

HOWEY

Political Report

V13 N10

Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

Thursday, Oct 12, 2006

The metrics of Pence, Roemer

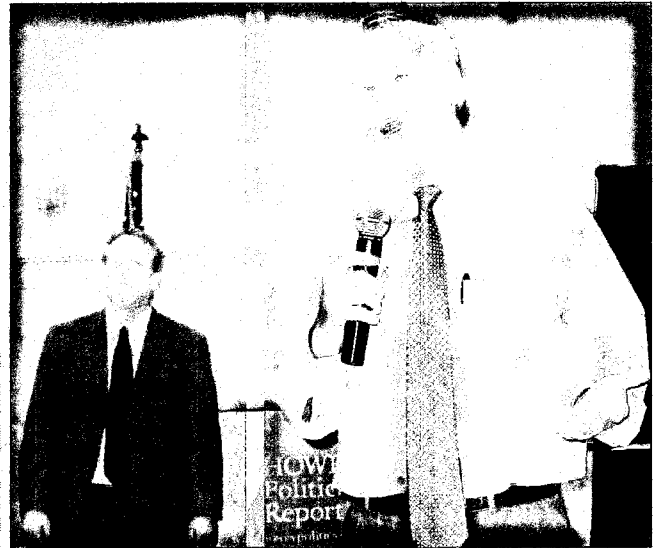
Hoosiers make pitch to voters

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - On Sept. 11, 2001, U.S. Rep. Mike Pence was at the U.S. Capitol Building. Tim Roemer was in his Rayburn House Office Building.

Less than 500 miles away was the careening United Flight 93, which crashed well short of its destination, the U.S. Capitol, where Pence defied orders to leave.

"Flight 93 was the most inspirational story," said Roemer during his HPR Forum keynote address Tuesday. "Here were people on a flight who were getting cell phone calls from their husbands, wife, brothers and sisters. These airplanes are going into buildings. They are not going to Cuba. They know they are going to die. We have the recordings from the other end. We listened to their voices. They were saying, 'Dad, give my love to the family. This is going to end quickly.'"



U.S. Rep. Mike Pence (left) and 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer survey the national security and political landscape at the HPR Forum on Tuesday. (HPR Photos by Beverly Phillips)

Roemer said, "We heard they do something we've been doing in this country for 230 years. They vote. They take a vote to take the plane over. They are going to take

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The waves of 1994 and 2006

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - The Republican tidal wave of 1994 was all about voter suppression. Embarrassed Democrats simply stayed home as the GOP took three Indiana Congressional seats and more than 40 others, retaking control of the U.S. House for the first time in 40 years.

Republicans had their "Contract With America," an articulate and energetic point person in Newt Gingrich, and the political missteps of President and Hillary Clinton. Most of the political problems the Clinton White House faced in 1994 had Hillary's



Brian Howey's Column

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“QUOTE of the Week”



“We have a very, very sizeable danger in this world that the countries that have these oil supplies are no longer dominated by oil companies.”

- U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar



finger prints all over them (health care reform, Whitewater, staff dismissals, Rose law firm, etc., etc.

What about this year?

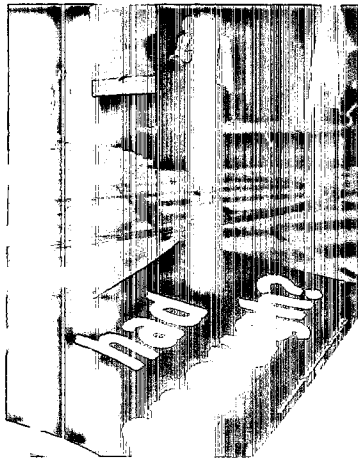
Well, the first returns are literally coming in. There is a surge in absentee balloting in Vanderburgh and Delaware counties. These are Democratic bastions.

"It looks more like a presidential election than a midterm," Vanderburgh County Clerk Susan Kirk told the **Evansville Courier & Press** on Wednesday as she sat in the county election office surrounded by piles of envelopes containing absentee ballots. "This is the kind of election where you typically get the lowest turnout, when there's no election for president or mayor. But we've had quite a few more than I anticipated. We are extremely, extremely busy."

In Muncie, which has been rocked by the John Neal scandal, Delaware County Clerk Karen Wenger told the **Muncie Star Press** that there were 47 absentee ballots turned in on Wednesday, the first day, which was more interest than anticipated.

In 2006, there is no Newt Gingrich in play. Speakers-in-waiting Nancy Pelosi and B. Patrick Bauer have no plan other than to try and harness the anger that Hoosiers and Americans possess over the Iraq War, high gasoline prices, and tepid consumer confidence. They aren't issuing reacting lists and promising term limits and Members living under the same laws as the rest of us are.

Bauer did issue a promise to bring a gay marriage bill up for vote if he were to be speaker, hoping to remove one of the last draws for evangelicals who have been offended by the Foley scandal.



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For the most part, Democrats are being driven by the "anti-Bayh" – the sum of their resentments, despite Indiana's junior senators' caution of doing just that as he shrugged off the ashes of the John Kerry presidential failure in 2004.

Bauer was counting on high gas prices, Daylight-saving time and the toll road deal. When House Speaker Brian Bosma showed up for a GOP town hall meeting in Elkhart earlier this week, the folks gathered there were more animated about

property taxes and immigration than the toll road deal. The Lugar campaign released a poll last week that showed Gov. Daniels fav/unfav at 50/42 percent, vastly different numbers than other scientific polling.

It appears the anger quotient is more sustainable on national issues than Indiana ones. People appear to be fed up with the Capitol Hill corruption and the war in Iraq. They saw one of President Bush's staunchest allies, U.S. Sen. John Warner, return from Baghdad and say, "I assure you, in two or three months, if this thing hasn't come to fruition and if this level of violence is not under control and this government able to function, I think it's a responsibility of our government internally to determine: Is there a change of course that we should take? And I wouldn't take off the table any option at this time."

In fact, it appears that Republicans are giving Democrats their most potent talking points. It was Gingrich who, last winter, uttered the two words that seem to be spurring a spike in Democratic turnout: "Had Enough?"

In less than four weeks, we'll find out, Newt. ♦



control and become the first patriots of 9/11. Armed with nothing but their courage, they took that plane down at Shanksville and probably saved the Capitol of the United States. They vote. They take action. One of them says, 'Let's roll.'

"Some of us were at Capitol Hill that day. Some of us have a lot to be thankful for. We all should be thankful for those people to show us how important it is to vote. But so many people in this country don't take the time to do any more. That's the inspiration I've gleaned from the 9/11 families. Involvement, participation and votes. I'm not telling you to vote Republican or Democrat. I'm tell you to vote. To make our government work better, to hold people accountable, to come up with new ideas."

