



# Lugar urges Bush to elevate Iraq dialogue

### Bayh regrets 2002 war vote; Sodrel eyes Iraqis troops

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

One week before Iraqis go to the polls to choose a permanent national assembly, the war reverberated through the Hoosier political spectrum, promising to paint the political landscape over the next 11 months that could determine which party controls Congress and the Indiana House.

U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh and former Congressman Baron Hill made statements saying they would not have voted for the 2002 war resolution given what they know now (see page 4).

"I did what I thought was right. Some of the facts I relied on were inaccurate," Bayh said at an Indianapolis press conference a week ago. "Of course I would do things differently knowing what I know today. Unfortunately, that's not how life works. The important thing is what we do going forward. There were no weapons of mass destruction; we didn't realize this undertaking would be carried out...as incompetently as it's been carried out. So knowing what we know today, of course we'd do things differently."

Bayh, a 2008 presidential prospect, added, "It's important to say that in a way that does not obscure that we do support freedom, we do support democracy, we don't support dictators, and we want to assure the troops who are representing us in Iraq that they have our unwavering support even though we realize ... that things haven't gone quite as we expected them to go."



President Bush appears to be following Sen. Lugar's advice in making a case for progress in Iraq. Bush is shown here addressing the Council on Foreign Relations on Wednesday. (White House Photo)



**"It is intolerable that a court in this free society would ask a person to censure the prayer they offer in the tradition of their faith."**

— House Speaker

Brian Bosma, following a federal court ruling on prayer in the Indiana House

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U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, who said on CNN's *Late Edition* last Sunday that a catastrophic Iraqi civil war was a possibility, adding, "I think there has been very substantial progress on security and, likewise, perhaps in the course of this program, can talk about the elements of the economy and the oil situation and how they're going to pay for all of it. But I think there is progress. The question is, obviously: Is it likely, at the end of the day, that Iraqis will want to be Iraqis, that there will be a nation state that can be formed?"

Two Hoosier Republican congressmen, Mike Pence and Mike Sodrel, who have spent two-day visits to Iraq since late summer, rose to support President Bush. "The President delivered a forceful and effective defense of the strategy and stakes facing our nation in Iraq," Pence said on his blog after President Bush spoke at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. "From inside the arena, it appeared that the President was both at ease and determined. He pounded the facts about our enemy, their aims and our progress in Iraq into the American debate."

President Bush "needs to be very clear to people that there is an exit strategy," Rep. Mike Sodrel said in an HPR interview. "The question is: Should we communicate the dates, the time and the numbers to the enemy?" While he was in Iraq on a visit with four other members of Congress, Sodrel met with the commander of allied troops, the Iraqi interior minister, the U.S. ambassador, Iraqi soldiers and U.S. troops. He saw a group of 15 Iraqi security forces conduct an exercise in which they cleared a building of enemy combatants. "The soldiers seemed to be of good morale," he said. "It's pretty obvious they had been well trained." Sodrel asserted that the U.S. is making progress in standing up an Iraqi military to defeat the insurgency. "The difference is a year ago, if there was any action, the U.S. troops would be the tip of the spear and the Iraqis were coming along to learn," he said. "This year, the Iraqis are typically on point. We're watching their backs."

As he travels around southeast Indiana this week, Sodrel said that most constituents don't have strong feelings about staying in Iraq or withdrawing. But they are searching for answers. "For the most part, they're asking questions," he said. "They want to know there is a plan. They want to know that progress is being made. They want to know that there is light at the end of the tunnel."

### ***Lugar's letters***

Lugar began writing letters to congressional colleagues and pointed Members and citizens to the Brookings Institute *Iraq Index*, a 48-page compendium of data published on Nov. 28 and updated several times since. Lugar explained that he was striving "to elevate our debate by studying thoughtful sources of information and embracing civility in our

discourse."

On Sunday, Lugar warned Bush that he needed to listen to congressional Republicans and Democrats. "If we have no success and we have civil war, the ratings will go down even further, if that's possible," Lugar told Wolf Blitzer. "This is a situation right now that is extremely crucial and the turnaround is not certain. This is why presidential leadership -- but I would add some congressional leadership -- and I would be so bold once again and suggest the President would be well-advised to gather around him, even at this late date, some Democrat and Republican senators and congressmen and reveal to them really what the strategy is, and take their criticism and constructive advice from them, and do so frequently."

Lugar added, "This is a situation in which the President's ratings are way down. They're not going to get better. And furthermore, it's going to get worse in terms of the partisan sniping." A *New York Times*/CBS Poll released Wednesday (Dec. 2-6, 1,155 adults, +/- 3%) had Bush's fav/unfave at 40/53 percent.

While Congress has been embroiled in the fallout of U.S. Rep. John Murtha's call for a troop pullout, and Democratic anti-war protesters are now tailing 2008 presidential hopeful U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton, there were signs of progress.

President Bush, speaking before the Council on Foreign Relations Wednesday, said, "We're pursuing a comprehensive strategy in Iraq. Last week, my administration released a document called the *National Strategy for Victory in Iraq*. Our goal is victory -- and victory will be achieved when the terrorists and Saddamists can no longer threaten Iraq's democracy, when the Iraqi security forces can provide for the safety of their own citizens, and when Iraq is not a safe haven for terrorists to plot new attacks against our nation."

