

Political Report

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Weekly Briefing on Indiana Politics

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006

Indiana House post-mortem

Democrats seize majority with mail; GOP dodge national bullet

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - So, how did the TV vs. Direct Mail war ultimately play out in the Battle for the Indiana House? And how might it change in the next couple of election cycles?

First of all, 747,541 Hoosiers voted Republican and 731,654 voted Democratic, so only 15,000 votes separated the two caucuses. "That's the closest that's ever been," said Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker.

Parker said that Democrats seized control of the House because "we stayed focused" on seven House seats in play. He kept the Sept. 7 edition of HPR handy with the headline, "Indiana on brink for big flip: A 5-4 Dem CD edge? 52-48 in the House?"

"I was not one who subscribed to the huge wave year," Parker said. "The challenge in the homestretch was to make sure we stayed focused."

For Mike Gentry of the House Republicans, it was an evasion of a bloodbath. "When I woke up election morning, I told my wife we could end up with 44 seats." The results of Nov. 7 were grim for Republicans when they lost not only Congress, but didn't elect a single new governor,

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Key players in the battle for the House were (top from left) Blackford County Commissioner Larry Hile, Jon Elrod in HD97, and Rep. Billy Bright with former Speaker Brian Bosma)

Ponder an Indiana in 2056

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

INDIANAPOLIS - Being a pundit here in turn-of-the-century Indiana requires 360-degree awareness. Where have we been over the past 30, 40, 50 years? Where will we be when Hoosiers celebrate my and Evan Bayh's 100th birthday in 2056?



Brian Howey's Column

I like to take Hoosiers back to 1900. The roads were full of horses and wagons and bicycles. There was that kook up in Kokomo named Elwood Haynes who was working on some bizarre contraption in his garage. And the nutballs in Dayton trying to fly! The skies were full of birds and

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“QUOTE
of the Week”



“He said, ‘You beat Chocola.’
And I said, ‘Yes, I’m well aware of that.”

- Congressman-Elect Joe Donnelly relating a conversation with President Bush on Tuesday



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an occasional hot air balloon. I'm sure if you told Gov. James A. Mount back in 1901 that by 1950, you could take a flying machine and go to New York in three hours, or hop in a horseless carriage and zip up to Chicago in six hours, he might have thought you were a little loopy.

Some of our leaders are quite visionary. There was a conversation President Lincoln had in the midst of the Civil War when he pondered the population of America in 1940, though he could never have imagined the width and breadth of the Industrial Revolution, let alone rocketry or atomic bombs.

Gov. Mitch Daniels is such a visionary. In 2005, he came up with Major Moves, a fully funded highway plan, and got it through the Indiana General Assembly on mostly party line votes. The Democrats were worried about the political impact of so many highway projects going on in so many districts and lined up against almost immediately.

Indianapolis Star reporters pondered in print a politically neutered governor, slowing down after the 2006 elections, which I thought was a peculiar notion. Two days after the election in which Gov. Daniels lost the Indiana House, he was at it again, announcing the "Commerce Connector," an outer-loop arcing from Pendleton to Martinsville. It would be a toll road, as if to satisfy the anti-Indianapolis sentiments to the north, and it would relieve Southwestern Hoosiers of evil tolls there.

No question about it, this was an interesting, thought-provoking proposal. As expected, powerful folks began lining up on both sides almost immediately. Indiana Democratic Chairman Dan Parker is opposed. State Rep. Bob Cherry and Rep.-elect Sean Eberhart like the idea. State Rep. Dave Crooks has an open mind. Here in Indianapolis, there are concerns about whether the new outer loop would suck commerce out of the core of capital city. Environmentalists worry about the loss of so much farmland

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even as our crop yields break records. All relevant thoughts.

I have a few of my own. Where are we going to be in 2056? Or 2099? Will we still be driving cars? Or will we have personal flying machines (i.e. the Chevy TV commercial with cars elevating out of traffic and zipping above all the Fords, BMW's and Saabs stuck on concrete). Or will it be "beam me up, Scotty"? Tell Kevin Brinegar we'll have a sushi lunch in Tokyo and get back in time for Chairman Nick Bayh's Ways & Means hearing at 1 p.m.? I figure there will be all sorts of sensational technological breakthroughs in medicine, computing, communication and, yes, transportation. One of our state's most dismal chapters was when we built a network of canals that were obsolete when the railroads chugged through a few years later. Most of Major Moves ends up in the ground by the state's bicentennial. But the Commerce Connector? That's probably decades away. Are we

really going to need it? Or are we in for dramatic changes in how we move humans and products?

Gov. Mount probably couldn't have fathomed the kind of nation Gov. O'Bannon ruled a century later and how it locomotes. We should push our visionaries to clue us in on where the logistics, nano-technology and advanced manufacturing will lead us in 50 or 100 years.

There are challenges for us all. Gov. Daniels and his team creates unnecessary political problems because of their communication shortcomings (and there are many).

The loyal opposition loses credibility when they fire from the hip in such a short period. Political allies show a lack of curiosity when the rubber stamp comes out a day later.

The deeper thinkers are now leaning forward and saying, "Tell me more. Much more."

What will Indiana look like in 2056? And how will we get there? ♦



U.S. senator or congressman. The GOP lost legislative 19 seats in Minnesota, 13 in Wisconsin, a half dozen in Iowa and Michigan (with the majority). "I always prepare Brian Bosma for the worst and it could have gotten pretty bad."

Secondly, Democrats used targeted absentee balloting. "We usually get clobbered with absentees," Parker said. "We didn't this time."

Third, while none of the Major Moves toll road Republicans lost, both Parker and House Minority Leader Brian C. Bosma said it had a major impact on the allocation of resources. Republicans spent \$300,000 on State Rep. Jackie Walorski, \$100,000 on State Rep. John Ulmer, \$40,000 on State Rep. Dick Dodge and \$100,000 on State Rep. Marlin Stutzman. That's a total of \$540,000 to defend four very Republican seats.

"Bob Kovach got 47 percent in a 62/38 district," Parker said. "Mike Puro got 42.9 percent in a 70/30 district. John Hardy got 45 percent against Tim Neese."

"That took a number of Democratic seats out of play," Parker said. "Craig Fry won 51-49 percent two years ago and his seat was never in play this year."

Parker said the irony if Major Moves is that its biggest victim wasn't in the legislature but Congress and U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola.

"It was important for us to hold on to those toll road seats," Gentry said, believing that in a different environment, 2008 will allow the GOP to go on the offensive.

