

The Howey Political Report



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“QUOTE” OF THE WEEK

“That’s a very speculative question. I’d have to think about it.”

- 9/11 Commissioner Lee Hamilton, on whether he would serve as head of a new intelligence agency, to NBC’s Tim Russert

Combative Kerry talks war & values

But expect dead heat for home stretch

By **JACK COLWELL** in Boston
and **BRIAN A. HOWEY** in Indianapolis

Democratic Presidential nominee John Kerry shouldered into the debate of strength and security, coming on to the primetime stage with a salute and saying, “I’m John Kerry and I’m reporting for duty.”

Kerry sent a number of shots across the bow of the Bush-Cheney campaign, hawkishly stressing his willingness to serve and fight in Vietnam, and claiming he would best preserve American “values” in “reclaiming our democracy” and questioning the president’s honesty, a Bush charge against Clinton-Gore in 2000. “Values are not just words,” Kerry said at one point. At another, Kerry suggested President Bush misled the nation into war saying, “As president, I will wage this war with the lessons I learned in war. Before you go to battle, you have to be able to look a parent in the eye and truthfully say: ‘I tried everything possible to avoid sending your son or daughter into harm’s way. But we had no choice.’ And on my first day in office, I will send a message to every man and woman in our armed forces: You will never be asked to fight a war without a plan to win the peace.”

“Now I know there are those who criticize me for seeing complexities -- and I do -- because some issues just aren’t all that simple,” he said. “Saying there are weapons of mass destruction in Iraq doesn’t make it so.”

Toward the end of his speech, Kerry took a swipe at President Bush, who is titular head of the American Christian movement. “I don’t want to claim that God is on our side,” Kerry said. “As Abraham Lincoln told us, I want

INSIDE FEATURES

- Ticker: Zogby shows Bush decline** p. 2
- Q&A with Jack Colwell** p. 3
- Columnists: James, Schram** p. 4
- Horse Race: Lee asks Tincher to stop running push phone calls** p. 8

TICKER

T A P E

ZOGBY POLL SHOWS BUSH LOSING GROUND: While the Democratic National Convention was under way, the Republican ticket of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney lost some ground to John Kerry and John Edwards, a poll showed Thursday. The poll by Zogby America showed that though the Democratic ticket didn't gain points during the four-day convention, the Republicans lost three percentage points to the undecided category. The poll of 1,001 likely voters conducted from Monday through Thursday found Kerry-Edwards leading Bush-Cheney 48 percent to 43 percent, with 8 percent undecided.

KERRY DOES WELL WITH LUNTZ FOCUS GROUP IN OHIO: Democratic Presidential nominee John Kerry did pretty well, according to a focus group of 20 swing voters in pivotal Ohio -- 14 of the 20 gave the speech favorable reviews and just six turned thumbs-down, said pollster Frank Luntz conducted the focus group for MSNBC (*New York Post*). Four of the swing voters switched to Kerry after the speech and one switched to Bush, added Luntz, who predicted that Kerry "will get a bounce (in polls) over the next few days, but not as much as Al Gore in 2000."

Continued on page 3

to pray humbly that we are on God's side."

He promised to increase the size of the military by 40,000 troops, and double the size of Special Forces.

On the domestic side, he drew another line with Bush over stem cell research, asking, "What if we had a president who believed in science?"

Indiana delegates celebrated into the early morning hours at Sidney's Grille at the delegation's hotel in Cambridge, offering toasts to John Kerry as the next president and hailing his Friday night acceptance speech as a home run.

Most delegates didn't get back to the hotel after the lengthy convention session until midnight in Boston. But that didn't prevent a celebration of what they considered a successful convention at which party unity prevailed. "I thought it was a home run," Indiana First Lady Maggie Kernan said of the Kerry speech. And she said resulting popularity for Kerry will help husband Joe Kernan in the governor race. "As Kerry's strength grows, sure it helps Joe," she said.

Mike Harmless, the delegation chairman, was pleased with Kerry's "extraordinary speech." He added: "As a veteran, I was so proud of Kerry's comments on health care for veterans. When they put their lives on the line, we have to start treating our veterans better."

Many commentators agreed, Mark Shields of PBS observed, "Kerry had to give the speech of his life and he did."