The votes of Nov. 7

It's the votes coming on Nov. 7, 2006, that Pence and Roemer discussed at the HPR Forum.

Pence told a joke about a farmer who wrecked his pickup truck, badly injuring his dog, a mule and a passenger. Surveying the mangled dog and mule, the farmer twice raised his gun, pumping two bullets into their skulls, putting them out of their misery. Then the farmer came to his badly injured friend. "Are you hurt?" the farmer asked.

"I never felt better in my life," the friend said. To which Pence addressed the dilemma facing Congressional Republicans. "This is the most challenging year since the Republican majority was minted in 1994. We have trouble at home and abroad."

According to a recent AP/Pew poll, 70 percent say they are talking politics with family and friends, and 43 per-

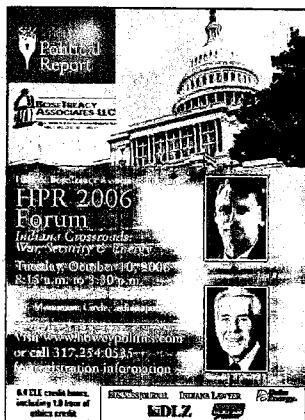
cent are debating the issues at work, the most in a decade. Among churchgoers, 28 percent share their political views, a number that rises to 34 percent among the congregations in the South.

The HPR Forum was in the same Columbia Club room where Hoosier congressmen had gathered 72 hours before. "It is clear the road to majority goes through Indiana. Chris Chocola, Mike Sodrel and John Hostettler are widely believed to be in competitive races. With a 15-seat change, one fifth" of the battle for the U.S. House is taking place on Hoosier soil.

Pence highlighted Republican successes, such as the reduction of the federal budget deficit from \$423 billion to \$250 billion, declining gasoline prices, the record Dow Jones, 6.6 million new jobs and a 4.6 percent jobless rate, "lower than the average of the '70s, '80s and '90s."

"So there is good news," Pence said. "There is a story to tell."

A few minutes later, Pence declared once again, "We are winning the war in Iraq. Eventually, we are going to win the War on Terror." He cited three national elections in Iraq, 40,000 new police, 250,000 new soldiers in the Iraqi army. Pence said he's been to Iraq four times. "But I know that's not what you've seen," he said. "But I believe it



The Indiana GOP Congressional delegation met at the Columbia Club last Saturday. They include U.S. Reps. Chris Chocola, Steve Buyer, Dan Burton, Sen. Richard Lugar, Reps. Mike Sodrel, Mike Pence and Mark Souder. (Photo courtesy of Indiana Republicans)

is the truth. And the day we withdraw will still be a violent day."

Roemer's contrast

The contrast was provided by former congressman and 9/11 Commissioner Tim Roemer. He called for a thorough reorganization of the U.S. intelligence establishment, "just as we did in 1947 with the National Security Act" that created the CIA and reorganized the military.



Roemer then asked, "How is it that the greatest country in the world is getting out-communicated by a guy in a cave?" He said when Osama bin Laden issued his first fatwa, it was via a fax machine to a London newspaper that reached 55,000 people. Today, Roemer said, bin Laden feeds his highly produced communiques to "Al-Jazeera, Fox, CNN and it is seen by millions, not 50,000, but millions of people. And they're now so sophisticated with their tapes that they now have behind them ... it's not just Osama bin Laden's voice and a still picture of him. They have studio quality lights, a production company and in the last one, they had a picture of Mohamad Atta and a picture of the 9/11 attacks and the World Trade Centers burning. That's how brazen these guys are. We've got three-dimensional chess we need to be playing. The 9/11 Commission evaluated the government and we put out a report card. We, five Democrats and five Republicans, said there were 41 things Congress and the White House should be working on to make things safer. How many of those 41 have been passed? About half of them. So you're about halfway to being safer. If we were educating half our kids, how would you feel about that? Or picking up half the garbage in front of your house, how would you like that?"

Roemer said the 9/11 recommendations include dealing weapons of mass destruction, having radios for first responders so they can talk to one another. "Imagine in the 21st Century we'd want our police and fire to be able to talk to one another?" Roemer said. The book "**102 Minutes**," chronicles NYPD circling above the listing World Trade Centers in helicopters with no way of communicating the imminent collapse to the more than 300 NYFD members slowly climbing the stairs. "What did Congress do on that?" Roemer asked. "They said we'll provide it. But would you guess in 2006? 2007? You'd be wrong. 2009, Congress said we'll provide first responders with the right radio spectrum so they can talk. John McCain and I did about five press conferences on this trying to get the date moved up. Some of these are the most important recommendations Congress and the White House still haven't acted on."

Roemer's metrics

Roemer provided his own metrics. "Iraq," he said. "We've lost about 3,000 brave men and women. About the same that we lost on 9/11. And things aren't getting better. The world loses about 3,000 Iraqis every month. If this war

was taking place in France or Ireland, that would be more significant. Iraq is not going well."

"Secondly, Afghanistan, another important metric. More opium produced today under this administration than before we went in there. More suicide bombers than the last three years. Afghanistan is sliding backward. Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri; have they been captured? No, they are out there releasing even more tapes.

"Ports and borders? How are we doing on that issue. Congress wants to build a 700-mile border (fence). We're the only country in the world putting up a physical border when the 21st Century demands a virtual border," Roemer said.

"Any objective metric you look at, we need to make us safer. Some of it is not very hopeful, but what inspired me the most is the best of America. I had the honor to work with the 9/11 families."

Roemer then returned to the voting.

He said in the primary, "turnout was 9, 10, 12 percent. In a contested Democratic primary in Virginia it was 3 percent. We have to find some ways to make sure in the lowest levels of education, from elementary school on through middle and high school that civic responsibility and duty are required.

We spend so much time in this country trying to blame somebody else for our problems instead of solving the problem," Roemer said. "We can spend another 10 years deciding who's more to blame: Bill Clinton or George Bush. Do you want to do that? Make 30-second ads on that, or solve the problem? I want to make sure we think outside the box as a government, and not just create big departments of homeland security with 180,000 people. That's what you do in the 1960s to fight the Soviet Union. What kind of organization do we need today in a global economy with transnational threats coming at us every second on the internet, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction? What kind of fast-moving dynamic organization do we need that helps us fight one of the most nimble and entrepreneurial enemies we'll ever face? Is that the kind of structure we want? 180,000 people? Or is it thinking outside the box like we did in 1947? I think it was kind of ironic that a Republican administration would create such a big organization."

"The biggest problem in this country is trying to cover up your mistakes," Roemer said.

Peace and immigration

Roemer's appeal to patriotism and voting brought





an emotional response from the Forum audience. Some in the room were visibly moved by his speech.

