



The Pro Tem Deal: In 1980, a deal by Harrison & Garton shaped power for years

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - In the past 26 years, there have been more popes elected than Indiana Senate President Pro Tempores.

Most people remember 1980 as the second year of John Paul II's historic papacy, as the ignition of the Reagan Revolution and the ascendancy to the national stage of one J. Danforth Quayle after his upset of U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh. But in November of that year, a day after that stunning election, the die was cast that would establish the leadership structure in the Indiana Senate for a quarter of a century.

Senate Pro Tempore Martin "Chip" Edwards was under investigation for corruption and chose not to seek another term. It set up a three-way power struggle be-



tween Sens. Robert Garton, Larry Borst and Joe Harrison.

As any Statehouse creature knows, Garton, a 10-year-veteran at the time, won this battle; Borst would settle back into the Senate Finance Chair, with Harrison becoming Majority Floor Leader. Those three senators left an indelible mark on Indiana budgets, taxation, labor law and scores of other issues they controlled as they became the most powerful triumvirate in the state's 190-year history. It wasn't until Borst was defeated in the May 2004 primary that this legendary power arrangement began to loosen its grip, with Garton following in an equally stunning defeat last May due to a hubris that brought him to defend the legislator health care for life package.

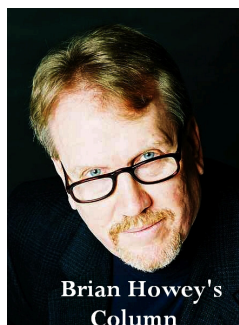
Only Sen. Harrison, now the floor leader emeritus after turning those powers over to Sen. David Long a



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Lessons from Rumsfeld's fog

INDIANAPOLIS - And so here we are at Labor Day 2006. The Iraq war hovers over the heads of U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola, Mike Sodrel and John Hostettler like an avil, even though none of them voted in October 2002 to au-



Brian Howey's Column

thorize the war. Hostettler was against and Chocola and Sodrel hadn't been elected. Sodrel's opponent, former congressman Baron Hill, did vote for the war in Iraq and he says he was misled -- no, lied to -- by the White House. As many of you know, I've been reading a great deal about the War in Iraq. I've cited two books: "Cobra II" and "Fiasco." And after reading those accounts of the ramp



"None of us wants to experience this or any of the nightmare scenarios that await us. It is time to summon the political will to overcome the energy stalemate."

- U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar



up to war, I have to acknowledge that I feel deceived, used and abused. I feel like I did in the summer of 1974. I grew up in the Republican town of Peru, Ind. It was a place that believed in President Nixon. I was young and naive back in those days. I couldn't imagine a president lying to us. Just before I left for college, I found out that he was lying. Nixon had been lying through his teeth. For years. Consistently. I never forgot the feeling.

Looking back on the ramp up to Iraq, there was Vice President Dick Cheney, standing on the stage in Nashville in August 2002 : "Simply stated, there is no doubt that Saddam Hussein now has weapons of mass destruction," Cheney said.

It was a lie. There were all sorts of doubts in intelligence and academic circles.

The intelligence was cherry picked. And these guys did the most unconscionable thing: they picked a fight in a land they didn't understand; they didn't go in with enough assets to win; and their actions and inactions have resulted in the deaths of 2,600 brave U.S. servicemen and women, 20,000 wounded. President Bush goaded the insurgency with "Bring 'em on" and had no clue as to how to fight such a war. It's been clear for some time that the Bush administration didn't understand Iraq. They and the Pentagon made decisions that fueled the insurgency to the point that Brookings Institute scholars Daniel L. Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack assert that Iraq is in a state of civil war that will spell chaos not only for Iraq but for the entire region, "where civil wars could follow one after another, like so many Cold War dominoes."

Or as Sen. Richard Lugar said on CNN's Late Edition last Sunday: "The idea, somehow, that civil war means that we leave is a non-starter, because Iraq's physical integrity is important. By that I mean, if Iraq deteriorates and Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds begin picking up partners in other countries, then we have a conflagration that dwarfs anything which

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is occurring presently in the deteriorating problems of Iraq."

The real sin is that President Bush has refused to replace those who instigated this failed policy as Eisenhower and Bradley did in World War II and Lincoln did in the Civil War, searching and eventually finding U.S. Grant.

The problem facing Reps. Chocoma, Sodrel and Hostettler is that Americans know a loser when they see one. They have failed to stand up and call for changes. Bush is more loyal to his failed secretaries than to our soldiers on the ground. There will likely be a political price to be paid.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Tuesday accused critics of the Bush administration's Iraq and counterterrorism policies of lacking the "courage" to fight terror.

Rumsfeld now accuses us of suffering from a "moral and intellectual confusion" about what threatens the nation's security. "I recount this

history because once again we face the same kind of challenges in efforts to confront the rising threat of a new type of fascism," he said. "But it is apparent that many have still not learned history's lessons." He placed blame on the American news media which tended to emphasize the negative rather than the positive.

That is outrageous. Mr. Secretary, there is no confusion on my part. We can't cut and run. But we should get the right people in to prosecute this war correctly. The history lesson Rumsfeld missed was from Col. Harry Summers in his book "**On Strategy: A Critical Analysis of the Vietnam War.**"

Summers recounted a conversation on April 25, 1975, with a North Vietnamese colonel.

"You know, you never defeated us on the battlefield," Summers said. The NVA officer pondered this briefly and replied, "That may be so, but it is also irrelevant." ❖



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couple years ago, would retire on his own terms.

"Bob Garton began campaigning for the Senate Pro Tem position soon after the May primary in 1980," Borst told HPR. "He had a sense that the position would be open. In deference to and being loyal to the incumbent pro tem, I decided that I would not make any announcement of candidacy until there was an opening. The incumbent did not announce that he would not be a candidate until after the November election."