The *Los Angeles Times* reported, the speech "seemed the political equivalent of a surprise attack on an enemy's strongest point," signaling Kerry's "determination to fight the fall campaign on terrain that the White House has long assumed would belong to President Bush: strength, integrity, values and the prosecution of the war on terror."

The *Wall Street Journal* observed that "at one point, Mr. Kerry appeared to belittle Mr. Bush's record as commander in chief." The conservative newspaper

Last of the 'old' HPR

This is the last edition of *HPR* and the *HPR Daily Wire* as you've known them. On Aug. 12, watch for the debut of the new redesigned *HPR*, efficient, easier to read, with photos and advertising panels aimed at the most influential people in Indiana politics.

reported that Bush "has enjoyed his greatest political strengths: national security and social values. Rather than shying away from ground that has sometimes been shaky for Democrats, Mr. Kerry planted his own flag in a forceful and at times combative speech."

NBC's Tim Russert said Kerry's challenge was to humanize himself and offer voters specifics. "He gave of himself and quite successfully. He's running to the right of Bush on the military. He had the passion and toughness to be formidable this fall," Russert said.

How this presidential race unfolds remains to be seen. Russert expects a "4 to 5 point" bump for Kerry prior to the Olympics in mid-August. That compares to a 16-point bump Bill Clinton got in 1992, 17 points for Michael Dukakis in 1988 and 8 points for Al Gore in 2000.

The difference this year is that both parties are virtually united -- to the 90th percentile -- behind Bush and Kerry, leaving that 10 percent of undecided swing voters left to decide the election. As in 1980, that could occur in the final days of the campaign, when almost all undecideds broke for the challenger, Ronald Reagan, over the embattled President Jimmy Carter.

Events on the ground in Iraq, terror strikes Americans have been told are virtually inevitable, and the condition of the American economy present three wildcards that could determine the outcome of this dramatic election which is now, in *HPR* parlance, a true tossup. ❖

Democratic Convention over; questions remain

By JACK COLWELL

The Howey Political Report

BOSTON - The Democratic National Convention is over. Questions remain.

Q. Did Democrats get the bounce in popularity they needed, that rise in the polls that traditionally follows a party's convention?

A. Probably so. Polls you will hear about today and in the next few days will vary, but the convention was a success in most respects. Pundits will argue over what any bounce means and over whether Republicans will bounce right back at their convention later in New York.

Q. Were there a bunch of arguments and disagreements like Democrats usually have at their conventions or did they leave in unity?

A. Unity. This was the 10th Democratic Convention I've covered. The first was in 1968, when battles raged in the streets of Chicago. Others, while lacking violence, have usually featured splits and squabbling. At this one, Democrats were together as never before.

Q. What brought them together this time?

A. Hostility toward the policies of President Bush, both domestic and foreign. They dislike and distrust Bush. It's not like some past Democratic conventions, when Democrats wanted to beat Republicans such as Ronald Reagan but didn't really have loathing for him. They loath Bush.

Q. How did Kerry do in his all-important moment in the national spotlight with his nomination acceptance speech?

A. Democratic delegates were delighted with the speech, calling it a home run. How it played in homes around the country where it was watched on TV is more important than the reaction in the convention hall. The size of the bounce in

the polls will be an indication of that. The speech was well written, a skillful attempt to inoculate Kerry against the very attacks Bush strategists are expected to launch against him. Delivery was good. I'd say it was a home run, but maybe not a grand slam.

Q. Who gave the best speech?

A. This was a convention of good speeches. The keynote address by Barack Obama, previously a little known state legislator from Illinois, was outstanding and is being compared with the great keynote address of Mario Cuomo in 1984. John Edwards did what he was expected to do and appears to have been a good choice by Kerry for a running mate. Bill Clinton showed again that he is a master of convention speeches. And Kerry must be considered for top honors with his acceptance speech. Others were good as well, and most were "on message," sticking to a theme of bringing America together to face challenges at home and abroad.

Q. Is there any possibility of Kerry winning in Indiana?

A. Sure. There always is a possibility. But it's kind of like the possibility of the pace car at the Indy 500 continuing to race and win. Indiana, while electing many Democrats statewide, just doesn't go for Democratic presidential tickets. The last time was 1964. If Kerry takes Indiana it will be amid a Democratic landslide, something that seems highly unlikely.

