



GOP defiant (but worried)

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

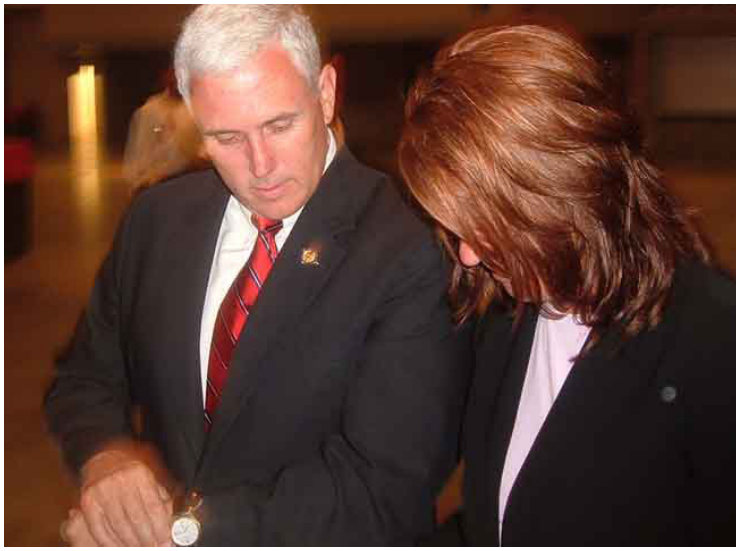
INDIANAPOLIS - The defining moments at the "Party of Progress" came late Tuesday morning. Word was filtering through the convention hall that the Indiana Supreme Court had ruled, 4-0, against the plaintiffs on the Major Moves lawsuit, which included Justices Ted Boehm and Frank Sullivan.

But speaker after speaker rose to the dais without a word. Didn't they know? It included Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, who offered a stout defense of Major Moves, but passed up the opportunity to break the news to delegates. Sources told HPR she didn't want to depart from her prepared text. It was a classic missed opportunity.

When Convention Chairman Ed Simcox finally broke the news, it brought a standing ovation, even from the toll road county delegations.

Hoosier Republicans appeared to show resolve during their two-day convention, with U.S. Rep. Mike Pence and treasurer candidate Richard Mourdock urging delegates to defend "Little Round Top" with a bayonet charge. "We hold the high ground, but beyond the slope, forces are gathering. They think they can come up AND take it away. There will be no surrender! This hilltop is ours."

Pence picked up on the Civil War theme, saying that with three Hoosier congressional seats in play, "We could be the place where the Republican Majority, minted



U.S. Rep. Mike Pence speaks with GOP Executive Director Jennifer Hallowell at the GOP convention Monday. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)

in 1994, could be lost. We may be Little Round Top. If we hold on to Congress, we may hold it here."

But as HPR filtered through the various delega-

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The party of no (ideas)

By **JENNIFER WAGNER**

INDIANAPOLIS - Riddle me this: There's a bunch of Republicans in the room, and they've all managed to find themselves in the same lonely corner. What do they do? Attack! The retooled yet eerily repetitive Republican mantra for 2006 seems to be that Democrats are the party of "no."



Personally, I've never had a problem with people who stand up and say "no" to short-sighted policies, lackluster leadership and for-profit government. But that's just me.



"I don't know that anyone could have slipped through."

- Child Services Commissioner James Payne, after it was revealed that a quarter of his former employees in Marion County had criminal records at the Juvenile Detention Center, to the Indianapolis Star



I'm not one to debate a plan of action if someone's trying to steal my purse, either: "No. Give that back. It belongs to me."

Hoosiers have a lot to say "no" to this year. They have a governor who's more interested in selling the state than running it. They have a President and members of Congress who've mired us in federal debt and a war we can't figure out how to end.

And they have problems of their own that aren't being addressed: a dearth of good jobs; the inability to get quality health insurance; an underfunded education system; and a property tax system that still needs to be revamped.

Democrats have ideas about how to fix these things, and they're willing to work across party lines to do what's best for the people of this state.

Meanwhile, the only arrow left in the GOP quiver has a bit of a dull tip.

So, for the sake of open debate, let me ask a question: Republicans, what exactly is it you stand for?

Are the most important issues affecting Hoosiers right now gay marriage, prayer at the Statehouse and reproductive rights? Where's your jobs plan? How about a plan to fund education and infrastructure that doesn't involve selling and privatizing everything? Maybe you'd like to propose sending our loyal soldiers to another area of the world without a clear strategy. Or you could just keep cutting funding for social services and higher education. That seems to be working out well.

See, Republicans don't want you talking about their policies. They know folks aren't fond of what they've been doing, and they can't afford to let the other side start a debate on the issues.

This past session, Republican lawmakers in the Indiana House refused to entertain proposals that, for example, would have created a health care pooling program for small busi-

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nesses and funded transportation projects without selling our public assets. I know you'll find it hard to believe, but they're the ones who said "no" to us.

Americans currently live in a country overseen by a man who doesn't just say "no" to compromise, ideas and external feedback, he claps his hands over his ears and screams, "Go away! I'm not listening!"

The GOP probably will beat the "no" drum right through the November elections. And it's worked for them in the past. But something tells me Hoosiers have grown wise to the fact that no matter how much Republicans bleat, the wolf they want you to see is really just a Golden Retriever that's long overdue for a bath.

There is a definite need for bipartisan cooperation and discussion in politics right now, and it's high time someone leads the way. Democrats

are ready to start the conversation, but for some reason, Republicans are nowhere to be found.