Bush continued, "Our strategy to achieve that victory has three elements. On the political side, we're helping the Iraqis build inclusive democratic institutions that will protect the interests of all Iraqis. On the security side, coalition and Iraqi security forces are on the offense against the enemy. We're clearing out areas controlled by the terrorists and Saddam loyalists, leaving Iraqi forces to hold territory taken from the enemy, and following up with targeted reconstruction to help Iraqis rebuild their lives. On the economic side, we're helping the Iraqis rebuild their infrastructure, and reform their economy, and build the prosperity that will give all Iraqis a stake in a free and peaceful Iraq.

"In places like Mosul and Najaf, residents are seeing tangible progress in their lives. They're gaining a personal stake in a peaceful future, and their confidence in Iraq's democracy is growing."

Bush appeared to acknowledge mistakes in strategy.



"Over the course of this war, we have learned that winning the battle for Iraqi cities is only the first step. We also have to win the battle after the battle -- by helping Iraqis consolidate their gains and keep the terrorists from returning," the President said. "It used to be that after American troops cleared the terrorists out of a city and moved onto the next mission, there weren't enough forces, Iraqi forces, to hold the area. We found that after we left, the terrorists would re-enter the city, intimidate local leaders and police, and eventually retake control. This undermined the gains of our military, it thwarted our efforts to help Iraqis rebuild and led local residents to lose confidence in the process and in their leaders.

"So we adjusted our approach. As improvements in training produced more capable Iraqi security forces, those forces have been able to better hold onto the cities we cleared out together. With help from our military and civilian personnel, the Iraqi government can then work with local leaders and residents to begin reconstruction -- with Iraqis leading the building efforts, and our coalition in a supporting role."

### ***Iraq Index: a varied picture***

The Brookings Institute's *Iraq Index* on Nov. 28 noted that there have been up to 30,900 Iraqi civilians killed and 253 suicide bombings, resulting in 4,896 deaths and 9,951 wounded. There have been 636 U.S. troops killed by improvised explosive devices, 111 by car bombs, 99 by rockets and mortars, 693 by hostile fire and 393 by non-hostile causes. There have been 286 civilian contractor deaths, including 27 employees of Kellogg Root & Brown. There have been 250 foreign national kidnapping, resulting in 43 killed, 122 released and 79 unknown, including Jeffrey Ake from LaPorte, Ind.

The Iraq Index put the number of insurgents at between 15,000 and 20,000 in November. They have made 281 attacks on oil and gas pipelines, installations and personnel. Pre-war crude oil production was estimated to be 2.5 million barrels, and it stood at 1.93 million barrels in November, well below the stated February 2005 goal of 2.8 to 3 million barrels. Total oil revenue was \$43.4 billion, well below the \$200 billion that it has cost the United States to wage war and occupy Iraq.

The pre-war amount of electricity generated was 3,958 megawatts a month, compared to 3,742 in November. The goal was 6,000 megawatts by July 1, 2004. Iraq's unemployment rate was estimated to be between 27 and 40 percent.

The size of the Iraqi security forces in May 2003 was estimated at 7,000 to 9,000, compared to 112,200 in November, well below the stated goal of 142,190

There were 147,076 internet subscribers in March,

compared to 4,500 pre-war. Telephone subscribers pre-war were estimated at 833,000, compared to 4.5 million in August.

There were no pre-war commercial TV and radio stations or newspapers. In October there were 44 TV stations, 72 radio stations and more than 100 newspapers and magazines. Primary school enrollment has increased from 3.6 million in 2000 to 4.3 million in 2004. An International Republican Institute Poll (Oct. 9-11) revealed that 47 percent of Iraqis felt the country was headed in the right direction, compared to 37 percent who think it is going in the wrong direction. A previous poll take Sept. 6-12 had the right/wrong direction numbers at 43/42 percent. In January 2005, 8.46 million people voted, or 58 percent, which was more than the 2004 Indiana election turnout.

### ***Lugar committee releases report***

On Wednesday, Sen. Lugar began releasing Senate Foreign Relations Committee reports at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/congress/senate/senate11cp109.html>

"Staff found that U.S. and coalition reconstruction projects, investments and other program and policy reforms implemented since 2003 appear to be having a stabilizing effect on the economy," the report begins. "Iraqis enjoy their new civic and religious freedoms, but some are finding it hard to give up the financial benefits of a state-controlled system."

On Oil: "Because of steady attacks, money originally allocated for this sector is now limited to repairing existing infrastructure, helping to sustain operations and set the stage for revenue growth. Despite lagging production, the world market oil price increases have boosted revenues."

Although Lugar praised President Bush's speech Wednesday at the U.S. Naval Academy outlining his evolving Iraq strategy, Indiana's senior senator wants to hear more from the President. In a Capitol Hill news conference following Bush's address, Lugar explained, "From time to time, there has to be some discussion as to whether Iraqis want to be Iraqis. If the president were to attain substantial bipartisan support, that is likely to lead to more support in the country because there will be more advocates for the president," he said. But first, everyone must know more about what is happening in Iraq. "There is going to have to be a full court press of information available to elevate this debate," Lugar said.