Q. How about Sen. Evan Bayh, who gave the keynote address in 1996 and has been called a rising star in the party? Is he still on the list in speculation for a future presidential ticket?

A. He's still on the list, but a little farther down. Although Indiana delegates hailed the keynote performance of Obama, some did have one lament, that Obama perhaps burns as a brighter star than Bayh. ❖

TICKER T A P E

KERRY SPEECH LEAVES OPENINGS FOR GOP: The Kerry speech left openings Republicans will seek to exploit in the weeks ahead (Ron Brownstein, Los Angeles Times). It offered no new details on Kerry's plans for stabilizing Iraq. Nor did Kerry clearly say whether he believed the war was a mistake. Moreover, "Kerry said little about his career in the Senate -- thus providing little new defense for a voting record the Bush campaign has harshly criticized. And by placing greater emphasis on new spending proposals than how he would pay for them, he could leave some voters wondering whether he can fund his agenda solely by rescinding Bush's tax cuts for the affluent."

WASHINGTON POST EDITORIALIZED ON KERRY'S 'MISSED OPPORTUNITY': Under the headline "Missed Opportunity," the Washington Post editorializes, "Kerry therefore sought above all to make the case that he could be trusted to lead a nation at war, and rightly so; he and Mr. Bush must be judged first and foremost on those grounds. But on that basis, though Mr. Kerry spoke confidently and eloquently, his speech was a disappointment." Kerry "last night eluded the charged

continued on page 4

TICKER

T A P E

question of whether, as president, he would have gone to war in Iraq. He offered not a word to celebrate the freeing of Afghans from the Taliban, or Iraqis from Saddam Hussein, and not a word about helping either nation toward democracy. ... Nor did Mr. Kerry's statements about future threats do justice to the complexity of today's challenge." Kerry "will be judged in part on how he chose to present himself last night, and on that score, while he may have been politically effective, he missed an opportunity to demonstrate the kind of leadership the nation needs."

KERRY-EDWARDS EMBARK ON 21-STATE TOUR: Looking to reprise the post-convention bus ride success of the last Democratic president, Sens. John Kerry and John Edwards on Friday will launch a whirlwind Boston-to-Seattle tour, traveling by bus, boat and train through some of the most competitive states in this election (Kansas City Star). Kerry and Edwards "will travel first by bus to Pennsylvania, then on to West Virginia, ending in Michigan on Sunday. They'll campaign separately after that, then rejoin Thursday in St. Louis to start a train trip to the Rockies. Altogether, the two plan to visit 21 closely divided states in 15 days

continued on page 5

911 Commission momentum lags in CD races

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON -- Although the campaigns of President Bush and Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry have jumped out of the blocks in a race to embrace the report of the Sept. 11 commission, it may take a while for similar momentum to build in congressional races.

The bipartisan, 10-person panel last week released its plan to overhaul U.S. intelligence in a starburst of publicity, inspiring vows from members of Congress to hold hearings as quickly as next week and to introduce legislation as early as September. Members of the commission, which included former Hoosier Democratic Reps. Lee Hamilton, the vice chairman, and Tim Roemer, will continue to promote the commission's recommendations across the nation.

But an informal survey of Indiana congressional campaigns indicates that several candidates have not had time to read the 567-page report and don't have immediate plans to push it to the forefront of their agenda. Terrorism and homeland security are significant issues, but not the top voter concerns.

Economy Trumps Security

"In my district, the economy is still the most important thing," said Republican Rep. Chris Chocola (CD 2), who represents most of Roemer's former district and had a favorable reaction to the report. Homeland security strikes a chord, but "it's not the driving issue."

In CD 8, voters have not brought up the 9/11 commission report with Democratic candidate Jon Jennings. The top issues in the race between Jennings and incumbent Republican Rep. John Hostettler are the economy, health care, education, and terrorism and homeland security. It may take congressional action to insert the 9/11 commission recommen-

dations into the race. "When Congress begins to implement these things in legislation, that's when I think you'll see it start to become an issue in some congressional campaigns," said Tim Henderson, Jennings' campaign manager.

Hostettler's organization would not address the 9/11 report. "It's not something we're going to talk about in the campaign," said campaign manager David Sherfick. He referred questions to Hostettler's congressional office, which did not respond to an HPR interview request.

