vote on the Iraqi war resolution and we don't believe it's damaged his base. This is still his race to lose. **Status:** *Leans Hostettler.*

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NORTHERN INDIANA LEADS THE NATION IN BANKRUPTCIES: The region stretching from Hammond in the west to Fort Wayne in the east is rapidly consolidating its position as America's personal bankruptcy capital, where people are more likely to declare personal bankruptcy than anywhere else in the nation (Times of Northwest Indiana). The most recent data from district courts shows people in the 32 counties comprising the Northern District of Indiana filed Chapter 7 bankruptcy at a rate of 6.7 per every 1,000 residents in the period from July of last year to June of this year. The national average was 3.8 per 1,000. And northern Indiana seems in no danger of losing its dubious distinction, with a 20.1 percent increase in personal bankruptcies in the second quarter of this year, according to the American Bankruptcy Institute. The nearest challenger for the July 2001 to June 2002 period was the Southern District of Indiana, which ranked second in the nation with 6.6 Chapter 7 filers for every 1,000 residents. But the rate of increase there has not keep up with the northern district's in recent quarters.

CONSECO FIELDHOUSE NAMING RIGHTS ON THE TABLE: Financially troubled Conesco Inc. and its credi-

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tors are discussing whether to abandon the company's naming-rights deal for Conseco Fieldhouse to cut costs, IBJ has learned (Greg Andrews, Indianapolis Business Journal).

THIRD OF INDIANA SEWAGE PLANTS DUMPED IN RIVERS: More than a third of Indiana's wastewater-treatment plants illegally dumped toxic chemicals into waterways during a three-year period, according to a new nationwide study by an environmental group (Associated Press). The report by the Public Interest Research Group examined pollution from 1999-2001 and focused on permits for "high hazard chemicals" -- pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer and reproductive and developmental disorders. Among those toxins were mercury, cyanide and phosphorus. The study found that the bulk of the state's pollution discharges come from northwest Indiana's sewage treatment plants. It ranked Indiana among the nation's 10 worst violators of water-pollution laws.

REP. ADAMS NOT SURPRISED BY GOP CRITICISM: Republican legislative candidates continued their attacks this week against Democratic Gov. Frank O'Bannon and Lt. Gov. Joe Kernan, blaming the pair for government mismanagement and economic downturn (Rick

Indiana House Races

Trend Line: We're still forecasting a 52-48 Democratic House.

House District 26: Republican: State Rep. Sue Scholer. **Democrat:** Joe Micon.

Geography: Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1998 results:** Scholer 5,750, Clapper 4,655. **2000 Results:** Scholer 9,086, Windler 5,186. **2002 Forecast:** Scholer collected almost \$10,000 more than Micon. **Status:** *Leans R.*

House District 27: Republican: Bob Hicks. **Democrat:** State Rep. Sheila Klinker.

Geography: Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippecanoe County. **1998 Results:** Klinker 10,553, Julian (R) 5,512, Rumps (L) 287. **2000 Results:** Klinker (D) 12,544, O'Brien (R) 8,095. **2002 Forecast:** Klinker's individual contribution list accounted for \$15,600 of the \$52,000 she raised, more than double Hicks. Contributors include Indiana Chamber President Kevin Brinegar and Colts owner Jim Irsay. **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 48: Republican: Elkhart City Councilman Timothy Neese.

Democrat: Bruce D. Carter. **Geography:** Elkhart, Elkhart County. **1998 Results:** Mock 16,833. **2000 Results:** Mock 14,876, Crabtree 6,777. **2002 Forecast:** ISTA's endorsement of Neese caused Carter to suspend his campaign, saying "it wasn't a good investment," only to reactivate it a few days later (*Elkhart Truth*). "We are seeing real serious problems on the part of my opponent with his positions on issues. He has not thought through his proposals well enough to represent our district," Carter said. "When the ISTA endorsed Tim ... my effort was crippled. I decided to stay in it for the issues, but I'm not making a serious run." **Status:** *SAFE R.*

House District 52: Republican: Marlon Stutzman. **Democrat:** Rep. Dale Sturtz.

Geography: LaGrange, Noble, DeKalb counties. **1994 Results:** Sturtz (D) 6,837, LeCount (R) 5,789. **1996 Results:** Sturtz 10,049, Hanneman (R) 6,258. **1998 Results:** Sturtz 6,677, Wonderly 6,385. **2000 Results:** Sturtz 9,536, Wonderly 7,825. **2002 Forecast:** Sturtz raised about \$88,000 since April, with more than \$20,000 coming from the Indiana House Democratic Caucus, a sure sign the party is worried about retaining the seat in November (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). Sturtz spent almost \$52,000 during the same period, and still has nearly \$40,000 in the bank if he needs it in the remaining days before the election. Stutzman raised about \$40,000 since April, with \$28,000 coming from the House Republican Campaign Caucus. **Status:** *LIKELY D.*

House District 56: Republican: Richard Hamm **Democrat:** Phillip Pflum.

Geography: Richmond, Wayne County. **1994 Results:** Bodiker 7,142, Hamm 7,087. **1996 Results:** Bodiker 10,772, Hamm 8,159. **1998 Results:** Bodiker 8,152, Paust 5,947. **2000 Results:** Bodiker 9,508, Pappin 8,882. **2002 Forecast:** Pflum, the Democrat's hardworking ploughhorse, is dialing up hundreds of independent voters and has begun running TV ads on cable in Richmond and New Castle. **Status:** *Tossup.*

House District 75: Republican: Vanderburgh County Clerk Marsha Abell.