Chances are they're just huddled in that same corner trying to think up the next distraction.





tions, we found more vulnerability. Northeastern Indiana Republicans are concerned about Dr. Thomas Hayhurst's challenge to U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. State Rep. Tom Saunders and House Speaker Brian Bosma are now facing spirited challenges. SD41 nominee Greg Walker was on the floor Monday "mending fences."

There were dozens of conversations like this one: "How's it going?"

"Well, you know, we're hanging in there."

There was good news. Gov. Daniels, away in Japan, said of the Supreme Court decision: "This is a sound decision with historic positive consequences: tens of thousands of jobs, billions of dollars of new investment in Indiana, and a better Indiana Toll Road as well."

Karl Rove was orchestrating a defense of the war in Iraq, taking it to the "cut and run Democrats" even while poll after poll showed voters were seeking some type of endgame. Daylight-saving time was generally getting good reviews. Congressional Republicans received a 74-page Pentagon briefing arming the four vulnerable Hoosiers -- Reps. Mike Sodrel, John Hostettler, Chris Chocola and Souder -- with the notion that setting deadlines or losing Iraq would "send a message of weakness" at the very time Iran and North Korea are getting trigger happy with nukes. This morning Sen. Dick Lugar voted against the Levin amendment, Sen. Evan Bayh voted aye.

The convention seemed to lack energy without Gov. Daniels. He offered the most compelling words in a video message. He told the delegates that the progressive GOP faces a party "with no comparable vision at all." Daniels said Democrats are "struck mute by the question, 'What are your plans?'"

Daniels continued: "From the very outset they scoffed at our appeals for bipartisanship. "Their answer to every new idea has been the same: No; hell, no; and by the way you're a bad person for having suggested such a thing." He urged the GOP to stay positive heading into the fall. "One mean and negative party is one too many," Daniels said.

Republican Chairman Murray Clark told the crowd at the Indiana Convention Center, "Let me start by saying what a difference two years makes. It was a great victory, but Election Day 2004 was not the end, it was the beginning."

The resolve of the party on the issues didn't appear to be suffering. Many of the Republicans HPR talked with felt confident they had made the right decisions on issues like Major Moves. But there was a certain resignation that the politics, particularly on gas prices and the war, were about to spin events beyond their control.

House Speaker Brian Bosma recounted the story of the slain Union flag bearer at "the massacre at Fredricksburg" in yet another Civil War story.

"It is a battle for the future," Bosma said. "Lose the House? That's not going to happen." ❖

Bosma-Fuldauer race gains traction

House District 88: Republican: House Speaker Brian Bosma. Democrat: Susan Fuldauer. **2004**

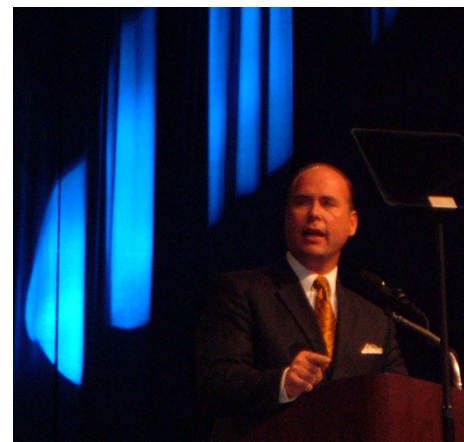
Results: Bosma 23,289, Gordon (L) 2,132. **2006**

Forecast: Fuldauer has polling that shows Bosma is potentially vulnerable on two issues: the \$4 to \$1 taxpayer financed legislator pension plan, and education. To date, most of the attention on legislative perks has centered on

the health care for life program that Bosma ended in the House last February. That issue was largely responsible for the defeats of Sens. Bob Garton and Larry Borst, and State Reps. Markt Lytle, John Frenz and Ron Liggett. Bosma has said he was unaware that the program was put in place in

2001 and 2002, a claim Democrats dispute. The pension perk has not been widely used against incumbents, but look for Fuldauer to use it against Bosma. The polling suggests that issue could pack the same kind of punch that the health care perk did. The other problem for Bosma is education.

Earlier this week,



House Speaker Brian Bosma cited "courage" at the GOP Convention. (HPR Photo)

the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation released a report that revealed a 73 percent Indiana graduation rate. That, along with a majority of Indiana schools flunking President Bush's No Child Left Behind program, could spell problems for the Speaker. Two speakers have been upset in modern history: J. Roberts Dailey, largely over the lottery issue, and Michael K. Phillips, who was washed out in the 1994 tidal wave. Given the anti-Republican, anti-incumbent dynamic shaping up, we will be keeping an eye on this one. In his Tuesday convention speech, Bosma heralded his caucus for their "courage" in passing the controversial Major Moves plan that could cost the party control of the lower chamber in November. **Status:** LEANS BOSMA. ❖



Hill opposes timeline for Iraq withdrawal

By **MARK SCHOEFF JR**

WASHINGTON--Former Democratic Rep. Baron Hill was expected to issue a statement today opposing a timeline for pulling U.S. troops out of Iraq, a position that puts him at odds with some members of his own party and aligns him with 9th CD incumbent Republican Rep. Mike Sodrel.

"He doesn't believe a politically set withdrawal date is good public policy," said Mike O'Connor, Hill's lead consultant. "We're committed to a path in Iraq that we have to pursue until it is resolved. There would be consequences that would come out of our withdrawal from Iraq right now that would be negative in his eyes."