The Democratic chairman said that Gov. Mitch Daniels figured into each of the four lost Republican seats. Daylight-saving time cost Republicans three seats: State Reps. Steve Heim, Billy Bright and Troy Woodruff. He attributed State Rep. John Smith's defeat by Democrat Ron Herrell to Gov. Mitch Daniels remark last winter about Delphi Automotive workers making \$9 an hour. "That fired the labor unions up," Parker said.

"We knew we were making tough decisions," Minority Leader Bosma said. "People were putting their political futures on the line. If I had to point to a single initiative that made the difference in several of these races, it would be Daylight-saving time even over Major Moves."

Gentry said that Woodruff was vulnerable due to his DST vote. He said Democrat Nancy Dembowski's radio ads and references of "Heim time" really hurt. "If his name had been Brown, it wouldn't have been so bad," Gentry said.

In addition to DST, Rep. Bright probably became the first victim of Hometown Matters, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns proposal to shift property taxes to a variety of other taxing methods. Madison Republican Mayor Albert Huntington refused to endorse Bright because Bright refused to support Hometown Matters. Bright lost in the city of Madison. Gentry said that Democrat Dave Cheatham dramatically cut into Bright's Jennings County base.

Parker said Democrats probably lost to State Rep. Tim Harris because Blackford County Commissioner Larry Hile "wouldn't allow us to go negative." Hile lost by 26 votes.

Parker said that Democratic polling never showed State Reps. Joe Micon, David Orentlicher or Teri Austin under 50 percent. "They spent \$90,000 against Austin and they were never going to beat her," Parker said. Austin won by more than 60 percent. Democrats were also amazed that HRCC spent \$100,000 on Louisville TV.

"We figured we weren't going to break through with the DCCC, NRCC and the mayor of Louisville all advertising," Parker said. Instead, Democrats pumped out a lot of direct mail for Dave Cheatham along with local radio.

Gentry said that Republicans were looking for "non-toll road, non-Congressional race seats" to try and put the Democrats on the defensive. With Rep. Austin, they saw low re-elect numbers.

In the Orentlicher-Densborn race, Parker said that for the first time he relied on "social issues" to defeat a Republican. The issue was stem cells and it was devastating for the Republican in HD86. A second mailer Democrats sent out for Orentlicher used actor Michael J. Fox, who simultaneously got a huge amount of national exposure for his advocacy against U.S. Sen. Jim Talent in Missouri and the reaction to that from radio talk show host

Rush Limbaugh. "That blew her out of the water," Parker said.

The one place where TV did kick in for Democrats was an ad U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh cut for Kreg Battles in his defeat of Woodruff. The party spent \$50,000 on Evansville and Terre Haute television. "Evan Bayh has a 77 percent approval in Vincennes," Parker said. "The numbers went off the charts."

There were two races that got away from the Democrats. One was the open seat vacated by State Rep. Ralph Ayres late last summer. Many believe Ayres quit because he knew he would likely lose. HPR and other observers believed that was one of the seats that would flip.



Political Report

Indiana on brink for big flip

A 5-4 Dem CD edge? 52-48 in the House?

By [Name] [Date]

INDIANAPOLIS — Following a record-breaking election, the state of Indiana is on the brink of a major political shift. Democrats are projected to win a narrow majority in the state legislature, while the House of Representatives is expected to flip to Democratic control.

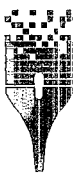


Labor Day at Work

INDIANAPOLIS — The state of Indiana is on the brink of a major political shift. Democrats are projected to win a narrow majority in the state legislature, while the House of Representatives is expected to flip to Democratic control.



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"I got a call from Leon West on Election Day," Parker said of the Porter County Democratic chairman. "He told me Chesterton was having a huge turnout. It killed us." Republicans in Chesterton were inspired to vote on a referendum over city status. That essentially defeated Democrat Sylvia Graham.

Democrats thought that J.D. Lux had a good chance to pick up HD57, the open seat of State Rep. Luke Messer. They felt that Sean Eberhart was vulnerable on health care benefits and his Shelby Council vote on the Colts stadium tax. But heavy turnout in Bartholomew County on behalf of U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel swamped Lux.

They thought that State Rep. Larry Buell would be vulnerable when the Democrats carried Marion County offices by 15,000 to 20,000 votes. Buell used 11th hour TV and that may have saved him, along with Prosecutor Carl Brizzi's win.

The Elrod/Mahern gamble

The shrewdest GOP gamble concerned State Rep. Ed Mahern, who experienced a relatively close race with Republican Roxanne Butler in 2004. With a national Democratic wave and without upper Republican ballot strength, the conventional wisdom was that Mahern would easily hold that seat.

But Republican Jon Elrod, a Center Township official, worked the district feverishly. In the last weeks of the campaign, Republican allies were talking about picking off an unsuspecting Democrat and Mahern, the man who drew the maps, was it. Elrod pulled off the one true upset of the cycle, unofficially at 5 votes.

"That is such a lower turnout district," Parker said. "All Elrod had to do was switch about 150 to 200 votes."

HRCC polled HD97 in late September and had Mahern leading Elrod by 9 points. "Mahern had really low numbers, Elrod had 800 yard signs up and was knocking on a lot of doors," Gentry said. "We repolled in October and Elrod was still down by 8 points. We were careful not to tip our hand in the week before we went up on TV. TV was good for Elrod because it helped us move the numbers."

It was a similar tactic Republicans used in the 2002 race against State Rep. Winfield Moses Jr., when Republican Matt Kelty almost pulled off an upset. "These were both low turnout, urban districts," Gentry explained.

Recounts are probable in that race, along with Harris-Hile and State Rep. Don Lehe's 30-vote victory over Sheriff Myron Sutton. Parker said this morning that Democrats had located two HD97 voters, an election judge and

the chef at the Skyline Club, who had to vote provisionally. Another four absentee ballots weren't counted because the clerk didn't get them to the precincts in time. "Voter ID could cost us this district," Parker charged.

Mail vs. TV

Democratic House strategist Tim Jeffers laid out the plan last winter. Figuring the GOP would have a big money advantage (it turned out to be \$1 million), "we decided we couldn't gamble on TV. We couldn't get into a TV war with them. We had to hunker down."

Thus, the two-wave direct mail campaign while House Republicans stayed pretty much to its 2004 strategy of using late TV, radio and mailers.