Democrat: Rep. Dennis Avery. **Geography:** Evansville, Vanderburgh and Gibson counties. **1998 Results:** Avery 11,714, Spurling (L) 1,250. **2000 Results:** Avery 14,850. **2002 Forecast:** Avery had nearly \$57,500 on hand with about \$14,000 coming from the House Democratic campaign committee, while Abell had only \$6,600 in her war chest with the state party providing little help (*Evansville Courier & Press*). **Status:** *Leans D.*

House District 81: Republican: Matt Kelty. **Democrat:** Rep. Winfield Moses Jr.

Geography: Fort Wayne, Allen County. **2000 Results:** Moses 8,573, Conley (R) 4,794. **2002 Forecast:** Moses has raised about \$50,000 since April (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). He also spent \$31,000, although almost 70 percent of the money went to the Democratic caucus and not his own race. Kelty is actually outspending the incumbent on the race itself. Kelty raised \$44,000 since April and spent nearly all of that. **Status:** *LIKELY D.*

House District 86: Republican: State Rep. Jim Atterholt. **Democrat:** Dr. David

Orentlicher. **Geography:** Indianapolis, Hamilton county. **1998 Results:** Atterholt 13,085, Griesey (D) 6,942. **2000 Results:** Atterholt 17,320, Goodloe-Coe (D) 9,708, Perry (L) 1,178. **2002 Forecast:** Orentlicher began his TV this morning. Both the *Star* and *Indianapolis Business Journal* featured this race in coverage this week. Both parties see this as too close to call. **Status:** *Tossup.*

Brian A. Howey ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Stuart Rothenberg, *Roll Call* - As we noted in August, few incumbents are likely to be defeated in next month's elections. So if the Democrats are going to retake the House, they'll need to score major open-seat gains. While they have more opportunities than the GOP, they don't appear likely to succeed. Here is where we stand only a couple of weeks before Election Day. The most likely partisan switches come first, but each race on this list is a potential turnover. Indiana 2nd. Each party has a poll showing it's headed to win retiring Democratic Rep. Tim Roemer's redrawn district. Former Rep. Jill Long Thompson (D) faces businessman Chris Chocola (R), who lost to Roemer two years ago. The district was made more Democratic but still tilts slightly Republican. Still, if the Democratic message about Social Security and corporate accountability works anywhere, it should work there. ❖

Jack Colwell, *South Bend Tribune* - Like the Irish Guard, many registered voters will slumber through a close, nationally significant contest. We know why the Guard dozed, recovering from refreshments in the hours before leading the Notre Dame band on the field. But what of voters who snore? They won't make nationally watched fools of themselves in an unGuarded moment. But they will affect the outcome of the Nov. 5 election contest in Indiana's 2nd Congressional District -- Democrat Jill Long Thompson vs. Republican Chris Chocola. Unless something yet undetected is at work to give unstoppable momentum to one of the candidates, the race is likely to remain a dead heat right up until the 6 a.m. opening of the polls. The air war will be over. All the TV spots aired for months will have had their effect, giving total name recognition to both candidates and turning on or

turning off voters. Then the ground war on Election Day is likely to prove decisive. That will involve the efforts of the campaign volunteers to get all possible voters for their side to actually go to the polls. Voter identification work already has been under way. That's where each side seeks to identify folks who say they plan to vote for their candidate. Phone calls have been made. One side goes over lists of people who usually vote in the Democratic primary. The other lists for attention those who usually vote in the Republican primary. Heavily Republican precincts are targeted by one side. The other focuses on heavily Democratic areas. Records of contributors help identify supporters. Names from organizations whose members identify more with one party or the other or with conservative or liberal causes can help. In other words, a good campaign organization doesn't just guess at who should be called for a reminder to vote or to determine if a ride to the polls would be desired. ❖

Dave Kitchell, *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* - The IUPUI polls, which were done previously in all congressional districts, have not always been accurate. In 1986, the poll showed Jim Jontz within striking distance of Jim Butcher. Jontz won. In 1992, it showed Jontz with a firm command over Steve Buyer, but Buyer won. In 1992, the poll had John Hiler ahead of upstart Tim Roemer, but Roemer won. Voters in the Logansport area find themselves in the interesting position of deciding one of the most closely watched races in the country, one which may ultimately tip the control of the House of Representatives. In that race, the only poll that matters is the one that is open in your neighborhood Nov. 5. ❖

TICKER T A P E

Yencer, Muncie Star Press). "This administration sat by for 6 years while Indiana's economy went south," said Tom Bennington, Republican candidate for the House District 34 seat now held by State Rep. Tiny Adams, D-Muncie. Bennington offered a 13-page report drafted by the Indiana Republican Party that outlined government scandals, mismanagement and poor economic indicators during O'Bannon's administration. "I am not a bit surprised," Adams said of the Republican criticism. "It is going to be up to [Democrats] to sell the positive things going on in the state." Bennington said Republicans should be criticizing O'Bannon and the Democrats for government mismanagement and poor economic conditions while the Legislature voted during the special session to raise taxes. "How can you help the little guy when taxes are increasing for everyone?" Bennington said.

ACCUSATIONS FLY IN MARION COUNTY SHERIFF RACE: Reports that Republican Marion County sheriff candidate Tom Schneider had Lawrence city employees do campaign work for him unleashed a flurry of accusations and rebuttals Thursday from both major parties. The sparring intensified in the wake of Marion County Prosecutor Scott Newman's decision to investigate the accusations (Terry Horne and Vic Ryckaert, Indianapolis Star). ❖