Iraq is vexing Hill's party. Rep. John Murtha (D - Pa.) and Sen. John Kerry (D - Mass.) have both called for a timeline for withdrawal. The Senate this week is considering a Kerry resolution that is splitting the party in the chamber. Some Democrats fear that supporting a deadline would open them to Republican criticism that they want to "cut and run."

Last week, the House passed an Iraq resolution 256-153 that drew support from 42 Democrats. It portrayed Iraq as being the frontline in the "global war on terror" and declared that it is "not in the national security interest of the United States to set an arbitrary date for the withdrawal or redeployment of United States Armed Force from Iraq."

The heated debate became partisan, with the Republicans accusing Democrats of lacking a plan to combat terrorism. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi called it "another vacuous (Republican) resolution." O'Connor said that Hill likely would have supported the measure while having misgivings about the wording.

The debate has been difficult because of the complexity of the situation on the ground in Iraq and the mixed emotions expressed by voters. Hill, who has been grappling with the issue, was supposed to release his statement on

Wednesday. It was postponed until today.

Hill is separating himself from Sodrel by criticizing the way that the Bush administration handled the lead up to the war and its aftermath. He said that the Pentagon lied to him during briefings prior to the invasion of Iraq in 2003, when Hill held the seat that Sodrel won in November 2004.

Sodrel voted in favor of the House resolution but is not approaching Iraq as a partisan issue, a spokesman said. "He wasn't out to score political points on Iraq," said Cam Savage, Sodrel's chief of staff. "He sees this as liberty (for Iraq)."

Hill believes that a decision to pull out of Iraq should be based on sound military and political intelligence, according to O'Connor. Leaving before Iraq is stabilized would make it vulnerable to falling into anarchy and becoming an incubator for terrorist groups, as Afghanistan was in 2001.

Although the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq was killed in a U.S. airstrike two weeks, the insurgency continues, with daily bombings, kidnappings and killings. Two U.S. troops who were separated from their unit recently were confirmed dead on Wednesday, after having been tortured by their captors.

But the administration, and many members of Congress who travel to the region, also stress that the country is making political and security progress. Still, the consistent stream of bad news has hurt Republicans.

Democrats have been roiled, too. A significant part of its base is stridently opposed to the U.S. presence in Iraq. A Hill campaign event in Bloomington two weeks ago that was supposed to focus on Medicare was transformed into a forum about Iraq by the Bloomington Peace Action Coalition, according to a June 12 story in the Indiana Daily Student. The group is seeking a U.S. pullout from Iraq.

But that sentiment isn't reflected across the 9th CD, according to a Democratic official. "When you get away (from Bloomington), more people come down on the side that you can't just pull out, you can't just set a date," said Mike Jones, 9th CD Democratic chairman.

Bloomington is probably the most liberal part of the sprawling district. The vast rural areas and suburban Cincinnati and Louisville tend to be more conservative.

But the Democratic crosscurrents have put Hill



U.S. Rep. Baron Hill (right) chats with Michael O'Connor, one of his top political consultants, at the Indiana Democratic Convention earlier this month. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



adrift on Iraq, according to local Republicans. "What's Baron Hill's position today," said Glenn Murphy, Clark County GOP chairman. "He's taken several. Baron has a tendency to stick his finger in the wind and go with whatever the prevailing mood is. In that respect, he's not real different from John Kerry. And people in this district rejected John Kerry pretty heavily."

O'Connor disputed that Hill is tacking to the political winds. "If that were the case, the easiest thing for him to do is to say, 'I support withdrawal of our troops,'" he

said. "Sometimes the difficult answer to give to a political question like this is to say there isn't a simple answer."

Perhaps voters in the district aren't demanding an answer. "I really don't hear a lot about it," said Jones. "I hear more about gasoline prices and the economy."

When asked to define the top issue in the district, Murphy was quick to answer. "Immigration, immigration, immigration," he said. "People are angry about immigration and they have anxiety about gas prices." ❖

Debate over Iraq will shape Dem platform

By **MARK CURRY**

WASHINGTON - For months now, U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh has insisted that the Democratic Party must assert its national security credentials if it is ever to regain the Congress or White House. Today may be the day.

Today, the Senate was expected to vote on a pair of amendments sponsored by Democrats that call for the U.S. to begin a withdrawal from Iraq. Both are opposed by the controlling Republican Party and there is little chance either would pass. But the debate is certain to play a defining role in this year's midterm elections and possibly even impact the run-up to the 2008 presidential race (Bayh voted for the Levin amendment).

Republicans have remained largely unified and on-message. They say the opposition party is proposing that America "cut and run" from Iraq by imposing an "arbitrary" timeline for withdrawal. Democrats, on the other hand, are divided about when and how the war should end. As a result, they have as yet been unable to communicate a strategy that appeals to the wide range of voters who have indicated they are increasingly

pessimistic about the war.

Any common ground?

Yet it is possible that today's vote might eventually bring Democrats closer together as they openly air differences and seek common ground.

Senate Democrats by and large are critical of the prosecution of the war and both amendments propose U.S. operations be scaled back. But the party's leadership is opposed to an amendment offered by Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.) that calls for establishing a fixed date (July 2007) for troop departure. The leadership is supporting instead a less specific, non-binding resolution proposed by Sens.

Jack Reed (D-RI) and Carl M. Levin (D-Mich.). As noted in the Washington Post, their amendment calls for the president "to begin a 'phased redeployment' of U.S. troops by the end of this year. But it does not specify how quickly the drawdown should proceed or when it should be completed."