In CD 9, the 9/11 commission is "an important issue, and it's an extension of the people's interest in the war in Iraq," said Kevin Boehnlein, campaign manager for Republican challenger Mike Sodrel. But discourse on the proposals may be limited. "(Sodrel) thinks it will be nearly impossible to address the reforms in a substantive way at this point because of the partisanship of the campaign," said Boehnlein, who ranked jobs, moral-value debates like same-sex marriage, and the war in Iraq as the top issues in the district.

One candidate who did release a statement on the 9/11 commission was Democrat Melina Fox in CD 6. In her July 26 announcement, she called on Bush and Kerry to hold a summit on the 9/11 commission recommendations and then act quickly. She also criticized incumbent Republican Rep. Mike Pence for opposing the commission when Congress created it in 2002. Last week, Pence praised the 9/11 report and joined several colleagues in supporting prompt hearings.

Fox intends to press Pence. "I will keep asking Mike why didn't you support the commission in the first place, if you firmly support homeland security," she said in an interview.

Absorbing the Substance

One challenge to promoting the 9/11 commission report is that it addresses

complex policies. A riveting narrative that explains how the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks occurred is a highlight of the 567-page report, which doles out blame for the tragedy to both the Clinton and Bush administrations. "The most important failure was one of imagination," the report states. "We do not believe leaders understood the gravity of the threat." The report examines intelligence, law enforcement, aviation security, and diplomacy, among other areas, and is based on thousands of interviews and several hearings over 20 months.

The commission recommends improving government coordination and information-sharing to prevent future attacks by appointing a national intelligence director, establishing a national counterterrorism center, and concentrating congressional authority and funding of intelligence into one committee in the House and Senate. Fulfilling each mandate will require demolishing numerous bureaucratic walls and reallocating political turf in Washington.

"There needs to be a substantive debate on the recommendations," said Chocola. "People involved in intelligence deserve some input. We need to manage

to the result, and the result is a safer America."

Hamilton to Push Congress

Chocola's Democratic opponent, Joe Donnelly, said the onus is on Congress to move swiftly. "It is imperative that Congress take action on the commission's recommendations immediately," he said in an e-mail interview. "The House Republican leadership has made vague commitments to deal with the commission's findings sometime in the months ahead, but they just adjourned for a month-long recess. I fear that the delays we are now seeing in Washington could cost lives down the road."

Hamilton intends to hold Congress' feet to the fire by maintaining a high public profile. "I've got about 100 invitation to speak that I've got to sort through," he said. "We really think the time is right for major structural change in the intelligence community. I don't know that we have all the answers...if you put it all together, there's a convergence of factors that would indicate that the ferment is there to make major changes." ❖

Hamilton lauded for work on 9/11 Commission

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON - Congressional leaders lavished praise on the 9/11 commission last week when it released its study. "This is a straight-talking, tough, bold, non-partisan report," said Democratic Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman in endorsing the 567- page document. "Tom and Lee and other members of the commission have done extraordinary service to their nation in bringing it forward," he said, referring to Republican commission chairman Tom Kean, former governor of New Jersey, and former Democratic Hoosier Rep. Lee Hamilton.

In typical understated fashion, Hamilton shared credit for achieving consensus among the five Republicans and five Democrats on the 20-month commission. "We just spent hours and hours talking," he said in an HPR interview after a Capitol Hill news conference on July 22. "Every line of that report we have gone over not once, but in some cases six or seven times. In every case, at least a couple of times. There's no magic here."

He and Kean will now develop a plan to build support for the recommendations, including raising money to hire a staff. But he is not ready to rank the commission's work among his other achievements in his four decades of public service. "I won't answer that until I know how well we do on the implementation." ❖

TICKER T A P E

that could determine the outcome of the November election. According to recent polls of 18 battleground states, Kerry leads in nine, Bush in five and the two are even in four.

BAYH PUSHING 'THIRD WAY' AT CONVENTION: TIME reports, The last place you'd expect to hear a politician promoting a centrist initiative to seek bipartisan solutions is at a political party convention. But here was Indiana Democrat Senator Evan Bayh telling TIME that he's trying to form just such a group of legislators. These Democrats would reach out to GOP moderates in search of consensus -- and a voting block in the Senate -- for middle-of-the-road compromises to break gridlock. Bayh, a leader of the New Democrat movement and the chairman of the centrist Democratic Leadership Council (DLC), is calling his new group The Third Way. Bayh insists The Third Way group he wants to form in the Senate won't be a think tank like the DLC, but rather a "results-oriented voting bloc intended to achieve deadlock-breaking compromise bills on such critical issues as health care, education and the budget."