When Pence talked about immigration, he recounted a conversation he had with President Bush in the Oval Office last spring. Pence had proposed a compromise from the Bush plan, which he termed "amnesty" and the House plan that would attempt to deport 12 million illegal immigrants.

"Mind if I ask a personal question?" Bush said to Pence. "You've taken a lot of flack. Why?"

Pence responded, "April 11, 1923, had a lot to do with it." That was when a 20-year-old unskilled day laborer arrived at Ellis Island, Richard Michael Cawley, in the shadow the Statue of Liberty."

Pence told Bush, "And that's how Michael Richard Pence got himself into the Oval Office."

Bush "got the dew in his eye" and then told Pence, "Well, you get it."

Pence's plan to have illegal immigrants go back to their country of origin, report to "Ellis Island Centers," and apply for two-year work visas is his attempt to take the "rule of law and marry it to justice and mercy."

Asked whether 12 million immigrants entering such a program would swamp a government bureaucracy, Pence said that it would be the private sector -- Kelly Services, Monster.com, and Career Builders would assist the process. "The idea of a government bureaucracy is a paralyzing thought," Pence said. But, he said, one of the job service CEOs told him his company had completed 50 million transactions in 2005.

And Pence told HPR before his speech that a number of GOP congressman taking the hard line on immigration prior to the election, have privately



Cawley Family 1942
Mary Ellen, Richard M., Richard J., Mary, Ann Jane (Nancy)

Rep. Pence's grandfather.

told him they will act differently afterwards should they remain in office.

Epilogue

When Tim Roemer spoke about 9/11 and Pence on immigration, they offered two of the most eloquent moments at the HPR Forum.

They differ vastly on many issues (though both are pro-life on abortion) and perceptions. But both are fascinating communicators.

Do not be surprised if either of these Hoosiers begin making national party ticket short lists in the summer of 2008. ♦



Sen. Lugar visits with Ryan Nees of IndianaOnMessage and Beverly Phillips. (HPR Photo)

Hoosier great leader surveys the Axis of Evil

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Richard Lugar literally gave the HPR Forum a tour of the Axis of Evil in his opening address.

It came a decade after the Lugar presidential campaign predicted the "destruction of an American city in our lifetime" to terrorism. Lugar's presidential campaign opened on the day of the Oklahoma City bombing. Five years after it ended, buildings of city size, three World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon were attacked and, in the case of New York, destroyed.

About 48 hours before Lugar's speech, North Korea apparently joined the nuclear club, detonating an underground test.

Lugar began his talk with a "a survey of the world and to organize some thoughts." It was an exhaustive analysis. Lugar said there are "two major threats to stability of nation states and world peace and the development of human rights. One is the development and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Obviously, there are chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction.





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And the evolution of these weapons makes an enormous difference in our current history. It makes it possible for nation states to be virtually annihilated. We sense this as a nation for the better part of 40 years now when the Soviet Union and the United States both possessed nuclear warheads."

Lugar said the Nunn-Lugar Act that allowed the United States to begin destroying Soviet missiles in 1991 and would learn that the USSR had 13,000 warheads aimed at the U.S., capable of reducing American cities and military installations to rubble.

"When they are disassembled, a whole new set of problems arise," Lugar said. The highly enriched uranium and plutonium must be stored and stored carefully.

"This is the fuel that makes all the difference," Lugar said. "You either buy it or steal it or smuggle it. You put it in your program and that advances it rather substantially." Nunn-Lugar was aimed at "disassembling, storing and destroying" the material.

Failure to secure what Lugar described as a "small blob of mass" that could easily be placed "on a ship and send the ship into San Francisco harbor and have an explosion of that sort."

Lugar's nuclear tour then turns east.

He described North Korea as a "desperately poor" nation that has financed some nuclear proliferation in the past involving Pakistan, Libya and Iran. "The danger in North Korea isn't precisely whether the explosion is now, but it's the potential for reverberations, the ties to others who do not wish the world well."

During the Cold War, the nuclear club included the United States, USSR, China, Great Britain and France. But it has slowly expanded to include India and Pakistan, possibly Israel.

During the Cold War, there were systems in place where the Americans and Russians could warn each other, so that if a "flock of birds" showed up on radar, there were back channels that would confirm that geese were not strategic bombers. "But India and Pakistan obviously haven't developed that and haven't to this day," Lugar said.

The North Korean membership in "The Club" threatens to push Japan in that direction. "That's beginning to unnerve the Chinese in a big way, much more so than the North Koreans." The Chinese haven't forgotten the hundreds of thousands of people massacred by the Japanese before and during World War II.

And, of course, there is the final member of the "Axis of Evil" -- Iran, seeking to come in. "We are probably going to have a similar predicament in Iran," said Lugar.

"I mention all of this as one statement because it intersects with another ... the problem of energy suf-

ficiency." The Russians, riding a natural gas boom, are now throwing their weight around, threatening to cut off energy supplies to Georgia and the Ukraine. The U.S., beginning in the 1930s, "formed an alliance with the Saudis to supply oil.

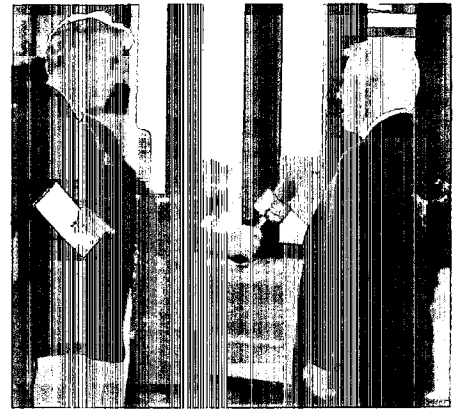
Of Iraq, the former member of the Axis of Evil now sliding into chaos, Lugar said, quoting former Secretary of State James Baker III, said, "It's about oil, oil, oil."

And, Lugar said, "This is a new ballgame."

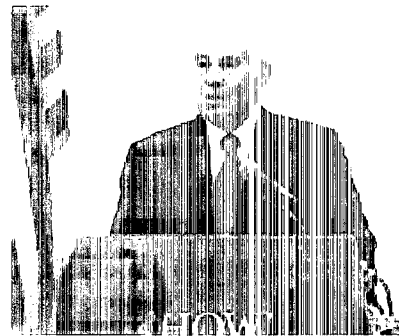
Lugar said that the Oil Presidency of President Bush and Vice President Cheney has "come late and come haltingly" to recognize that this addiction to oil comes in a world where rogue states are on the cusp of nuclear power.

"He used the word 'addicted' which is a strong word. The president admitted to some of us that he was surprised" by the reaction.

"It's a very different picture than it was 15 years ago," he said of the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union.



