

Had enough? A wave develops

Poll shows Baron Hill up by 10 percent, \$3 gas, an immigration dilemma and war

By BRIAN A. HOWEY in Indianapolis

The head-to-head, unpushed and in the first question in the March 29 Garin-Hart-Yang poll showed former Democratic congressman Baron Hill leading U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel in the 9th CD, 48-38 percent.

“President Bush has become a polarizing figure and he is NOT the same political asset that he was in 2004 when he carried this district by 19 points,” the GHY summary explained. “The president’s current feelings thermometer score is 48 percent positive and 43 percent negative, which is a significant erosion from his October 2004 ratings of 58 percent positive and 37 percent negative.”

While the beginnings of the 1994 “tidal wave” were only just taking shape by this time a dozen years ago, there is a growing consensus that the makings of a bloodbath for Republicans, both nationally and here in the Hoosier state, are quickly forming.

Ironically, the Democratic sentiments were summed up by the 1994 architect, Newt Gingrich, who said Democrats could use two words to explain the national mood: “Had enough?”

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Immigrants from Mexico, South and Central America, Africa and Ireland gathered in numbers approaching 20,000 in Indianapolis on Monday. (HPR Photo by A. Walker Shaw)

The highway politics begins to boil



By BRIAN A. HOWEY

SOUTH BEND - A month after Major Moves scraped through the Indiana General Assembly, the political campaign lines began to form on Wednesday in what could be one of the most fascinating campaign sequences in modern Indiana history.

It played out on multiple fronts Wednesday. That morning, OMB Director Chuck Shallice signed the 75-year lease with Macquarie-Cintra, an Australian-Spanish consortium that is preparing to write Indiana a \$3.5 billion check by June 30. A couple of hours later, the Citizens Action Coalition filed suit in St. Joseph County



“These companies may begin to affect the ability of counties to accurately count ballots.”

— Secretary of State Todd Rokita, in the HPR Interview, page 5



Court, maintaining that it was a "sale," and thus the proceeds constitutionally should go to pay down the state's debt. A second federal suit, filed by Green Party secretary of state candidate Bill Stant of Brown County, was also filed.

That afternoon, INDOT Commissioner Tom Sharp, along with Dennis Faulkenberg of the U.S. 31 Coalition joined State Reps. Jackie Walorski, Timothy Neese, Steve Heim and Bill Friend in Lakeville to announce the fast-tracking of remaking U.S. 31 from South Bend to Plymouth into a freeway. Or as Gov. Mitch Daniels - whose Survey USA approval rating was 35/61 percent, put it, this part of the project, which is expected to lend political cover to the vulnerable Heim and Walorski, will occur at "warp speed." Groundbreaking is set for 2008, the year Daniels is expected to seek re-election and a year House Republicans could very well be trying to recapture the House, should it go Democratic this fall.

But it was State Rep. Ryan Dvorak, D-Granger, who left little doubt as to how huge the Major Moves issue will play in Northern Indiana. He sent out a flier that boldly proclaimed. "Ryan Dvorak voted NO to lease the Indiana Toll Road."

"Minutes before midnight on the last night of the 2006 legislative session the Governor's plan to lease the toll road passed the House of Representatives -- barely -- by a one-vote margin. I voted NO on the bill," Dvorak said in the flier. "It is very disappointing that this ill-advised plan squeaked through in spite of overwhelming public opposition."

Dvorak says he has "serious

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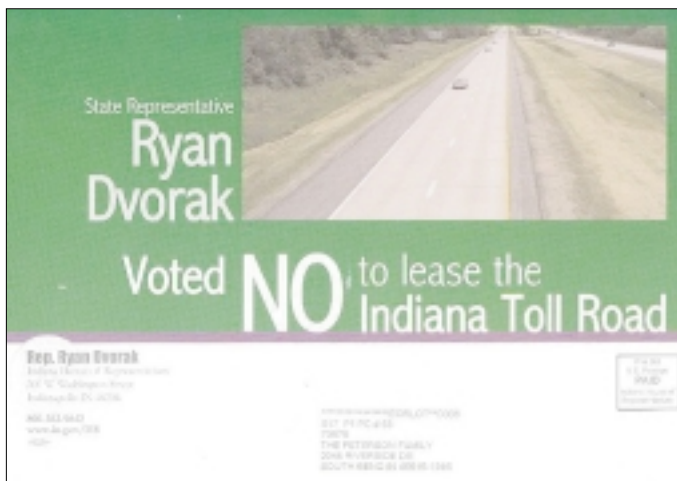
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concerns" that include 5 percent toll increases and the forcing of interstate traffic on local roads, the governor plans to spend "all of the money" in the next couple years" and that Indiana "loses control" over the highway.

St. Joseph County GOP Chairman Chris Faulkner called the Dvorak mailer a taxpayer' paid campaign

piece.

It's a fascinating piece because it does state "lease," which could find its way into federal and state court briefs in the lawsuit that maintains Major Moves was actually a "sale" of state asset.

"We think there's no reason or valid basis for a suit on this," Schalliol said (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). "We did a very careful analysis of the constitutionality of this before it was ever passed. We believe there is no realistic reason the courts would declare this unconstitutional."