### ***Epilogue***

Whatever happens in Iraq over the next 11 months, the ramifications are potentially profound in three Indiana congressional districts (2, 8 and 9) and should a political wave emerge nationally, it could create such a dynamic it could impact areas such as the Indiana House. ❖



## Hill: 'I was misled on Iraq'

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Former Democratic Rep. Baron Hill would not support the war in Iraq if he could cast his vote again. Before the vote, he was called to the Pentagon and shown classified information about the threat posed by Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's weapons capabilities. The session helped convince Hill to support authorizing the war.

But he says he now realizes the briefing was skewed. "If I had known then that the information they presented was not factual, I would have never voted for the (war) resolution," Hill said in an HPR interview. "I was misled, and intentionally misled."

Like many members of Congress--especially those in his Democratic Party--Hill faces an Iraq dilemma. The increasingly unpopular war may become a central issue in his rematch against incumbent GOP Rep. Mike Sodrel, who beat Hill by about 1400 votes to capture the 9th CD congressional seat in 2004.

But with Iraq headed toward parliamentary elections on Dec. 15--and with U.S. troops providing most of the firepower in the battle against an insurgency--determining where to go from here can present a complex challenge for candidates.

"I don't think we can cut and run," said Hill, who promises to unveil his plan for exiting Iraq "with dignity and success" later in the campaign.

Sodrel, who met with U.S. and Iraqi military and government officials on a trip to Iraq in late November, asserts that the United States does have an exit strategy. It centers on withdrawing U.S. troops as Iraqi security forces are trained. But he opposes setting a deadline.

"The question is should we communicate the dates, the time and the numbers to the enemy," Sodrel said in an HPR interview. "We're making progress."

### ***Hill Sets Fundraising Mark***

It's unclear how Iraq will play out in southeast Indiana, an area that leans conservative and came out heavily in support of Bush and then-GOP gubernatorial candidate Mitch Daniels in 2004--a wave that helped push Sodrel over the top.

In 2006, Hill and Sodrel will meet for the third time in one of about two dozen competitive congressional races nationwide. Hill won with 51 percent of the vote in 2002.

Hill, who officially announced his candidacy last month, could have \$600,000 on hand as of Dec. 31, if all the pledges he's received come in by then. As of the last Federal Election Commission filing, Hill had \$427,000 on hand, while Sodrel had \$500,000 in the bank.

"I've raised more money at this point on the calendar than any time when I was a member of Congress," Hill said. He also touts a volunteer network that numbers in the hundreds. "I get calls to my house all the time" from people who want to join his campaign, he said. "It makes you feel good. We've got them all in our database and will be calling them when the campaign really gets going."

Sodrel will have his own strong grass-roots network, according to a 9th CD GOP leader. The incumbent is making himself known throughout the sprawling district by opening offices in Jeffersonville, Seymour, Versailles, Jasper, Bloomington and Columbus. Hill had offices in Seymour and Jeffersonville. "He's really started to build a base," Glenn Murphy, Clark County

GOP Chairman, said of Sodrel. He also credits Sodrel with bringing home funding for the Ohio River bridges and other local projects--actions that enhance the power of incumbency.

### ***Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?***

The way Sodrel has lived, at least as it relates to amassing personal wealth, may become an issue in the campaign.

Sodrel built a Jeffersonville truck and busing company over the last several decades, becoming a millionaire in the process. Hill asserts that separates Sodrel from his constituents.

In previous elections, "Mike drove around in one of his semi trucks and acted like he was just like everyone else, but he's not," Hill said. "Most of the people in my district are not millionaires. I'll let them decide whether it's an issue. I'm just putting out information. It's something they ought to know."

Hill also said that much of the money Sodrel made was from contracts with the federal government to deliver mail.

Sodrel aide Cam Savage countered that Hill, a former financial adviser and state legislator and currently a lobbyist, has never been an entrepreneur or created jobs.

Sodrel himself is proud of his business success. "I've had grease under my finger nails," he said. "I know how to drive a truck. I work for a living. I don't apologize to anybody."

The millionaire issue will add fuel to what is likely to be a barn-burner race in 2006. ❖



Baron Hill



## Status quo pigeon roosting

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

The opponents of government reform in Indiana tend to use sledge hammers, then search for nuance in the shards.

Earlier this week, the Lake County Superior Court judges refused to join U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky's "Good Government" initiative, with Chief Superior Court Judge John R. Pera telling the *Times of Northwest Indiana*, "While all of us are concerned about good, efficient government, we are a separate branch that ought to pay attention to getting our own house in order."

On the same day, *Times* reporter Bill Dolan reported that the Indiana Supreme Court temporarily removed Civil Division Judge James Danikolas for violating the state's Code of Judicial Conduct by firing Kris Costa-Sakelaris as his family-court magistrate over a personal vendetta. While this was going on, Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter and Clerk Thomas Philpot signed on, joining Sheriff Rogelio "Roy" Dominguez and County Assessor Paul Karras.

Next could be Surveyor George Van Til, who ended up in a shouting match with Visclosky when he met with bitter Lake County officials. The *Post-Tribune* captured this snippet: "Boy, you really don't like anyone who works for me," Visclosky said. "Blame me, George, I'm the elected official."