Sen. Lugar is interviewed by WTHR-TV's Chris Proffitt at the HPR Forum. (HPR)



Lugar said he called Al Hubbard at the White House because "the Department of Energy is still all tied up with its regulations" in a U.S. energy transformation into sources like switchgrass. "I suggested to Al that if you don't move rapidly, there will be another administration before you get the rules set. Let's get on with it. There is a need in this country ... that we have a very, very sizeable danger in this world that the countries that have these oil supplies are no longer dominated by oil companies. Seventy-seven

percent of the oil supplies are now controlled by governments, not by individual managers and stockholders. That is a difference. As oil companies get kicked out of Venezuela, oil production is going down."

A trip through Lugar's world, along the Axis of Evil, is a perilous place with nuke-wielding rogues controlling the oil spigot. "The good news is we are still a very prosperous country," Lugar said, and the key is "moving rapidly" to shore up our defenses against nukes and at the gas pump.

❖



Reading the tea leaves in the battle for the House

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Together, Democrat Tim Jeffers and Republican Mike Gentry have engineered House seat pickups in two consecutive cycles. The two are now locked into a rubber match and listening to them walking through the Battle for the House at the HPR Forum was like reading tea leaves.

A couple of things are clear. First, the key races are the ones we've been analyzing since the spring: HD69 where Democrat Dave Cheatham is challenging Rep. Billy Bright; HD64 where Democrat Greg Battles looks to take out Rep. Troy Woodruff; HD17 where former Sen. Nancy Dembowski has Republican Rep. Steve Heim on the ropes; and HD86 where Kathryn Densborn is trying to unseat Democrat David Orentlicher. There wasn't a great deal of attention paid to the open HD20 seat battle between

Republican Tom Dermody and LaPorte Councilwoman Andrea Renner, where Jeffers and Democratic Chairman Dan Parker were predicting a pickup about five weeks ago.

Jeffers suggested that the south - with the Bright and Woodruff seats - is the lynchpin for control of the House. "If the Republicans can't hold on to those two seats" they lose control.

Secondly, having said that, Jeffers reiterated his statement made last summer that come election night, there are likely to be surprises on both sides of the aisle.

For Jeffers, he talked about Democrat Sylvia Graham in the seat abandoned by State Rep. Ralph Ayres, John Barnes attempt to unseat Rep. Larry Buell, and the rematches between Ron Herrell-John Smith in Kokomo and the Rep. Tim Harris-Larry Hile race in the Marion/Hartford City area.

Gentry seemed to be placing outside markers on the seats held by State Rep. Teri Austin, Sheila Klinker and Vern Tincher.

Gentry expressed confidence that the toll road issue had run its course. He said that State Reps. Marlin Stutzman, Jackie Walorski and Dick Dodge have comfortable leads, as does Rep. John Ulmer. Those are all heavily Republican seats. Ulmer is facing former Goshen mayor

and toll road manager Mike Puro. "Ulmer polled over 50 percent," Gentry said.

"The governor's numbers are starting to go up," Gentry said, noting that in HD57 where Shelby County Councilman Sean Eberhart is facing an intense race from Democrat J.D. Lux, Gov. Daniels favorable ratings were "60 percent." It echoed an American Viewpoint poll in late September for Sen. Lugar that had Daniels' fav/unfavs at 50-43 percent (see Horse Race).

Just last week, Ulmer was quoted in the Elkhart Truth as saying he stands by his vote on Major Moves. At a Republican town hall meeting in Elkhart this week, Major Moves did not provoke the kind of emotion that had been seen earlier. It appears that \$40 million checks to these counties has become a soothing salve.

Gentry acknowledged that the Heim-Dembowski battle is "a tough race."

Jeffers wasn't buying the notion that Daniels has resurrected his numbers. "You go out-state and the governor's numbers are in the toilet. And it's strange that the toll road issue is playing big in the south."

Jeffers added, "I like the position I'm in. What you will hear in the next few weeks is that the Republicans didn't ask and didn't listen."

The "tough race" category for Jeffers appeared to be Rep. Orentlicher. He defended the stem cell attack flier, saying that as a medical ethicist, Orentlicher has "credibility." But, Jeffers said, "It's going to be a tough race." Gentry called Densborn "the best candidate we've had" in the 50/50 HD 86.

Asked by HPR for a "one sentence" prediction on where this all ends up, Jeffers said he thought the Democrats could end up with anywhere from "52 to 54 seats." Gentry suggested a "50/50 split" wouldn't be surprising.

The assumed caveat is that neither of these guys were going to reveal their complete hand.

HPR is sticking to its current forecast of 51/49 Democrat. While we don't like to equivocate, the situation is fluid. It could change. Stay tuned.

There is some evidence that Gov. Daniels won't be a huge drag that was once feared by Republicans. The House GOP appears to be in considerably better shape than their Congressional counterparts. But the final weeks of the campaign will write the final chapter.



House Democrat campaign coordinator Tim Jeffers (left) with his GOP counterpart, Mike Gentry at the HPR Forum. (HPR Photo)





Political Report

Bayh expects to gain from Warner exit

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner's stunning decision not to run in the 2008 presidential Democratic primaries is good news for U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh.

"The big winner is Evan Bayh," said confidante William Moreau Jr. this morning. "Warner was appealing to the same folks that would be inclined to support Evan Bayh."

The Washington Post's Chris Cillezza offered similar sentiments. "The most obvious winner from the Warner news is Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh," the Post's "Fix" blog reported at mid-day. "Bayh and Warner shared much of the same ideological territory -- moderate, consensus builders elected in red states. After helping Gov. Tim Kaine win the governorship in 2005, Warner became the 'it' boy of national politics -- the candidate seen as most likely to emerge as the alternative to New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Warner's ascent came at the expense of Bayh who found much of the air sucked out of his candidacy."

At the HPR Forum, Boston Globe reporter James Pindell identified Warner as a key obstacle to Bayh in a field where an anti-Hillary centrist has yet to emerge. Pindell asked repeatedly where Bayh would find traction among the centrist competition that included Warner and Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack.

Bayh is expected to be furiously working the phones well into tonight trying to line up Warner supporters. The Post described the Bayh vs. Warner dynamic as "a major behind-the-scenes fight for donors and activists." The Post noted, "Bayh still has a number of challenges to overcome if he hopes to ascend to the top tier of the presidential field -- most notably his perceived charisma problem -- but one major hurdle has been removed."

The other perceived winner in the post-Warner world is former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, who was also locked into a "second tier" battle under Clinton.