"We were intrigued they used their mail so early," Gentry said. "We were able to respond with TV and radio and wipe out their gains. We sent our mail out late, believing people make up their minds on these races late."

In the Lehe/Sutton race, Republicans were able to respond to the early direct mail with radio, "and his numbers bounced back up. I'm not convinced mail has the staying power in the final days of the campaign," Gentry observed.

Gentry said HRCC sent out 1.6 million pieces of mail in 2006, compared to 700,000 in 2004.

Parker said Democrats sent over 2 million pieces of mail in 170 different mailings.

Direct mail played a huge role in the Republican primary defeats of Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Garton and Sen-

ate Finance Chairman Larry Borst in 2006 and 2004.

"In a primary, direct mail is clearly a much better method than TV," Parker said. "We know who's going to vote in a primary."

But he refused to say that TV is a dead medium. "TV saved Tim Harris," Parker said, adding that using local network affiliates is inefficient. "They spent a lot of money on Indianapolis TV to reach 8,000 people out of a million."

"Our strategy was to use two dominant mediums well, either direct mail and TV, or direct mail and radio." Political advertising on TV is about to undergo a transformation. By the 2010 election cycle, the dominant TV campaign mode will be cable, where messages will literally be able to be targeted "by the box," he said of the Comcast boxes sitting atop many Hoosier TV sets.

Gentry used cable for Rep. Lehe and Tom Dermody in HD 20. "Cable allows you to target, but you can't get the repetition," he said. ♦



Tim Jeffers (left) and Mike Gentry, speaking at the HPR Forum, were architects of the Battle for the House. (HPR Photo)



U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh with Indiana's three new congressional Democrats: (from left) Brad Ellsworth, Joe Donnelly and Baron Hill on Capitol Hill Wednesday. (HPR Photo by Mark Curry)

Hill, Ellsworth, Donnelly attribute wins to voter alienation

By MARK SCHOEFF JR.
The Howey Political Report

WASHINGTON -- By sending three new Democrats to the U.S. House, Hoosier voters may have changed Indiana's political color to purple for the time being, but they didn't necessarily change the red state's hue to blue.

Indiana was in the vanguard last Tuesday of a Democratic takeover of Congress. But the three victors--Reps.-elect Baron Hill (9th CD), Brad Ellsworth (8th CD) and Joe Donnelly (2nd CD)--aren't ready to declare that the state has fundamentally changed its conservative political character.

"Indiana is back and forth (politically), kind of like the country is," said Hill during a meeting with Indiana reporters this week while he was in the capital for congressional orientation.

The Democrats attribute their victories to an electorate that had grown frustrated with setbacks in Iraq, high fuel prices and congressional corruption -- each of which they linked to Republican leadership on Capitol Hill.

"People were fed up with what was going on in Washington," said Hill. That mood could just as easily turn on the Democrats. So, Hill will try to inoculate himself by staying in touch with his district--something he says he may not have done as well as he should have in his previous stint on Capitol Hill from 1998 - 2004.

"I was maybe too much out here," he said. "And that's not going to happen again."

He will try to maintain his connection by employing a tactic he used in the campaign: staying in a town or

county for a whole day when he visits, dropping in on civic organizations, businesses and farms.

When he toured the district previously as a congressman, he would go to one event in one town, jump in his car and head to another event in another town.

"There was no bonding going on," said Hill, who defeated GOP Rep. Mike Sodrel, 50 percent to 46 percent. "There was no connection."

He's also going to be checking in with constituents over the phone. "I'm going to start calling people up," he said. "What's going on in Salem? What's going on in Jeffersonville?"

Ellsworth Says Voters Want to Know Their Rep

Ellsworth, who trounced incumbent GOP Rep. John Hostettler 61-39, said that he will try to remain true to Hoosier values that transcend party lines, such as a strong work ethic and frugality. He also has pledged to have an open door for people from all political backgrounds, something he thought Hostettler failed to do.

Hoosiers "don't want their money wasted," said Ellsworth in a meeting with reporters. "They want to feel like they know their congressman. People don't want miracles. They want to know you're working hard and moving in the right direction."

Ellsworth will try to stay on the bipartisan path. He maintains that voters want Republicans and Democrats to work together. The Vanderburgh County sheriff says that he will follow the inclusive process that led to the construction of a new jail.

The new congressman also will try to stay in step with his right-leaning district by breaking from likely House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D - Ca.) when he disagrees with party leadership.



Donnelly talks with HPR Washington correspondent Mark Schoeff Jr. (HPR Photo by Mark Curry)

"The Democratic Party is pretty diverse," Ellsworth said. "(Conservative Democrats) have to be taken into account. It will make for good discussion."

Meat and potato issues for Donnelly

The most recent talks Donnelly has had is with constituents who spotted him in the South Bend airport on Sunday as he was leaving for Washington. They gave him advice that he says will guide his work on Capitol Hill.

"They just said go do the right thing," Donnelly said at a press conference on Wednesday in the office of Sen. Evan Bayh. "If you forget where you come from, you're going to be gone. We're here to fix America and do what is best. It's basic Hoosier common sense."

Donnelly, who defeated incumbent Rep. Chris Chocola 54-46, stressed that his win stretched across the whole district. The South Bend attorney noted his support in counties such as Carroll, Cass and Fulton. He was able to garner that kind of backing, he said, because of his focus on "meat and potato" issues like jobs and health care.

Bayh, Hill, Ellsworth, Donnelly tableau

Bayh argues that the electoral dish that was served in Indiana can become a political staple across the country. Standing with the three Hoosier Democratic winners in his office foyer, he said that their pragmatic approach propelled them to Congress.

"They weren't radical partisans...or ideologues," said Bayh. He said the three accentuated shared values with voters and a willingness to work across the aisle. That attitude, he maintains, helped Democrats attract independents and moderates.

In Indiana, that may have been the case. Ellsworth garnered about 30,000 more votes than Hostettler did when Hostettler won the midterm election in 2002. Donnelly captured about 9,000 more votes than Chocola did when Chocola first won the seat in 2002.

Hill, Ellsworth and Donnelly all praised Bayh effusively for his help in getting them elected. The tableau of Bayh and the new House Democrats is one that may become prominent in his expected presidential campaign. "Our success in Indiana represents a template for our national success as a party," Bayh said. "It is my hope and expectation that as Indiana goes, so goes the nation."