CAC raised \$65,000 for its lawsuit from truckers, which took place within a 15-day window for legal challenges. Steve Bonney, who owns land in the path of the proposed I-69 route, said, "We are happy to stand up for Constitutional rights. We found that people up north are really upset about this." That, of course, will take place in the courts, and the court of public opinion. ❖



The *Rothenberg Political Report* said in its April 7 edition that Democrats "appear to be well-positioned to make major gains nationally, including possibly taking control of the (U.S.) House of Representatives."

The size and scope of this coming wave has, in HPR's estimate, the potential of swamping anything in its path -- the Republican Indiana House, Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi, even Secretary of State Todd Rokita, let alone Reps. Chris Choccola, John Hosettler and Sodrel.

Nuclear war, anyone? \$3 a gallon gas?

Over the weekend, Americans woke up to a new Seymour Hersh expose in the *New Yorker*, claiming that the Bush administration was contemplating tactical nuclear strikes against Iran's nuke program. Democrat analyst James Carville told CNN that the story was leaked by Pentagon officials concerned that President Bush might actually opt for that. Bush called it "wild speculation," but the fact is that after the WMD wolf cries in Iraq, many Hoosiers -- even among Republicans we know -- are skeptical of any claims this White House makes. They also see a military tapped out, with little military flexibility left to deal with Iran and North Korea.

By early in the week, gasoline prices spiked as the world markets fretted about the growing Iran crisis, potential terror hits in Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, what appears to be a growing quagmire (first time HPR has used that term) in Iraq and the dramatic decline of its oil production, and the prediction of another wild hurricane season in the Atlantic basin. *NBC News* reported that 23 percent of the Gulf of Mexico oil platforms are still shut down due to Katrina and Rita.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan called the *New Yorker* story "hyped up reporting based on anonymous former officials." But pressed on whether nuclear strikes are an option, McClellan would not confirm or deny, and he did say the Pentagon has engaged in "normal military contingency planning to deal with Iran," which the president four years ago famously charged as a part of an axis of evil, along with Iraq and North Korea.

CNN also reported, "Just as did he with Iraq, the President now insists war with Iran is the last option, and he's pushing a diplomatic solution." Fox News' Special Report (4/10, Goler) said "aides admit privately the Pentagon has drawn up tentative plans to attack Iran's nuclear sites, they

say only as a last resort."

The horror of war confronted Hoosiers in another way on Tuesday when Liliana Ake, wife of abducted LaPorte businessman Jeff Ake, made an appeal for his Iraqi kidnappers to release him after a year in captivity. "Please take the next step to release my husband and return his children's lives to normal," she appealed on CNN. "He was in Iraq making certain that the Iraqi people have fresh, good water to drink,"

Immigration protests come to Indiana

The other huge issue that reared up in Indiana this week was immigration reform. More than 25,000 people protested in Indianapolis and South Bend.



A Marion County deputy watches the peaceful 8mmigration rally in Indianapolis. (HPR Photo by A. Walker Shaw)

"This is a historical march in the history of Indianapolis," one of the organizers, Tedd Cain, said during a speech outside the City-County Building (*Indianapolis Star*). "Twenty thousand people are here. Why? We want justice. We are protesting a law that is very bad for the undocumented and the document-

ed."

But in a show of just how volatile this issue is, U.S. Rep. John Hostettler was quoted in the *Indianapolis Star* saying, "It was stunning to realize that so many lawbreakers concentrated in one area were given a free pass by federal law enforcement. The administration demonstrated once again that it would continue not to take seriously its constitutional obligation to 'take care that the laws be faithfully executed' when it comes to the enforcement of our immigration laws." That same day, U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist publicly panned the idea of arresting millions of illegal immigrants.

Thursday was "Minority Maker Day"

If the threat of a GOP bloodbath isn't compelling enough, the office of U.S. Rep. Mike Pence circulated today's *Wall Street Journal* editorial: "If Republicans lose control of Congress in November, they might want to look back at last Thursday as the day it was lost. That's when the big spenders among House Republicans blew up a deal between the leadership and rank-in-file to impose some modest spending discipline."

Epilogue

War, nuclear threats, high gas prices, fiscal extravagance: This is becoming a literal Republican Pandora's Box. ❖



Rokita expects 'fair and accurate' elections, but problems swirl

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - Normally the Indiana secretary of state is an invisible presence during election years, presiding over an orderly process. But in the next three weeks, Secretary of State Todd Rokita could find himself in the eye of a political hurricane. On Wednesday, the Republican seeking re-election, said that while he expects "fair and accurate" elections, the accumulation of problems by two vendors is casting doubt whether this will happen in some counties.

HPR conducted this phone interview with Rokita Wednesday afternoon, breaking the story on www.howeypolitics.com that he might level fines against Election Systems & Software and MicroVote.

Here is the full HPR interview:

HPR: Give me an overview of where you think you are as chief election officer.