Pindell, however, said at the HPR Forum that he's not convinced Sen. Clinton will even run. ❖

Battle for the House HPR Forecast: D 51, R 49

Likely Takeover (3-R)

Woodruff (Battles)
Heim (Demkowski)
Bright (Chertham)

Tossups (9-R; 1-D)

Buell (Barnes)
J. Smith (Herrill)
Saunders (Sadler (D), and Bell (L))
Open (Messers: Eberhart vs. Lux)
Stutzman (Florick)
Harris (Hile)
Walorski (Kivachi)
Ulmer (Purc)
Open (Budala: Dermody vs. Renner)
Orendlicher (Densborn)

Leans (6-R; 6-D)

Lehe (Sutton)
Hinkle (Olds)
Davis (Liggitt)
Lutz (Mengelt)
Dodge (Rauen)
Open (Ayres: Soliday v. Graham (D))
Hoy (A. Smith)
Micon (Basham)
Crooks (Arnold)
Austin (Metzger)
Tincher (Dallas)
Open (Hoffman: Knollman vs. Lanning)

Likely (3-R; 2-D)

Bosma (Fulauer)
Borders (Blaisoe)
Open (Thomas: Thomas v. Thompson (D))
Open (Stemler v Theobald)
Denbo (Patton)

Safe (30-R; 40-D)

(30 Republican) Gutwein, Wolkins, Ruppel, Friend, McClain, Thompson, Richardson, Turner, Buck, Torr, Whetstone, T. Brown, Foley, Frizzell, Behning, Murphy, Noe, Pond, Borrer, 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, Klinker (Rhoda), Pfum (Bell), Fry (Hiler), Bischoff (Ulrich)

Movement: None this week. ❖



Gary Gerard, Warsaw Times-Union - The fact that these e-mails were between a 52-year-old Congressman and an underage Congressional page is really creepy, sick and disgusting. But the irony? Foley was writing his lurid little e-mail messages at the same time he was passing himself off as a champion of young people and the very pages he was victimizing. Here's a quote from a tearful - that's right, tearful - speech Foley made in 2002 to thank the 2002 page class. "Cherish your youth, cherish this experience, but above all cherish your families. Let them know how much you appreciate them giving you this chance. And let them know how much you appreciate their love to make you the people you are." Yeah, the good Congressman made that speech on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. Some of the very same pages in the room that day would later become the recipients of Foley's sick little sexual e-mails. And that's not even the most shocking irony of the story. Foley may face charges under the very same child sex law he championed in Congress. What a nut case this guy is. He had to know better. Now Foley says he's a homosexual and seeking treatment for alcoholism. That's an insult to gay drunks everywhere. Everybody is innocent until proven guilty, but if it turns out the GOP leadership knew about this Foley stuff and failed to act, I say throw them all under the bus with Foley. Or, better yet, put them all in the bus and drive it off a cliff. ❖

Stuart Rothenberg, Roll Call - Three weeks ago, some people were talking about a Republican surge that never really existed. Now, others mistakenly are talking as if the page scandal surrounding ex-Rep. Mark Foley has fundamentally changed the election cycle. It hasn't. What we are seeing, increasingly, is 1994, with the parties reversed. ❖

John Ketzenberger, Indianapolis Star - Ed Feigenbaum spent 90 minutes talking with a New York Times reporter the other day. It won't generate a single nickel's worth of revenue, but it's a sign of the times - and good for business. Feigenbaum and competitor Brian Howey have made businesses of political punditry. They're getting a lot of attention from the national media because three of Indiana's Republican members of Congress are in close races. What he should have been doing was putting the finishing touches on *Indiana Legislative Insight*, a weekly political newsletter he has published since 1988. It's part of a business that includes two other newsletters, a daily online update and an annual political conference. Howey got started in 1994 and has a similar business model. He also writes a weekly column that appears in 24 Hoosier newspapers. His name is getting into the national press,

too. The reason is as simple as three competitive races for Congress. The thinking among national observers is that as Indiana goes, so goes Congress. So it's fair to think of Feigenbaum and Howey as translators for reporters trying to understand Hoosiers and their issues. "It's about

explaining the vagaries of Indiana to outsiders who can't comprehend that all change is considered bad by Hoosiers," Feigenbaum said. Howey's newsletter started two months before Republicans reclaimed control of Congress and Indiana's House of Representatives in 1994. His niche is sniffing out political trends and calling races across the state. While attention from national pundits likely won't mean many new subscriptions, it does burnish their reputations. And if the election

does result in upsets, "Change is good in this business," Howey said. ❖

Rich James, Post-Tribune - There's barely a political wisp in the air. Particularly in Lake County, where politics is akin to a religion, it's eerily quiet. Democrats, acknowledging the immense respect Hoosiers have for Sen. Richard Lugar, didn't file a Senate candidate. At the time, I thought Democrats had made a strategic move. Leave Lugar alone, so as not to pump life into state Republicans. On the other hand, a Democratic Senate candidate would have helped bring out the union vote. It would be a shame if all this lethargy came back to haunt Highland Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin, the Democratic candidate for state treasurer. Griffin is the most qualified person Democrats have fielded for statewide office in years - maybe ever. But, because Lake County Democrats aren't threatened, there's little to invigorate the rank and file. Griffin's fate may well rest with Lake County's slumbering Democrats. ❖

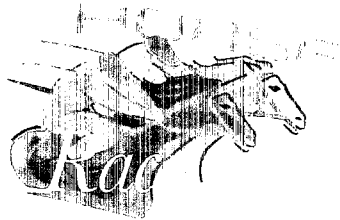
Jack Colwell, South Bend Tribune - First of all, neither the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party - nor any other party, group or institution, for that matter - has a monopoly on morality and ethics or is without some slobs in the ranks. Only the most partisan Republican or Democrat could believe this isn't so. It is so, as history shows. Often it is the party long in control of a branch of government - the Democratic-controlled House of the past, the Republican-controlled House of the present - whose members slip into sleaze and slime and whose leaders act as though they own the place. Now, there is the sorry case of Mark Foley, the messaging predator whose prey was teenage boys who served as House pages. Poor Mr. Foley. The Devil made him do it. It was the demons of alcohol, he claims, even though nobody seemed to sense he had any such problem before he sought shelter and sympathy in rehab. ❖

COLUMNISTS
on
Indiana



A plethora of polling

Trendline No. 1: Poll numbers from the campaign of U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar offer a different view of the Indiana landscape than some of the other recent polls (HPR). According to an American Viewpoint poll conducted by Linda DiVall (Sept. 27-28, 800 likely, +/-3.5%), the favorable/unfavorable rating for President Bush in Indiana was 49/46%. Gov. Mitch Daniels' fav/unfavs were 50/43%. Sen. Lugar's fav/unfavs were 77/13%. The questions asked were posed like this: "Do you approve or disapprove of the way Richard Lugar is handling his job as U.S. Senator?" Said Lugar campaign manager Nick Weber, "According to our poll, neither the Bush nor (Daniels) numbers are quite what Survey USA would have one believe." The SurveyUSA numbers from September had Gov. Daniels' fav/unfavs at 39/55%. Bush's fav/unfavs stood at 47/52%. SurveyUSA's numbers from Sept. 26 for Sen. Lugar were 60/31% and for U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh 61-32%.