Swan songs for Chocola, Hostettler

By BRIAN A. HOWEY

INDIANAPOLIS - Hoosier voters have most likely seen the last of U.S. Reps. John Hostettler and Chris Chocola on their ballots. U.S. Rep. Mark Souder said he probably has one more race left in him. U.S. Rep. Mike Sodrel didn't sound like a future candidate, but did the "you never say never" thing.

Chocola said in his concession speech, "There's a lot of great things to do in life. We will always be happy we had the chance to do this, but we'll probably move on to another phase of our lives."

Unlike Sodrel and Chocola who are millionaires, Hostettler leaves office in debt and refused to take his Congressional pension. In his concession speech, Hostettler said, "When I think of (my children) and what they have missed and what I have missed. I am reminded of the Apostle Paul when he said, and I will paraphrase for my situation, 'For me to win is Christ, but to lose is great gain.' They don't understand that tonight, but in the next several years, I will be able to make it abundantly clear to them."

State Rep. Troy Woodruff said the congressman should be allowed to disappear into history (**Associated Press**). "The man has served his country and served his state," Woodruff said. "I think that it's time to thank him for what he's done and let him get on with his family." ❖



U.S. Rep. John Hostettler with his wife during his concession speech.



'Dr. Death,' a missed kick and a Joe Donnelly win

By JACK COLWELL
South Bend Tribune

SOUTH BEND - Even back in the early spring, before Democratic strategists and news media pundits in Washington concluded that he had a chance to win, Joe Donnelly "had a gut feeling" that he was going to defeat Congressman Chris Chocola.

Donnelly's feeling became reality as he won Tuesday by about as big a margin as any Democrat could hope to achieve in the 50-50 Indiana 2nd District, especially when facing a better-funded incumbent.

How did he do it?

Donnelly ran a darn near perfect campaign. With a lot of help, of course. Among those with important roles in the big win were Rahm Emanuel, chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, architect of the Democratic takeover of the House, and a 25-year-old campaign manager who was new to the district but willing to learn quickly from folks who know the territory.

Chocola meanwhile faced a perfect storm. He was buffeted by the growing unpopularity of President Bush, who had been such a help in Chocola's winning campaigns in '02 and '04, by deteriorating conditions in Iraq, by concerns about the economy even as it seemed to be improving, by disgust with scandals in the Republican-led Congress and by displeasure with Gov. Mitch Daniels over the Toll Road deal and time confusion.

Back to early spring.

Donnelly had been clobbered by Chocola in their 2004 race by about as big a margin as any Republican could hope to achieve in any reasonably competitive race in the 2nd District. Donnelly's campaign organization had faltered. So had his fundraising. He had to use his own money just to get on TV belatedly at campaign close in '04. And now, Chocola, taking nothing for granted, was again headed into the '06 campaign with a huge lead in funding.

Another blowout? Would Chocola blow away an underfunded Donnelly with a TV blitz and the vaunted techniques of Karl Rove, the president's political guru, for identifying all potential supporters and making sure they vote?

Donnelly sensed that things were different, that dissatisfaction was growing and that Chocola had failed to build up enough good will in the district, especially with middle-class workers, to overcome it.

"Over four years, he had never connected with the people of the district," Donnelly concluded. "I don't know that he ever understood them or that they ever understood him."

Donnelly was better prepared this time, with his own voter identification effort underway. He also had a friend in Emanuel, with whom he had worked on a recount effort in the old 3rd District back in 1986, when Republican Congressman John P. Hiler survived by just 47 votes.

Early help was promised and delivered by the DCCC, which had given Donnelly absolutely nothing in '04. MoveOn.org decided early that Chocola could be vulnerable and began to chop away at him with negative TV spots. And a Chocola opponent got a surprisingly large protest vote in the Republican primary.

Most candidates aren't exactly thrilled over being targeted with critical TV spots. Donnelly was pleased, however, when Chocola started early to hit him with negative spots.

"We couldn't afford a poll back then. But he could," said Donnelly. "When he started negative advertising so early, I knew he had polled and found out he was in trouble."

From early spring on, Donnelly felt he was ahead and that he would win, if only he didn't run out of funding to stick with Chocola in the TV wars.

"They are from the Karl Rove school," Donnelly said. "So I knew they would use TV to try to

personally destroy me."

And although Donnelly said he finds the "murder-the-other-guy" TV wars distasteful, he knew what was coming and that he would have to hit right back, not just throw on "nice" spots that would be ignored as boring.

With Emanuel's signals in Washington that Donnelly could win in the quest for control of the House, independent groups that support Democrats joined in the TV effort to "build negatives" on Chocola.

Emanuel had nothing personal against Chocola. During a news conference in South Bend, the DCCC chairman called Chocola "a nice guy." But a guy with whom Emanuel disagreed politically, a Republican guy who could be knocked off.

Emanuel, a congressman from Illinois, and Chocola serve together on the House Ways and Means Committee.

On June 15, as I was walking with Chocola in the



Donnelly and former House Majority Leader John Brademas (left).



Capitol Building in Washington, Emanuel popped off an elevator in front of us. He and Chocola smiled in a greeting that showed no personal hostility. But Emanuel had an unusual, joking greeting:

"Here I am, Doctor Death."

Apparently this was his way of joking -- sort of -- about the way endangered Republican congressional candidates viewed him.

Donnelly didn't get DCCC help just because Emanuel had known him. Decisions by both parties on targeting are made in a pragmatic way, based on where the money will do the most good, not sentiment.

The fact that Donnelly showed early ability this time to raise money and organize was an important factor.

For campaign manager, Donnelly hired Katie Nea, 25, who was recommended through the DCCC.

Outside campaign managers can be a disaster if they try to run campaigns that might work elsewhere but not in Indiana's 2nd District.

"She did a solid job," Donnelly said, learning the district quickly and working well with such experienced political advisers as Shaw Friedman, longtime LaPorte County Democratic leader, and John Kenney, who was instrumental in former Congressman Tim Roemer's election successes.

Donnelly was criticized at times by some Democrats who thought he was not aggressive enough in campaign statements and debates, not vocal enough in criticism of the situation in Iraq, not taking opportunities to bash President Bush.

Was Donnelly, believing he had the lead, falling back in a "prevent defense?" That's a football term for an often-criticized defense that guards against a long touch-down pass but gives up big chunks of yardage and often leads to an opponent's touchdown anyway.

The Chocola campaign thought and hoped that this was the Donnelly strategy and that it would backfire.

"We did not play prevent defense," Donnelly insisted. "We were under attack since May. So we had to be on defense. But we didn't let up or take anything for granted. I gave it everything I had."