If any Democrat in the Senate knows what voters expect from their representatives in Washington concerning Iraq, it's Evan Bayh. In this year alone, he has frequented New

Hampshire and Iowa and has also met with fellow Democrats in Georgia, Michigan, Florida, California, Indiana and North Carolina. His vote will be closely watched by numerous interested parties.

Bayh has established his own credentials on Iraq over the past few years. He supported the 2003 invasion, a



"If you ask me why we lost the last presidential election, I'd say more than anything else, it was because of our perceived problems with national security, broadly defined, and the war on terror, more specifically," Sen Bayh said during a recent discussion about national security. (HPR Photo by Mark Curry)



vote that more recently has earned him the wrath of some in his party.

"I did what I thought was right at the time based on the facts as I understood them at the time," Bayh told the Washington Post Insider in February of this year (see HPR, April 13). "It turned out some of those facts weren't accurate, so of course you'd make different decisions."

Called for Rumsfeld to resign

About two years ago he made headlines by criticizing what he termed the administration's mishandling of the war and calling for the immediate resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. But it was at a speech this February, when he injected the phrase "tough and smart" into the debate, that the senator began to be widely recognized for his comments on national security (Schoeff, HPR Daily Wire, Feb. 3).

"George W. Bush's saying he wants the 2006 election to be about national security is like Herbert Hoover proudly claiming that the 1930 election should be a referendum on the economy," Bayh said in the widely reported speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"[T]here is absolutely no question the war has been prosecuted with stunning incompetence," he said. "We never had enough troops to secure that country. It's obvious they had no plan for winning the peace."

HPR's Schoeff wrote at the time that Bayh said a "tough and smart" approach to Iraq would "establish benchmarks for success, a timeline for progress, accountability for results and candor about how we are doing." It was on **ABC's This Week** that Bayh let it be known he had come to the conclusion that there was "no military answer" to Iraq (Howey, **HPR Daily Wire**, April 17).

Need for deadline

"There may be a political solution, so yes, I think we need to give [the Iraqi government] a hard deadline for making their political decisions," Bayh said. "If they don't do that, there's nothing we can do to help them. By focusing on the security solution, perhaps we can avoid the chaos of a civil war."

HPR Publisher Brian Howey noted that Bayh said a deadline for troop withdrawal "needs to be a private discussion" with Iraqi leaders, who should be told "If you don't make the hard political decisions, we are going to leave at a time and manner that is most convenient for us."

However he voted today, the senator will have plenty of opportunity in the months ahead to elaborate his position. His next scheduled appearance is June 30 at a fundraiser in Illinois' 10th Congressional District, and he most certainly will be visiting Iowa and New Hampshire again over the course of the summer. He will have to counter Republican claims that a withdrawal would amount to a

surrender in the war on terror. And, he will face complaints from within the party concerning his initial support of the war. But perhaps somewhere along the line today's debate will prompt Democrats to succeed in crafting a message on Iraq that is agreeable to many in its famously splintered base.

Why the party lost

About a month ago Bayh joined a widely publicized conference on national security sponsored by the Progressive Policy Institute.

"If you ask me why we lost the last presidential election, I'd say more than anything else, it was because of our perceived problems with national security, broadly defined, and the war on terror, more specifically," he said then. "And so that is a place that we need to get to. We can be both good on domestic policy but also strong and smart on national security policy. The two must go hand in hand."

"God forbid there might be something in this country that will remind the American people that it is a dangerous world. And we need parties and leaders who are prepared and capable of dealing with it, not a world as we wish it is - as we wish it was, even though we work toward that objective - but a world as it is that regrettably has evil people in it who wish us ill, and we have to be prepared... to deal with that."

To visit New Orleans tomorrow

Sen. Bayh is scheduled to leave tomorrow to visit New Orleans, where he will meet with local officials to discuss the federal government's emergency response to the Hurricane Katrina disaster and to hear comments about subsequent funding issues. The senator's office also indicated he will meet with owners of small businesses and others in keeping with Bayh's role on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. ♦

Revolution in the Senate



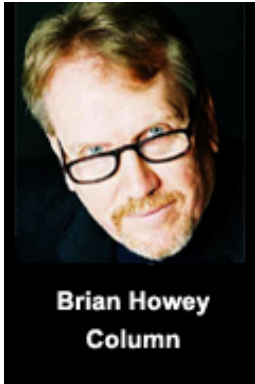
HPR's complete coverage of the Garton, Borst upsets
www.howeypolitics.com



Probing the Iraq Index

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - U.S. Rep. Mike Pence told Congress last week the U.S. is winning the war in Iraq. "The enemy has never taken down so much as a full platoon in any military engagement," Pence said.



Brian Howey
Column

I received this e-mail from Prof. Dan Jelski, who heads the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Chemistry Department, after he read my column last week: "Sorry, but I think you've got the Iraq thing all wrong. From your column you'd think absolutely nothing had changed in Iraq at all. But you're wrong, wrong, wrong." He sees a prospering Baghdad exploding with satellite dishes instead of bombs.

Jelski continued in another e-mail: "I don't think I'm too far off in suggesting that you are proud of the insurgency, or at least put great faith in their powers."

Which is an absurd statement. There is no pride in watching the insurgency thrive, or the anarchy. I would have preferred "pride" in astute American leadership instead of poor and dogmatic decisions that led to this mess. Perhaps Prof. Jelski could change my mind if he spent, say, a month in Iraq, outside the Green Zone, checking out the internet cafes and reporting back.