Rokita: I'm very pleased with the progress in the State of Indiana. My first day in office, I wrote every county clerk personally and I said we had a huge mission ahead. Right around that time I heard about the Help America Vote Act which was just signed into law days earlier. From that date, Jan. 8, 2003, I started getting the buy-in of the counties knowing that even though I'm the chief election officer, it's having all the responsibility but none of the authority. There are 92 separate elected officials, and bipartisan boards of registration, and county commissioners who pick the polling places, who have to all

come on board with this idea of getting over half our voters at the time off punch cards and levers. It's instituting the most complex intergovernmental ID project that was ever attempted, the statewide voter file where 92 separate pieces of local government were through technology combined in their files. Then we add four state agencies to that file and the federal



agency and the Social Security Administration. So, it's huge. The logistics of a technology project like that, the buy-in of separately elected officials in the counties was a tremendous task. And physically, we are moving polling places to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act. They have to be ADA compliant. Out of 5,500 precincts, more than 70 percent were compliant. Seventy percent is not 100 percent. Some had to change, especially in our rural areas, where there may not be an ADA compliant building in the township. So what I'm seeing now, while I'm very proud of the progress we've made, and now with this primary election 2006, for the first time we're seeing all of this come together. Throw on top of all I just mentioned, throw in Photo ID. Because of that, but not like any election Indiana or the world has ever had, and not unlike any election in the history of the world has had, it won't be perfect. You know, humans involved in Indiana alone there

are 5,500 precincts that at any time at any election have over 30,000 people. That's a tremendous army to get to stop on a dime, or to perfectly change, by biblical definition, because humans are involved, it's not going to be perfect. But what I believe is it will be fair and accurate, that we control and eliminate the possibility for the mistakes we can humanly do. Those are the mistakes of the God-given. So control the mistakes and issues that we can, and to the extent they occur, that they happen to everybody. They just don't happen to African-Americans. They don't happen to

women. I think that's the definition of a fair election when humans are involved. Because of Indiana law, we have some good backups in place. It will be a fair and accurate election.

HPR: Following the statewide voter test (in about 60 counties), the statistics of compliance your office put out led us to believe you were satisfied with the results.

Rokita: We undertook a test at a great degree of political risk. But I believe it was the right thing to do. I'm very appreciative of the 60 to 80 counties that participated over the four-day period. No other state had that comprehensive of a test, maybe because they are worried about the political tests. I can't say. It's my assumption.

HPR: So no other state has gone through what Indiana did?

Rokita: Well, no, not really. Some states haven't even gotten a file up and running. Twenty states failed to even get to the starting gate. That's amazing. We all built one and at the time the deadline came, Dec. 31, 2005, 20 states had either fired their vendor, started over and publicly admitted

"Because humans are involved, it's not going to be perfect. But I believe it will be fair and accurate."



they wouldn't be done this year. Indiana was one. We were alive in 92 counties by the deadline. Because of that, we had this time before the primaries to have people actually use the system they were trained on earlier in 2005. There's a difference between training in a lab and banging out a computer keyboard registering a voter. No other state has had a mock election.

HPR: What did you learn from that mock election?

Rokita: We got great feedback from election officials. We got great feedback from Allen County that was very beneficial. Laura Herzog of Hendricks County, who is president of the Voter Registration Association, was unbelievable, just thanking us profusely. These are people who I have been on a steering committee that helped drive this project. They do have ownership interest in it. But these have also been some of our harshest critics. The difference from some of our other critics is that they were fairly genuine in putting together the best system possible. We're putting politics aside. I can work like that. What the vendor learned from this is that some of the changes that had to be made. In addition to user acceptance testing, this allowed us to go back and tweak the system even further to come out with more changes, which, ironically, Channel 8 had some problems with as well.

HPR: WISH-TV portrayed this as kind of a sweetheart deal between you and Quest Information Systems of Indianapolis. WISH said that Quest had never built a voter registration system before, but it beat out six other competitors for a contract worth more than \$10 million to a campaign contributor and a firm that had no election background in the past.

Rokita: Thank you for the question. They are one of several, many, numerous campaign contributors that I believe I am blessed to have; people, individuals, companies and other entities that believe in my service as secretary of state. I don't deny that. I'm proud of it. But to say that this Indiana company, and remember we selected that at a time, and we're still



Secretary of State Rokita (right) with Democrat opponent John Fernandez in 2002. Rokita doesn't have an announced Democratic opponent yet, but speculation centers around former secretary of state Joe Hogsett and Indianapolis Deputy Mayor Steve Campbell as Democrats are watching how the May primary election is conducted, with a challenger emerging by the party's June 3 convention (HPR Photo)

in that time where it was Buy Indiana. There were very strict executive orders in place, laws, if not policies, that were being badgered back and forth between the candidates, and the two major party candidates agreed. Buy Indiana. And that was the atmosphere we picked them in. I'm proud to have done that. But they have been in the election process for a long time. They are the builders of our campaign finance system. They have done what we call the duplicate elimination project, the manual take of what is now the statewide voter file. They would go around to the counties so we had a statewide voter file. So we could compare the lists and weed out duplications that way. They had the most experience of anyone who applied. And they were the cheapest. And they were an Indiana company.

HPR: Let's fast-forward to late last week when you put the statement out saying the counties were responsible for the conduct of their vendors.

Particularly Marion County, which is most conspicuous in dealing with

“They are one of several, many, numerous campaign contributors that I believe I am blessed to have. I'm proud of that.”

the Elections System firm from Nebraska. When was the decision made to go to 92 county systems, as opposed to a statewide system?