State Sen. Johnny Nugent, the only Republican who stands a chance of voting in both the 1980 and 2006 Pro Tem elections (should he win in November), had been a Garton ally since 1968 when Garton unsuccessfully challenged U.S. Rep. Lee Hamilton. "I worked for his campaign in Dearborn County," Nugent said. "I had spent a lot of time with him. Bob Garton was the only person in the building that I was acquainted with."

Borst recalled that Sen. Harrison, first elected in 1966 and thus possessing seniority, was "adamant in his opposition to Bob Garton and did conduct an energetic campaign for Pro Tem." Sen. Nugent recalled Harrison flying to the local airport for a meeting. Garton paid a visit to Nugent's home.

"Garton made personal contacts with all of the incumbent senators and with those that had not previously served and were victorious in the primaries," Borst said.

The 1980 election was good for the Republicans and several of the underdog Senate Republican primary winners were successful in the fall. One incoming freshman, Senator Bill Dunbar, Terre Haute, labeled this group of newcomers as the "God Squad." The GS had been courted and counseled by Garton in a constant and personal manner throughout the summer and fall. It paid off for Garton. "This group of newly elected Republican senators whose spokesman was Sen. Jim Butcher remained a bloc and voted as such," Borst said.

As might be expected in the current Pro Tem race among Sens. David Long, Brent Steele and Tom Weatherwax, the activity, deal-cutting and arm twisting reached a crescendo in the final week of October 1980.

With Indiana Republican Chairman Gordon Durnil calling for the Senate Majority Caucus vote the day after the election, the senators convened in an atmosphere of high drama.

"Strangely," Borst recalled, "the ballots for Pro Tem were cast and then were opened one by one and names announced and tallied in front of all the senators. Of the first 20 opened, read, announced, and counted, all but two were for Bob Garton. One was for me. One for someone

that had voted for himself."

"Then Joe Harrison made a motion to dispense with opening the remaining ballots, since Bob Garton had received a clear majority," Borst explained.

Borst then had an epiphany. "It belatedly dawned on me that Harrison had made a deal with Garton," Borst said. "Harrison had earlier suggested a deal with me. As

events unfolded, his accommodation with Bob Garton turned out to be much better."

Borst wouldn't relent to the call to cease the counting. "I objected," he said. "I understood at that time



Senate Floor Leader Emeritus Joseph Harrison (left) with his successor David Long (center) and Gov. Mitch Daniels before the 2006 State of the State address. At right, the powerful Senate Finance Chairman Larry Borst. (HPR Photo)

that I had been overwhelmed by the Garton-Harrison alliance, but, in my objection, I said that 'I had been promised three votes' and wanted to continue the count to see if I had received those votes."

"I lost that argument also," said Borst, who as finance chairman was in a position of turning many of his Republican colleagues down on various fiscal matters.

"Bob Garton was an excellent Pro Tem," Borst said. "His calm personality and superior public speaking ability was good for the Senate. He was bound and determined to re-make the public image of the Indiana State Senate. He did so with class. Both morally and ethically, Bob set a fine example for all of his fellow legislators. He was able to hold his majority caucus together on many critical issues. In his own fashion, he worked well with the five governors that he served under. The Majority Caucus will one day come to recognize the understated influence that Bob Garton had on their proceedings."



Prelude to a deal

So, where does the current Pro Tempore race stand? Long appeared to have early momentum. Steele has the support of Sens. John Waterman, Mike Delph and Mike Young. Long is expected to have the support of Sens. Bray and Brandt Hershman. Weatherwax has been described as not the first choice for many, but the second choice for all.

The Old Guard -- Sens. Kenley, Meeks, Miller, Wyss and Nugent -- are uncommitted. They have much to lose. Pick the wrong horse and lose your chair. But wait too long and you miss cutting a deal with the frontrunner-turned-king.

Then there are the moderates: Sens. Alting, Landske, Paul, Mishler and Riegsecker. Pick up four out of that group, and you win.

The 2006 Pro Tempore appears to be coming down to Majority Leader Long, the conservative Steele, and Weatherwax, seen by many as a potential compromise candidate, appears to be the field in play. State Sen. James Merritt appears to have pulled out and Sen. Luke Kenley doesn't look as if he is going to contest the Majority Caucus.

Long already has some experience in the power play arena. As current Indiana Republican Chairman J. Murray Clark contemplated a challenge to Sen. Garton several years ago, it was Long who is said to have tipped off the powers-that-be about the insurrection. He is considered by many to be the frontrunner.

"I feel comfortable with all three," said Sen. Nugent, who is working on a bill with the Legislative Services Agency to formally end the legislator health care for life perk that helped defeat Garton and Borst and was defended by Sens. Long and Kenley. "I have been noncommittal. Certainly by October, a frontrunner will emerge."

Borst sees Long as the early favorite. "I also have the feeling that there may be at least one, and possibly two, unannounced candidates."

Borst said he originally thought the field would be more crowded. "In May, kidding I told several that there would be six candidates with 5 votes each or 5 candidates with 6 votes each in November. I now don't see this happening. Chances are, there will be one clear-cut candidate come election time."

Borst further explained,

"Any unannounced candidates have been mulling over in their minds what the impact of being Pro Tem would have on their private lives. The present Majority Caucus is fairly sophisticated and by and large has lots of seniority. One candidate was simply going to contact the committee chairs and guarantee them their chairmanships for their vote. I would not think this strategy to be the proper approach. The caucus is more interested in being able to debate and vote on all issues. They want to be represented by someone who will voice their views and concerns to the



State Sen. Tom Weatherwax: everyone's second choice. (HPR Photo by Thomas A. Howey)



Sen. Brent Steele

governor and to the speaker of the Indiana House. The caucus understands that Governor Daniels is the leader of the Republican Party and will want to support his programs as long as he is willing to listen to any of their suggested improvements. The caucus also understands that there are many "behind the scenes" conversations and wants a level-headed and pragmatic leader to take part in their behalf.