"I never get a chance to talk to you anymore," Van Til said. "When was the last time you called?" Visclosky asked. "I'd say three times in the last half a year, and I never hear back," Van Til responded.

**Then there is the curious case** of Republican Indianapolis Councilor James Bradford, one of the consistent "no" votes against Mayor Bart Peterson's Indy Works package that strived for police and fire department mergers Peterson claimed would save millions of dollars.

Earlier this week, the Indianapolis Fire Department pulled the fire engine out of Station 32 in Broad Ripple and replaced it with an EMS unit. It was part of a reduction of 44 firefighters that Peterson says was forced by budget cuts that could have been remedied by the merger.

Bradford ended up in an argument outside the fire station, yelling, "If you don't have any firefighters and you don't have any firetrucks, can you call it a fire station? I don't buy that" (*Indianapolis Star*).

Mayor Peterson responded in the *Star*, saying "This is what happens when people won't vote for your plan to fund public safety but are quick to criticize the results."

Peterson ate a little pigeon himself, refusing to lay off

the 48 cops as he had promised if Indy Works and the mergers didn't take place. He, along with other key Indianapolis crime fighters (including Republican Prosecutor Carl Brizzi), decided to pay for the cops with future funding, which essentially pushes the problem further down the roost.

Swirling around this Circle City mix is the prospect of a revived police merger ordinance in the City-County Council. Republican Councilors Scott Keller and Lance Langsford are having second thoughts. According to the *Star*, Langsford is "seriously considering" supporting the merger. "I'm kind of an action guy, and nothing is getting done," he said. "Everyone is pointing fingers, and I'm just tired of it."

Said Keller, "The problem is the mayor didn't sell it properly. But it's not too late" (*Indianapolis Star*).

The Indianapolis reform week will end tonight when Wayne Township Trustee Dan Gammon is expected to win Murray Clark's Senate seat, snatching it away from African-American Councilor Isaac Randolph, who would have become the

only minority Republican in the legislature. While he had voted against the police merger, Randolph wouldn't have been a reliable guardian of the township system in the coming legislative wars.

**In Evansville, proponents of the unification** with Vanderburgh County are now resigned to the fact that it will be a two-ballot referendum process, as proposed by State Sen. Vaneta Becker. Evansville Councilman Joe Kiefer complained, "The reason for this two referendums thing is they're afraid that if there's a single referendum, it'll pass" (*Evansville Courier & Press*). Called the train that is passing through town, Kiefer sounded conciliatory later, saying, "I guess in (the legislators') minds, they really believe this is the right approach, and they might be right. Consolidation can still pass if it's structured right, even with two referendums."

In Allen County, the commissioners sent a letter to fellow commissioners in Hendricks, Monroe, Delaware, St. Joseph, Vanderburgh, Johnson, Hamilton, Elkhart, Tippecanoe and Marion counties asking them to form an urban alliance. "As we are all aware, there is quite a divergence between those who live in rural versus urban Indiana," the letter said (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). "For this reason, the agenda of those 11 counties representing the more urban and populated areas often becomes subordinate to the other 81 counties."

Whew, what a week!

Time to do some holiday cooking.

I'm making pigeon sausage! ❖





**David Rutter**, *Post-Tribune* - Rose Ann Antich-Carr always was my favorite Indiana state legislator. And now that she's given up the bright lights of Indy to be Merrillville's town clerk-treasurer, I shall miss her. The Legislature won't be nearly as fun and goofy without Sen. Moonbeam there. Resumes for our Legislature show a tame posse of real estate brokers, retirees, lawyers, high school guidance counselors and local Rep. Charlie Brown, who calls himself a 'consultant.' Not many nuclear physicists in that bunch. But even if our state legislators had ever been interesting people, no one could match Antich-Carr's vitae. She tuned up her legislative musculature during her career as a radio psychic. I can't tell you how radio mind-reading works. But then, I can't tell you how most things work. She always knew she'd be in politics. It came to her in a vision, we'd guess, and, if it didn't, how good a psychic could she have been? ❖



**Amos Brown**, *Indianapolis Recorder* - How much state business have African-American-owned companies received from the administration of Gov. Mitch Daniels? A few weeks ago, in a press release, the Indiana Democratic Party decried the huge amount of taxpayer dollars, nearly \$600 million, which has been awarded to non-Indiana firms. Democrats are upset because during the campaign, in slick TV ads and campaign rhetoric my man Mitch's minions blasted former Gov. Joe Kernan for doing business with out of state firms. "Buy Indiana," Daniels proclaimed during his RV campaign. Now, nearly a year later, an inordinately large sum of cash has been doled to non-Hoosier firms. During the campaign, Daniels emphasized that he'd make it easier for minority-owned businesses to do business with the state of Indiana. After taking office, Daniels did make it easier for minority firms to obtain state certification. The processing backlog for minority businesses to get state certification was reduced. The Daniels team emphasized that on RFP's or requests for proposals, prospective bidders would receive additional points towards their bids if they included women-owned and minority-owned business participation. So, when Democrats said some \$600 million had gone to out of state bidders, including the highly visible Hoosier Lottery advertising contract, I wondered if Black-owned businesses are getting their fair share of the dollars? My wondering became urgent when I heard that the troubled Family and Social Services Agency (FSSA) has a bid package on the street worth \$1 billion over 10 years. Since Gov. Daniels set a 5 percent minority-owned business participation goal for state vendors, this behemoth 10-year FSSA contract could mean some \$50 million to a minority-owned vendor. Unfortunately, the Daniels administration makes it difficult for the public to ascer-