ANDREW NOT WORRIED ABOUT 'LIBERAL'
BOSTON: Joe Andrew, who was Democratic National

continued on page 6

TICKER

T A P E

Chairman during the party's last convention, praised the unity this time. Factions that squabbled four years ago were together on the cause of defeating President Bush this time, Andrew said. He also said worries that holding the convention in Boston would help pin a "liberal" label on the proceedings were baseless. The convention site means nothing either way in terms of later vote results, Andrew said. He noted that Republicans held their convention in Philadelphia last time and then lost Pennsylvania.

ANDREW PLAYING BALL WITH HIS KIDS: Joe Andrew is certainly not as visible on the national and state Democratic scene as he used to be, and it seemed like he disappeared altogether after he dropped his bid for governor (Mike Smith, Associated Press). The former state and national Democratic chairman says he has practiced more law lately and spent more time on "softball and baseball with my kids than I have done before." That does not mean he has not been active in the political realm. Andrew said he has played host to some fundraisers for Gov. Joe Kernan and Lt. Gov. Kathy Davis, plans one soon for Indiana Democratic attorney general nominee Joe Hogsett, and

Remembering the 911 prophet ... Sen. Lugar

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

It's always interesting when old political rivals come together.

At item by Sylvia Smith in the *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* caught our attention this past week. Birch Bayh had not only donated \$1,000 to the campaign of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, but had actually hosted a fundraiser. The two were opponents in the 1974 U.S. Senate race, with Sen. Bayh defeating the Republican.

"He has been very courteous, and his staff has been very helpful on a variety of matters in the last several years," Bayh told the *Journal Gazette*.

The story went on to say how other prominent donors, such as Bren Simon (who, incidentally, along with husband Mel, joined the \$1 million platinum donors to the Democratic National Convention), have also donated to Lugar, who won't be on the ballot again until 2006.

Why does Lugar transcend mere politics and the divisions of political parties? Because he may go down in history as one of the greatest members of the U.S. Senate, and people across the spectrum in Indiana recognize that.

After the 9/11 Commission released its report last week, there was Lugar quick to remind the world community that his Nunn-Lugar Act has been responsible for the destruction of more than 6,000 old Soviet nuclear warheads.

"The 9/11 Commission report provides a useful historical record," Lugar explained. "More importantly, the President, the Congress, and all U.S. and international institutions engaged in the war on terror, must focus on the future. The Commission makes many recommendations -- including expansion of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program -- that will need to be considered, along with steps already taken since 9/11, and recommendations made by others."

"Topping our priorities must be to make certain that all weapons and materials of mass destruction are identified, continuously guarded, and systematically destroyed, so to keep them out of the hands of terrorists," Lugar continued. "Expanding and globalizing the Nunn-Lugar program can help accomplish this."

The report, coming in the midst of the 2004 presidential campaign with the U.S. involved in a War on Terror, brought back memories of when Lugar ran for president in 1996, as Bayh had in 1972.

Remember 1996? That was the year folks wondered why anyone dare waste their time talking foreign affairs. Lugar's campaign began the same day of the Oklahoma City terror attack. Before he would quietly withdraw following an anemic showing in the New Hampshire primary, Lugar brought voters in the Granite State and in Iowa a frightening glimpse of the future. As Michael Crowley recounted in a 2002 *New Republic* article, in December 1995, Lugar ran a four-part ad campaign telling the story, docudrama-style, of terrorists who steal three Russian nuclear warheads and threaten to detonate them in the United States. In one spot, a little girl plaintively asks at bedtime, "Mommy, won't the bomb wake everybody up?" Others depicted panicky aides begging a befuddled president for guidance. And no, this was not directed by Michael Moore.

As Crowley recounted: And so the ads concluded with Lugar, looking solemn -- and, back then, vaguely ridiculous -- issuing his grave warning: "Nobody wants to talk about nuclear terrorism. But hiding from it won't make it go away."