The Brookings Institute's Iraq Index Tracking Variables of Reconstruction and Security in Post-Saddam Iraq was updated on June 18. You can read it at www.brookings.edu:

Iraq oil production: Pre-war 2.5 million barrels daily; 2.18 million in June.

Electricity: 3,958 megawatts daily pre-war. In June it is 4,500 megawatts, well below the 6,000 stated goal set for July 1, 2004. The demand is 8,500 to 9,000 megawatts.

Unemployment: 28 to 40 percent.

Medical: Pre-war doctors 34,000. Since the war, 12,000 have left the country and 2,000 have been murdered.

Communication: 207,000 Iraqis subscribe to the Internet, 7.4 million to telephones. There are 54 commercial TV stations, 114 radio stations and 268 newspapers or

magazines (zero pre-war).

Education: 3.6 million children in school in 2000; 4.3 million in 2004.

U.S. military deaths: 2,502 as of June 18. Of those, 1,974 were to hostile conditions, 528 non-hostile.

Iraq civilian deaths: 38,500 to 42,900 since March 2003; 26,630 since major combat operations ended.

Journalists: 68 killed.

Iraqi kidnappings: 30 to 40 daily..

Multiple fatality bombings: 788 that have killed 6,789 and wounded 13,680.

Displaced families: 100,000.

Strength of insurgency: In December 2003 it was estimated to be 5,000. In September 2005, Brookings said "neither gaining strength nor weakening appreciably." Estimates were from 15,000 to 20,000 from June 2005 through March 2006. The current estimate is "20,000 plus."

Insurgency indicators: 26,496 attacks in 2004; 34,131 in 2005. Car bombings: 420 in 2004; 873 in 2005. Suicide car bombs: 133 in 2004; 411 in 2005. Roadside bombs: 5,607 in 2004; 10,953 in 2005. U.S. soldiers killed: 848 in 2004; 846 in 2005. U.S. soldiers wounded: 7,989 in 2004; 5,939 in 2005.

Jelski observed: "The problems with the Brookings data is that you'd have to believe that life under Saddam was better than life in Iraq today. There is NO evidence to support that contention at all." Fair point, to which I would counter and say that the demons have been traded.

As for other ways to gauge the war in Iraq, I turn to people who have been there, like Capt. Tim Jeffers, who served much of 2005 in the Green Zone.

Jeffers was struck by the endemic corruption of Iraqis. The military equipment he saw handed off to Iraqis was more often than not stolen. "We'd go back to see what had happened to it. Over there, so much of everything is based on greasing palms."

And Jeffers is struck by the lack of personal stock in the war on the homefront. "I'm amused by all the correlations to other wars ... the Civil War, World War II. But there is no sacrifice here," Jeffers said. "People put the yellow magnet on the back of their cars, but that's about it."

There is no draft. There is no war tax. No fuel or food rationing. No scrap drives. The beat of American life goes on.



Capt. Tim Jeffers in the Green Zone, 2005.



Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune

- Sen. Richard G. Lugar opposes setting hard deadlines in either Iraq or Iran because such inflexibility "really is not a foreign policy." Lugar, the Indiana Republican who is chairman of the Senate Foreign

Relations Committee, talked of problems in both Iraq and Iran during an interview in his Senate office. Policy toward those two nations cannot be set "in separate rooms," Lugar said, due to the overlapping of religious and ethnic concerns and



the way in which developments in one nation affect the other. In opposing the setting of a deadline for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, Lugar contended it would be irresponsible and dangerous for this country "just simply to abandon Iraq according to some timetable." Repeated speeches by some members of Congress for setting "a time certain" for withdrawal may play well politically, but the concept fails to take into account the uncertainty of what will happen in Iraq, Lugar said. He added that there is no guarantee that a deadline to achieve stability would help to bring about a stable situation. ❖

Leslie Stedman Weiden-

bener, Louisville Courier-Journal - Daniels seems especially high on the area. He talked about it a lot during his campaign and it doesn't seem to have just been rhetoric. After returning from Jeffersonville, he spent some time talking to the Central Indiana media about their neighbors to the south. After all, the event at Jeffboat represented the single biggest jobs announcement Daniels has made since he took office in January 2005. "And this is not the first" jobs announcement in the area, he told reporters. "These are the latest in a long string. People were joking I should take a room down there because we've had big announcements there." Particularly in Jeffersonville. Among them: 320 new jobs at Heartland Payment Systems, MedVenture Technology Corp.'s decision to move to and expand in Jeffersonville, an expansion by Steel Dynamics that will add 30 jobs and IDX Corp.'s construction of a new facility in Jeffersonville. ❖

Battle for the House

R33 D38

Likely Takeover (1)

Woodruff (Battles)

Tossups (8)

Buell (Barnes)
Borders (Bledsoe)
Heim (Dembowski)
Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)
Walorski (Kovach)
J. Smith (Herrell)
Bright (Cheatham)

Saunders (Sadler)

Leans (10-R; 10-D)

Bosma (Fuldauer)	Orentlicher (Densborn)
Lehe (Sutton)	Hoy (A. Smith)
Harris (Hile)	Fry (Hiler)
David (Liggett)	Micon (Basham)
Lutz (Mengelt)	Austin (Metzger)
Dodge (Rauen)	Tincher (Dallas)
Stutzman (Rorick)	Denbo (Patton)
Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning)	Crooks (Arnold)
Open (Messer: Eberhard vs. Lux)	Open (Stemler v Theobald)
Hinkle (Olds)	Bischoff (Ullrich)