Donnelly did, however, show caution in seeking to avoid a mistake that could become a devastating TV spot for the other side. Even his laugh during a TV interview program was used to ridicule him in two Chocola spots that no doubt lowered his approval rating.

He was especially cautious to avoid anything that would give ammunition for contentions that he was not supporting the troops or that he was really a liberal in moderate's clothing. He needed some Republican and independent votes as well as Democratic support to win.

In debates, Donnelly wouldn't even call for the fir-

ing of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

"I may have missed that one," Donnelly admitted with his characteristic laugh. But he pointed out that he did talk repeatedly of mistakes in Iraq by the Bush administration and need for a better effort than just staying the course. The Chocola campaign took heart at signs just before the election that the race was tightening, getting close enough to be won with what the Chocola side believed would be a much superior get-out-the-vote effort based on the famed Rove micro-targeting of voters and myriad calls and other contacts.

Also, Chocola made a \$200,000 buy on Indianapolis television stations, with spots beginning on the Wednesday before the election and directing a message at the southern part of the district, areas that don't see the South Bend stations. Donnelly couldn't afford Indy TV, other than on cable.

Donnelly raised about \$1.5 million; Chocola about \$3.2 million. But Donnelly had more help from the DCCC than Chocola received from the National Republican Congressional Committee, which finally cut off any further help and let Chocola go it alone. Why? Perhaps because Chocola was deemed to have sufficient funding. Perhaps because the NRCC was writing him off. Perhaps because of lack of a friend at the top such as Donnelly had at the DCCC. Perhaps all of the above were factors.

Part of the Rove technique is to require frequent reports to Washington of total contacts being made. On some days just before the election, the Chocola campaign was No. 1 or No. 2 nationally for contacts in a House race and even topped the number of calls made in entire battleground states such as Missouri and Tennessee.

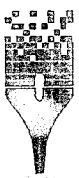
In another football analogy, the Chocola side believed its get-out-the-vote effort could win the race at the end in the same way that a dependable field goal kicker can win a game on the last play, provided in each case that the team is close enough.

If they could just get within 2 percent in support by Election Day, the Chocola campaign believed, their get-out-the-vote effort could win. Any farther back, they knew, would be like trying to kick a field goal from 60 yards away.

As it turned out, Donnelly never let Chocola get close enough to win. He had his own effective get-out-the-vote effort. He ran a darn near perfect campaign to take advantage of the issues and the discontent, to offer a moderate alternative and to withstand the negative TV. And he had enough help from other groups with their negative TV against Chocola.

The Chocola field goal effort was more like from 80 yards away and against the wind, against a gale from a perfect storm. ❖





U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh meets the Indiana press in Washington Wednesday. (HPR Photo by Mark Curry)

Helmke on Bayh: Democrats looking for a winner

By MARK CURRY

WASHINGTON - Sometime in the next several weeks U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh is expected to announce his intention to seek the Democratic nomination to be president of the United States. If so, Indiana's former governor will be tested as never before, according to Paul Helmke, the Republican who opposed Bayh's first senatorial run in 1998.

The former mayor of Fort Wayne told HPR that he expects a Bayh presidential bid to focus on the junior senator's moderate brand as well as his role in last week's defeat of Republican incumbents in three Hoosier congressional districts.

In the past 10 days the senator has used every opportunity to promote the Democratic victories in Indiana's U.S. House races as a template for turning other red states blue. Yesterday, nearly 20 reporters and camera crews from three major networks crowded for more than half an hour into the reception area of Bayh's Senate office. The gaggle was advertised as a "press availability" to meet with Bayh and Congressmen-elect Joe Donnelly (IN-2), Brad Ellsworth (IN-8) and Baron Hill (IN-9). Staged during a pause in the Senate Armed Forces Committee hearings on Iraq, the event also afforded reporters an opportunity to probe the senator's stance on the war. Today's New York Times reports Bayh advocated "moderation between the [Democratic] party's liberal and hawkish wings" in remarks during the hearing.

After 12 years at the helm of Indiana's second largest city, Helmke is well acquainted with the partisan forces that tug at a moderate politician. These days he serves

as president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence headquartered in Washington.

"My hope is that we're entering a time period when folks are going to start asking what works, not just what fits the philosophy that someone bought into," he said in an interview with HPR. As evidence, Helmke noted that candidates supported by the Brady organization in last week's elections defeated those backed by the NRA in better than 80 percent of the 45 races where they went head-to-head. When asked if he thought the victories represented a tipping point, Helmke said. "I don't think we've tipped yet. I think it's a shift in momentum, clearly."

Republicans anticipate that a divided Democratic party will tilt noticeably left. "The primary mission of the Republican Party in the 110th Congress will be to defeat the agenda of the Democratic Party in Congress," Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN-6) wrote in a statement to fellow House Republicans after last Tuesday's losses. "Each of us must dedicate ourselves to using our talents and expertise to dismantle Democratic arguments and expose their liberal, big government agenda at every turn." Such pressure from the right, constantly pushing at the center, may well empower the Democratic left and weaken party moderates. HPR asked Helmke's take on what that might mean for Bayh's presidential prospects.

"The parties want to win," he said "I think one of the things they're going to look at is how best to win.... Evan's background both as governor and senator has been one to try and find what works. Obviously one of the strengths that a former governor brings to the job is that they've had to do that.

"In my new job I talk to a lot of people with a lot of money that are involved in politics and progressive causes around the country and I get asked a lot about Evan. His name is coming up and a lot of them that



Paul Helmke, Bayh's Senate opponent in 1998, chats with Gov. Mitch Daniels in 2004. (HPR Photo by Brian A. Howey)



are Democrats seem to be looking for someone who can win."

Helmke provides a frank discussion of his senate race in a book written with Andrew Jorash in 2001, "Son of a Son of a Politician," which described his opponent as someone who's very good at self-control and accustomed to having things run smoothly for him. Helmke said he believes it is still true today.

"One of his strengths is that he doesn't get ruffled. He keeps his cool under pressure," he said of Bayh. "He doesn't get surprised."

But Helmke believes that sometimes Bayh displays too much polish and calm and not enough personality. "Sometimes if you over prepare, over out-think the thing, you come across as not having real emotions or real concerns there," he said. "My sense is he's worked on that."

Some of the reports I've heard is that the speaking style, he has to work on that. You need to be able to connect with the voter."