Trendline No. 2: Politics is a water-cooler topic, a dinner-table subject, an issue to discuss after Sunday services, and this year the interest of American voters is at its highest level in more than a decade. That renewed attention could translate into higher voter turnout on Nov. 7, according to an Associated Press-Pew poll. Seventy percent say they are talking politics with family and friends, and 43 percent are debating the issues at work. Among churchgoers, 28 percent share their political views, a number that rises to 34 percent among the congregations in the South.

Trendline No. 3: Come hell or high water-ran the conventional wisdom-Republicans could rely on two issues to win elections: the war on terror and values. Then came Mark Foley. The drip-drip-drip of scandal surrounding the former Congressman from Florida, which became a deluge this week, now threatens to sink Republican hopes of keeping control of Congress, says the **NEWSWEEK** poll out today. And that was the good news for the GOP. More worrisome still, the Foley fiasco is jeopardizing the party's monopoly on faith and power. For the first time since 2001, the **NEWSWEEK** poll shows that more Americans trust the Democrats than the GOP on moral values and the war on terror. Fully 53 percent of Americans want the Democrats to win control of Congress next month, including 10 percent of Republicans, compared to just 35 percent who want the GOP to retain power. If the election were held today, 51 percent of likely voters would vote for the Democrat in their district versus 39 percent who would vote for the Republican. And while the race is

closer among male voters (46 percent for the Democrats vs. 42 percent for the Republicans), the Democrats lead among women voters 56 to 34 percent. Meanwhile, President Bush's approval rating has fallen to a new all-time low for the Newsweek poll: 33 percent, down from an already anemic 36 percent in August. Only 25 percent of Americans are satisfied with the direction of the country, while 57 percent say they are not.

Trendline No. 4: A South Dakota firm is polling in Indiana. It asks about the Brizzi-Kennedy race and then asks, who would you vote for governor in 2008: Gov. Mitch Daniels or Mayor Bart Peterson?

Trendline No. 5: U.S. Sen. Barack Obama will travel Monday to Indianapolis to raise campaign cash for three Indiana Democrats seeking to unseat Republican congressmen. Obama, a freshman Illinois Democrat whose national profile has put him in high demand this election season, will give a keynote address at a downtown luncheon hosted by the Indiana Democratic Party. Tickets are \$250. "Indiana is in the national spotlight, and the national figures go where they're needed," said Mike Edmondson, executive director of the Indiana Democratic Party. "We are a national target. These races could provide one-fifth the number of seats needed to take back the House."

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 Markets:** 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:** CQ Politics (10/12, Giroux) reports, "The rugged national political environment for Republicans in general - and a well-funded attack campaign from Democratic and liberal groups - are the chief reasons why Chocola faces a tougher race in his rematch with Democratic lawyer Joe Donnelly than he did in their first faceoff two years ago." CQPolitics.com has moved its rating on the Indiana 2 race to "No Clear Favorite" from "Leans Republican." Brooks Kochvar, Chocola's campaign manager, described the contest as "prebly much a "dead heat," citing a poll conducted for the incumbent's campaign that showed Chocola ahead narrowly and also acknowledging the independent polls that



have Chocola trailing." Chocola has a "decidedly conservative voting record," and Bob Doyle, general consultant to Donnelly's campaign said, "The plain fact is Joe Donnelly has run a much more sophisticated, very well-funded race, and has held Chris Chocola accountable for his voting record, and that's been the story of the race."

First lady Laura Bush is expected to draw a crowd of 600 to 700 supporters of U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, R-2nd, to Century Center when she campaigns for him today (**South Bend Tribune**). It will be her first campaign visit to the 2nd District, according to Chocola, although the first lady did accompany President Bush during a campaign stop in Niles during the 2004 campaign and was on the plane when it landed at South Bend Regional Airport

If you like U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh, you should vote for Democrat Joe Donnelly for Congress (Wensits, **South Bend Tribune**). That was the clear message sent Thursday as Bayh made stops at a downtown union hall and at the AM General plant in support of Donnelly's bid to upset the Republican incumbent, U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, R- 2nd. At the United Steelworkers Union hall, Bayh promoted legislation intended to level the playing field for American companies competing with companies in foreign countries that subsidize their businesses. That practice is illegal for most "market" countries, Bayh said, but is allowed for China and several other nations, even though China is one of the foremost trading countries in the world. "They can take our jobs and hurt our businesses, but we apparently are not able to do anything about it," Bayh said. "That's got to stop." Bayh, who said he's known Donnelly for 20 years, described the Granger Democrat as "a good person who will fight for the people of the district." Donnelly said he had asked Bayh early on to campaign for him because Bayh is loved by Hoosiers and because "it's a good thing to have a friend who's also a senator." **Status: LEANS DEMOCRAT**

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:** Some of Indiana's staunchest conservatives descended on Fort Wayne on Monday to address the area's abortion-rights opponents. Gov. Mitch Daniels, Bishop John D'Arcy and Souder all spoke at Allen County Right to Life's Banquet for Life, which was headlined by former Indiana senator and U.S. ambassador Dan Coats. Even with the

two recent changes on the U.S. Supreme Court, Coats said it is not the time to attempt making abortion illegal. "It's a more balanced court, whether it's a majority court is yet to be seen," he said. D'Arcy told the crowd of more than 600 people they need to help build a culture of life. The bishop said everyone can do his part, but recognized the community has helped the cause. "Fort Wayne has been and is a great community for life," he said. Souder said the culture of the country was under assault, and said he was pushing for a law to force doctors to offer anesthesia for fetuses in abortion proceedings. He said that would help the cause by having mothers learn their fetus could feel pain. He agreed with Coats' assessment of the Supreme Court and said Congress should work on more "fringe" issues on the debate instead of pursuing a ban on abortion. He pointed out how important it is to support candidates who oppose abortion rights on Election Day to ensure their agenda stays on the offensive. The theme of the evening was "Your Vote ... Their Voice." Souder's Democratic opponent, Dr. Tom Hayhurst, who did not attend the banquet, said he would never support a federal measure to stop a woman from choosing to have an abortion, but agreed that abortion is a problem in this country (**Fort Wayne Journal Gazette**). He said he would hope to curb abortion not through laws, but by convincing women to have their babies and increasing the safety net for children so mothers won't be overwhelmed by a child. He added that other national issues, such as affordable health care and the economy, are higher priorities. **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: CQ Politics (10/12,** Giroux) reports, "Hostettler faces more serious problems than ever, some of them beyond his control," and "now appears the underdog," from candidate Brad Ellworth (D). CQPolitics.com "has changed its rating on the race to 'Leans Democratic' from 'No Clear Favorite.'" Rep. Hostettler (R) has "one major campaign strength, though: an impressive get-out-the-vote operation which keeps him from getting counted out even against the formidable odds he faces this year," but at the same time, "Ellsworth



Political Report

is a stronger candidate than the opponents Hostettler dispatched in 2002 and 2004."