Rokita: That has always been the case under Indiana law. And then when the HAVA came in and mandated a change in voting equipment to replace punchcard and lever machines, I put the tripartisan vote Indiana team together. That was in the spring of 2003. We had no less than 42 meetings and subcommittee meetings. One of our subcommittee meetings focused solely on the equipment, how the money we would get from the HAVA would be equitably dispersed among the counties. In that discussion, and I'm looking at minutes of that discussion on my desk right now -- this issue still bothers me a little bit -- I had offered in a genuine form to buy voting equipment for the state because I thought we could get a huge volume discount and we would definitely make sure the quality controls were in place. That caused voting equipment manufacturers to blast fax out to the counties asking them to check different items and to tell the secretary of state that's not what we want. We got bombarded. We got 40 letters and faxes from clerks.

HPR: What was the time frame for this?

Rokita: I started getting them in May 2003. The culmination of the voting act was to produce a recommendation, a book, which we did, and then we took the recommendations



of that book and make them into Indiana law. Here's a good one from the clerk of Randolph County: "By selecting one vendor and system, the state is dictating to the counties who to use, thus severing on-going relationships with prior vendors who have served our needs and provided good service to us." That's the kind of letters I was receiving. So knowing that I wanted to build a good relationship with separately elected officials ... I said OK. You're separately elected officials. You are closer to the people than the Statehouse. If this is your wish, know the responsibilities you are taking on and we'll have the Election Commission still certify the equipment before it can be used.

HPR: Elections Systems from Nebraska ... as the state's leading election officer, in your view, what are these counties facing? Marion County Clerk Doris Ann Sadler appears to be in trouble again and you can see a back-and-forth coming here.

Rokita: The way I look at this issue, I differentiate customer service issues, contractual issues these counties have entered in to with the company. As the state, I have no right or really should be in the business of mediating those kinds of disputes. At the beginning, that's what we saw, a customer service issue. At worst, to make an analogy to vehicles, I saw someone driving 56 in a 55. It just didn't rise to a level where I was worried about the integrity of the electoral system. What I am seeing now, with the accumulation of all these separate little incidents, these companies may begin to affect the ability of counties to accurately count ballots. In that case, we are looking at the law right now, and I intend to hold hearings with regard to two voting system vendors, ES&S and MicroVote, regarding their actions or inactions. We'll find out whether their already disturbingly poor service at the county level is combining and escalating to what could be a significant violation of state election law. If I find that under Indiana Election law, I will be issuing a civil penalty. This is about money. A civil penalty that could be up to \$300,000 for each violation.

HPR: ES&S is in what? Forty counties?

Rokita: I don't have those numbers in front of me. You have to understand each company has different kinds of company systems. The one that affects Marion County, I believe, affects another 20 counties. They are in 40 other counties; they have different machines that haven't been a problem.

HPR: And MicroVote?

Rokita: MicroVote's equipment is being used in at least 40 different counties.

HPR: What do you do if there's a county that just throws its hands up in the air and punts? Ed Treacy's comments that Marion County might not be able to pull off an election earlier today were stunning. Could that be true?

Rokita: At this point, I do believe it is a terrible over-reaction. The fact of the matter is Indiana law has a lot of backups for a lot of different situations. It would be more inconvenient to count election ballots by hand ...

HPR: But they can do it?

Rokita: It can be done. The issue with the statewide voter file to the extent we have them will be poll book issues, getting folks to the right precinct and we have another great backup in Indiana if we have to use it: provisional ballots. Could that cause a lot of provisional ballots to be cast? If that were to be the case? Yes. Will people's vote accurately be counted? Yes. With the statewide voter file we are working to

"I differentiate customer service issues, contractual issues these counties have entered in to with the company. What I am seeing now, with the accumulation of all these separate little incidents, these companies may begin to affect the ability of counties to accurately count ballots."

make sure that doesn't have to be the case. We have backups. If a county can't deal with printing a poll book, we've made arrangements for having the vendor print them. Or they can get them on a CD. We've thought through these things as best as humanly possible.

HPR: What do we need to know about photo ID.

Rokita: Bring something that has your photo on it. The name does not have to be identical. The media is missing that. For a woman who may have just gotten married the name on her piece of identification does not have to be the same identical one in the poll book. The name just has to comport. We've been training poll workers not to be sticklers on this. There has to be an expiration date on the photo ID and it must be an Indiana or federal ID. It doesn't have to be a current ID, but it must be up through the last election.

HPR: Are you hearing many people showing up at the BMV looking for ID?

Rokita: What I am hearing is that there is still some confusion with BMV clerks as to if they're going to give this for free. We have been working hand-in-hand with the BMV that if they come with the requisite documents, they are supposed to get one for free. ❖



Will voters trust a Democrat with national security?

Indiana's Sen. Evan Bayh hopes to find out

By MARK CURRY

The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON - Increasing pessimism about the future of Iraq has led many Democrats to think what seemed unthinkable not so long ago: Republicans may be vulnerable on the issue of national security.

Democratic prospects for mid-term elections improve as President Bush's ratings continue to tank in poll after poll. For the first time, a Pew survey last month found fewer than half believe success is probable in Iraq, and last week, three different polls found better than 60 percent said they disapprove of the president's handling of the war. A recent *Fox News* survey which stated three of every four surveyed agree Iraq is better off without Saddam Hussein also found that more than half of respondents do not think U.S. efforts will produce "a free, stable government" and only one in three believe the U.S. will succeed in Iraq.