The writer explained, "In those blissfully ignorant days, Lugar's doomsday ads felt like a desperate, even exploitative, ploy." Crowley apologized. "Dick Lugar, bless him, saw this coming a decade ago." ❖

COLUMNISTS ON INDIANA

Rich James, *Post-Tribune* - I've been thinking a lot about race lately and the role it plays on both the local and national political scenes. My frame of reference starts in 1995 in Gary and continues through today. That is the year the people of Gary first did what few thought was possible: elect the great white hope as mayor. I suspect it was a desperation vote as much as anything that resulted in the election of Scott King as mayor. After 20 years of Richard Hatcher at the helm and eight under Thomas Barnes' leadership, the city had hit an all-time low. Gary Democratic Chairman Rudy Clay said before the 1995 Democratic primary that he knew there was considerable support for King, because the people liked what he was saying and because he was white. "I think it is because a lot of people I have talked to are saying we (blacks) have had mayors over the last 28 years and they are not satisfied with what we have here and they are saying we want a 180-degree change," Clay said. Clay was right. King won easily and now is in his third term as mayor. State Rep. Vernon Smith took on King in 1999, promptly played the race card, and got a pathetic 29 percent of the vote. Four years later, Karen Freeman-Wilson played her own version of the race card and pulled a paltry 27 percent of the vote. In 1995, King offered the city what it hadn't had for years: hope. So what's the point, you ask? Although all of the above players are Democrats, the point is that if a candidate wants the black vote, he or she better have something to offer, other than skin color. I thought a lot about Gary as I watched "Fahrenheit 9/11." What I saw made me sad. Made me sick. There were several scenes shot in Flint, Mich., which happens to be producer Michael Moore's hometown. As the cameras panned the streets of Flint, showing the decay

brought on by unemployment, I flashed back to Gary. The movie won't turn any Republicans into Democrats, but it should energize the blacks in Flint. And Gary. If you don't have hope, you don't have much. ❖

Martin Schram, *Scripps Howard* - At times, in the past two decades, I wanted him to run for president or vice president. Always, I wanted him to be secretary of state. But now, most urgently, President Bush should want former Congressman Lee Hamilton, who just finished serving as vice chair of the Sept. 11 commission, to be America's newly created, Cabinet-level national intelligence director. In fact, the president should announce Hamilton's nomination -- right now! -- so the Indiana Democrat, who has long won plaudits for statesmanship and bipartisanship in a capital city that rarely experiences either, can begin directing the urgent restructuring of the intelligence agencies that collectively failed us prior to the terrorist attacks on the U.S. mainland. ❖

Sylvia Smith, *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* - But for Congress and bureaucracies intent on turf protection, this (9/11 Commission Report) is seismic. To make it happen, voters will have to ask their politicians if they support the proposal, and, more important, what they're doing about it. Don't get put off by excuses that change in institutions takes time. It took less than six weeks for Congress to pass and Bush to sign the Patriot Act, which strips Americans of long-held, but obviously not universally cherished, freedoms. But the prospect of relinquishing congressional power? Hah. "Taking power away from some people -- that's tough in this town," Kean said. ❖

TICKER TAPE

will help in any other way the party wants. "If I've appeared to drop out of the scene, it's only a product of a busy summer with my kids," Andrew said Wednesday in a teleconference from the Democratic National Convention in Boston. Andrew said he did not know much about the internal workings of the Kernan campaign, but said it appeared the governor was doing the right things in his run for a full term. "That is first and foremost to be a strong and successful governor, because he is running as an incumbent governor," Andrew said. He said many people he had talked to at the convention from other states were impressed with Kernan, and recognized the importance of the race in Indiana. "From a national perspective, (Kernan's run) couldn't be going any better," he said.

TITLE I SCHOOLS DO BETTER: The number of underperforming Indiana schools serving the state's poorest students dropped for a second consecutive year, but officials warn that tougher standards could push that number back up in the future. So-called Title I schools receive federal education grants based on the percentage of low-income children enrolled. The number of those schools cited for poor performance

TICKER

T A P E

statewide dropped from 97 to 77, state officials announced Thursday (Indianapolis Star). During the 2001-02 school year, 208 schools receiving the federal funds were cited for their poor performance.