tain how well those receiving state contracts are doing - including minority owned businesses. In an age when many government agencies are making records and documents easily accessible via the Internet, Daniels' Department of Administration and the Office of Minority Business Development is in the Dark Ages. So, I'm asking Gov. Daniels and his crew these simple questions: Since taking office, how much state business have Indiana owned and operated Black businesses obtained? Of the nearly \$600 million in contracts with out-of-state firms, how many of those firms partnered with Black-owned businesses? How much business did those Black-owned businesses receive? What are the minority business participation goals in the proposed FSSA mega-contract? Since I'm not sure the folks in the governor's office read the *Indianapolis Recorder*, I'll forward these questions to Daniels' crew to answer. I hope I'll get their answers in time for Christmas. But, I'm not holding my breath. ❖

**Gary Gerard**, *Warsaw Times-Union* - A ruling this week showed once again just how fully unenlightened and hopelessly out of step with modern culture I am. A federal judge issued a permanent injunction barring House Speaker Brian Bosma from permitting sectarian prayer in the House. The ruling came as the result of four people, including a Quaker lobbyist, who said they found the offering of Christian prayers offensive. Now see, that's the part I don't get. Do we have some inalienable right not to be offended in this country? Because if we do, where's my lawyer? I am gonna start suing everything and anything that's offensive to me. Apparently, however, you only have a right to be "not offended" if it has to do with religion. That, of course, sets religion aside as the only thing remaining that it's cool to discriminate against. What a twisted-up mess. ❖

**Lesley Stedman Weidenbener**, *Louisville Courier-Journal* - House Speaker Brian Bosma hasn't decided yet what to do about a federal court ruling that forbids official prayers that include Jesus Christ or refer to any other specific religion. Bosma, R-Indianapolis, could -- and almost certainly will -- appeal. He could seek an injunction that bars the ruling from being enforced until an appeal is completed. He could defy the order, which instructs him specifically to tell clergy or others what their prayers can't include. Bosma said he hasn't ruled out any possibility -- even defiance. And it's his decision, although he's consulting and may work with the Indiana attorney general on the case. Along the way, though, Bosma requested that the suit include his name and the judge granted the request. So now, the lawsuit is also about him. So as a lawyer, defying the ruling would be a risky choice. ❖



## Death, aliens, pensions & prayer

**TRENDLINE No. 1:** The deaths Democratic State Reps. James Bottorff and Tiny Adams create new challenges for the House Democratic caucus. Both seats are potentially competitive. Adams easily defeated Leon Dixon in 2004 by 12,000 votes. But in 2002, he defeated his Republican opponent 8,134 to 5,362 in a D-leaning district. Bottorff was unopposed in 2004, and in 2002 he defeated Republican Charles Singleton 9,385 to 5,388.

Bottorff is in an area that is trending Republican. In a presidential year, that seat might be more susceptible to a GOP pickup.



### Trendline No. 2:

Sarbanes-Oxley Act requires pension and health liability disclosure. Our sources tell us that it will require governmental entities to also reveal liabilities. Our Indiana Senate sources are saying the unfunded health insurance liability for the Indiana General Assembly is in the \$1 billion range. If that is what Auditor Connie Nass reports early next year, that's a potentially devastating blast to legislative incumbents. In 2004, State Sen. Brent Waltz used the pension/health care plan for legislators effectively in his upset of Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst.

### Trendline No. 3:

U.S. Rep. John Hostettler appears to be ready to use immigration as a 2006 issue, with the Republican leading efforts to close U.S. borders and return illegal immigrants. But Gov. Daniels is backing the guest worker concept, telling the *Post-Tribune*, "These people are here and are prepared to work hard. We have an obligation to educate kids who are here and encourage good citizenship," he said. "The problems are very real, but they're solvable."

### Trendline No. 4:

Just when the prospects of House Republicans were looking bleak in 2006, federal Judge David Hamilton's House prayer ruling, which "dismayed" House Speaker Brian Bosma, is the Indiana Civil Liberties Union's gift to the GOP. It will be used to stoke up the Christian conservative base in 2006 ... guaranteed.

## 2006 Congressional Races

### Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S. Rep.

Chris Chocola. Democrat: Ed Cohen, Joe Donnelly.

**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. **People:**

Urban/rural 73/27%; median income\$40,381; Poverty 9.5%; Race 84% white, 8% black; 5 Hispanic; Blue/white collar: 34/50%.