Female bloc may decide

Borst also explained, "The only bloc of like interest senators that I can see that will stay united and be influential in the outcome of this election are the six incumbent lady senators." That would be Sens. Patricia Miller, Teresa Lubbers, Vaneta Becker, Sue Landske, Connie Lawson and Beverly Gard.

He added, "So far as some theories of having a Pro Tem elected with minority votes, forget it. " That would be the "Indianapolis Plan" where Democrat Steve Talley seized the City-County Council presidency by cutting a deal with Republicans. HPR will write more on this topic later.

Borst, who is extremely well attuned to the pulse of the Majority Caucus, made this prediction: A final vote by the Majority Caucus in early November for the position of Pro Tem will be a unanimous vote. ❖



Energy blackmail that could leave the West behind

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The cornerstone of Indiana Democrats for retaking the Indiana House and three congressional seats centers on gasoline prices.

But **USA Today** reported on Wednesday that gasoline prices are falling fast and could keep dropping for months. "The only place they have to go is down," says Fred Rozell, gasoline analyst at the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS). "We'll be closer to \$2 than \$3 come Thanksgiving." Travel organization AAA foresees prices 10 cents a gallon lower by the end of next week. It reported a nationwide average of \$2.84 Tuesday, the lowest since April 20. Gas prices were down to \$2.49 in Indianapolis this morning; \$2.60 in Muncie.

So while the immediate political crisis surrounding gas prices may be ebbing, the long-range prospects have U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar worried.

"In the absence of decisive policy changes, historians will rightly ask how the wealthiest and most powerful nation on earth with abundant land, a magnificent industrial infrastructure and the world's best universities and research institutions simply would not reorient itself over the course of decades despite repeated warnings," Lugar said at the Purdue Summit on Energy Security on Tuesday.

"Our failure to act will be more unconscionable given that success would bring not only relief from the geopolitical threats of energy-rich regimes, but also restorative economic benefits to our farmers, rural areas, automobile manufacturers, high technology industries, and many others," Lugar said. "This leads one to the sobering conclusion that a disaster capable of sufficiently energizing public opinion and our political structures will have to be something worse than the collective maladies I just mentioned -- perhaps extreme enough to push the price of oil to triple digits and set in motion a worldwide economic downturn. None of us wants to experience this or any of the nightmare scenarios that await us. It is time to summon the political will to overcome the energy stalemate."

At the Indianapolis Downtown Kiwanis meeting on Wednesday, Lugar recounted "my summer vacation" in the 'Stans -- Khazakhstan along with Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia. It was not the kind of report on "girls who leave the West behind" as Lennon-McCartney might have put it, but what happens if the Russians pull another New Years

Day stunt and shut off the oil and natural gas spigots. That happened to Poland and the Ukraine on Jan. 1.

So worried about this that Lugar is goading NATO into reviewing Article V, that "turning off the tap" is tantamount to sending tanks and troops into a member country. That kind of aggression brings a treated response from other members. "It ought to apply to energy," Lugar said.

He noted that 60 percent of our oil "comes from hostile places" and 79 percent comes from oil fields controlled by governments, not multi-national corporations.

The goal is, by 2020, to generate half of U.S. energy domestically and half from friendly nations such as Georgia. He noted that 12 to 13 percent of this oil can be replaced with corn and soy crops. Cellulose and biomass can "get us to 50 percent," Lugar said.

At Purdue, he challenged American automakers to build more flexible-fuel vehicles, boost ethanol production and usage, and the implementation of stricter vehicle mileage standards. "The plan I am proposing today would achieve the replacement of 6.5 million barrels of oil per day by volume -- the rough equivalent of one-third of the oil used in America and one-half of our current oil imports," Lugar said.

Gov. Daniels announced that "Indiana will be the leader in next generation biofuels development and production."

With a delegation from anti-American oil-producer Venezuela looking on, Daniels promised, "We will begin to shift the state's production assistance to the cellulosic and biomass fuels of the future."

The governor will ask the next legislature to help fund the development, production, and transportation of new biofuels, including new production credits restricted to cellulosic and biomass technologies.

And U.S. Rep. Pete Visclosky dropped his long-standing opposition to increasing federal fuel efficiency standards. "Let's face it, there is nothing we can do to bring gasoline prices down next week," Visclosky said (Guinane, **Times of Northwest Indiana**). "But that doesn't mean we can't begin to have an impact in the near term. For instance, we can raise the fuel efficiency standards for vehicles -- the CAFE standards." Cars would have to get 27.5 miles to the gallon; light trucks 22.2 mpg. "Raising the CAFE standards will go a long way toward reducing gasoline consumption," Visclosky said. "The technology exists to meet higher standards. And I'm convinced that Indiana's steel industry can become part of the solution." ❖





GOP focus on national security could help Bayh

By MARK CURRY

KENSINGTON, Md. - He may be on vacation through the end of this week, but the coming days will be crucial if Evan Bayh intends to convince voters he can be "tough and smart" on national security issues.

Less than two weeks before the fifth anniversary of 9/11, President Bush will address the American Legion today in an effort to strengthen support for the Iraq war amid calls from some Democrats and even some Republicans for a timetable to withdraw.

"While most eyes have been focused on the still-recovering Gulf Coast during the first half of this week, the Bush Administration has been dispatching some of its biggest names in national security to test September 11 anniversary messages," according to an item in yesterday's MSNBC political blog, First Read.