National security features prominently in Sen. Evan Bayh's message as he criss crosses the country to enlist support for a possible run at the White House in 2008. He says voters must be convinced Democrats will safeguard American interests if the party is to win back either branch of government.

"[T]his is the right issue for us to address because it's going to continue to be a threshold issue for the American people and particularly the Democratic party as we move forward," Sen. Bayh said during a press conference on the topic, conducted in Washington last week with Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.).

An 'in-your-face-taunt'

"Democrats smelling blood in November's elections had an in-your-face taunt for President Bush's political sage Karl Rove yesterday," was how the *New York Daily News* described Bayh's press conference under the heading "Dems spike security football in RNC's face."

While GOP leaders say they are unconcerned, *Fox News* reported Monday that voter worries about Iraq and the president's ability to conduct the war on terror could hurt party candidates at the polls.

"That's the great danger of the Republican candidates," Larry Sabato told *Fox*. "If the president's popularity is low come November, there will be a substantial turnover and the Republicans will lose seats."

For now it seems Bayh has convinced his party's leaders that Democrats can win the hearts and minds of a majority of Americans, though not everyone agrees on the substance of a plan to do so. At a media event in Washington

on March 29, Democrats Sen. Harry Reid, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, Gen. Wesley Clark, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright and others (Bayh was absent) convened to announce a "Real Security" proposal they described as "smart and tough," a phrase Indiana's senator first inserted into speeches months ago.

Republicans countered that the opposition's plan was heavy on sound bites and light on substance, reiterating a message disseminated in large and small media markets across the country.

As he did last Friday at the Michigan Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner in Detroit, Bayh is expected to continue to highlight security whenever he is among his party's faithful. Following an appearance Tuesday at Harvard Business School's Democrats Speakers series, he is slated to keynote the North Carolina J-J fete April 29.

What was right at the time

Sen. Bayh also must work to overcome opposition to his ideas inside the party. The same polls that boosted Democratic hopes also served to re-invigorate those who protested the Iraq war

from the beginning, and who are now pointing fingers at office-holders who supported the invasion. In a nearly 8,000-word interview recently conducted with the *Washington Post Insider*, Bayh was asked if he ever had any doubts about voting to invade Iraq.

"I did what I thought was right at the time based on the facts as I understood them at the time," Bayh said. "It turned out some of those facts weren't accurate, so of course you'd make different decisions."



Indiana's Sen. Evan Bayh says national security is "the right issue...to address because it's going to continue to be a threshold issue for the American people and particularly the Democratic party as we move forward." Bayh is seen here at a recent news conference on the topic conducted with New York Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer at his side. (Bayh Flickr Photo)



The Insider pressed for details about how Bayh might approach the Iraq problem.

"I do think you'll see fewer American forces in Iraq at the end of this year than we did in the beginning with the prospect of even fewer the year after that," he said. "I would envision our involvement being a lot less patrolling the streets, providing security out in the communities, more confined to the kind of things they can't do for themselves; air coverage support, logistical support, those kinds of things.

"That's what [I would] envision us transitioning to here, hopefully sooner rather than later. But it's...got to be driven by reality as we understand it, not by our hopes alone."

EDWARDS CAMPAIGNS IN IOWA: The Des Moines Register (4/10, Roos, 166K) reported that ex-North Carolina Sen. John Edwards (D), "finishing a three-day trip to Iowa, said today he's seriously considering another run for the presidency and won't let the potential entry of fellow Democrat Tom Vilsack into the race affect his decision about campaigning in Iowa. 'Obviously if the governor decides to run that will be a huge factor here in his own state,' Edwards said. 'I don't

think what other people do is going to influence what decision I make, and then if I decide to run, how,' he said." The Register added, "While he said he has no specific timetable for declaring his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008, 'this is a decision that will have to be made in the not-so-distant future.'"

CLINTON SEES TROUBLED ECONOMY: Sen. Hillary Clinton (D) claims she sees "troubling issues" on the horizon for the US economy. According to Bloomberg News (4/10), "In an interview previewing a major speech she will give tomorrow at the Chicago Economic Club, Clinton cited 'skyrocketing' health care costs, widening federal budget and trade deficits and the disappearance of middle-income jobs." Clinton said, "We have to get a position where we're in charge of our own economic destiny," adding, "The rich are getting richer, everybody else is marching in place, and I don't think that's good for us." Clinton "also expressed concerns about US manufacturing being able to compete in a 'race to the bottom' with other nations over cheap labor."