Safe

(33 Republican) Ayres, Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Thomas, Foley, Frizzell, Behning, Murphy, Noe, Pond, Borrer, Bell, Espich, Ripley, Crouch, Duncan, Koch, Open (Yount: M. Smith), Burton, Cherry, Leonard, Ullmer, Neese

(38-Democrats) Lawson, Harris, C. Brown, Bauer, Niezgodski, Dvorak, Plath, Cheney, Stevenson, Open (Aguilera: Reardon), Dobis, V. Smith, Kuzman, Bardon, Klinker, Tyler, Reske, Kersey, Pflum, Welch, Pierce, Goodin, Robertson, Cochran, Oxley, Stilwell, OPen (B. GiaQuinta, P. GiaQuinta), Moses, Dickinson, Avery, VanHaften, Day, Summers., Crawford, Mahern, Porter

Movement: Two seats have moved since our last seat tracking on May 18. **Bosma vs. Fuldaur** goes from Safe to Leans R; **Saunders vs. Sadler** goes from Safe to Tossup. ❖



John Gregg for Governor?

TRENDLINE No. 1: We are now hearing that Sen. James Merritt Jr. is no longer planning to seek the pro tem job, but that Sen. Luke Kenley is considering.

TRENDLINE NO. 2: With Mayor Peterson likely to seek re-election in 2007 and not governor in 2008, where does that leave Democrats? State Sen. Vi Simpson for one. But State Rep. Eric Turner, who hiked in the Grand Canyon with former House Speaker John Gregg last month, thinks Democrats will try and woo him into the race. Gregg's health appears to be good after his recent cancer (he's lost more than 50 pounds), and he just went through a divorce. Gregg received some high visibility at the recent Democratic convention. The big question is whether his role in the legislator health care for life and 4-to-1 pension plan would be a potential millstone.



TRENDLINE NO. 3: Move over Joel Silverman and Heather Bolejack. Watch for administration department heads James Payne (Child Services) and Esther Schneider (Hoosier Lottery) to find themselves in the crosshairs. Judge Payne presided over the Marion County Juvenile Center, which was revealed to have a quarter of its employees with criminal records. Payne suggested that some of them "slipped through" the hiring process. It is widely known that for two decades, Juvenile was Payne's fiefdom where he practiced the art of micro-managing. Ouch. On Wednesday, a whistleblower document was circulation around the Statehouse and toward the Inspector General accusing Schneider of an array of ethical violations that included waiving RFPs, the acceptance of entertainment, and political activities on the job.

TRENDLINE NO. 4: U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky kicked off his re-election bid this past week. The room erupted in applause when Visclosky told supporters what he thinks will and must happen this election cycle. "We have got to make a change in Washington, D.C., and we have got to do it," he said. HPR rates his rematch against Republican Mark Leyva **SAFE VISCLOSKY**

Congressional Races

Congressional District 2: Republican: U.S.

Rep. Chris Chocola. Democrat: 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:** Chocola and Donnelly have agreed to meet Oct. 21 in a televised debate. Left-leaning interest groups are already bombarding voters in competitive House districts with round after round of "robocalls" that blast GOP incumbents on everything from lobbying legislation to the Medicare drug benefit. Indiana GOP Rep. Chris Chocola said his district received 48 rounds of calls (**Kansas City Star**). American Family Voices has run calls in 40 to 50 House districts since last fall. The group's president, Mike Lux, said robocalls cost about 4-6 cents each and are an effective way to reach voters before they are distracted by election-year messages. **Status:** TOSSUP

Congressional District 3: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. Democrat: Fort Wayne Councilman



Thomas Hayhurst. **Geography:** Fort Wayne, Goshen; Kosciusko, Whitley, LaGrange, Steuben, DeKalb and parts of Elkhart and Allen counties. **Media Market:** South Bend-Elkhart, Fort Wayne. **People:** Urban/rural 65/35%; median income \$44,013; Race: 87% white, 6% black, 4.5% Hispanic; Blue/

white collar: 36/52% **2000 Presidential:** Bush 66%, Gore 33%. **Cook Partisan Voting Index:** R+17. 2002 results: Souder 92,566 (63%), Rigdon 50,509 (34%).



2004 Results: Souder, Parra 2004 Results: Souder 171,389 (69%), Parra 76,232 (31%). **2006 Forecast:** Souder announced that the VA Hospital in Fort Wayne could be designated for a new mission in treating war wounded soldiers. President Bush risks losing congressional support for some aspects of his anti-drug program because the White House downplays the seriousness of the meth epidemic, Rep. Mark Souder, R-3rd, said Friday (Smith, **Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). He said members of Congress – Republicans and Democrats alike – are frustrated at the administration’s proposal to kill the program that underwrites local drug task forces and efforts to reduce money for areas that have special drug problems. All the newest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas are trying to cope with meth, Souder told members of the Bush administration at a hearing he conducted. Members of Congress are so dismayed by the White House’s lack of enthusiasm for fighting meth that no one was willing to go to bat for money for the anti-drug advertising campaign, he said. Last year, House members won an additional \$30 million for the program, provided the money was used for ads denouncing meth, Souder said, but that didn’t happen. So this year, when a House committee cut \$20 million from the administration’s \$120 million request for the ad campaign, “not a single member of Congress” was willing to plead the administration’s case, Souder said. “There has to be more responsiveness,” he said. **Status:** LEANS SOUDER