FORT WAYNE SCHOOLS FLUNK NCLB: More schools in the Fort Wayne Community Schools district failed to make adequate yearly progress in the 2003-04 school year under the federal No Child Left Behind legislation than in the previous year, while schools in the East Allen County district saw some improvement (Fort Wayne Journal Gazette). Twenty-seven of the 50 schools in the FWCS district failed to meet adequate yearly progress requirements – eight more than last year. The district failed as a whole in the subset for black students English, economically disadvantaged English, limited English proficiency and economically disadvantaged math. Superintendent Wendy Robinson said FWCS has had a preliminary version of data the state released Thursday since early this year and has been working at problem areas ever since. School officials gave building administrators access to the data and they began formulating improvement plans for 20 days into the school year, 100 days into the school year, and the whole year, Robinson said. “We take this very seriously,” she

2004 Racing Form

Indiana 2004 Gubernatorial

Governor 2004: Republican: Mitch Daniels. **Democrat:** Gov. Joe Kernan.

Libertarian: Kenn Gividen. **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:** Soooooo ... was Gov. Kernan’s 2 percent property tax circuit-breaker proposal he made in Lake County ... political? Duh. Of course it was political. “That’s good for Indiana,” said House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer in Boston, noting that areas where homeowners

will be helped the most are in “pretty solid Democratic areas.” Kernan was heeding the pleas of taxpayers -- mostly Democrats -- in Lake (The circuit-breaker plan would be available statewide, but of the 35,108 homes that the

administration estimates would qualify for the refunds or credits, 31,243 are in Lake County), St. Joseph and Marion counties, where he will need his base to turn out in order to win. But once you get beyond the political implications, there are the ones of basic fairness. Like, is it fair to ask homeowners who were paying \$600 in property taxes one year to pay \$3,000 the next? Put yourself in those folks’ shoes. It wasn’t their fault their homes were under-assessed. I’ve yet to find a Hoosier taxpayer ... other than Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson ... who sought out the county or township assessor and pleaded with them to raise their property taxes. The Property Tax Replacement Board “rubber stamped” the Kernan proposal on Wednesday, as AP’s Mike Smith explained it. And since it is both public policy and “political,” the plan had plenty of critics. State Sen. Tom Weatherwax, R-Logansport and a member of the Property Tax Replacement Board, called it a “gimmick.” Said House Minority Leader Brian Bosma, “Our staff could find no statutory authority that would allow the governor to make advances from the Property Tax Replacement Credit Fund or create a new circuit breaker for homeowners.” Said ranking Ways & Means Republican Jeff Espich. “What we have is a desperate and politically motivated maneuver to help a select few homeowners in politically critical areas of the state. The governor has no legal authority to take this action and he is displaying a total lack of fiscal responsibility and fairness to taxpayers throughout the state.” Those not aligned with political parties, such as Matt Brooks, executive director of the Association of Indiana Counties, were unimpressed. “It’s not a big carrot,” said Brooks (*South Bend Tribune*). “I don’t think many counties will take advantage of it.” Kernan did use the opportunity when he met with Lake County officials prior to the Monday announcement to urge them to “address government spending” and look “at steps that could include consolidating services.” So while the Republicans were accusing the Kernan administration of playing favorites on the tax front, Daniels called for a tax amnesty program that exists in more than 40 other states. “While Gov. Kernan is focused on providing tax relief and assistance to Hoosiers and businesses that pay their taxes on time, it appears as if this is a proposal to provide incentives for the people who don’t pay them.” Kernan campaign spokeswoman Tina Noel said. Interesting assessment, given the context. The governor had no choice but to seek some kind of resolution to the crisis. While his campaign took issue with last week’s *Horse Race* about a report that angry people had approached him at a Fourth of July parade, he did have people beseech him last spring in Gary to do something. Had he not, there would have been a turnout problem on Election Day. And it was telling that Daniels’ criticism of the plan was somewhat muted. There was no press conference by the candidate. The Daniels campaign was also relatively quiet on the scandal front where former FSSA manager Matthew W. Raibley was indicted. While Democrats had charged that Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi was being “political” in his FSSA probe, the fact is had he wanted to be “political,” he could have dropped that indictment this coming fall, and didn’t wait. On the jobs front, Kernan announced 678 jobs at AutoLiv ASP, Inc., in Columbia City. “It is the men and women who work here who drove this decision more than anyone else,” Kernan said (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). WISH-TV reported that Daniels was sending out one dollar bills to potential donors.