Reports from the Ground HPR Pre-Primary Election Briefing

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Joe Klein, TIME - On the evening of April 4, 1968, about an hour after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, Robert F. Kennedy responded with a powerfully simple speech, which he delivered spontaneously in a black neighborhood of Indianapolis. Nearly 40 years later, Kennedy's words stand as an example of the substance and music of politics in its grandest form and highest purpose—to heal, to educate, to lead. Sadly, his speech also marked the end of an era: the last moments before American public life was overwhelmed by marketing professionals, consultants and pollsters who, with the flaccid acquiescence of the politicians, have robbed public life of much of its romance and vigor. Kennedy, who was running for the Democratic presidential nomination, had a dangerous job that night. His audience was unaware of King's assassination. He had no police or Secret Service protection. His aides were worried that the crowd would explode as soon as it learned the news; there were already reports of riots in other cities. His speechwriters Adam Walinsky and Frank Mankiewicz had drafted remarks for the occasion, but Kennedy rejected them. He had scribbled a few notes of his own. "Ladies and gentlemen," he began, rather formally, respectfully. "I'm only going to talk to you just for a minute or so this evening because I have some very sad news ..." His voice caught, and he turned it into a slight cough, a throat clearing, "and that is that Martin Luther King was shot and was killed tonight in Memphis, Tennessee." There were screams, wailing—just the rawest, most visceral sounds of pain that human voices can summon. As the screams died, Kennedy resumed, slowly, pausing frequently, measuring his words: "Martin Luther King ... dedicated his life ... to love ... and to justice between fellow human beings, and he died in the cause of that effort." There was near total silence now. One senses, listening to the tape years later, the audience's trust in the man on the podium, a man who didn't merely feel the crowd's pain but shared it. And Kennedy reciprocated: he laid himself bare for them, speaking of the death of his brother—something he'd never done publicly and rarely privately—and then he said, "My favorite poem, my favorite poet was Aeschylus. He once wrote, 'Even in our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart,'" he paused, his voice quivering slightly as he caressed every word. The silence had deepened, somehow; the moment was stunning. "Until ... in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God." Listen to Kennedy's Indianapolis speech on Time.com and there is a quality of respect for the audience that simply is not present in modern American politics. It isn't merely that he quotes Aeschylus to the destitute and uneducated, although that is remarkable enough. Kennedy's respect for the crowd is not only innate and scrupulous, it is also structural, born of technological innocence: he doesn't know who they are—not scientifically, the way post-modern politicians do. Kennedy knows certain

things, to be sure: they are poor, they are black, they are aggrieved and quite possibly furious. But he doesn't know too much. He is therefore less constrained than subsequent generations of politicians, freer to share his extravagant humanity with them. ❖

Mike Smith, Associated Press - It was a halftime celebration, but boos rained down on Gov. Mitch Daniels when he took the court at Consecro Field House to help honor former Indiana Pacers star Reggie Miller. There was some applause for the governor, but it was largely drowned out by a volume of discontent. So much so, Miller -- who was having his jersey number retired -- told Daniels, "Tough crowd." He campaigned on big change, but (Major Moves) -- which he barely got through the General Assembly in March -- was not a part of his publicized game plan. His platform did include a desire for statewide observance of daylight-saving time, and he won that by a single vote in the 2005 legislative session. But his stance on time zones, from the campaign to the legislative session when he got DST passed, and still now, has been all over the map. Two days after the first legislative session ended, his administration announced that it would close several BMV license branches. It angered many lawmakers from both parties, local officials, and thousands of residents around the state. No matter, Daniels said. It needed to be done. Daniels has said that state government was broke and broken, and he would charge ahead with a bold agenda for rapid change without regard for public opinion polls. That is largely what he has done, but it seems clear that his major moves have cost him popularity points among lots of Hoosiers. "You know the risk of having a bold agenda is that you get to step on multiple toes," said Robert Dion, professor of American politics at the University of Evansville. "In his first period as governor, by moving swiftly, he has given people more than one reason to disapprove of his actions." Dion said the electorate nationally -- not just in Indiana -- is in a foul mood, and some of the booing Daniels got was part of that. ❖

Mark Kiesling, Times of Northwest Indiana - There are going to be some who will likewise judge Rudy Clay by his appearance. True, there are going to be days when the way Rudy dresses will lead people to believe he is Mayor Superfly. Although his attire was toned down to pinstripes for his appearance before the committeemen, I've often seen him wear stuff straight out of a 1970s blaxploitation film. He's also got some mighty flashy jewelry (as a middle-aged white man I do not say "bling") and once ran a jewelry place called Swingin' Ears. His muttonchop sideburns would make Pam Grier grab a razor. But appearances can be deceiving. He connects with voters and even if it's an act it's a good one. His trademark greeting is "how're you doing?" with the word "doing" heavily emphasized. ❖



Bush/Daniels negs at 60 percent

TRENDLINE NO. 1: Survey USA's gubernatorial tracking puts Gov. Mitch Daniels approve/disapprove at 35-61 percent. It was released on April 12.

TRENDLINE NO. 2: An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1,027 adults (+/-3%) taken April 6-9 shows: 38% said they "approve" of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president; 60% said "disapprove"; 1% had no opinion. 37% said they "approve" of the way Bush is handling "the situation in Iraq"; 62% said "disapprove"; 1% had no opinion. 50% said they "approve" of the way Bush is handling "the US campaign against terrorism"; 49% said "disapprove"; 1% had no opinion. 33% said they "approve" of the way Bush is handling "immigration issues"; 61% said "disapprove"; 5% had no opinion. 54% of all adults said they would vote for the Democratic candidate if the elections for Congress were held today; 40% said the Republican; 2% said neither; 3% had no opinion.