In the two years since the last presidential election Bayh has visited New Hampshire and Iowa a total of 15 times. Helmke said trials and tribulations on the hustings provide candidates opportunity to "work any kinks in your presentation, you work those out on the campaign trail. "I think he's getting tested a lot more than he ever did in Indiana. In Indiana he started out well-known, he started out with credibility. Even when he ran for secretary of state the first time everyone knew who he was. As he does the presidential run the folks out there don't know. So, that's where he will get more of an honest appraisal as to how he's doing and I'm sure he's getting that and I'm sure he's learning from it." ❖

Get out your flak jackets: Hamilton, Pence pursue tough wartime tasks

By BRIAN A. HOWEY
And MARK SCHOEFF JR.

What would be the tougher job: finding a winning solution (with honor) for the war in Iraq? Or uniting U.S. House Republicans?

Former Indiana congressman Lee Hamilton and U.S. Rep. Mike Pence are tackling those two topics this week.

Hamilton, co-chairman of the Iraq Study Group with former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, met with President Bush on Monday, spending eight hours at the White House in what CBS News described as a "sit-down" with the President and Vice President. The White House says this was a "discussion, not a deposition. No policy alternatives were exchanged by either side. The President always says he changes according to conditions on the ground and what he thinks those conditions are."

Those familiar with the panel's work predict that the ultimate recommendations will not appear novel and that there are few, if any, good options left facing the country (**Washington Post**). Many of the ideas reportedly being considered -- more aggressive regional diplomacy with Syria and Iran, greater emphasis on training Iraqi troops, or focusing on a new political deal between warring Shiites and Sunni -- have either been tried or have limited chances of success, in the view of many experts on Iraq. Baker is also exploring whether a broader U.S. initiative in tackling the Arab-Israeli conflict is needed to help stabilize the re-



U.S. Rep. Mike Pence (second from right) wearing a flak jacket in Iraq. He might need it on Capitol Hill on Friday when House GOP votes on leadership. (Pence photo)

gion. Though Hamilton had a hand in selecting the Democrats on the group, its makeup reflects Baker's pragmatic, centrist approach to foreign policy. It is a classic Washington blue-ribbon commission, a group of "old hands" steeped in the ways of the capital -- two former secretaries of state (Baker and Lawrence S. Eagleburger), two former senators (Republican Alan K. Simpson and Democrat Charles S. Robt.), a former defense secretary (William J. Perry) and a former Supreme Court justice, (Sandra Day O'Connor).

Last weekend, Democrats began pushing for a new Iraq strategy, led by U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. "The President just a few weeks ago said that we absolutely are winning in Iraq; that is not facing reality at all," Levin said. "The Vice President said just a few weeks ago we should go full-steam ahead with our policy in Iraq; that is not reality either. Our policy is not working in Iraq. We've got to change course. This whole mantra about staying the course, staying the course, and if you suggest anything else, you're somehow or another unpatriotic, you're cutting and running, that no longer works, because the American



Political Report

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people resoundingly rejected that kind of a stay-the-course approach."

Former Sen. William Cohen, who served as Defense secretary during President Clinton's second term, "There are no good options, so the question becomes, what are the best of the bad ones?"

The Washington Times reports Bush faces "the election results and emboldened Democrats," and "is trying to keep control of the debate while still being open to suggestions from the soon-to-be new majority party on Capitol Hill."

U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel said on PBS Lehrer Newshour, "We don't have many options in Iraq right now, and the options we do have are pretty limited. That's just the force of reality that's in play. And we have to be mindful of that reality, not just from the electoral, the political reality, but what's going on in Iraq. We're in a lot of trouble in Iraq, and I believe there is a civil war raging in Iraq. And we have got to be wise now in what course we move toward over the next few months."

The new Hoosier Democrats coming to Congress welcome the Iraq Study Group report as they sort out the vexing military and political problem that Iraq represents. "I'm very anxious to see that report," said Baron Hill, who is the once and now future representative in the 9th CD. "There are a lot of people in the 9th District who are anxiously awaiting that report as well."

Hill sees the document as an inflection point. "We have a chance for a new strategy in Iraq," he said. "Clearly the president has pivoted. The thing is such a mess that the president needs help, and he recognizes it."

For Brad Ellsworth, the Democratic Vanderburgh County sheriff who

vanquished GOP incumbent Rep. John Hostettler in the 9th CD, the report will be a valuable guide.

"I have a lot of respect for Mr. Hamilton," he said. "If it has his name on it, I would venture to guess it's going to be a trustworthy report."

Hill hopes the report provides a roadmap for extricating the United States from Iraq without leaving behind a country in chaos. His constituents want an exit strategy but don't want to leave Iraq in the lurch.

"Most people in my district would say we can't just leave," said Hill.

Pence seeks minority leader

Reacting to the debacle in Iraq for Republicans in Congress is Rep. Pence, who faces a vote Friday against current caucus leader John Boehner of Ohio.

"I am running for Minority Leader, because I believe that Republicans did not just lose our majority on Election Day 2006 - we lost our way," Pence wrote in a letter of colleagues. "We are in the wilderness because we walked away from the limited government principles that minted the Republican Congress. But there is a way out. 'The way out of the wilderness,' author Mark Helprin wrote, 'is the truth; recognizing it, stating it, defending it, living by it.'"

Pence said, "We also pursued domestic spending policies that created record deficits, national debt and earmark spending that has embarrassed us and caused many Americans to question our commitment to fiscal responsibility. This was not in the 'Contract with America.'" Democrats will say that the American people rejected our Republican vision. I say the American people did not quit on the Contract with America, the Republican Conference did."

House Republicans are very polarized in the race between Pence and Boehner, whose allies conducted an assault on Pence and his staff even before election day was over.

The last Hoosier to hold the post of House Majority/Minority Leader was Charlie Halleck back in the 1950s and 60s. He was a fierce defender of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, describing himself in TIME magazine as, "I am a gut fighter."

The sunny Pence renounced negative campaigning after his 1990 defeat to U.S. Rep. Phil Sharp. Earlier this week, he renounced immigration "amnesty." To get the leadership post this time, he made need to borrow of Charlie's bloody playbook. ♦





Mayoral races begin to take shape across Indiana

By **BRIAN A. HOWEY**

Here is a summary of mayoral races beginning to take shape in Indiana for 2007.