**2000 Presidential:** Bush 53%, Gore 44%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+5; **2002 Result:** Chocola 95,081

(50%), Long Thompson 86,253 (46%); **2004 Result:** Chocola 140,496 (54%) Donnelly (D) 115,513 (45%) **2006 Forecast:** A

Cooper Secrest poll (Nov. 28-29, 504 likely, +/-4.4) has

Chocola leading Donnelly 46-40 percent. The poll lists

President Bush's fav/unfav at 47-45 percent and Chocola's

fav/unfav at 49/37 percent. Cooper Secrest observed, "In

November 2004, Democrat Joe Donnelly's severely under-

funded challenge to Chris Chocola still limited the incumbent

to just 54% of the vote. A year later it is clear that the

momentum that Donnelly's '04 candidacy sparked has contin-

ued unabated and that Chocola is in serious trouble." **Status:**

*Leans Chocola*

### Congressional District 8: Republican: U.S. Rep.

John Hostettler. Democrat: Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad

Ellsworth. **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; pover-

ty 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**

**Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin

(Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** A new poll shows Ellsworth

leading Hostettler 44 percent to 41 percent in the 8th CD

(Mark Schoeff Jr., HPR). The survey of 401 people taken Nov.

28 and 29 also indicates that 31 percent want to see

Hostettler re-elected, while 28 percent believe the country is

on the right track and 60 percent say it's going in the wrong

direction. The pollster who conducted the survey asserts that

it highlights Hostettler's fundamental weaknesses. "There's

something going on that's beyond the environment -- it's him."

said Fred Yang of Garin-Hart-Yang, a Washington consulting

firm working for Ellsworth. Yang said that without "leaners"

Hostettler's support drops to 34 percent. Yang said that

Hostettler was not characterized in any way before respon-

dents were asked for whom they would vote in 2006. "There

was no information there, either positive or negative," said

Yang. "The only thing they knew about Hostettler at this point



is that he's a congressman." Those surveyed had voted for President Bush over Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry by 59-35. In the actual 2004 vote, Bush won the district 62-38. Hostettler trails Ellsworth, the Vanderburgh County Sheriff, in fundraising. Ellsworth has \$257,833 on hand, while Hostettler has \$27,576, according to campaign finance reports. Hostettler has depended on a cadre of grass-roots conservative supporters to pull out tight election victories. He's never prevailed with more than 53 percent of the vote since he won the seat in 1994. The most recent development in the district was the killer tornado that ripped through Evansville in early November, leaving 22 people dead. Thanks to his role as sheriff, Ellsworth became the public face of the recovery. Hostettler at first said he would not visit the damaged area because it would impede clean up efforts. But a couple days later, he did meet with storm victims. Yang said that the poll didn't test on the tornado, but it did outline what's on voters' minds. "The issues will be kind of what we're seeing nationally-- the economy, health care and the war," said Yang. The National Republican Congressional Committee dismissed the Yang poll. "It's a year out. Ellsworth hasn't been tested," said Ed Patru, an NRCC spokesman. "There haven't been any contrast messages run. That's what campaigns are about, exposing the contrasts. Every year, Hostettler manages to get the resources he needs to run a competitive race and come out on top." The Hostettler campaign office did not return two calls from HPR. **Status:** TOSS-UP

## 2006 State Races

**Senate District 4:** Republican: Open. Democrat: Karen Tallian. **2002 Results:** Antich-Carr 16,011, Stillman (R) 12,583. **2006 Forecast:** Tallian appears to be the only candidate to emerge at this point. **Primary Status:** LIKELY TALLIAN.

**Senate District 29:** Republican: Mike Delph, Wayne Township Trustee Dan Gammon. Democrat: Open. **2002 Results:** Clark 19,657, Fleming (L) 1,706. **2006 Forecast:** Marion County GOP Chairman Mike Murphy had endorsed Randolph, but by Tuesday night, he dropped out of the race in a deal that Marion County Republicans hope give the seat to Gammon. Randolph would then run in 2006 with Gammon stepping aside, according to *Indianapolis Star* columnist Matthew Tully. Tully described it this way: And after two weeks of flailing, Marion County Republican leaders believe they finally have the votes to control the outcome. It hasn't been easy. It hasn't been a good example of Politics 101. And

most important, it appears the Republican Party is passing up a quick and easy way to start diversifying. But the battle is almost over. If things turn out as Republican leaders predicted late Tuesday, Wayne Township Trustee Dan Gammon will be elected to the state Senate at a party caucus meeting Thursday night." Tully wrote, "Last month, Sen. J. Murray Clark resigned from a Senate seat covering northwest Marion County and a smaller chunk of southwest Hamilton County. With that, party leaders -- from Gov. Mitch Daniels to Marion County GOP Chairman Mike Murphy -- saw an opportunity to broaden the party in Indianapolis City-County Councilman Isaac Randolph, 41. He's an attractive candidate -- a firefighter who ran camps for disadvantaged kids and worked on then-Mayor Stephen Goldsmith's faith-based efforts. Oh, and he'd be the only black Republican in the legislature. But instead of embracing the idea of diversity, local Republicans began to fight. It wasn't pretty. Our take? With local government reform efforts surfacing next winter in the legislature, this is the perfect opportunity to elevate a township trustee into the Senate in order to fight for the status quo. **Caucus Status:** LEANS GAMMON