TRENDLINE NO. 3: A CBS News poll of 899 adults (+/- 3%), conducted over April 6-9, shows: 37% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President"; 56% disapprove; 7% don't know. 47% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling the war against terrorism"; 46% disapprove; 7% don't know. 26% "approve of the way George W. Bush is handling the issue of immigration"; 53% disapprove; 21% don't know. 27% "approve of the way Congress is handling its job"; 61% disapprove; 12% don't know. 44% would vote for the Democratic candidate in their district "if the 2006 election for US House of Representatives were being held today"; 34% would vote for the Republican candidate; 1% would vote for another party's candidate; 13% said it depends; 8% don't know.



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:** Donnelly and U.S. Rep. Rahm Emanuel blasted Chocola on Monday in South Bend (McFarley, *Elkhart Truth*). "We go and we pay \$3 a gallon for gas, and Exxon Mobil does \$11 billion in profit for the quarter. That's not America," Donnelly told reporters at a news conference at St. Joseph County Democratic Headquarters. Donnelly, standing beside Emanuel, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, criticized Chocola for supporting an energy bill the Democrats said cut energy companies' taxes by \$14.6 billion while doing little to relieve retail gasoline prices. Emanuel, an Illinois congressman who, like Chocola, was first elected to the House in 2002, painted the Republican incumbent as paying more attention to his golf game than to the needs of his district. Emanuel referred to a 2005 golfing magazine story that listed Chocola as the top player in Congress. "While he has agreed with (Bush) 100 percent of the time, he's also kept up a wonderful golf game," Emanuel zinged. "And while that has happened, Indiana has lost 12,000 manufacturing jobs." Chocola's office did not respond to an interview request Monday. Chris Faulkner, Republican Party chairman in St. Joseph County, said Emanuel was playing "dirty Chicago politics" that had no place in Indiana's Second Congressional District (*Elkhart Truth*). At a time when Republican leaders are under fire for ethical issues, Faulkner said, Emanuel himself has been at the center of campaign scandal in Illinois and Washington. Faulkner did not take it as a sign of trouble for Chocola that a top Democratic election official was on hand to speak for Donnelly and raise money for the candidate at a breakfast event earlier Monday. "The circumstances aren't as favorable for Republicans right now," Faulkner said, "but you have to look at the landscape and see if it's changed so dramatically in the past two years" that voters will support Donnelly over Chocola. **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; 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 Results:** Hostettler 145,576, Jennings (D) 121,522, Garvin (Green) 5,680. **2006 Forecast:** They're not scared of Brad Ellsworth or polls that point to a big year for Democrats - and they embrace President Bush even if some talking heads on cable television networks don't (Langhorne, *Evansville Courier & Press*). It was a feisty crowd that packed a large room at The Centre on Tuesday night for the Vanderburgh County Republican Party's annual Lincoln Dinner. Jim Rexing, a 54-year-old electrical contractor, scoffed at the notion that Democratic Sheriff Ellsworth's candidacy for Congress will sweep local Democrats into office with him. "Republicans know there's a threat there, but we're just as determined to get our vote out," Rexing said. He said the party needs to clutch Bush closer to its breast, not distance itself from him. "Bush is a man with a strong moral disposition," Rexing said. "Republicans should stand behind him 100 percent." Nicholas Rhew, president of University of Evansville College Republicans, also dismissed speculation that Democrats will roll in November. "The election is not until November, and that's an eternity in politics," the 20-year-old college sophomore said. Hostettler promised his fellow Republicans "fun" (*Evansville Courier & Press*). "The race in the Bloody 8th District is going to be another exciting race in 2006," Hostettler said. "I can guarantee it. I can also guarantee that we're going to have fun in this race ... Well, I can say this: That almost all of us will have fun." Hostettler night endorsed a House resolution commending Capitol Police after their handling of a physical altercation with Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., who is accused of striking a uniformed officer on March 29 after he tried to stop her from entering a House of Representatives office building without going through a security check point. "Oh, yes," Hostettler said when asked if he will support a pending House resolution commending Capitol Police. **Status: TOSS-UP**

Congressional District 6: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Pence, George Holland. Democrat: Barry Allen Welsh.

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.

People: urban/rural 59/40%; median income \$39,002; poverty 9.7%; race: 93% white, 3.8% black, 1.3% Hispanic; blue/white collar 35/49%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 58%, Gore 40%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+10; **2002 results:** Pence

118,436 (64%), Fox 63,871. **2002 Money:** Pence \$1.2m, Fox \$342,987. 2004 Results: Pence 182,529, Fox (D) 85,123, Roots (L) 4,397. **2006 Outlook:** The *Washington Times* reported on Monday that departing Rep. Tom DeLay says Pence is one of three colleagues who could some day assume his role as leader of conservatives in the House. Asked who might be the House's "next Tom DeLay," the former majority leader, once considered the most powerful Republican in Congress, named three Republicans: Rep. Adam H. Putnam of Florida, Rep. Mike Pence of Indiana and Rep. Patrick T. McHenry of North Carolina. When told of Mr. DeLay's remarks, Mr. Pence said simply, "I accept the compliment." When DeLay vacated his majority leader post last winter, Pence was mentioned as a possible successor until he withdrew, possibly because Republicans are facing a potential blood bath in the November 2006 elections. But after that, Pence is expected to emerge as a growing power center..