INDIANAPOLIS: City-County Councilman Isaac Randolph has announced he will run for Republicans, but while there is a search for someone with more "gravitas," such as Republican Chairman J. Murray Clark or federal D.A. Susan Brooks, there is little indication of an alternative in the works. Some will try and talk Prosecutor Carl Brizzi into the race, though he promised on serve a full term and we believe a mayoral run is unlikely. Mayor Peterson will huddle with his top political advisors this week. He is expected to seek a third term, particularly after Washington, Lawrence and Warren townships went Democratic. That will help his efforts in further consolidating fire departments. But Peterson will also be under intense pressure to challenge Gov. Mitch Daniels in 2008. If Peterson decides to do that, a Democratic field could include former deputy mayors Melina Kennedy, Mike O'Connor or current DM Steve Campbell.

EVANSVILLE: First term Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel is considered a "golden boy" with incredible favorability ratings. Republican officials don't see a serious opponent to him. The only real question is what Weinzapfel do after winning in '07? Many think that he's a perfect candidate for Lt. Governor.

GARY: Mayor Rudy Clay, less than a year into that job after Mayor Scott King resigned, will get Democratic primary challenges from former attorney general Karen Freeman-Wilson, Gary School Trustee Darren Washington, and Gary Councilman Chuck Hughes. With a crowded Democratic primary field, Clay, who is also Lake County Democratic chairman, is the early favorite.

FORT WAYNE: With Mayor Graham Richard retiring, Democrats thought that Councilman Thomas Hayhurst, just off a Congressional run and a recipient of \$40,000 in state Democratic money, would run. But both Hayhurst and Fort Wayne School President Geoff Paddock say they won't run, leaving a void. Republican Allen County Commissioner Nelson Peters and architect Matt Kelty, a former aide to U.S. Sen. Dan Coats, are expected to run. Kelty almost upset State Rep. Winfield Moses Jr. four years ago. Without an obvious Democratic heavyweight, the early favorite is Peters.

KOKOMO: The "gauntlet has been thrown" down

in the battle for the Republican Party nomination for mayor of Kokomo in the May primary, wrote Kokomo Tribune reporter Ken de la Bastide. In a show of unity, nearly every Republican elected to city or county office was at Republican Party headquarters on Monday to support the candidacy of Rick Hamilton. Hamilton announced his intentions to seek the GOP mayoral nomination against incumbent Republican Matt McKillip, who announced his re-election plans in October. "Two people recently referred to this as the "good ole boys" and "well entrenched political machine," Ron Metz, Hamilton's campaign chairman, said standing in front of the elected office holders. "They are the Howard County Republican Party." Metz said 96.7 percent of the Republican officeholders expressed support for Hamilton's campaign. Democrat Greg Goodnight is expected to seek the Democratic nomination.

ELKHART: Mayor Dave Miller will not seek a third term. So far, Democrat Dick Moore, a former fire chief and street commissioner is running and Councilman Arvis Dawson is exploring. Republican Councilman Jim Pettit and Charles Hawkins are also lining up, as well as independent Oscar Gibson.

EAST CHICAGO: Former State Rep. John Aguilera is expected to challenge East Chicago Mayor George Pabey in the Democratic primary.

JEFFERSONVILLE: First term Mayor Rob Waiz will seek another term and he is expected to be challenged by the man he defeated in 2003, former two-term mayor Tom Galligan in the Democratic primary. Waiz will be able to campaign on several big job expansions at Jeffboat and Medventure.

MUNCIE: Mayor Dan Canan is expected to seek a third term.

LAFAYETTE: Popular Democrat Mayor Tony Roszwarski will seek a second term and there are no announced opponents. He is a prohibitive favorite.

MICHIGAN CITY: Jim LaRocco, son of a former mayor, will challenge Mayor Chuck Oberlie in the Democratic primary.

MISHAWAKA: Republican Mayor Jeff Rea is expected to seek a second term. Democratic Penn Township Trustee Mike Hayes will challenge.

SOUTH BEND: Two-term Mayor Stephen Leucke is expected to seek re-election in this heavily Democratic city.

ANDERSON: Republican Mayor Kevin Smith will seek a second term.

NEW ALBANY: First term Mayor James Garner has feuded with his council and could be vulnerable, though no opponents have surfaced to date. ♦



Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson on Monday. (HPR Photo)



Andrea Neal, Indiana Policy Review

- Eight o'clock on the morning of Nov. 8, the day after Republicans lost control of Congress, Mike Pence announced his candidacy for House minority leader. There was no time to waste. The election is Friday, and Indiana's 6th District congressman knew he would have a tough battle against the current House majority leader, John Boehner of Ohio. So within hours of the polls closing, Pence was on the phone with colleagues seeking commitments. Don't mistake Pence's haste for pleasure. "Let me quote Peyton Manning," Pence said. "It's never good to lose. There's nothing good about us yielding the House of Representatives to a liberal Democratic majority under Nancy Pelosi." What Pence hopes to achieve through Republican defeat is a return to conservative principles. As chairman of the Republican Study Committee, the House conservative caucus, Pence knew long before the pollsters did that Republicans had gone off track. Voters consistently complained to him, he said, about the doubling of the national debt under a Republican president and Republican majorities. "Runaway federal spending is the biggest scandal," he said. "I heard very little about Mark Foley," the Florida Republican who resigned in a page harassment mess. So yes, Pence is chomping at the bit to help stage a GOP comeback. "Leadership is everything," he said, likening the post of minority leader to that of senior class president, a position he held at Columbus North High School. "I'm not a better man than the other two congressmen running" for the post, Pence said. "I am the best choice to lead our minority party" back into the majority. ♦



J. Bruce Baumann, Evansville Courier & Press

- Letter writers took us to task most harshly for our Indiana State University poll. Some wondered if we were so desperate for news that we had to create some. Others claimed that poll numbers were "fixed" or were so out of line with other pollsters that we must have bought a piece of swampland. I must admit that when Tom Stieger, the director of the poll we commissioned, reported in mid-October that their latest numbers had challenger Brad Ellsworth leading by 23 points, even my dogs, Tug and Randy, stopped worrying about fleas and started looking for a new home. Letters and calls from staunch conservatives backing John Hostettler attacked the methodology, including the fact that more women than men had responded. The ISU people stuck to their guns and defended their method, refusing to recalculate and weight the poll as many other pollsters do. As we said earlier, we left the polling to the experts and let the chips fall where they may. The results are in, and for all of the pundits who thought we were pushing the poll, fixing the results or playing with a few bricks short of a full load - you win. Ellsworth won by only