The barrage began on Tuesday when Vice President Cheney told a Republican audience in Nebraska some Democratic leaders want to weaken the tools the administration uses to identify and track terrorists while others would "give up the fight (and) retreat" from Iraq, according to the Lincoln Journal-Star. Cheney called on voters in this year's national congressional elections to "reject resignation and defeatism."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was more blunt when he said the war's critics "seem not to have learned history's lessons" and suggested some are attempting to appease "a new type of fascism." "Can we truly afford to believe that somehow, some way, vicious extremists can be appeased?" he said (Associated Press). Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice offered a speech at the American Legion convention warning of severe consequences if the U.S. leaves Iraq before the mission is finished.

This morning before the American Legion at Salt Lake City, President Bush declared that he would continue "the offensive" in the "first war of the 21st Century," saying, "We will fight the terrorist organizations overseas so we don't have to fight them here at home."

In Iraq, Bush said the U.S. has "adapted to the tactics of the terrorists. They will fail in breaking the will of the American people. If we give up the fight in Iraq, we will find the fight in our own cities. The United States will not leave until victory has been achieved." Adding that "it will be difficult," Bush quoted President Jefferson, who said "We cannot move from despotism to liberty in a featherbed."

Tracey Schmitt, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee, told AP's Devlin Barrett the Democratic candidates' strategy is to criticize Republican efforts to win the war on terror, while elected Democrats are "committed to a strategy that will weaken our ability to defend America and make us less safe at home and abroad."

Democrats expressed outrage at such comments. "All we get is rhetoric and no solutions," Don Fowler, a former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said in a conference call with reporters (**Army Times**).

Such talk points to a difficult and potentially divisive run-up to the November mid-terms, but it also creates problems for many politicians from both parties considered potential candidates for the White House in 2008, especially a moderate like Evan Bayh.

Bayh supported the 2003 invasion of Iraq. A steadfast supporter of Israel and author of a resolution calling for sanctions on Iran, Indiana's former governor is considered one of the most hawkish Democrats in the

U.S. Senate. In the past year he has spearheaded a party effort to assure Americans that Democrats will protect the national interests, often noting in speeches "if they don't trust us with their lives, they're not going to trust us with anything else."

While he has been quick to criticize the administration's handling of the war, calling for Rumsfeld's resignation in December of 2004, he also slams Democrats for failing to convincingly confront the issue of national security.

"Too often, members of our party ... try and change the subject when the subject of national security comes

up," Bayh said at a May news conference where he endorsed a progressive strategy for defeating jihadism. "They there's almost a perceptible cringe in some ways. They know we have some ground to make up, but we can't do that. Neither events nor the other party will allow that."

"[W]e 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."

Bayh endorses a plan put forth by the Progressive Policy Institute in a book entitled "With All Our Might." The institute is a Washington-based research group that believes "America is ill-served by an obsolete left-right debate that is out of step with the powerful forces re-shaping our society and economy."

Editor Will Marshall and contributor Jeremy Rosner explain, "Progressive internationalism stresses the respon-



U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh could benefit from the Republican attempt to direct the political debate to the Iraq War.



sibilities that come with our enormous power: to use force with restraint but not to hesitate to use it when necessary; to show what the Declaration of Independence called 'a decent respect for the opinions of mankind'; to exercise leadership primarily through persuasion rather than coercion; to reduce human suffering where we can, and to bolster alliances and global institutions committed to upholding an increasingly democratic world order."

Over more than 200 pages, the authors lay out the details of a five-part plan "to combat the sources and consequences of jihadist terrorism":

- marshal all of America's manifold strengths, starting with our military power but going well beyond it
- rebuild America's alliances
- champion liberal democracy in deed
- renew U.S. leadership in the international economy and rise to the challenge of global competition
- summon from the American people a new spirit of national unity and shared sacrifice

Bayh briefly described his own strategy for defeating the terror threat during the May news conference to promote the book's release.

"[M]y strategy...is a strategy of greater proaction...to meet this threat; not sitting back in a defensive crouch and waiting for them to come and attack us, but instead, reaching out to embrace our allies and to try and increase our intelligence capability so that we can better identify who is out to harm us and how they intend to go about that, so we can strike them before it's too late. Working with other countries to dry up the financial sources of terrorist funding is vitally important these days. Having the military capability to fight the insurgents, to dry up the failed states, the collapsed places around the world where terrorists can foment their attacks, having those kinds of forces rather than the forces configured to fight a land war on the Northern European plain, which we still spend too much of our resources on to this day."

Time and again Bayh also has said the nation's ultimate security depends on strengthening the country's financial position and ending its dependence on foreign oil.

Staking out these positions has left Bayh vulnerable to attacks from the anti-war wing of the Democratic Party recently responsible for the primary defeat of Sen. Joe

Lieberman. Unlike the Connecticut Democrat, Evan Bayh has recanted his support of the invasion.

"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."

By focusing voter attention on the war and national security, the Bush Administration's current public relations blitz creates both opportunity and challenge for the junior senator from Indiana. Democrats must respond to Republican efforts to shape the message on national security. Bayh's success or failure to claim a stake in the fight will indicate the viability of his attempt to win election to the highest office in the land. ❖