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:** National Republicans accused Ellsworth of endorsing a judge's decision not to incarcerate a work release participant who would go on to commit a triple-murder/suicide (Langhorne, **Evansville Courier & Press**). Ellsworth responded with a written statement saying Hostettler's "callous decision to politicize this tragedy shows he knows nothing about protecting this community and even less about what it means to be a leader." National Republican Congressional Committee spokesman Ed Patru said Hostettler "categorically" was not involved, even indirectly, in his decision to challenge

Ellsworth in the matter of Travis John Moore. Patru said he was inspired to raise the issue after a sheriff's deputy accidentally released accused child molester Matthew J. Long from jail last week while Ellsworth was in Washington, D.C., on campaign business. "Ellsworth may try to absolve himself of responsibility by hiding behind the judge, but in August 2005 - after (Moore's) triple-homicide/suicide - Ellsworth himself approved a report that said the judges who dealt with Moore made reasonable decisions in this case," Patru said. Ellsworth campaign manager Jay Howser said Ellsworth would respond personally to the charges as soon as Hostettler makes them himself instead of "hiding behind these suits, these hacks, in Washington." "That report did not endorse the judges' sentencing decisions," Howser said. "All it did was say the judges were Hostettler has more than \$45,000 in credit card debt. Congress members are only required to report their information in broad dollar bands, and he put on the annual financial forms that he has three cards with balances between \$15,001 and \$50,000 each. Last year, he had two cards with balances in that range. In 2005, he sold more than \$28,000 worth of stocks, and retained between \$7,001 and \$106,000 in stocks. **Status:** TOSS-UP

Congressional District 9: Republican: U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel. Democrat: Baron Hill. **Media Market:** Evansville (11%), Indianapolis (23%), Louisville (55%), Dayton, Cincinnati (10 percent). **People:** urban/rural 52/48%, median income \$39,011; race white 94%, 2.3% black, 1.5% Hispanic; blue/white collar: 34/50%; **2000 Presidential:** Bush 56%, Gore 42%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: R+8. **2004 Presidential:** Bush 59%, Kerry 40%. 2002 Results: Hill 96,654 (51%), Sodrel 87,169 (46%). **2002 Money:** Hill \$1.144m, Sodrel \$1.62m. 2004 Results: Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541. **2006 Forecast:** Sodrel's strategy is emerging. He will be portrayed as a steady hand willing to make tough decisions, said his chief of staff Cam Savage at the GOP convention. By contrast, Savage said, Hill has changed his position on the war, tax cuts and trade. "He came out against the capital gains tax cut," Savage said. "That's not like the old Baron Hill the stockbroker. "Mike knows who he is. He's established. He votes the way of the district. He knows what his values are." Former President Clinton will hold a fundraiser for Hill at the Conrad Hotel in Indianapolis on July 5. Sodrel, 60, who represents Southern Indiana east of Hostettler's district, is one of the wealthiest members of the Tri-State delegation because of the trucking and charter bus company he founded (**Evansville Courier & Press**). It's worth between \$5.3 million and \$25.5 million. His 401(k) balance at the end of 2005 was nearly \$704,000. He loaned his last two campaigns \$1.25 million. Former Rep. Baron Hill, 52, who is running against Sodrel for his old seat, made \$150,000 last year from mCapitol Management, a lobbying and consulting firm in



Washington, D.C. His wife, a teacher in Seymour, Ind., has saved \$50,000 to \$100,000 in her 401(k). He's built up more than \$15,000 in his 401(k) in his first year at mCapitol. They also have modest holdings of computer stocks. In a defeat for President Bush, Republican congressional leaders said Tuesday that broad immigration legislation is all but doomed for the year, a victim of election-year concerns in the House and conservatives' implacable opposition to citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants (Eps, **Associated Press**). Hill affirmed his opposition to any legislation which would grant illegal immigrants amnesty. Hill, running for Congress in Indiana's 9th District, stressed the need to secure our nation's borders and not reward illegal behavior with a pathway to citizenship (**HPR**). Hill added that the federal government must work to enforce current immigration laws and limit legal immigration across our nation's borders. Immigrants here illegally should face the same penalties as American citizens who break the law, he said. "The real issue here is that our government must do a much better job of securing our nation's borders," Hill said. "Our nation today is less secure than in the months leading up to the attacks of September 11. The White House has failed all Americans in its inability to improve homeland security and stop the flood of illegal immigrants through our borders." **Status:** TOSSUP.

State, Legislative Races

Secretary of State: Republican: Secretary of State Todd Rokita. Democrat: Joe Pearson. **2002 Results:** Rokita (R) 789,261, Fernandez (D) 627,416, Sink-Burris (L) 60,937. **2006 Forecast:** Rokita and the rest of the state ticket were nominated at the GOP convention. Vern Vireck from Lake County defended Rokita's decision to back Rick Niemyer in the recent county chair battle. Rokita had been criticized for coming to the county to "raid" money

for the state party. "He's from Lake County. His father is a doctor who can easily get 10 other doctors together. Why shouldn't he be able to raise money here," Vierck said.