HORSE RACE

The letter asks you to return the dollar with an additional contribution, preferably with what the letter calls 'an emergency contribution of at least \$2500.' Daniels' campaign manager Bill Oesterle said, "I think it is pretty widely recognized that direct mail tends to use a little more flowery language. The emergency is we're getting to the end of this and we can use whatever funds we get." Last week, we ran an item about a potential *Chicago Tribune* expose on Daniels concerning his marijuana arrest at Princeton. The Daniels campaign says the *Tribune* is not planning to run the story. WTHR-TV sent a crew to Princeton but has not run a story. Said Oesterle, "The reason is there's nothing there. This is a man who had the highest security clearance you can get." Daniels will appear with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman this morning in Indianapolis. **Status:** *Tossup.*

Indiana 2004 Congressional

Congressional District 8: **Republican:** U.S. Rep. John Hostettler. **Democrat:** Jon Jennings. **Green Party:** Clark Gabriel Field. **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. **Media Market:** Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis. Lafayette. **People:** Urban/rural 58/42%; median income \$36,732; poverty 10.7%; race white 93.7%, black 3.7%, Hispanic .9%; blue/white collar: 32/52%. **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hostettler 98,952 (51%), Hartke 88,763 (46%), **2004 Forecast:** Hostettler's judicial stripping bill passed the U.S. House last week, giving opponents against gay marriage a victory after taking a drubbing in the U.S. Senate. **Status:** *Tossup.*

Congressional District 9: **Republican:** Mike Sodrel. **Democrat:** U.S. Rep. Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville, Indianapolis, Louisville, Dayton, Cincinnati. **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+8. **2002 Results:** Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. **2004 Forecast:** Re-election campaign or not, Hill was not going to miss the Democratic National Convention. "I'm going because I enjoy the convention," Hill said in an interview last week (*Louisville Courier-Journal*). "It's a way to kick off the election season. And as an old-time athlete, a has-been, if you will, it's a pep rally to get ready for the race. That's what I enjoy about it." Hill's opponent, Sodrel said he's "leaning against" a trip to the Republican convention in New York City in August. "God gave us 168 hours each week. So you have to determine where those 168 hours are best spent," Sodrel said. "There are very few people at the national convention who can cast a ballot in this race in November." **Status:** *Leans Hill*

Indiana 2004 Legislative

House District 46: **Republican:** Jeff Lee. **Democrat:** Vern Tincher. **2002 Results:** LaPlante (R) 8,079, Tincher (D) 7,275. **2004 Forecast:** Lee called on Tincher to run a "clean campaign" and avoid push phone calls. "I am running an honest, issue-oriented campaign and it's sad to know my opponent is trying to use a tragic event in my past against me," Lee said. "In 1997 my wife and I lost a child due to an extended illness. This caused us some severe financial difficulties, due to having to pay for all of the medical and funeral expenses. As soon as we were able to, through years of discipline, we paid the money back. These phone calls, which are being made without any accountability or a legally required disclaimer, are simply a secretive attempt to use our family's tragedy and our past financial hardships against me and my campaign. I call upon Mr. Tincher and his supporters to immediately stop these calls, end the personal attacks, and join with me in a pledge to run an issue-oriented campaign free of personal attacks." **General Status:** *TOSSUP.*

- Brian A. Howey ❖

TICKER T A P E

said.

HOGSETT STUMPS IN CENTRAL INDIANA: "The Indiana Attorney General needs expanded powers to protect Hoosiers from identity theft," said Joe Hogsett, Democratic candidate for attorney general, challenging Republican Attorney General Steve Carter (Muncie Star Press). Hogsett, 47, was stumping in central Indiana Thursday, making stops in Lafayette, Kokomo, Muncie and New Castle. He recently announced a series of programs to combat crime including identify theft. He is a former secretary of state and chairman of the Indiana Democratic Party. Besides giving the attorney general the authority to sue identity thieves, Hogsett said criminal penalties should be increased, based on the amount of the theft. "If the attorney general has authority to sue a retailer who sells a consumer a bad refrigerator, the office should have the authority to sue identity thieves," Hogsett said. Carter did not think the attorney general should interfere with criminal prosecution of identity thieves. "It is preferable to get a criminal restitution," he said.

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