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Senator Richard Lugar



Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union - I voted for W. Twice. It's not that I regret having voted for him. I mean, after all, consider the alternatives – Al Gore and John Kerry. But while I don't regret voting for him, I do regret some of the things he's done while in office. I suppose the biggest thing I regret is what's happened to U.S. foreign policy. I think these years will go down in history as some of the worst ever for U.S. foreign policy. And the thing is, after Sept. 11, 2001, we had the whole world on our side. Everybody felt sorry for us. Everybody wanted to help us. Money and moral support flowed into the U.S. Today, we are pretty much universally hated around the world. We're viewed around the world as imperialist bullies. We've squandered all the good will. That's more than a little unsettling to me. When we determined that Osama bin Laden was the mastermind of 9/11, the world was still behind us. When we rooted the Taliban out of Afghanistan because they were harboring Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, the world was still behind us. Then there was Iraq. It has become the top reason for the large and growing world angst directed at the U.S. No one could argue that W's policy goal – a flourishing, peaceful democracy in Iraq – is not worthy. It is a worthy goal, but at this point, I think its achievability is virtually nil. Of course, I can be accused of writing this with the crystal clarity of hindsight at my disposal. But that's not 100 percent fair to me because I believe I was misled quite a bit with regard to this issue. It's widely known now that during the runup to the invasion of Iraq, evidence of weapons of mass destruction was greatly exaggerated. I think I – and most everyone else – would have had a quite different view of the invasion if we had known the 2002 National Intelligence Estimate – the report that justified the invasion – was largely bogus. I believe that our presence in Iraq has enraged and emboldened terrorists. Seems to me they're more determined than ever to strike out at us. Yes, Iraq as a beacon of democracy in the Middle East certainly is a worthy goal. But the more I watch what's going on in over there, the more it becomes clear to me that seeing that goal as attainable borders on delusional. ❖

Nancy Sulok, South Bend Tribune - Gee, the gov'ner comes to South Bend so our mayor could show him what's great about our city, and what does the mayor show him? Mostly things that the University of Notre Dame is doing on the northeast part of the city. And where did they go to lunch? Not to The Vine, or the 222 Italian Steakhouse, or even the Summit Club, with its panoramic views of the city. They went to the restaurant inside the Morris Inn on the Notre Dame campus. It's almost as if South Bend is just a suburb of that university to the north.



Ruben Navarrette Jr., TIME - In politics, a wedge issue is a terrible thing to waste. That's why the conventional thinking is that Congressional Republicans will run out the clock and not touch immigration reform until after the midterm elections. But not if Rep. Mike Pence, R-Ind., has anything to say about it. The three-term Congressman has become a major player in this debate by devising a commonsense compromise that, Pence believes, still has a chance to break the legislative logjam between competing House and Senate bills. "I think there is both time and opportunity to come up with a third way," Pence told me over the phone last week. There is time, but not much. Congress has only about two weeks of scheduled legislative days left before it adjourns for the fall campaign. We could have predicted that an issue as emotional and as contentious as immigration reform would go down to the wire. But what was not so easy to predict was that Pence, despite his solid conservative credentials, would become a thorn in the sides of some of his fellow conservatives. To listen to the rhetoric of Republican hardliners who seem to find as much value in a sound bite as in a solution, and others who pander to nativists, Pence has gone soft on illegal immigrants. He did it by coming up with a plan that House Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner — another key figure in the immigration debate — uncharitably described this week as "amnesty lite." Rubbish. That characterization is untrue — and unfair. And no one knows that better than Sensenbrenner. A few weeks ago, during a meeting with the Chairman, I asked him how he would define amnesty. He settled on this: "excusing the illegal entry and illegal presence in the country through the payment of a fine [in exchange for] ultimate permanent residency or U.S. citizenship." Sensenbrenner thinks that illegal immigrants have to go home. And what do you know? Under the Pence plan, that's exactly what they'd have to do. ❖

Matt Tully, Indianapolis Star - Before Eric Dickerson and I sat down for sodas this past week, he said he had one goal. "If nothing else," he said, "I want to prove to you my campaign is not a joke." I've never called the former car dealer's congressional campaign a joke. But as Election Day nears, it is hard to know whether to take his bid against Democratic U.S. Rep. Julia Carson seriously. At last count, Dickerson's campaign had \$367 in the bank. He has generated little buzz, and he doesn't get along well with his own Marion County Republican Party. Then there's that embarrassing lawsuit filed over loans made to Eric Dickerson Buick. You might say that adds up to a joke. But it's not so simple. Despite everything, Dickerson is this year's most intriguing candidate -- one you can imagine striking a chord with voters, if he could reach them. ❖



Dem canvass points to a wave; but Gallup gives GOP new hope

TRENDLINE No. 1: Marion County's Washington Township was once a GOP bastion. But no more. John Kerry carried it 34,547 to 27,667 in 2004, a 13-percent spread. Marion County Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy found, spread across the county, 20,000 unidentified Democratic voters. He used Tyson.Org to canvass Washington Township to identify how those voters feel. Tyson conducted the 45-second calls with three questions: When you cast a ballot, do you vote for only Democrats, mostly Democrats, most Republican or only for Republicans? In the 2004 election for president, did you vote for (rotate) Democrat John Kerry or Republican George W. Bush? Do you plan to vote Republican in the election this November? What did he learn? Of the 909 who answered the canvass and acknowledged they had voted for President Bush, 373 -- or 41 percent -- said they wouldn't vote Republican this year. "That's an astonishing number," Treacy said. "People are so pissed off." The ol' Horse asked Treacy why he was motivated to release this canvass. He answered that he is seeking funds for similar efforts in other townships. "When it's this good for us, it's that bad for them," Treacy said. "If there's a bandwagon, get on!"



TRENDLINE NO. 2: Republicans have moved closer to the Democrats in a congressional voter-preference poll just as the election campaigns near the official Labor Day starting gate (**Washington Times**). The surprising findings in a little-noticed Gallup Poll that were ignored by most of the national news media shows the Democrats barely leading the Republicans by just two points -- 47 percent to 45 percent. After months of generic polling numbers by Gallup and others showing the GOP lagged far behind the Democrats by a seemingly insurmountable nine to 10 points, the titanic political battle for control of Congress is virtually dead even. This means we may not experience the feared Category 5 political storm some election analysts have forecast that would topple the GOP's House majority and cut deeply into its grip on the Senate. Gallup aid the GOP's unexpected rise in the polls "represents the Republicans' best performance in a single poll during the 2006 election cycle on this important measure of electoral strength." In an analysis accompanying its findings last week, Gallup said, "The Republican increase does appear to be significant."