22 percentage points, not 23, as predicted by the Indiana State poll. ♦

Lesley Stedman Weidenbener, Louisville Courier-Journal

- So will 9th District voters get to see this trio again? It's quite likely that Hill will run again. He served three terms before Sodrel defeated him two years ago. And he's not one of those candidates who opted for some self-imposed term limit. The only thing that might drag Hill away from running again for Congress is running for something else, say, governor. Hill has expressed interest in the post before, and so far the Democrats have no clear candidate to challenge Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels in 2008. Still, voters should look for Hill to be running for Congress again in two years. It would be a good bet that Schansberg will be there, too. He said on Wednesday he enjoyed running and learned a lot that would be valuable in a future campaign. He would need to talk it over with his wife, of course, but look for him to give it another go. So what about Sodrel? The multimillionaire businessman certainly has plenty of options. On Wednesday, he said he's not inclined to run again, but he was careful not to rule out the possibility. He still has to finish his term before Hill takes over in January. Then Sodrel will have to make a decision pretty quick. The congressional term lasts just two years and the campaigns, well, they last almost as long. ♦

Sylvia Smith, Fort Wayne Journal Gazette - The TV commercials, the live telemarketers who impersonated pre-recorded callers, the liar vs. character impugner competition. Misery caused by the war, the Toll Road, Gov. Mitch Daniels, President Bush, former Rep. Mark Foley and the DeLay-Cunningham-Ney style of crookedness. All those things created a toxic atmosphere for last week's congressional elections, but they didn't poison Rep. Mark Souder. Many have said that if a Democrat couldn't oust Souder this year, it probably can't be done. Why? ♦ Demographics. Given the political makeup of northeast Indiana, unseating a Republican incumbent is tough under any circumstances. True, the region backed Evan Bayh with 55 percent of the vote in each of his Senate races, but Bayh isn't exactly perceived as a rabid Democrat. The district is very, very Republican, made more so when the state legislature added Kosciusko County and part of Elkhart County, which together make up the most Republican sections of this very red district. ♦ Tom Hayhurst's campaign wasn't picture-perfect. This year was the best shot a Democrat has had in many years, and Hayhurst probably has the best bio of any Democrat likely to run against Souder. Yet Hayhurst didn't offer voters a compelling enough reason to kick Souder out of office. Hayhurst never attempted to gin up much anti-war sentiment. ♦



Revised job figures released by Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS - The number of jobs in Indiana is now 7,900 higher than this time last year according to figures released today by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. Indiana's seasonally adjusted job figures indicate a revised September total of 2,981,300 jobs while preliminary figures for October indicate 2,984,200 jobs. The state's non-seasonally adjusted job totals for October now stand at 3,011,100, the highest level since November, 2000.



Long terminates Senate health plan

INDIANAPOLIS - Sen. David Long (right) announced Wednesday that the Republican caucus has reached a decision to terminate the Senate Retirement Health Care Plan. "On Tuesday, Nov. 21, immediately after my selection as President Pro-Tem of the Senate is made official, I will execute an order that immediately implements this termination plan," Sen. Long said this afternoon during a press conference at the Statehouse. Sen. Long explained to reporters that what was originally intended in the health care plan blossomed into something "too generous" and needed to be addressed quickly. "We don't feel like a plan such as this should be different than that any other state employee receives or has access to," Long said. The effective date for termination of the plan will be July 31, 2007, according to Sen. Long, "approximately eight months from today." Long stressed that the Senate transition regarding the retirement health care plan will be shorter than similar action taken by the Indiana House of Representatives, which had a 10-month window for

change. "This will allow Senators and staff eligible to retire to have the time to make that decision," Sen. Long said. Sen. Luke Kenley (R-Noblesville) said that last year only five senators were on the current plan and just a few more were added this year. He estimated the total number of senators on the plan to be "ten or less." In answer to reporters' questions, Kenley said that those senators would remain on the plan at the advice of legal counsel.

I-69 opponents see Daniels plan as a ruse

BLOOMINGTON - Longtime opponents of the planned extension of Interstate 69 from Indianapolis to Evansville say Gov. Mitch Daniels' proposed tollway bypassing Indianapolis is little more than a rehash of a nearly decade-old idea for part of the I-69 project (**Associated Press**). Tom Tokarski, the head of Citizens for Appropriate Rural Roads, said Daniels' idea is just a ruse to build the highway without calling it I-69 -- a way to circumvent opposition and questions about how the long-planned road would be routed through Indianapolis. "They've always had a problem getting (I-69) around Indianapolis," said Tokarski, a Monroe County resident. "... They're looking for a way to fund I-69 -- but that is I-69."

Daniels lashes out at Dems over privatization

INDIANAPOLIS -- Republican Gov. Mitch Daniels delivered a return volley this week in a rhetorical feud with Democrats regarding efforts to privatize state services and infrastructure (Guinane, Times of Northwest Indiana). Daniels advocates business-like solutions to state problems, pointing to the \$3.8-billion Indiana Toll Road lease that brought a windfall this year for transportation funding. But Democrats argue the governor is too quick to prescribe private-sector remedies -- a difference of opinion expected to loom large in next year's legisla-

tive session. Speaking Tuesday at an award ceremony for business owners, Daniels said he has been hearing terms like private, profit and corporate tossed around "as though they were dirty words." "Anybody who still thinks like that really needs to get over it quick because if we're going to be a great state ... if we're going to have real economic progress ... we're going to have to have America's strongest, most vibrant private sector making profits," Daniels said. "Somebody better make a profit, or nobody will have a job."

HD31 ballots released

MARION - County election officials will be able to continue counting provisional ballots after the state issued a court order allowing the officials temporary access to the ballots, said Bonnie Cartwright, assistant elections administrator (**Marion Chronicle Tribune**). Democrat Larry Hile, who lost to State Rep. Tim Harris, has yet to request a recount.

Wenger accepts blame for ballot problems

MUNCIE - Some missing ballots were found Wednesday while others remained unaccounted for as the Delaware County Election Board moved toward Friday certification of final election results (**Muncie Star Press**). "I accept full responsibility for these problems," said County Clerk Karen Wenger, county election administrator. "I realize the buck stops with me." Wenger, along with county election and voter registration staff, worked Wednesday to solve the cases of missing ballots and vote miscounts, finding 17 provisional ballots that had not been counted from Precinct 44.

Seybold dropped from suit

MARION - A new federal court complaint submitted Wednesday no longer names Marion Mayor Wayne Seybold as a defendant in a fraud case. ♦