The AP (10/11, Espo) adds in an article about campaign-strategy changing, that "Democrats have scaled back advertising plans in Indiana, Illinois and Texas recently, but officials said that reflected confidence they would pick off two Republican-held seats, rather than a decision to accept defeat."

Hostettler told local Rotarians on Thursday that Democrats treat congressional sex scandals differently from Republicans (**Evansville Courier & Press**). Foley resigned last week after sexually explicit messages he had exchanged with 16- and 17-year-old congressional pages came to light. Answering a question about how Foley's indiscretions and the alleged failure of House Republican leaders to corral Foley might affect his re-election race in Indiana's 8th District, Hostettler quickly denounced his former Republican colleague. Hostettler was appearing before the Morning Rotary Club of Evansville in a conference room at Casino Aztar. "Well, first of all, what Mark Foley did was despicable," he said. But Hostettler quickly turned his remarks to Democrats, noting a "contrast between the two (party) leaderships" in dealing with congressional sex scandals. He did not directly address how Foley's woes might affect his own race against Democratic challenger Brad Ellsworth. Hostettler reminded the Rotarians about former Rep. Gerry Studds, a Massachusetts Democrat who was censured by the House in 1983 for having a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old male congressional page in 1973. Hostettler said Studds, unlike Foley, had "sex with a page." "Not instant messaging, not e-mails, not letters, not discussions - sex with a page," he said. "It took Democrat leadership 10 years to bring this to light - 10 years," he said. Hostettler recalled that, as the House read its censure of Studds into the record, the Democrat turned his back on his colleagues. He said Studds was re-elected several times before retiring in 1997. "So, I welcome this discussion of the difference between Republicans and Democrats when it comes to these very important issues," he said. Bayh backed Ellsworth during a news conference in front of the Vigo County Courthouse. (**Terre Haute Tribune-Star**). Bayh said he already has taped four commercials for some state legislative candidates and will meet with other candidates later this month. "I think Indiana can make an important contribution in leading this country in a better direction by sending good people like Brad Ellsworth, and Baron Hill and Joe Donnelly to the United States Congress," Bayh said. Bayh said the 9/11 Commission recommended 41 security measures. In December, the 9/11 Commission issued a report card on government implementation of those measures. "Out of the 41 suggestions, there were four 'F's, nine 'D's and no 'A's. That is not good enough. We can do better than that defending America, and Brad Ellsworth will," Bayh said.

Ellsworth said it "is unacceptable that a terrorists' passenger watch list is not due until airliners are already 15 minutes into the middle of their flight. We need to do a better job, the technology is there and we can be more efficient." Ellsworth received the endorsement of the State of Indiana Fraternal Order of Police organization Sunday in Terre Haute. "Sheriff Ellsworth has spent nearly 25 years protecting Hoosier families," said Terre Haute Police Department Patrolman and Terre Haute Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #85 Trustee Brad Newman. "He's been a leader in the war on meth and in protecting Hoosier families from sexual predators. In Congress, he'll continue his service and dedication to protecting our families." Ellsworth said, "My whole career has been about protecting people, and I won't stop when I get to Congress." **Status: LEANS DEMOCRAT**

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:** A SurveyUSA poll conducted for WHAS-TV shows Hill leading Sodrel 48-46 percent with Schansberg getting 2 percent. Four percent were undecided. The poll of 512 likely voters had a +/-4.4 percent. If that's the case, it would be an erosion of support for Hill, coming after he began running the ads tying Sodrel to the Foley scandal.

The Indianapolis Star (10/11, Grope) reports Rep. (Mike Sodrel (R), "is considered to be among the most endangered GOP incumbents in the nation. The campaign barn of House Republicans now appears worried" and are "already facing the prospect of losing three of Indiana's seven GOP House members."

Hill and Sodrel will debate on Nov. 1 at the Jasper campus of Vincennes University.

Hill and former Congressman Tim Roemer held a town hall meeting Wednesday to discuss the 95-10 Initiative, a proposal that would reduce the number of abortions by 95 percent in the next 10 years. "I am against abortions, and I believe that we must do more to protect life," Hill said. "However, we can't just talk about protecting life—we must implement sound policies that will actually reduce the number of abortions. Everyone that values the dignity of human life as I do should get behind the 95-10 plan so we can put our words into action." The 95-10 Initiative dramatically reduces the number of abor-



tions in America by emphasizing counseling, prevention, and alternative options for women considering abortion. Specifically, this legislation would:

- * Provide federal funding for pregnancy counseling and daycare on university campuses.
- * Make adoption tax credits permanent.
- * Ban insurance industry discrimination against pregnant women.
- * Prohibit the transport of a minor across a state line to obtain an abortion.

Hill is against abortions and adamantly opposed to late-term abortions. In Congress, Hill voted four times to ban doctors from performing partial birth abortions. Additionally, Hill is in favor of parental notification laws. "My record is clear—I am against abortions, and I believe that we must do more to reduce the number of abortions in our country," Hill stated. "I have always been a man of my word, and as your representative, I'll be a strong, independent voice who will bring our Hoosier values to Washington."

Hill is one of just a few Democratic candidates in the country currently using a television ad to try to connect his Republican opponent to the congressional page scandal in Washington, D.C. (**Louisville Courier-Journal**). But a prominent political observer said that will likely change soon. "I can guarantee you that not only will other individual Democrats use it, but the DCCC will use it as well," said Larry Sabato, director of the Center for Politics at the University of Virginia. In a 30-second ad that began airing Friday on Louisville-area television stations, Hill says incumbent U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel, of Southern Indiana's 9th District, has refused to return campaign contributions he received from House leaders who "knew about but did nothing to stop" a former congressman accused of sending sexually inappropriate Internet messages to underage pages. "You want change in Washington?" the ad asks. "Then change the people you send." Sodrel's campaign manager, Cam Savage, called it "the nastiest ad I've ever seen," particularly because it accuses the Republican of saying nothing about the scandal. Sodrel labeled former Rep. Mark Foley's actions "appalling" and called for an FBI investigation almost immediately after the Florida Republican resigned. But unlike some other GOP candidates, Sodrel has not passed judgment on House leaders. Savage said Sodrel plans to wait for the results of an investigation into which leaders knew what about the Foley situation before making any decisions about returning their campaign contributions. "Trying to link Mike to this is disingenuous. It's ludicrous," Savage said. Rep. Mike Sodrel will show more than \$1 million in the bank for the final 30 days of the election when the Oct. 15 Federal Election Commission filing is released (Mark Schoeff Jr., **HPR**). "We've done the things we need to do and we have the resources to get Mike's message out," said Cam Savage, Sodrel's campaign manager. Sodrel's challenger,

former Democratic Rep. Baron Hill, also is a prolific fundraiser. He had \$967,878 cash on hand as of June 30. His campaign didn't provide a projection of the money he will have available for the final October push, but consultant Michael O'Connor said Hill is on track to raise \$1.5 million. "Every financial goal we've set out for ourselves, we've exceeded," O'Connor said. Sodrel upended Hill in 2004 by about 1400 votes. This year's contest has been just as hard fought, with both parties and independent groups spending heavily on the race. The district is crucial to control of the House, where the Republicans have a 15-seat advantage. **Status: LEANS DEMOCRAT**