TRENDLINE NO. 3: In late October 2004, U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, unopposed this year, held rallies for four Indiana House Republican candidates. Three of them, Tim Harris, Bill Davis and John Smith, won tight races.

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:** The **Cook Political Report** moved the 2nd District race from leaning Republican to toss-up. The Association of Trial Lawyers of America on Tuesday launched a \$500,000 television and radio ad campaign in five congressional districts blaming GOP lawmakers for not seeking lower prices for the Medicare prescription drug program (**Associated Press**). The ad campaign targets Republican House members from Pennsylvania, Indiana, New Mexico, Ohio and North Carolina. The ads accuse the lawmakers of blocking provisions that would have required Medicare to negotiate with drug companies for the best prescription cost. In a series of radio ads, the association also criticizes the lawmakers for accepting contributions from the oil and gas industry, suggesting that their inaction contributed to high gas prices. "Be it at the gas pump, the pharmacy or in our courts, these politicians in Washington are putting corporate profits ahead of the health and well-being of their constituents," association spokeswoman Chris Mather said. Carl Forti, a spokesman for the National Republican Campaign Committee, scoffed at the trial lawyers association's ad campaign. "I can't figure out what angle they're going to take that they can sue somebody over," he said. The political action group MoveOn.org has issued a price tag for the Iraq war to congressional District 2 so far: \$517,456,847. The district's Republican congressman, Chris Chocola, has supported war spending. His spokesman, Brooks Kochvar, couldn't speak to the numbers' accuracy but said overall spending has gone to "necessary" things like improved body armor for the military. Jack Colwell writes in his **South Bend Tribune** column: Did Chocola force Donnelly to spend a big chunk of the challenger's more limited resources too early? Political strategy in major races often



calls for a better-funded candidate to go on TV early to lure an opponent into using up the more limited resources that the opponent would rather save for equal footing in campaign closing TV blitzes (Colwell, **South Bend Tribune**). But after the lengthy barrage of Chocola spots hitting Donnelly on late payment of property taxes, Donnelly responded with purchase of his own TV spots, hitting back at Chocola for alleged hypocrisy in view of a late payment by Chocola's former firm. "We had to make sure our voice was being heard," Donnelly says. Probably so. There is no doubt that the hammering on late tax payments and the suggestion that Donnelly wants to raise taxes can have an effect in establishing a negative image of Donnelly. It's the same way with those early MoveOn.org commercials seeking to develop a negative image of Chocola. The congressman deemed it necessary to hit back at those. Donnelly says he has the resources this time to go on TV in the summer. Two years ago, when he didn't get a cent of support from the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, he couldn't get on at all until the very close of the campaign, and then only by contributing his own money for that expenditure. **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 has been running ads on WOWO-AM. Indiana Democratic Party Chair Dan Parker announced Thursday that the party has given \$5,000 – the maximum contri-

Battle for the House

R30 D36

Likely Takeover (1-R)

Woodruff (Battles)

Tossups (7-R; 1-D)

Buell (Barnes)

Orentlicher (Densborn)

Borders (Bledsoe)

Heim (Dembowski)

Open (Budak: Dermody vs. Renner)

J. Smith (Herrell)

Saunders (Sadler (D), and Bell (L))

Open (Messer: Eberhart vs. Lux)



Leans (13-R; 9-D)

Bosma (Fuldauer)

Lehe (Sutton)

Harris (Hile)

Davis (Liggett)

Lutz (Mengelt)

Dodge (Rauen)

Stutzman (Rorick)

Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning)

Walorski (Kovach)

Hinkle (Olds)

Bright (Cheatham)

Open (Thomas: Thomas v. Thompson (D))

Open (Ayres: Soliday v. Graham (D))

Hoy (A. Smith)

Fry (Hiler)

Micon (Basham)

Austin (Metzger)

Tincher (Dallas)

Denbo (Patton)

Crooks (Arnold)

Open (Stemler v Theobald)

Bischoff (Ullrich)

Likely (1-R; 2-D)

Ulmer (Puro)

Klinker (Rhoda)

Pflum (Bell)

Safe (30-R; 36-D)

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

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

Movement: None. ❖



bution under federal law – to Third District congressional candidate Tom Hayhurst. "I went to visit Tom's campaign headquarters last week, and I was highly impressed with what I saw," Parker said. "Not only has he shown a proven ability to raise more money than the incumbent, but he's also organized a fantastic grassroots outreach network."

Status: LEANS SOUDER

Congressional District 6: Republican:

U.S. Rep. Mike Pence. Democrat: Rev. 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:** Pence was featured on a Page 1

New York Times story on immigration. It also identified

him as having potential at making the 2008 presidential

ticket. Pence for president websites have sprung up at

<http://pence08.com/>. **Status:** LIKELY PENCE

Congressional District 7: Republican: Eric

Dickerson. Democrat: U.S. Rep. Julia Carson. **Geography:**

Indianapolis. **Media Market:** Indianapolis. **People:** Urban

99.7%; median income \$36,522; poverty 13.5%; race

white 63, black 29.4%, Hispanic 4.4%, Asian 1.3%;

blue/white collar 26/58%; **2000 Presidential:** Gore

55%, Bush 43%; Cook Partisan Voting Index: D+6. **2002**

Results: Carson 77,478 (53%), McVey 64,379 (44%).

2004 Results: Carson 121,303, Horning (R) 97,491,

Campbell (L) 4,381. **2006 Forecast:** Memo to Matt Tully

of the Indianapolis Star: This is not a competitive race.