Status: LIKELY PENCE

2006 State Races

Senate District 41: Republican: Senate President Pro Tempore Robert D. Garton, Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. **2002 Results:** Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006 Forecast:** Indiana Chamber of Commerce announced that it is endorsing Garton (*Columbus Republic*). In a letter to businesses, Kevin Brinegar, president of the Indiana Chamber, said this is one of the top races in the May primaries, and he said it was imperative that a pro-business legislator be elected. "Sen. Robert Garton recognizes and understands the importance of economic growth and the need to energize our state's economy," Brinegar wrote. "As an advocate for a strong economy and a competitive business climate, we are confident in Sen. Robert Garton's ability to represent the local voice of business at the Statehouse." Garton said that he was pleased to have the Chamber's confidence. "It's always a compliment to be endorsed," he said. "We've got a variety of endorsements coming out." It's the second major endorsement to emerge. Indiana Right to Life Political Action Committee announced it was endorsing Walker. Right to Life said it was displeased with Garton's actions regarding pro-life legislation this year. Garton defended his pro-life record, and said a pro-life bill died because the Senate ran out of time. Walker declined to comment on the Chamber endorsement, other than to say that he has received an additional endorsement from American Family Association Political Action Committee.. **Primary Status: LIKELY GARTON. General Status: LEANS GARTON.** ❖



Lugar, Bayh to appear on ABC's This Week

U.S. Sen. Dick Lugar (R-IN) is scheduled to be on ABC *This Week* Sunday, April 16. He will be joined by Sen. Evan Bayh (D-IN).

Treacy blasts Brizzi over overturned conviction

INDIANAPOLIS - In a unanimous decision Wednesday, the Indiana Court of Appeals overturned the conviction social worker Denise Moore (HPR). On both his campaign and government websites, Brizzi lists the case as an example of his work as Prosecutor. And in a February 20, 2004 *Indianapolis Star* article, Brizzi hailed the initial conviction by his office, saying "sloppy work cannot, will not, be tolerated when it comes to protecting children." Said Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy, "If this happens in a case as high-profile as this one, what kinds of questions does it raise about the thousands of cases that we don't hear about?" The Brizzi campaign was unavailable for comment at HPR's deadline.



Democrats seek jobs number corrections

INDIANAPOLIS - Indiana Democrats today called on Gov. Mitch Daniels to publicly correct a reporting error by the Department of Workforce Development that led to the repeated dissemination of inaccurate jobs numbers by the administration. On March 17, DWD Commissioner Ron Stiver claimed in a news release that Indiana added 19,500 jobs between February 2005 and February 2006. However, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which recently revised

Indiana's data, DWD officials originally misreported and later corrected the state's estimate. Indiana actually added almost 7,000 fewer jobs over the past year than it originally had reported. An April 7 e-mail from a BLS economist to the Indiana Democratic Party explains that "Indiana changed their estimate because they discovered a reporting error." Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker pointed out that the Daniels administration claims economic development and job creation are among its top priorities. "There's no shame in admitting you made a mistake and apologizing to the public for it," Parker said. "But this is the most important issue on most Hoosiers' minds, and they deserve to know the true facts about job growth in Indiana."

Evansville-Vanderburgh unification route undecided

EVANSVILLE - City-county merger backers said Wednesday that they haven't decided whether to attempt to initiate the process through a petition drive or by asking the Evansville City Council and Vanderburgh County Commissioners to pass resolutions (*Evansville Courier & Press*). Those are the two choices merger advocates have under a law passed this year by the General Assembly. As for when a referendum could occur, 2007 is possible, but "2008 is more realistic," said Phil Fisher, coordinator of the previous unification study committee.

Ex-trustee gets five months

HAMMOND - Former North Township Trustee C. Gregory Cvitkovich will serve five months in prison and five months of home detention for his role in a complex scheme that funneled tens of thousands of dollars to an aide of former East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick (*Times of Northwest Indiana*).

Grant Council demands answers from assessor

MARION - The two positions left open after Assessor Jay Walters fired two longtime employees in recent days will stay vacant until he can explain his actions to his fellow elected officials. In a close and unexpected vote, the Grant County Council approved 4-3 a freeze on the positions once filled by Tami Martin and Becky Emmons, and in the same vote asked Walters to attend an executive session of the council to discuss the dismissals (*Marion Chronicle-Tribune*). Councilman Mike Row said, "I've been thinking about ways we can protect taxpayers against legal action against the county. I am of the opinion that we are in extreme liability for these two firings."

Anti-Buncich website springs into action

CROWN POINT - A newly minted Political Action Committee launched a negative advertisement campaign Wednesday against Lake County sheriff candidate John Buncich (*Times of Northwest Indiana*). Members of the Coalition against Corruption in Lake County filed papers Wednesday before the County Elections and Voter Registration Board to register as a non-partisan PAC and disclose its finances. The group was placing online, broadcast and print ads this week in The Times and another region newspaper asking voters to read its Web site, www.Buncichforsheriff.org, a mocking clone of Buncich's official Web site, www.Buncichforsheriff.com.

Messer to join IceMiller

INDIANAPOLIS - Out-going State Rep. Luke Messer will join the law firm of IceMiller, it was announced today. ❖