Legislative Races

House District 49: Republican: State Rep. John Ulmer. Democrat: Mike Puro. **2004 Results:** Ulmer 17,592. **2006 Forecast:** State legislators decided to lease the Indiana Toll Road in a hurry without considering alternatives, said Mike Puro, Democratic candidate for state representative in District 49. "Ignoring any alternative, this administration shoved the toll road privatization bill through the Legislature," he said Thursday at the Elkhart County Democratic Headquarters in Goshen (Tapinsh, **Elkhart Truth**). At the time when the General Assembly considered the lease of the 157-mile Indiana Toll Road, the public had little information about the lease and whatever it did have was full of misinformation, said Puro, former director of the Indiana Toll Road. Puro's opponent, state Rep. John Ulmer, R-Goshen, said the decision to authorize the lease was based on factual information and he doesn't regret voting for the lease. "We had the facts and the figures," Ulmer said. **Status: TOSSUP**

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:** The two candidates running for the District 57 seat in the Indiana House of Representatives certainly have their differences, but this week they both spoke out against a proposal to use Shelby County food and beverage taxes to help fund the ongoing operating expenses of Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis (**Shelbyville News**). Lucas Oil Stadium is the future home of the Indianapolis Colts football team. "Last year, they taxed us in Shelby County to build their stadium; now they say they do not have the funding secured to operate it," said J.D. Lux, the Democratic nominee, in a prepared statement. "I do not support using our tax dollars from Shelby County to pay for funding the operations of the stadium." When Sean Eberhart, the Republican nominee, was advised of Lux's statement, Eberhart said he also does not support Shelby County tax dollars going toward the stadium's operation. "And I will not support any future legislation to do so," Eberhart said, also in a prepared statement. **Status: TOSSUP** ♦



Former First Lady

Josie Orr dies

INDIANAPOLIS - The former wife of Gov. Robert D. Orr, Joan "Josie" Orr has died. Mrs. Orr, 85, of Indianapolis, died Tuesday, according to the Alpha Funeral Home.

She married Robert Orr in 1944 after World War II and he returned to Evansville to work in the family business, Orr Iron Co.

After their divorce, the former governor married Mary Kay Davis in 2001. Mr. Orr died in 2004 at the age of 86.



Mark Warner won't seek the presidency in 2008

WASHINGTON - Former Virginia Gov. Mark Warner will announce he will not seek the presidency.

Fuldauer presses and Bosma drops 4-to-1 perk

INDIANAPOLIS - A controversial pension plan that gives Indiana lawmakers \$4 of taxpayer money for every \$1 legislators contribute appears headed to extinction (**Indianapolis Star**). House Speaker Brian C. Bosma, R-Indianapolis, and House Minority Leader B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, said Wednesday that they will seek to eliminate the plan in next year's legislative session. Their comments come less than a month before an election that will determine which party controls the House -- now split 52-48 in favor of the Republicans -- and hours after three Democratic legislative candidates, including Bosma's opponent Susan Fuldauer, called for the plan to be axed. "It's time our state legislators realized that they are public employees and public servants and deserve no better and no less than all of our public employees receive," Fuldauer

said. Bosma and Bauer agreed.

"The four-to-one match, it just goes down wrong," Bosma said. "It doesn't look right. It needs to be something close to what other state employees get."

New jobs coming to Cummins

SOUTH BEND - Cummins will produce a new light-duty diesel engine for DaimlerChrysler at Columbus Engine Plant, investing \$150 million and creating 600 to 800 jobs.

Hundreds line streets as GP's body returns from Iraq

HAMMOND - Hundreds of people lined Calumet Avenue in Hammond on Wednesday evening as the body of Staff Sgt. Jonathan Rojas was carried past his former home and his high school, through the city where he once lived, until it arrived at its final stop at the Burns-Kish Funeral Home (**Post-Tribune**). Rojas was killed Oct. 3 while performing security operations in Baghdad and he was Hammond's first casualty from the war in Iraq.

Daniels lauds Terre Haute

TERRE HAUTE - Gov. Mitch Daniels carried an upbeat economic message to a local Chamber of Commerce audience Wednesday morning saying Terre Haute is on an economic "hot streak." He also praised local business, education and government leaders for bringing "new energy" to this part of the state. The governor also used his speech to an audience of some 620 to warn against what he called "anti-business" and "anti-foreign" political rhetoric this election season. "I've been talking about Terre Haute elsewhere in Indiana," Daniels told the in-

vited audience at Hulman Civic Center. He praised Mayor Kevin Burke, saying the mayor is "my kind of guy" when it comes to trying to attract business investment to an area. "[Burke] gets it ... he understands," Daniels said.

Hughes enters Gary mayoral race

GARY - With a promise to strengthen existing businesses in Gary and encourage new ones, City Council member Chuck Hughes said Wednesday he wants to become Gary's mayor in 2007 (**Post-Tribune**). Hughes made his announcement before a group of about 50 supporters at his campaign headquarters on Broadway. "It's time for all of us to benefit from the decisions that are made on our behalf," Hughes said.

Dentist snared in BMV mess

EVANSVILLE - when Dr. Jenny Mc-Williams, a partner in an Evansville dental practice, reached her Newburgh home Sept. 18 after spending part of the day visiting her mother, her Indiana certificate of vehicle registration was in the mailbox (**Evansville Courier & Press**). Unfortunately, it hadn't arrived in time to save her from being ticketed by an Indiana State Police trooper minutes earlier for driving on an expired plate. McWilliams was another victim of the ongoing computer switchover nightmare at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Since July, the snafu has resulted in long waits on and off the premises of license branches. The resignation of Gov. Mitch Daniels' appointee to head the agency, Joel Silverman, becomes effective Wednesday. ♦



This Could be Dangerous



Abdul & Howey, 9 a.m. Every Monday
webcast @ www.wxnt.com