With Dickerson's Buick dealership now empty (though his

name is still on the sign out front), less than \$500 cash on

hand, and a week's worth of bad publicity over a lawsuit

with his bank, in what appears to be a huge Democratic

year, this is not going to be the race that shocks people on

Election Day. **Status:** SAFE CARSON

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:** The **Rothenberg**

Political Report has moved this race from "Tossup" to

"Tilts Democratic." Hostettler and Ellsworth have accepted

invitations to debate live on television -- just not at the

same time and place (Langhorne, **Evansville Courier**

& Press). Hostettler's campaign announced Wednesday

he has accepted a League of Women Voters invitation to

debate in Vincennes on

Oct. 23. Ellsworth's cam-

paigned released a written

statement in response.

"On July 11, 2006, Sheriff

Ellsworth accepted invita-

tions from Nextar broadcasting for a live televised debate

on WTVW-Fox7 jointly with WTWO-NBC Terre Haute and

for a live televised debate on WNIN public broadcast-

ing and sister stations throughout the 8th Congressional

District," says the statement by Ellsworth campaign man-

ager Jay Howser. "Unfortunately, we have not heard back

from the Hostettler campaign regarding these debates,

and as a result, no dates or times have been set. ... I

look forward to working with the Hostettler campaign

to determine mutually agreeable dates and times to do

so." The war in Iraq has cost taxpayers in Indiana's 8th

Congressional District more than \$470 million, the liberal

group MoveOn.org said in a report Wednesday. The group

criticized Hostettler for continuing to support the war,

which members said is taking money away from other

important issues. "People really need to fully understand

the cost of the Iraq war," said Denise Marie Sobieski, a

local MoveOn.org member. "With that cost to taxpayers,

there are huge sacrifices being made." **Status:** TOSSUP

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

A CONTINUANCE OF THE REAGAN REVOLUTION

MIKE PENCE FOR PRESIDENT

LESS GOVERNMENT



Results: Sodrel 142,197, Hill 140,772, Cox (L) 4,541.

2006 Forecast: Tonight's debate will be aired by Indiana University's public television station WTIU-TV and its public radio station, WFIU. Both stations plan to stream the 8 p.m. debate live on their Web sites -- www.wtiu.indiana.edu and www.indiana.edu/~wfiu. All three candidates for the 9th Congressional District seat agree on at least one thing about illegal immigration: They can't blame people for trying so hard to get into the United States (Weidenbener, **Louisville Courier-Journal**). "If I was living in Mexico, I'd get up every day trying to figure out how to get to the U.S.," said Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel, who is seeking a second term. But Sodrel and his opponents — Democrat Baron Hill and Libertarian Eric Schansberg — have different approaches to the flood of illegal immigration, although none supports amnesty for those already in the country. Sodrel believes the most important step is securing the border. Hill wants to shift the focus to punishing companies that employ illegal immigrants. Lawmakers are discussing what to do about the burgeoning population of illegal immigrants, a debate that likely won't be resolved before Election Day. Sodrel said he wanted to see for himself whether there was any merit to building a fence across the entire U.S.-Mexico border, as some want to do. "Common sense told me that 1,987 miles of fence was probably not the right thing to do, but I didn't want to jump to any conclusions until I took a look," Sodrel said. Hill is not suggesting that any employer caught with an illegal worker be sent to prison. He said he wants to be reasonable. But he said he would push Congress to pass legislation that would severely punish employers who blatantly ignore the law and repeatedly hire illegal workers. **Status:** TOSSUP.

Legislative Races

House District 17: Republican: State Rep. Steve Heim. Democrat: Nancy Dembowski. **2004 Results:** Heim 14,100, McLiver (D) 8,321, Foley (I) 854. **SD5 Results:** Heinold (R) 24,753, Dembowski (D) 24,398. **2006 Forecast:** House Republicans acknowledge that this is tossup. Heim has been running ads on cable TV. **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 21: Republican: State Rep. Jackie Walorski. Democrat: Bob Kovach. **2002 Results:** Mangus 10,722. **2004 Results:** Walorski 13,753, Kaser (D) 7,737. **2006 Forecast:** House Republicans say that after Walorski ran TV ads in July, tracking showed her with a 48-35 percent lead. Democrats have been telling supporters that Kovach has the lead. **Status:** LEANS WALORSKI

House District 26: Republican: Tippecanoe County Councilwoman Connie Basham. **Democrat:** Joe Micon. **Geography:** Lafayette, West Lafayette, Tippeca-

noe County. **2002 Results:** Scholer 5,630, Micon 4,731. **2004 Results:** Micon (D) 10,077, Basham (R) 9,471. **2006 Forecast:** Basham's father died Tuesday night. An American Viewpoint Poll in July showed Micon with a 4 percent lead. Basham has visited 2,700 residents. **Status:** LEANS MICON.

House District 57: Republican: Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart. Democrat: J.D. Lux. **2002 Results:** Stine (R) 8,384, Wheeler (D) 5,429, Jester (L) 508. **2004 Results:** Messer (R) 16,004. **2006 Forecast:** Mike Gentry of the GOP caucus says that a poll by American Viewpoint conducted in June had Eberhart up 48-29 percent. The poll also showed President Bush and Gov. Daniels with favorables in the 60th percentile. We moved this race into tossup after Lux got the Farm Bureau endorsement and the potential for a Democrat wave. Stay tuned. **Status:** TOSSUP

House District 71: Republican: Joe Theobald. Democrat: Steven Stemler. **2002 Results:** Bottorff (D) 9,385, Singleton (R) 5,388. **2004 Results:** Bottorff (D) 17,949. **2006 Forecast:** House Republicans believe there are pickup possibilities in Southeastern Indiana after the Honda plant and Ohio River bridge construction plans were announced. Theobald is working this open seat hard, having knocked on 2,000 doors. **Status:** LEANS STEMLER

House District 86: Republican: Kathryn Densborn. Democrat: State Rep. David Orentlicher. **2002 Results:** Orentlicher 9,909, Atterholt (R) 9,872. **2004 Results:** Orentlicher 15,178, Large (R) 13,261, Goldstein (L) 585. **2006 Forecast:** Chairman Ed Treacy's Tyson canvass of Washington Township means that he has identified 1,508 previously unknown Democratic voters and will hand off to Orentlicher their phone numbers and addresses. GOP's Mike Gentry agrees with the tossup status, but calls Densborn "the best candidate we've had in three cycles." **Status:** TOSSUP.