**Senate District 49:** Republican: Open. Democrat: Evansville Councilman Steve Melcher, Posey County Councilman Bob Deig, Posey County Councilman George Postlethweight. **2002 Results:** Lutz (D)21,891, Alvey (Socialist write-in) 590. **2006 Forecast:** State Sen. Larry Lutz, D-Evansville, announced Tuesday that he won't seek re-election in 2006 (*Evansville Courier & Press*). "A wise man once told me that there's three ways to leave the Legislature and two of them aren't very good," Lutz said Tuesday. "It's time to retire. It's time for a younger person to take over." The only contender so far who definitely says he wants to run in the 2006 election is Posey County Councilman Bob Deig (*Evansville Courier & Press*). Deig, 44, the facilities manager for the Evansville-Vanderburgh Public Libraries. He said he'll be making an official candidate announcement Thursday at a Christmas party thrown by the Posey County Women's Democrat club. "I'd like to take people's concerns and ideas to the Statehouse to help improve the quality of life here for residents," Deig said. The name of another Democrat, Evansville City Councilman Steven Melcher, is also making the rounds. Melcher, 56, is the former Vanderburgh County Democrat Party chairman and works for the Community Action Program of Evansville. When reached Tuesday, Melcher would only say: "People are talking to me about it." Senate District 49 covers all of Posey, a section of Gibson County and the northeast corner and southern section of Vanderburgh County, where most of the district's votes lie. And while a heavily Democrat district traditionally, one local Republican said he may throw his hat into the race. Posey County Councilman George Postlethweight, 58, said he's





considering a campaign and hopes to decide soon. **Primary Status:** TOSSUP.

**Senate District 22:** Republican: State Sen. Ron Alting. Democrat: David C. Vorbeck. **2002 Results:** Alting 15,902, Sanders (D) 8,087. **2006 Forecast:** A West Lafayette financial planner has set up an exploratory committee that could raise and spend money for a possible run for the Indiana Senate District 22 seat (Gerrety, *Lafayette Journal & Courier*). Democrat David C. Vorbeck, a managing director of Bison Financial Group, filed the paperwork last week with the Tippecanoe County Board of Election and Registration. Vorbeck, 41, said he has not yet committed to running for office. "I've told dozens of people this is truly an exploration," Vorbeck said. "I think the first question that needs to be answered is whether or not adding David Vorbeck's voice to the debate will do any good." Alting said he welcomes the possibility of a challenge. "I think the exploratory committee is a good idea," Alting said. The chairman of Vorbeck's exploratory committee is Richard Hines, executive vice president of Indiana Design Consortium. The treasurer is John W. "Jack" Hatcher, assistant professor of management at Purdue University and certified public accountant. Vorbeck chairs the board of directors of Family Services Inc., a private nonprofit organization that provides services to help make families self-sufficient. **Status:** LIKELY ALTING.

**House District 33:** Republican: Bill Davis. Democrat: State Rep. Ron Liggett. **2002 Results:** Liggett (D) 9,143, Thornburg (R) 6,895. **2004 Results:** Davis 13,330, Liggett 10,924. **2006 Forecast:** Ball State economists Pat Barkey, Gary Santoni and roundtable members Tuesday predicted economic growth for the state and the nation in 2006, based on momentum from 2005 (*Muncie Star Press*). Manufacturing output has rebounded nationwide in the past two years from post-recession lows posted during the first three years of the new century, according to Barkey, director of economic and policy studies at BSU's Miller College of Business. "Prospects look good, and the forecast for our business calls for another good year," said Ken Briner, senior vice president at Muncie Power Products. "That is wonderful news, and it shows that the state is headed in the right direction." State Rep. Bill Davis. "I am a little worried about the state's third-quarter tax revenues -- but we are catching up with the rest of the country and doing well compared to some neighboring states." **Status:** Tossup.

**House District 63:** Republican: Washington School Trustee Ron Arnold. Democrat: State Rep. Dave Crooks. **2004 Results:** Crooks (D) 12,246, McFeators (R) 11,687. **2006 Forecast:** Indiana Republicans are gunning for one of Gov. Mitch Daniels' most vociferous critics in a 50/50 district. Daviess County Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Ron Arnold said he is considering a bid for

the House District 63 seat in the 2006 election (*Evansville Courier & Press*). "From the economic development side, I like the changes that I have seen the state undertake in the last 11 months," Arnold said when explaining his interest. "I would hate to see things slide back to how they were previously." He ran the family's grocery and restaurant business until 1998 when he became the executive director of the Daviess County Chamber of Commerce. In 2002, he started at the economic development corporation. He's also serving his 14th year on the Washington Community Schools' board. Arnold said he hopes to decide by mid-January whether he'll run against Crooks. Arnold said several people "who I'm sure would like to stay unnamed" have asked him to consider a bid. His name emerged in part due to mystery phone calls going out in the area that mention Arnold in a series of polling questions. Arnold said he's heard about the polling but that it's not coming from him. "I certainly didn't have anything to do with it," he said. Indiana Democratic Party Executive Director Mike Edmondson said that as a general policy, party officials will not discuss internal polling. **Status:** Leans Crooks.