Status: LEANS ROKITA

Senate District 41: Republican: Greg Walker. Democrat: Terry Coriden. **1998 Results:** Garton 26,499. 2002 Results: Garton 21,918, Gividen (L) 3,350. **2006**

Forecast: Walker was on the GOP convention floor "Mending fence." For what? HPR asked. "You won. You stuck to the issues." Walker acknowledged there were still hard feelings within the GOP establishment in his district, but that he is reaching out. "I'm enjoying a lot of fish," he said of the array of fish fries he's been attending. Walker emphasized "I'm not just about social issues. The property tax issue is crucial for Johnson County." **Status:** TOSSUP ❖

House District 54: Republican: State Tom Saunders. Democrat: David G. Sadler. **2004 Results:** Saunders 18,202, Durber (D) 7,318, Bod (L) 1,194, Cramer (I) 577. **2006 Forecast:** Word out of this district is that Saunders may be in trouble. It's been a bad year for the Saunders family, with the arrest and conviction of his son in a fatal hit-and-run accident. The "whisper campaign" in the district is that the family was treated differently by officials during the investigation. Saunders faces Sadler, a retiring city judge. **Status:** TOSSUP. ❖

Marion County Prosecutor: Republican: Prosecutor Carl Brizzi. Democrat: Melina Kennedy. 2006 Forecast: Brizzi campaign manager Jennifer Hollowell told HPR that Brizzi has no intention of challenging Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson in 2007. It was one of the earliest charges from Kennedy, who vowed to serve a full term. The issue is expected to surface, and Brizzi is expected to make a commitment to serve a full term. **STATUS:** TOSSUP



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Ethanol plant in development

MOUNT VERNON - Consolidated Grain and Barge has contacted the Ports of Indiana, requesting an option to lease 116 acres at the Mount Vernon port for an ethanol plant, according to Jody Peacock, spokesman for the ports (**Evansville Courier & Press**). Don Smolek, general manager of ethanol development at Consolidated's headquarters in Jeffersonville, Ind., confirmed Wednesday the request recently was made. He said he is in negotiations with several different companies about establishing an ethanol plant on the riverfront.

Middle class fleeing Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS - Middle-class neighborhoods, long regarded as incubators for the American dream, are losing ground in cities across the country, shrinking at more than twice the rate of the middle class itself (**Washington Post**). In their place, poor and rich neighborhoods are both on the rise, as cities and suburbs have become increasingly segregated by income, according to a Brookings Institution study released today. It found that as a share of all urban and suburban neighborhoods, middle-income neighborhoods in the nation's 100 largest metro areas have declined from 58 percent in 1970 to 41 percent in 2000. Middle-income neighborhoods – where families earn 80 to 120 percent of the local median income – have plunged by more than 20 percent as a share of all neighborhoods in Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles and Philadelphia. They are down 10 percent in the Washington area. It's happening, too, in Indianapolis, a prosperous, mostly white middle-



income city where unemployment is low and a vibrant downtown has been preserved. As poor and rich neighborhoods proliferate, the share of middle-income neighborhoods in greater Indianapolis has dropped by 21 percent since 1970. "No city in America has gotten more integrated by income in the last 30 years," said Alan Berube, an urban demographer at Brookings who worked on the report. "It means that if you are not living in one of the well-off areas, you are not going to have access to the same amenities – good schools and safe environment – that you could find 30 years ago," he said.

Recount begins in Harrison County

CORYDON - A three-member commission started work yesterday on a recount of votes in the May 2 Republican primary for Harrison County commissioner (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). Harold Klintstiver, who lost to one-term incumbent Jim Heitkemper by 175 votes in the 3rd District race, requested the manual recount because of concerns about problems with voting equipment. Klintstiver received 964 votes to Heitkemper's 1,139. The recount commission -- Jane Reiman, Virginia Davis and Terry Ginkins -- plans to manually count votes from 23 precincts in the race.

Visclosky blasts Bush over Chinese steel imports

WASHINGTON - Rep. Pete Visclosky attacked the Bush administration Wednesday for allowing Chinese steel imports to "significantly disrupt" the U.S. market, leading to the shuttering of plants and the loss of local jobs. The president's refusal to impose limits on Chinese steel is in direct opposition to repeated recommendations from the International Trade Commission, the Indiana Democrat said at a steelworkers' rally. "We have an administration that simply refuses to enforce the laws that are on the book,"

Visclosky told members of the United Steelworkers of America. "We can have dialogue until our gums are sore, and then we're all going to be out of a job." Visclosky's comments came as merger discussions between Mittal Steel and Arcelor were postponed until Sunday. Several analysts predicted the merger would have a limited effect on existing Mittal operations in Burns Harbor and East Chicago.

Daniels touts Indiana hardwoods in Japan

TOYKYO - Gov. Mitch Daniels used a stop in Tokyo today to boost a global branding campaign for Indiana's hardwoods and furniture industries (**Indianapolis Star**). "Premium Indiana Forest Products" is a recently launched campaign of the Indiana Hardwood Lumberman's Association. It features a logo -- an outline of the state covered in green leaves -- that identifies hardwood products from Indiana. (See it at www.ihla.org.) Daniels launched the Asian leg of the campaign at news conference in the Gallery Mori no Kotoba, a furniture market in Tokyo. "We are letting the Asian market know how they can identify our high-quality Indiana hardwoods products, leading to more export opportunities for Hoosier businesses," Daniels said in a written statement. In an interview earlier this week, Daniels pointed to Idaho Potatoes as an example of how he would like to develop a brand identity for many of Indiana's farm products. The Indiana State Department of Agriculture, following a study by the life sciences group BioCrossroads, identified hardwoods as a key agricultural economic development strategy. The industry employs 47,000 Hoosiers, earning combined wages of \$1.4 billion.