House District 89: Republican: State Rep. Larry Buell. **Democrat:** John F. Barnes. **2004 Results:** Buell 15,391. **2006 Forecast:** Buell is now working hard on a door-to-door campaign. A Democratic caucus decision on whether to target this race has not been made as Barnes' fundraising has lagged. **Status:** TOSSUP.

House District 92: Republican: State Rep. Phil Hinkle. Democrat: Robin Olds. **2002 Results:** Hinkle (R) 10,935, Kirkpatrick (L) 888. **2004 Results:** Hinkle (R) 16,158, Swinford (D) 9,488. **2006 Forecast:** House Republicans don't think that Hinkle is in any dire trouble. But Democratic Chairman Ed Treacy said that Olds is working extremely hard, having knocked on thousands of doors. "Last January, she presented to me a month-by-month plan and she's adhered to it." Treacy also said that Olds "should be able to raise the resources." Her husband is a partner at IceMiller. **Status:** LEANS HINKLE



State Rep. Thomas resigns; joins attorney general

BRAZIL - Andy Thomas (R-Brazil) today announced that he will be resigning from his position as State Representative for House District 44. Thomas has accepted a position with the Indiana Attorney General's Office and, therefore, his resignation is effective immediately. "It has been an honor to serve the people of District 44 for the past four years," said Thomas. "Although it is difficult to leave the House, I am confident that my efforts will be carried on in the Attorney General's Office."



Kenley presser on Lucas Oil Stadium funding

INDIANAPOLIS - State Sen. Luke Kenley has scheduled a press conference for 9:30 a.m. Friday to discuss the funding shortfalls for Lucas Oil Stadium.

Mayor Richard announces lowest FW tax rate since '64

FORT WAYNE - Mayor Graham Richard today announced the proposed 2007 civil city budget. The City administration has proposed a balanced budget that features the lowest city property tax rate since 1964. The city tax rate is estimated to drop 21% from 2006. The owner of a \$100,000 home would see an estimated 34% net reduction in city property taxes. The estimated city property taxes on a \$100,000 home are expected to drop from \$377 to \$249, resulting in \$128 savings for the taxpayer. "We are working to reduce the tax burden on taxpayers while providing excellent services to residents," said Mayor Richard. "We appreciate the bipartisan approach with City Council to

be fiscally responsible and maintain a disciplined budget that meets the needs of our growing community." The total 2007 proposed property tax supported budget is \$143.1 million, an increase of 8.2% from the approved 2006 budget. The increase in the budget is largely due to additional public safety personnel, group insurance increases, federal grant reductions, and increased energy costs. The total budget is \$172.7 million. "At a time when we face unfunded liabilities, increased service areas and rising energy costs, we are still maintaining record levels of service," said Mayor Richard. "The City of Fort Wayne is positioned to retain and gain jobs with innovative practices to protect taxpayers and reduce costs."

GDP up slightly

WASHINGTON - Under the headline "Economic Picture Improves Slightly," the Washington Post reports, "Economic growth did slow sharply from April through June, as the housing market cooled and rising energy prices and interest rates pinched consumer spending. The nation's output of goods and services, or gross domestic product, rose at a 2.9 percent annual rate in the second quarter after expanding at a torrid 5.6 percent pace in the first three months of the year, the Commerce Department reported yesterday."

House Republicans make 30-minute BMV pledge

INDIANAPOLIS - Hoosiers should be waited on at a license branch in 30 minutes or get their transaction fee waived, House Republicans pledged Wednesday (**Indianapolis Star**). "If they have to wait longer than 30 minutes for that first contact with the BMV employee, the state will do what Domino's (pizza) does -- give it to 'em free," House Speaker Brian C. Bosma, R-Indianapolis, said, referring to the famous, now-defunct promise by the pizza chain. Gov. Daniels issued a statement calling the Republican

proposals "constructive comments. No one wants the BMV to work better than us." House Minority leader B. Patrick Bauer said Republicans are realizing "what 6 million Hoosiers already knew. There's management problems, serious management problems, at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles." But, he said, "House Republicans ought to go one step farther and join Democrats and the people of Indiana and ask the governor to change management. You ought to fire Silverman. That would make the day complete."

Sen. Mrvan presses for GUEA records

GARY - An Indiana senator made his most recent attempt Tuesday to pry records from the hands of the embattled Gary Urban Enterprise Association, complaining to the state the group is withholding public documents (**Times of Northwest Indiana**). Meanwhile, the recently appointed executive director of GUEA -- a fellow state legislator of the senator -- claimed that even if the Indiana public access counselor's office rules that Sen. Frank Mrvan, D-Hammond, is entitled to the records, the documents either no longer exist or are in the hands of various law enforcement agencies investigating GUEA. Mrvan's complaint with the access counselor Tuesday follows a July denial by GUEA of the senator's request for minutes of the group's board of directors for meetings between 2000 and 2004. The time period coincides with his Republican opponent Christopher Morrow serving on the board. The U.S. attorney's office has accused two former GUEA executives of bilking the nonprofit of more than \$850,000 but hasn't accused Morrow of any wrongdoing.

Chrysler lays off 103

KOKOMO - As the approach of Labor Day signals the end of the vacation season, DaimlerChrysler cut 103 people from its work force last week.