**House District 64:** Republican: State Rep. Troy Woodruff. Democrat: Greg Battles. **2002 Results:** Frenz 10,516, Davis (R) 8,774. **2004 Results:** Woodruff 12,698, Frenz 12,507. **2006 Forecast:** Woodruff defended his vote for Daylight Saving Time Tuesday (again), during a Town Meeting which included House Speaker Brian Bosma, to discuss the upcoming legislative session (*Vincennes Sun-Commercial*). "If we exerted the same energy and commitment into education, jobs, or taxes as the energy we've given to the time issue, imagine the condition our state would be in," Woodruff said. "I understand its importance to people, but it is not the most important issue. I made a decision that was not popular, but I didn't come into this thinking of it as a long-term career. I had a tough decision to make, one that should have been made years ago." Woodruff and Republicans want to shy away from the freshman legislator's 11th-hour decision last April when he cast the deciding vote for Daylight Saving Time. He had steadfastly told constituents he would not vote for it. Regardless of other legislative success, political analysts believe Woodruff may be vulnerable if he decides to run for re-election. He has yet to announce his decision. "Much attention has been given to the volatility of that vote by Troy Woodruff," Bosma said. "At first the issue wasn't partisan and then the Democrats refused to vote, probably to embarrass the governor, not for policy. I believe Troy sacrificed some support to put forward what was best for the state. He made the courageous decision and with the firestorm that followed, he may not have voted the same way, but he made the difficult decision." **Status:** LEANS D ❖



## Rep. Adams remembered as a giver in Muncie

MUNCIE - Democratic State

Rep. Tiny Adams, a retired firefighter, accomplished much before he died from a massive stroke Wednesday afternoon (Yencer, *Muncie Star*

*Press*). "You name it and Tiny did it," said Ron Murphy, a retired auto worker and labor liaison for the United Way of Delaware County. "Tiny was not a polished politician; he just loved people." Adams, 60, was rushed to Ball Memorial Hospital at 6:30 a.m. Wednesday after waking up in pain. He underwent surgery and was in recovery when he died at 4:47 p.m. Wednesday. "All day long, I knew I was going to get the call," said Delaware County Coroner James Clevenger, a Muncie fire battalion chief who worked with Adams and his son, fire Lt. Mark Adams. Adams had a light stroke last winter, but had been feeling well in recent weeks. "Frankly, he was feeling better," said Mark Adams. "This caught us out of the blue." Adams was at the Statehouse last month and had planned to attend today's House Ways and Means Committee meeting on House Bill 1001, which would remove county child welfare levies from local property tax rolls. Last week, he attended a small business council session with local lawmakers. Muncie Mayor Dan Canan stopped by the hospital Wednesday afternoon and talked to family members before Adams died. "He was someone that spanned all groups," said the mayor. "He treated everyone fairly and his word was his bond." House Minority Leader Pat Bauer, D-South Bend, called Adams a "great champion" of the people who helped those who were less fortunate and stood for the rights of working men



and women. Adams was past president of the Muncie Firefighters Local 1348 and the local AFL-CIO Council. "He loved working for the people of Muncie," said Bauer, who pointed to bills supported by Adams that helped the poor and improved benefits and working conditions of others. House Speaker Brian Bosma, R-Indianapolis, called Adams a "dedicated public servant who did not worry about political affiliation." "Tiny reached across the aisle more than once," said Bosma. "He was a constant presence among Democrats and Republicans alike."



Rep. Adams

## Gov. Daniels statement on Rep. Adams

INDIANAPOLIS - "Rep. Adams was a dedicated public servant both as a firefighter and a member of the Indiana Legislature," Gov. Mitch Daniels said today. "He gave back to his community, and the people of Muncie should be proud of his years of service. My thoughts and prayers are with his family."

## Toll Road lease stirs up worries

ANGOLA - It took a while to get there, but once local government officials and residents were able to ask Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Thomas Sharp their questions, the energy in the Potawatomi Inn meeting room really picked up (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*). About 40 people attended the meeting Wednesday afternoon to discuss Gov. Mitch Daniels' proposed changes to the Indiana Toll Road and the effect they could have on the area. The Steuben County commissioners organized the meeting after hearing Sharp speak last week at the

Indiana Association of County Commissioners' annual conference in Indianapolis. Sharp said Wednesday state officials will work with these areas to improve safety. He also wants to see the data on the number of trucks Angola sees passing through the public square each day. "It's not scientific, but I can tell you truck traffic has increased significantly in my front yard," Angola Mayor Dick Hickman said.

## Carpenters union official indicted

HOBART - The former secretary of the Northwest Indiana District Council of Carpenters was indicted by a federal grand jury Wednesday on charges of embezzling union funds (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Sally Collins, 51, of Hobart, was charged with stealing \$300,697 in union assets from March 1995 to July 2001. Her husband, Robert Collins, 54, is charged with aiding and abetting her. "These union members have worked hard for their money, and they are entitled to know that their money is safe," U.S. Attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen said.

## Kernan still eyes baseball team purchase

SOUTH BEND - Former Indiana Gov. and South Bend Mayor Joe Kernan indicated Wednesday that he is still interested in being an owner of the city's minor league baseball team (Wensits, *South Bend Tribune*). "I hope that this opens the door to discussion about the possibility of local ownership buying the Silver Hawks," Kernan said of a Midwest League decision earlier this week to reject the sale of the team to a group in Marion, Ill. "If it does," Kernan added, "I would be interested in exploring that (possibility) with a local ownership team."

